

Journal of the
**East Surrey
Family History Society**

www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk

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

March

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| 7 | Pleasures and pastimes in Victorian Britain
<i>Ian is a Family Historian who specialises in Social History</i> | Ian Waller | Sutton |
| 9 | Child employment in 19 th C Kingston | Dr Helen Goepel | Richmond |
| 19 | Family History from Education Records | Colin R Chapman | Croydon |
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April

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| 4 | Hit a brick wall - where do you go next?
<i>Elizabeth is a professional genealogist and a member of the Society of Genealogists</i> | Elizabeth Owen | Sutton |
| 8 | The Life, Times & Contents of Bishopsgate Library
Southwark
<i>to which the Bishopsgate Institute has offered free public access since 1895.</i> | | Stefan Dickers |
| 20 | SOCIETY AGM | | |

May

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| 2 | Irish Family History resources on the internet
<i>Peter is an Author and Family Historian who specialises in IT and Family History</i> | Peter Christen | Sutton |
| 11 | Members' meeting
<i>Non-members are very welcome. Share successes and failures; ask for assistance or help others; or just have a chat over a cup of tea!</i> | | Richmond |
| 21 | News from FamilySearch and the
London Family History Centre
<i>This talk will focus particularly on Parish Records</i> | Sharon Hintze | Croydon |

June

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|----|---|-------------------|-----------|
| 6 | Music, the theatre, cinema and television:
the Jewish flair for innovation | Gordon Barnett | Sutton |
| 11 | The Real Moll Flanders:
18th Century Criminal Trials & Punishment
<i>a must if you enjoy Old Bailey online [www.oldbaileyonline.org.uk] & Garrow's Law on TV.</i> | Rhiannon Markless | Southwark |
| 18 | Workhouse records | Celia Heritage | Croydon |

July

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|---|--|-----------------|--------|
| 4 | Probate Records
<i>Gillian is an author and has been a professional researcher for 30 years, specialising in Kent records. She has written a regular column for the Kent FHS Journal since 1993</i> | Gillian Rickard | Sutton |
|---|--|-----------------|--------|

- 13 Corsets and cameras Jane Lewis Richmond
An introduction to the history of late 19th and early 20th century fashion giving tips and techniques for dating or identifying old photographs
- 16 In and out of London Ian Waller Croydon
Many researchers find it difficult and somewhat daunting when their ancestors move into or around London. Research in the capital has its own challenges which can easily be overcome. This talk suggests how to do it.

August

- 1 Scandals in Family History Chris Pocock Sutton
Chris teaches family history for Sutton U3A and is Secretary for the Sutton Group of the East Surrey Family History Society
- 17 Sat East Surrey Family History Open Day Southwark
our own 'Who Do You Think You Are' team of experts are offering drop-in help throughout the day on many aspects of researching family history and using the Internet, & on discovering what resources and records are held at Southwark Local History Library. Lunchtime talk on 'Beginning the Search for Your Ancestors'

September

- 5 Prince Albert and the Crystal Palace John Neal Sutton
John is a Family Historian
- 14 From hops to hats Stephen Humphrey Richmond
Not just the Southwark and Bermondsey hop and hat industries, but many of the other old industries once found along the riverside from Blackfriars to Rotherhithe
- 17 A Titanic story – the unknown child Paul Blake Croydon
The story of the Goodwin family, who lost their lives on 15 April 1912, and a mystery not solved for 95 years

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon
 3rd Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.
 Secretary: Liz Moss (020 8686 8962)

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 St, SE1
 Second Monday of alternate months (not December); 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 (020 8642 6789)

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

A date for your diary

Saturday 20th April 2013

Local and Family History Fair

followed by ESFHS AGM

East Croydon United Reformed Church,

Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP

For 2013 we are hosting the above in conjunction with the Croydon Local Studies Forum. As usual there will be a number of talks and our Bookstall and Help Desks will be there, plus much more of interest to the local and family historian. Further details appear on the following page.

Nominations for Chairman and Committee Members of the Society

Nominations for a Chairman and members of the Executive Committee are invited from any members of the Society. We have already received one nomination for Chairman. No qualifications are required; just an interest in family history and the Society. The Committee meets six times per year on the third Thursday of alternate months, starting in January. For convenience the meetings are held at the URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon which is a central location with good bus, train and tram links as well as parking.

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

Imaging the Past

A joint East Surrey FHS and Croydon Local Studies Forum Conference

East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP

Saturday 20th April in the Small Hall

- 9.45 am: Doors Open
- 10.00 am: Welcome
- 10.05 am: An Introduction to Local History: focusing on South Norwood, local historian John Hickman shows the variety of material available to help us build up a picture of a locality
- 11.00 am: The Paperchase: Documentation of a Life. There is a wealth of information besides censuses and certificates. Professional genealogist Ian Waller demonstrates just what may be available.
- 12 noon: Dating & Understanding Family Photographs 1840 - 1930: how to date, analyse & interpret all kinds of photos from the family archive a talk by Jayne Shrimpton Professional Dress Historian & Picture Specialist
- 1.00 pm Lunch
- 2.00 pm Professor Elizabeth Edwards discusses the themes of her book: *The Camera as Historian: Amateur Photographers and Historical Imagination, 1885-1918*, which draws on the records of the photographic survey movement
- 3.00 pm Tea
- 3.30 pm AGM
- 4.30 Close

2013 Renewal Subscriptions

Ann Turnor - Membership Secretary [827]

A note of thanks to all members who have been very prompt in paying their 2013 renewals. It is much appreciated as it enables me to make sure our database is correct and up to date as early in the year as possible. It is also appreciated when members let me know of any changes to their email addresses.

Another thanks also to members who very kindly send a donation, for which we are extremely grateful and for all the signed Gift Aid contributions. These really do help the Society and the committee would like to add their thanks to mine.

Projects and research

Rita Russell

With the help of committee members, I have managed to keep the projects ticking over and several members are actively checking and transcribing . Hopefully, I can give a full report next time.

Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day

Saturday 27th July 2013, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

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

Research facilities will include our names database, and Parish Register, People, and Places libraries; sales of Parish Register transcripts and other research aids; expert advice; guest societies and local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and more.

Admission free, with free parking at the venue.

Further information, including a full list of those attending, can be found at www.bucksfhs.org.uk

The Osmonds come to London (part 2)

Juliet Bailey [9985]

Part one of this story ended in 1890 when Silas Osmond's two eldest children Amelia and Benjamin married. Silas Jr. (age 20) and Ada (age 16) had started work, leaving Silas with the two youngest children: Albert (age 12) and Herbert (age 10). Silas was working as a train (or tram) driver.

On or about 9th October Silas deserted the two boys, apparently running away to sea¹. Silas reappears in March 1896 when, aged 52, he marries Elizabeth Eames (age 39) in Rotherhithe. Amelia is a witness to the marriage so clearly the family are still in touch. Silas and Elizabeth live at 3 Crooke St² until October 1903 when Silas dies of lung cancer in the Union Infirmary.

I can find no trace of Elizabeth after Silas's death but what about the children?

Amelia: married Thomas Whittle and continued to live near Southwark. Of their 8 children, 3 died in childhood, including their first two. Their son Frank served in WW1 (possibly in the Royal Fusiliers) and survived to marry Frances Berge in 1925; they had 2 children. Three of their other children (Edward, Hilda and Ada) also married and had children, but Ida remained single.

Benjamin: married Louise Hider and had 7 children, 2 died in childhood. Benjamin worked as an oilman and died in 1955. Their oldest son Benjamin John James joined the Bedfordshire Regiment in WW1, rising to be Lance Sergeant, but was killed on 24 April 1918 (commemorated: Panel 28-29 Pozieres Memorial³). Their son Albert Victor joined the Navy and died in June 1916 while serving on HMS Tipperary (commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial⁴). The surviving children (Louisa, Elsie and Leslie) all married and had children.

Silas Jr.: married Emma Dight in February 1897 and their son, Frederick Thomas, was born 2 months after their marriage. In June 1903, Silas was issued with a passport and he left for Canada on

the Lake Erie in February 1907⁵, it is not clear if Emma and Frederick were on the same boat or followed later. The 1911 and 1916 Canadian census shows⁶ them in Winnipeg with 3 more children: Albert (b January 1909) and twins Edgar and Edith (b February 1911). Silas joined the WW1 Canadian Expeditionary Force in June 1915, followed by Frederick in December 1915. Silas's registration card¹ describes him: an engine fitter, of fair complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes, 5ft 3½ in tall with a 35½ in chest. Frederick was a farmer, of fair complexion, brown hair and eyes, 5ft 9in tall with a 37in chest. He also has scars on his right hand after it was crushed by ice. Silas survived the war, ending as a Sergeant but Frederick died in June 1917 (commemorated: Vimy Memorial)³. Emma died in January 1926, aged 48, and is buried in Saskatchewan⁷.

Silas returned to the UK in November 1955 arriving in Liverpool on the Empress of France from Montreal (age 85⁵), just after the death of his brother Benjamin. Perhaps that is why he came back. Silas gave his local address as c/o H(erbert?) Osmond, Finchley. My father and uncle vaguely remember an elderly Uncle at the family Christmas party but being young men did not pay much attention. Silas returned to Canada on the same ship in February 1956⁵. He last appears in the Canadian voters register in 1957, suggesting he probably died around then. I have not been able to trace his children as there are few publicly available recent Canadian records.

Ada: married John Hitchings (widower) in September 1904 and had 10 children, in addition Ada was stepmother to John's children from his first marriage. John died in 1933 and Ada in 1959. Nine of their children (Sidney, Ada, Rosalind, Edith, Annie, Herbert, Frederick, John and Frank) survived to marry and have children of their own. The birth dates of their grandchildren suggest several of their sons and sons-in-law served in WW2 but I have not been able to verify this.

Albert and Edward: After being deserted by Silas, Albert and Herbert were admitted to St Olave Union Workhouse on 29th October 1890, having been found at the family's residence in Tanner St. destitute and deserted². On 9th December the boys were moved to Havel St. Workhouse, Camberwell and on 7th January 1891 to Gordon Road Workhouse. Finally on 21st April they were sent to the Sutton Industrial Colony, in Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey⁸. This school was founded in 1851 by the South Metropolitan School District (formed in 1849 by the Unions of Bermondsey, Camberwell, Greenwich, St Olave's and Woolwich). By the time Albert and Herbert arrived, there were 1400-1500 children, with boys and girls in separate schools. Each boy had to choose a trade - Albert and Herbert both chose leatherwork. My father still has a tool box made by Albert with his initials on the front.

Albert remained at Sutton until 9th December 1893 when he was discharged. The records² do not show where he went but the 1901 census shows him lodging with Elizabeth Clark (a widow) and her family in Henry St, Clerkenwell and working as a fancy leather worker. Albert married one of Elizabeth's daughters, Mary, in August 1901 and they had 5 children (Rose, Elise, Florence - my grandmother, Violet and Albert), Elsie died in infancy. The family lived in Offord Road, Islington for many years. Mary remained there after her husband died in 1936, moving in with Florence for

Sources

¹ Voters lists, 1901 census and WW1 records from www.ancestry.co.uk

² Workhouse records from London Metropolitan Archives

³ Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/>

⁴ Portsmouth memorials <http://www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk/index.htm>

⁵ Passport and sailing details from www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk

⁶ Canadian data from www.familysearch.org

⁷ Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansacem/crescent_road.html

⁸ The Workhouse <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/SouthMetSD/>



Albert and Mary with Rose, Florence and Violet c1915

the few years before her death in 1972. She was very family orientated and the family gatherings regularly brought 20 plus family members together.

Herbert remained at Sutton until 29th August 1894² when, aged 12, he was sent on trial to Mr C Wells, Shoemaker, Victoria House, 56 Windsor Rd. Bexhill near Hastings. By the 1901 census, Herbert had moved back to London to live with his sister Amelia and he was working as a bootmaker. Herbert married Edith Mennell in 1904 and had one child, Albert born in 1905. Herbert lived in Wandsworth for many years and died in 1970. Albert died in Wales in 1987.

I have more information about various members of the family that did not make it into this short article, and some additional photographs, so if I can help you, or you can add more to this story, please get in touch.

The Courtenay family

Peter and Lorraine Courtenay
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We know that Horace Courtenay was illegitimate. His name does not appear on the national birth register or local birth register or local church register born approximately 1896 in Earls Court. We know his mother Grace Alice Mary Maud Courtenay was a spinster when she got married to Herbert Solomon in 1901 as an unmarried mother. Grace Alice Mary Maud Courtenay is also not traceable on any birth records born around 1872 in Holborn, so we believe that she had a birth maiden name of Grace Jezard (this birth record is also not traceable) and that the name Courtenay is

the name of Horace's father, who we have been led to believe was an aristocrat, as Grace is living in a boarding house in Kensington in 1901 before her marriage to Herbert Solomon living on own means and her illegitimate son Horace is living in a girls boarding school by the Shepherd family in Southend in 1901 with his cousin Violet Gezard (Jezard). Grace and Horace have not been sent to the workhouse or Horace to a baby farm while his mother worked or sent to live with a family as a nurse child or even killed by the family as could happen with illegitimate and unwanted babies at that time. There are also no church records, court records or newspaper articles about Horace's illegitimate birth and a bastardy bond from his father - it must have been a private income from Horace's father that kept Grace living in a boarding house and his son in a boarding school. It was also highly unusual for a young boy to be at a girls' boarding school. Was Horace being hidden from his father? Both Horace and Violet are by far the youngest children boarding at the school.

When Grace and Herbert got married in Kensington in 1901 their boarding house keeper Eliza A Chaplin was a witness on their wedding certificate. Grace's mother is unknown, her father Robert Courtenay was deceased and Herbert's father Saul Solomon was deceased. Herbert's mother was alive living in Kensington but did not attend the wedding. Herbert married an unmarried mother but Grace was not a Jew and Herbert came from a very wealthy and influential Jewish family. Also, looking at the Charles Booth survey from that period, there are various classes of prostitutes living in Finborough Road.

Herbert, Grace and Horace moved to Kew where Horace later attended a very wealthy school called Latymer Upper, which we contacted, and very frustratingly the 'father' paying for his school fees was Solomon H L Courtenay (a combination of his father's name H Courtenay deceased on Horace's 1924 wedding certificate and his step-father Herbert Lewis Solomon). Did they move to avoid gossip in the area where both their families came from?

Quite by chance a nephew Edward Leslie Court is staying with Herbert Solomon, Grace Solomon (Courtenay/Jezard) and Horace Courtenay in the 1911 census. We obtained Edward's birth certificate as we were hoping that he would be Grace's nephew and not Herbert's nephew.

Here is where the plot thickens even more. Edward's mother's maiden name was not Solomon so not Herbert's nephew but her maiden name was Ruby Ruth Jezard and not Courtenay and married to Albert Edward Court living in Fulham (close to Earls Court and Kensington). Albert was Chief Of Staff at the Coliseum. There has to be some light to this story! Looking at Ruby and Albert's wedding records in 1900, Ruby states that her father is Robert Jezard deceased - are Robert Courtenay and Robert Jezard the same person?

Again another chance observation looking back at the 1901 boarding school census where Horace was staying found that Horace's 'cousin' Violet Gezard (should be Jezard) is staying there also. We looked up Violet's details and found her birth and baptism records but no further records for her or her parents George Jezard and May Jezard.

By yet another coincidence when looking at Violet's baptism records, a Horace Thresher was also baptised on the same day as Violet and was living at the same address 133 Finborough Road, Kensington. Again we have not been able to trace any other records for Horace Thresher or his parents Percy Thresher and Louisa Thresher. We believe that Horace Thresher may be Horace Courtenay, as looking through the baptism records for this particular church, unofficial 'parents' would have a child baptised and then later on we found out that the child is illegitimate. Grace and Herbert were also living in the boarding house further down at 18 Finborough Road. Was the maiden name of Louisa Thresher, Louisa Jezard?

Trying to look for other Jezards and Courtenays that may have a link to our family, we looked at Priscilla May Jezard living in

Fulham and then Kensington and found her living at 133 Finborough Road. As the only other record of Priscilla is her death record and on her death certificate she was recorded as the widow of John Jezard, with her daughter-in-law Ellen Jezard in attendance at her death. Was Priscilla May Jezard the mother or sister-in-law of Robert Jezard/Robert Courtenay and grandmother or aunt to Grace, Ruby and George?

Grace always maintained she had no siblings - yet we have found Ruby Ruth Jezard and George Jezard. Horace always maintained he had no cousins - yet we found Violet Jezard and Edward Leslie Court. My father-in-law Michael Courtenay also maintained that there were no family members he could think of - and yet going through these names remembered cousin Leslie (didn't use Edward) and Uncle Percy from very distant memories as a small child. Unfortunately, Horace died taking the secret of his father's identity with him never knowing what a fascinating story and social history we would uncover but as yet no firm identify regarding his father. The Earls Of Devon, known as Lord Courtenays, at Powderham Castle believe that Horace may be one of their illegitimate children but these records have been destroyed.

Can you hazard a guess why so many from this particular family do not have complete records?

Most aren't 'born' but obviously they must have been or we wouldn't be here!

Most aren't 'married' even though on their baby's baptism records there is a Mr and Mrs!

Most don't 'die' although they would have died by now!

Most don't appear either on any census records or very few census records - but they existed!

We have looked up all other branches of our family extremely easily and successfully with all records being available and even the family members who married into the Courtenays and Jezards but the Courtenays and Jezards themselves are a mystery.

Website round up

Brian Hudson

www.forces-war-records.co.uk - Forces War Records was created approximately five years ago. Since it started, over five million name records have been added with about 100,000 new records a month. It recently launched an online digital library of books, newspapers and magazines, some more than a hundred years old. Types of records held include: World War One and Two, Crimean War, Boer War African Wars, Indian Mutiny, Medal Rolls, Individual Battle Data, Casualties Lists, Prisoner of War Records, Royal Marines, Fighter & Bomber Command Losses, Fleet Air Arm, RFC/RAF List - to name but a few.

www.gracesguide.co.uk - Grace's Guide contains information about industry and manufacturing in Britain from the start of the Industrial Revolution to the present. It has over 80,000 pages and more than 100,000 images on early companies, their products and the people who designed and built them. Some entries in the listings are just the scan of an advertisement, while others have a great deal of detail and many contain names that may be useful in your research. In the town category Croydon has a listing of over 100 companies and individuals such as ABC Skootamota, a motor scooter company formed in 1919 (several vehicles were designed by Granville Bradshaw); Mrs Anne Biddell, caterer; Dictograph Telephones, whose president was a Kelly Monroe Turner and the locally well known, but now sadly defunct, L. H. Turtle, which was established by Louis Henry Turtle in 1894 from a company originally started in 1874 by Thomas Lindsley, a saw manufacturer.

Volumes of *The Engineer* for the years 1862-1926 are being made available on-line as PDF files. A dip into a couple of volumes revealed that they are searchable and a delight to read. For train buffs the issue of July 3, 1925 has an interesting article on the British Steam Railway from 1825 to 1924.

Sutton Local Studies & Archives Centre

Kath Shawcross (Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager, London Borough of Sutton)

The past three months in Sutton have seen two very successful exhibitions in the Europa Gallery. The first was the Sutton Garden Suburb exhibition mentioned in the September issue. During December myself and other members of staff from across the council mounted an exhibition celebrating Sutton Summer Festival 2012 with images from all our own festivals, the Queen's Jubilee and Torch procession through Sutton. It was a huge success not least the 18 foot high Swan in the Gallery. All the images and films came from residents and will be deposited in the Local Studies Collection for future researchers. We now have jubilee party images going back over 100 years.

During November we also held a very successful local history book sale of those titles that are too damaged and worn to continue being used - all duplicates of course. This past year has seen the publication of five new local history titles since March. The most recent being David Rymill's second volume about Worcester Park entitled "Worcester Park, Old Malden and North Cheam: History at Our Feet; the "River Wandle Companion" a beautifully produced title with some great colour images and maps and finally local historian Cheryl Bailey's "Living in Carshalton 1865-1880". All these books are for sale in the Local Studies & Archives Centre.

A couple of new archive accessions received in the past few months include photographs and records relating to David Knights-Whittome, the Edwardian photographer who was based in Sutton and with a shop in Epsom. His descendants have transferred the copyright in his images to Sutton. Alas we have found evidence from Knights-Whittome's own account books that details of his customers were lost many years ago. All the glass plates we possess (over 10,000) have names and dates recorded

but little else. This could prove to be a major genealogical project taking many years.

The second item came all the way from Australia - not the original as the owner feared sending it via any delivery service. So we have come into possession of a DVD made from an original 16mm film. The film dates to 1935 and purports to show Ennor Court in Worcester Park being built in 1935. There is also a large rectory which I haven't been able to place as yet.

Tech Topic – The Cloud – Part 2: storage

Brian Hudson

Following on from my article in the December 2012 Journal this one is about storing valuable data, e.g. your family history research files, securely away from home, on a cloud.

As part of their service some internet providers such as BT include cloud storage, if it is not available from your company there are other places to go.

A few examples are:

www.bt.com - BT Broadband: Digital Vault with 5GB storage included* as part of their broadband packages.

www.skydrive.com - Microsoft: SkyDrive# with 7GB free*.

<https://drive.google.com> - Google: Google Drive# with 5GB free*.

www.amazon.com - Amazon: Cloud Drive with 5GB free*.

www.dropbox.com - Dropbox#: 2GB for free* but up to 18GB with 500MB free for each referral. Easy to setup and use, this is a favourite with both me and the Journal editor.

Apple iCloud for Apple users only with 5GB, but only for specific types of files like photos.

Allows simple file sharing with anyone. File sharing is a useful feature for files that are too large for email. Documents and photographs can be uploaded onto the cloud and picked up from there by your chosen recipient(s) e.g. friends and family.

** Additional capacity available for a monthly charge.*

Could it all be in the genes?

Mary Gill

(to be read with tongue in cheek)

Having done a considerable amount of Family History research and got to know something about the various careers followed by our ancestors, I sometimes wonder just how many of our talents, foibles and abilities are, at least in part, inherited.

My husband was a rubber and plastics chemist, but he has always enjoyed doing carpentry – so is it just a coincidence that one of his great-grandfathers Charles Ham, whom he never knew, was a carpenter – and that Charles came from a dynasty of at least five generations of carpenters?

Still with my husband – a great-great grandfather was co-founder of a local newspaper called the Worthing Gazette in which he wrote a weekly column. The sentiments G H French expressed and the way he expressed them have distinct echoes in my husband's own personality.

My father's ancestors have a tendency to go in for non-conformist religion – but not in any consistent way. It is not a case of children following in their parents' footsteps – more that Baptists, Quakers, Christian Scientists, Mormons, militant atheists and other misfits seem to pop up at random in various branches of the family going back (we are fairly certain) to a certain Thomas Becon – one of the earliest protestant theologians.

We have got to know relatives, some closer than others, but people we had, had no previous contact with, only to discover that we have similar views about religion and politics as well as interests and talents in common.

Then there is my eldest grandson who loves all things mechanical, especially cars and steam trains and whose best subject at school is DT (Wood and metal work to you and me). I have traced some of my son in law's family, as well as ours, and I discover that there are engineers and carpenters along many

branches of our trees - including railway engineers who seemed to have followed railway developments all around the country.

But Ben doesn't just love machines - he exhibits definite pyromaniac tendencies. He is fascinated by fires and explosions - so perhaps we should not have been surprised when we discovered about his great-great-great-grand uncle, George Trench. George started out, like his father and brothers, as a railway engineer after which he worked, again with his brother James - (Ben's gt gt grandfather) at the Royal Small Arms Factory in Enfield. But then he embarked on a whole new career, as a result of which he has been honoured with a blue plaque in Faversham, Kent which reads:

Makes you think, doesn't it?



Tips from the meetings

There has been an interesting programme of meetings in the branches in the past few months.

Sutton have had two meetings devoted to records of women. Firstly a talk about the Suffragettes by Jeremy Harte the Curator of the Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell

<http://www.ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Leisure+and+Culture/Bourne+Hall>

The talk started with the events of 4th July 1913 when Emily Davidson was injured during Derby at Epsom and subsequently died. The museum has a collection of information about Emily Davidson available on the web

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Davison.html>

There is also information on Emmelina Pankhurst on the website.

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Pankhurst.html>

This was followed in December with a talk by Ken Dival on “Women at War” tracing the role of women from the Napoleonic Wars. “Followers of the Drum” had to be tough as they were expected to set up camp and cook and wash for the officers. Should their husband die they had twenty-eight days to find a new husband or they would have no rations. The National Archives hold some of the Muster Roll records and a guide to the information can be found at

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/army-muster-1730-1898.htm> The records in the record seriesWO12.

Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole are well known as nurses in the Crimean War but less well known is Fanny Duberly who kept a journal of her experiences as an army wife at both the

Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny. They have both been reprinted.,

“Mrs Duberly's War: Journal and Letters from the Crimea, 1854-6”: edited by Christina Kelly published by OUP Oxford; Reprint edition (8 Feb 2007) 10: 0199208611 “Indian Journal: An Eye-witness Account of the Indian Mutiny ”published by Long Riders' Guild Press US (8 Aug 2006) ISBN 10: 1590482360.

Nurses went to the Boer War and details can be found at <http://www.boerwarnurses.com>

There were established orders of nurses by the First World War and the website <http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/> is a starting point for information.

The National Archives has various series of records covering the three services. Army Nurses records are in various series according to the name eg Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service is in WO 329 and Queen Mary's Auxiliary Corp is in series WO 398. Women's Royal Navy Service ADM 318 for officers and ADM 336 for ratings. Women's Auxiliary Air Force AIR 80.

Service records for personnel in WW2 are available to relatives and information on how to access this is available on the Ministry of Defence website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/publication-scheme#apply-for-service-personnel-service-records>

Information about medals and records can be found at <http://www.veterans-uk.info/recordsmedalsbadges.htm>

Information about munitions workers can be found at the National Archives in series MUN 3 MUN 4 MUN 5.

Two books were recommended:

Kate Adie. *Corsets to Camouflage: Women and War* Paperbacks; New Ed edition (2 Aug 2004) ISBN 10: 0340820608

Mary Whitehouse *Most Dangerous Women* Lion Books; 1st ed edition (1 Jan 1971) ISBN 10: 0856484083

Lingfield had a talk by Kevin Gordon on the History of Policing the Railways . The railway police were the first organised police force in Britain. Information and Records at the National Archives can be found at

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/transport-police.htm>

The British Transport Police History Group
<http://www.btphg.org.uk/>

There is a timeline on the development of the force
http://www.btphg.org.uk/?page_id=216

Croydon had a talk after Christmas by Alun and Barbara Thomas “Lighterage on the Thames” dealing with the history of lighterage and the history of one family engaged in the work. A lighter means a dumb barge having no means of propulsion apart from the Thames tide. The Thames watermen between Gravesend and Windsor Bridge were regulated by Parliament . The Company of Watermen and Lighterman have information on their website if you think you have ancestors working on the Thames.

<http://www.watermenshall.org/ancestors.html>

The London Metropolitan Archive have a leaflet on their website explaining about records of the Company

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/visiting-the-city/archives-and-city-history/london-metropolitan-archives/Documents/visitor-information/18-records-of-the-company-of-watermen-and-lightermen.pdf>

The Guildhall Library
<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/visiting-the-city/archives-and-city-history/guildhall-library/Pages/default.aspx>
and the Barbican Library London collection

<http://www.barbican.org.uk/visitor-information/barbican-library> may be able to help your research.

Website round up extra – the census

Brian Hudson

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/census-returns.htm - The National Archives guide to the census is a useful source of basic information, such as the dates of censuses from 1801 to 1911 (1801 to 1831* were generally headcounts only), there are also links to further information.

Pages are missing from all censuses but the 1861 is particularly bad with a number of enumeration books missing. More details of known problems for the 1841 to 1901 censuses can be found at:- www.findmypast.co.uk/help-and-advice/knowledge-base/census/known-issues

For the 1911 census see:- www.findmypast.co.uk/help-and-advice/knowledge-base/1911census#ancestor

Do you know the census series codes?

HO stands for Home office; RG for the General Register Office:

1841 HO 107

1851 HO 107

1861 RG 9

1871 RG 10

1881 RG 11

1891 RG 12

1901 RG 13

1911 RG 14

*For early civil census records 1801-1831 in Surrey see the articles by Sheila Gallagher in the June & September 2011 Journals, Volume 34 Nos. 2 & 3.

Croydon Local Studies

Brenda Hawkins

Just before the Archives closed for their Christmas Stocktaking it was discovered that Croydon Council proposed, amongst other cuts, to reduce the Archive service to "the statutory minimum" making savings of £105k. It was too late to achieve anything on the eve of Christmas, but as soon as possible in the New Year a users' group was formed to demonstrate how vital it was that the Archives should be professionally staffed with adequate opening hours. The engagement process closed in mid January, but by that time the Council were in no doubt of the strength and depth of feeling of a wide variety of users.

Inept drafting of the proposed cuts meant that our worst fears: the loss of all professional staff were unfounded. However, any staffing cuts would seriously compromise the service. A deputation from the users' group met with Councillor Tim Pollard to explore a way forward, while within the Council a feasibility study was under way.

I have just learnt that the recommendations of the feasibility study have been agreed by all sides. I have not had time to digest all that this will mean, but it will involve a move within the current building to a larger space, funded out of capital rather than annual budget and potentially with better opening hours. By the time you read this the dust will hopefully have settled to reveal a much brighter future than we dared to hope for at the end of 2012, thanks to the hard effort so many of you put in.

Unwanted certificates

Birth

Albert **Froud** Feb 1875 Lambeth - parents Philip & Annie Froud

Anne **Froud** March 1868 - Southwark - parents Henry Edward & Anne Edith

Arthur **Froud** December 1874 - Camberwell - parents Sidney William & Catherine Ann

Emily **Froud** November 1868 - Lambeth - parents Philip & Susan Froud

George **Froud** December 1874 - Wandsworth - parents Henry & Caroline

Ellen **Moore** January 1863 - Pancras - parents Joseph & Susannah

Norah **Harris** December 1907 - Wandsworth - parents Henry & Norah

Death

Arthur Ernest **Froud** November 1875, age 11mths - Camberwell - parent Sidney William

Charles James **Harris** March 1911, age 5yrs - Lambeth - parent Charles Harris

If any member believes that one of the above certificates has a place in his or her family ancestry, that member should contact Diane Robinson [10016].

Sue Adams (the Society Secretary) has been sent a death certificate for Isaac Biggs, aged 67, who died in October 1863; the death was registered at Headley. If any member believes that Isaac was part of their family they should contact Sue (her details are inside the front cover).

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

These Were Our Sons

Stories from Stockwell War Memorial

John Seaman [3290]

Using many different sources of information Naomi Lourie Klein has researched the history of Stockwell's war memorial (the stone-clad clock tower at the junction of South Lambeth Road and Clapham Road) and the men who are remembered there by name. The results were published in her book in 2010. It is still for sale (www.elephantbooks.com) and there are copies in many of the public libraries in the London Borough of Lambeth.

As my great uncle, GR (George Robert) McDowall is remembered by this memorial (and the one in Saint Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell) I have a special reason to thank Naomi for her research.

Double birth registration

Anne Ramon [4730]

In the last Journal (Dec 2012) Brenda Hawkins suggested a theme for articles in the March 2013 Journal, this theme being 'births and baptisms'. I believe I've found an example of the birth of a child being registered twice - maybe once by Mum and once by Dad - and I'm wondering if this kind of duplication is now more discoverable with the benefit of the search engines.

I recently ordered the birth certificate for George Meredith, which shows he was born 3 September 1857 to William Charles Meredith and his wife Mary, née Hall, in the Westminster Registration District (St John the Evangelist Sub District). The birth was registered on 12th October 1857 by the mother, Mary, who was living at 1 Gulston Cottages, Regent Street, Westminster. She

signed with an 'X'. The occupation she gave for her husband William, the child's father, was 'barge labourer'.

When I showed this to my mother-in-law (George's granddaughter) she exclaimed, 'A barge labourer! He wasn't a barge labourer, William was in the Army!' Tail between my legs I delved back into the search engines and found another entry for a birth of George Meredith in 1857 but this time in the Army Register. Phew! I ordered the certificate and eagerly awaited its arrival.

The Army birth record, raised by Adjutant R W Broome, Captain, Command(in)g Depot 2/60 Royal Rifles, shows that George Meredith was born on 3 September 1857 to William Charles and Mary Meredith, the father having the rank of Private in the 60th Foot. There is the additional information that George was baptised at St Mary Westminster on 14th October 1857. So, the same child and parents but a different registration.

I checked on FindMyPast for a baptism record and luckily it's there, with an image of the original baptismal register page. George's baptism date was 14th October 1857, matching the Army record, and the address shown is 1 Gulston Cottages but the church register was for St John the Evangelist, Smith Square, Middlesex, not St Mary Westminster. William's occupation is shown as 'Labourer' this time.

So there are discrepancies but enough cross references between the three sources to give me confidence I have the right George in all three sources! As for William's occupation I guess his barge skills were useful in the Army depot.

Open Day at the SoG

23 March, 11:00-16:00: free library tours, lectures and family history advice. Free to all, but must be pre-booked through the events department: 020 7553 3290.

Missing baptisms?

Sylvia J. Dibbs

In 1534 Henry VIII fell out with the Pope over the matter of Henry's divorce from his first wife, Catherine. The Pope excommunicated Henry, banishing him from the Roman Catholic Church, and Henry took over leadership of the Church in England; it became the Anglican Church. Not all his subjects followed him.

Following successive Acts of Parliament making religious practice by Roman Catholics illegal, life for them became a struggle. Poorer Catholics in rural areas lived and worked around the houses of the Catholic landed gentry, wealthy and influential enough to survive such sanctions as double land tax. In London Catholics found protection around the embassies of Roman Catholic countries. These were exempt from sanctions, though their staff needed certificates to support this freedom. The Chapels of the Embassies had priests who performed marriages and baptisms. Sometimes deaths are recorded as burial services with the remains being buried in the local Anglican Church.

What if you do not realise that your ancestors were Roman Catholic, what clues might you find? After 1837 when the Registration Act came into force most people complied and registered marriages, births and deaths. By this time there were plenty of Catholic churches that were allowed to conduct marriages, in the presence of a registrar. The names of the churches appear on the certificates.

Before this time under the 1753 Marriage Act 'for the Better Prevention of Clandestine Marriage', known as Hardwicke's Marriage Act, all marriages had to take place in an Anglican church, using the approved Anglican rite performed by a qualified clergyman, though Quakers and Jews were exempt from this law. You might find an ancestor's marriage in an Anglican parish register and assume that the couple was Anglican. Sometimes the parish register records that couple is married 'by licence' and this

may be the first hint that you are dealing with Catholics. Catholics wanted as little as possible to do with the parish church and did not want banns read out in the church, so they obtained a licence from the diocesan consistory court instead. If there are no baptisms for children born to the couple then this is a further indication that the couple may be Catholic and you should then look for Catholic records. You might find not only a string of baptisms, but also a second marriage record. To the couple the Anglican marriage gave legal status to the union in the eyes of the state while the ceremony in the presence of a Roman Catholic priest gave legitimacy in the eyes of God.

Finding Catholic records can be difficult. In the penal times priests, trained on the Continent, roamed around serving large areas and had to work secretly under aliases and in disguise, perhaps as a teacher, relying on sympathisers to hide them, often in very uncomfortable priest holes in the bigger houses.

The priests kept their own personal notebooks and registers. These books were incriminating evidence and may have been hidden or destroyed. Some do survive and are to be found in the present day Catholic diocesan archives, usually the one most closely associated with the patch worked by the priests. Also registers from the chapels of the big house may be found in the same archives.

More recent records from 1791 may be with the present day parish priest. Some of the older records again may have been passed to the Diocesan Archives. A few have found their way to county archives and some of these are on internet sites. Find the name and address of the parish priest in the area where your ancestors lived. Bigger libraries may have Michael Gandy's *Catholic Missions & Registers 1700-1880* or have a Catholic Directory. You can do an internet search. You are more likely to get a response from a busy priest if you write a letter giving concise details, a self-address stamped envelope for a reply and a donation towards the cost of time taken searching the registers.

So when you hit a 'brick wall', consider the possibility that the key birth and baptism you need may be in the Roman Catholic records.

Useful links

Web site: www.catholic-history.org.uk/cfhs

Facebook page at: www.facebook.com under Catholic-Family-History-Society

Blog: <http://catholicfhs.wordpress.com>

Westminster Diocesan Archives in London, has material from the London and the south east of England.

http://www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/default.asp?library_ref=4&content_ref=517. This address details how to access the Archives & the archivist: archivist@rcdow.org.uk & it leads to the pdf file listed next.

<http://www.rcdow.org.uk/fileupload/upload/FamilyHistoryattheWestminsterDiocesanArchives892008221445.pdf> lists the sacramental registers & other material available.

A list of Catholic Family History Society publications can be seen on the Society's website along with details on how to buy publications through GenFair, www.genfair.co.uk. Items can also be purchased using a cheque.

Lingfield Group

Rita Russell

I have to apologise to Lingfield Group because, at the time of going to print, I have no speakers booked for the rest of 2013. My family commitments have prevented me from concentrating on this. As I get speakers I will arrange for the details to be put on the website and into the next Journal. I can assure you, there will be a speaker at the meetings.

News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre

Recent visitors to our searchroom at Surrey History Centre will have noticed a big change. We now have a table of ten smart new flat screen computers with direct – and *free* - access to Ancestry. This is has all flowed from the agreement we signed with the family history firm last year and heralds the publication of thousands of our records on Ancestry later this year. Though our records are not yet available on the Ancestry site, the computers are up and running and proving very popular with our customers – and our expert staff are on hand to help with any queries.

As I write this, a small team of people downstairs are filming thousands of pages of the Surrey electoral registers from 1832 to 1945. The parish registers have all been filmed and various hospital admission registers, quarter sessions records and regimental enlistment registers remain to be done, but we are making good progress and are on course for completion of the filming in March this year.

As usual, we closed our doors to the public for two weeks in December, rolled up our sleeves, and got on with our annual stock check and the cataloguing projects that are too large to tackle when we are open. Large accessions such as the records of Rutlish School in Merton, need to be sorted and arranged on our searchroom table and the process can take the full fortnight to complete.

We also improved our catalogues of the huge archive accumulated by the solicitors, Payne and Brettell of Chertsey (602/-) and completed catalogues of the Woking Borough Council building control plans, 1949-1981 (8789/-) and of the records of Moor Park College, Farnham, 1779-2006 (8398/-). Laurence Spring also continued his major project to catalogue the archive of plans of Dennis utility vehicles.

New accessions

New material continues to arrive. Recent accessions have included parish magazines for St Lawrence's, Seale, 1908-1917 and 1937-1993 (9064/-), collected papers relating to the fabric and property of St Peter and St Paul's church in Nutfield (9075/-), 1912-1956, a baptism register of St Andrew's, Oxshott, 1912- 1956 (9077/-) and a list of promised assistance for the election of John Leech as MP for West Surrey, in c.1832 which gives the names of those (such as Sir Henry Austen) who promised to bring the voters of parishes to the poll and also lists those who have provided horses and carts, (9082/-).

Family historians will also be particularly interested in two wonderful albums of watercolours that we received from Guildford Museum. The albums contain illustrations of Surrey parish churches located within the historic boundaries of the Diocese of Winchester. These include former Surrey parishes now in Greater London, such as Bermondsey, Camberwell, Clapham, Lambeth, Rotherhithe, Southwark, Streatham, Tooting and Wandsworth. The background to these albums is unknown, but it is possible that the illustrations were originally commissioned by the Diocese of Winchester for its own records in the 1830s. Most of the illustrations were produced in the 1830s: some are signed and dated, others are simply initialled, but the majority are by unknown artists and undated. The illustrations range in size and quality, from small, primitive pencil sketches to more accomplished and detailed watercolour paintings. They all provide a wonderful glimpse of the places where our ancestors were baptised, married and buried just before the Victorians 'restored' the churches and removed so many of their original furnishings, but those of the 'metropolitan' parishes also show the surrounding streets and shops in amazing detail that really adds to the historical value of these images. We hope that digital images of these pictures will soon be available on our SURCAT collections catalogue.

Preservation Work

Behind the scenes, our conservators, Jeff Dowse and Catherine Carey, have been busy repairing and restoring some of the more fragile documents in our care so that they can at last be consulted in our searchroom. Catherine has now completed her repair work on the accounts of expenses of prisoners in the Tower of London, for food, clothes, tobacco and service between 1615 and 1616, at which time Sir George More of Loseley was Lieutenant of the Tower (LM/1087/1/5) and work has also been completed on a military pay book relating to the force led by Sir Anthony Browne to suppress the Pilgrimage of Grace between 1536 and 1537 (LM/1330/2).

Our team of document assistants have also completed the task of packaging one of the largest deposits that we have received in recent years, comprising papers accumulated by the solicitor Alastair Logan OBE, relating to the Guildford pub bombings in 1974 and the notorious cases of the Guildford Four and Maguire Seven. Mr Logan was involved at every stage of the trials and appeals and, when the papers are open to public inspection, the copious records he kept will be a key source for the legal battles and the wider events surrounding them.

Forthcoming events at Surrey History Centre

Saturday 9 March 2013 at 2.30

Inventing the Medical Portrait: Patients' Portraits from the Holloway Sanatorium in Surrey, 1885-1910

A talk by Professor Susan Sidlauskas of Rutgers University, USA

This talk will explore the haunting and poignant photographic portraits that survive in the medical casebooks of Holloway Sanatorium, Egham, established by Thomas Holloway as a mental asylum for the middle classes. The original casebooks are held by Surrey History Centre and the Wellcome Institute.

Tickets are £5.00

Thursday 21 March 2013 at 7.30

County of Kings: Surrey as royal playground 1450-1650

A talk by Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage and author of *The Royal Palaces of Tudor England*

Tickets are £5.00

Saturday 23 March 2013

Living Like Royalty in Surrey and Beyond

An exciting day of talks exploring the Medieval and Tudor residences and lifestyles of the elite in an era of change.

Speakers will include Professor Martin Biddle, Rob Poulton, Professor Nigel Saul and Eliza Wheaton.

The day will run from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Tickets are £15 and will include refreshments.

To book any of these events, please call Surrey History Centre on 01483 518737 or email shs@surreycc.gov.uk

Polish Exiles in Surrey after World War Two

From Tuesday 26 March to Saturday 27 April Surrey History Centre will be hosting a free exhibition dedicated to the displaced Polish Allied Forces and their families, who settled in Surrey after the Second World War.

The Polish veterans had fought on the Western Front under British operational command, but at the end of hostilities there was to be no return to a free Poland for them. The Polish units in Britain were the first and last foreign army ever to be demobilised on British soil. Their story is told through the history of Tweedsmuir Camp, which stood near Thursley. This was just one of many disused army bases used as temporary housing for displaced Polish people in Britain. The families stayed at Tweedsmuir Camp until 1958, when they were encouraged to find permanent homes outside the 'camp system'. The display offers

an opportunity to explore the political, social and cultural history behind the events surrounding their settlement.

In the foyer at Surrey History Centre during normal opening times: free.

For further details see our events page at <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents>

or join our mailing list at www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyheritagemailinglist

Saturday 20th April, 2-4pm – Surrey Railway Archive DVD launch

Join us for a fantastic railway-themed event to launch the brand new 'Surrey Railway Archive' DVD produced by railway DVD experts SVS Film, in conjunction with Surrey History Centre. The DVD features a compilation of rare film footage and photographs tracing the railway network in Surrey from both private collections and the Surrey History Centre archive. Every Surrey station is featured, including closed branch lines and industrial railways and the footage embraces both the age of steam and diesel.

The event will include talks by subject specialists, as well as railway book and DVD sales.

This is a free event but booking a place is essential. Refreshments will be available. Further details on our website soon.

Can you help?

Requests for help or information should be sent to the Editor, whose details appear on the inside cover. They will be published in the next available issue of the Journal. Members submitting requests should be sure to include their Membership Number.

Anyone offering assistance should correspond directly with the member concerned, and not via officers of the Society.

East Surrey FHS e-Newsletter

Anne Ramon (aramon@virginmedia.com)

I'm pleased to advise you that the Society has started to produce a new monthly e-Newsletter for its members. This aims to keep you up to date on Society activities and family history news and will highlight sources useful for genealogical research. It will be complementary to the quarterly Journal, the official publication for East Surrey FHS, and to the Society website www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk which will always have the very latest information.

The e-Newsletter will be despatched around mid-month to the email address we hold for each member, so if you haven't received anything by, say, the AGM on 20th April, please re-advise your contact email address to the membership secretary at membership01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk or speak to a Committee member at any meeting and we will update our mailing list. I apologise if the first couple of editions go out a little late while we bed in the distribution mechanisms!

If you prefer not to receive the newsletter you can 'unsubscribe' using a link in the newsletter itself.

Past copies will be placed on the Society website and a few paper copies will be available at Group meetings.

Members' Interests

Please see the important notice on page 46.



Where were they born?

Sylvia Dibbs

During my research for the article *Shirley: Broom and Waste* (Journal Volume 35 Number 4 December 2012), I was struck by how far some residents of Shirley had travelled from the place of their birth.

This example comes from the 1851 census (H.O. 107/1601/526). It is the census for Shirley House, which stood on the site of the present day Trinity School.

The Head of the household was John Scott, Earl of Eldon. He was born in London, but his wife, Louisa was born in Helmsley, Yorkshire. Of their seven children, six daughters and one son, all but one, who was born in Shirley, were born in London.

The servants, who are described only as such, come from much further away. Mary Sheppard was 47 years old, unmarried and came from Castlemorton in Worcestershire, now famed for its raves and festivals. From her age and presence at the top of the list, she was probably the housekeeper.

The next on the list is a young woman, Angelique Rossignol, from Tourney in Belgium, presumably the governess for the six daughters being raised with fluency in the French language as befits the daughters of an Earl.

My guess is that the next servant listed, a mature woman of 40 years, Sarah Budle, is the cook. She was born in Seller in Kent. I cannot find this place on a map.

It is unlikely that the two spinster women left any descendents in Shirley and Angelique may well have returned to Tourney, but maybe the younger servants settled in the area. Perhaps a reader has researched them and can tell members their stories.

The next on the list are women in their late teens and early twenties. Emily Lawrence came from neighbouring Beckenham in Kent. Grace Strong gave her birthplace as Holwell in Devonshire. Mary Ann Boney was from Brighton in Sussex. There is Elizabeth

Mittleton, who came all the way from Honing in Norfolk, Mary Ivamy from Wimbourne in Dorsetshire and Elizabeth Angel from Bath in Somerset. The only female servant from Croydon was 19 year old Susan Mills.

The last on this page is a man, John Jeffrey, 35 years old and from West Horsley, Surrey. Was he the butler?

Shirley House was a big household and the census continues on to a second page, starting with an unmarried woman aged 45 called Jane Tooth from Thorncombe in Devonshire. What was her job? This village seems now to be in Dorsetshire, but is on the border of these two counties. The two young men who follow her on the list are John Bevry from Manchester, Lancashire and George Cutler from Corfe Castle in Devonshire.

It is interesting to reflect at this point how this team of household staff got on together. In 1851 regional accents and even dialects were much stronger than now. Were they able to contemplate migrating so far because of the blossoming of the railways? Or did they travel on foot or by stagecoach? Almost certainly the servants from further a field rarely or never went home.

There were stables on the estate. The team of people responsible for the Earl's horses and coaches were 'dwelling at the stables'. Henry Biggs the coachman was born in Stamford in Linclonshire. Somewhere along the way he met his wife Sarah who was born in Waterperry in Oxfordshire. Their son, James, aged 15 years, was born in London, which gives a clue to where the romance took place. Henry was helped by a 'servant', another coachman living at the stables, born in Croydon. The groom, Henry Winfield, came from Castle Donnington in Leicestershire. The last and presumably least of the group is 'helper' Robert Petch, aged 31 years and born in Culford in Suffolk.

Living in Shirley House Lodge was the family of Edward Sinatt, 44 years old and born in Carshalton, his wife Mary Ann was born

in Chipstead and daughter Harriet was born in Wallington, so all relatively local. The two women are described as lodge keepers.

There is another gardener, but it is not clear where he lived, but it looks as if there were two further dwellings numbered 4 and 5 on the schedule. Richard Cutler, 26 years old, from Binfield in Berkshire lived in number 4 and Mary Whittleton a gardener's wife, aged 44 years from Worstead in Norfolk in number 5. In the margin the enumerator has written 'male absent', perhaps her husband. Was George Cutler in the house her son?



Ten boys . . .

Annette Hughes [9277]

I thought 4xgt-grandparents James and Elizabeth (née Finch) Thorn from Chelmsford had 6 boys: James (1812), John (1815), Samuel (1817), William (1820), Frederick (1825) and Job (1829). I then discovered Elizabeth had triplets in 1831, 2 girls and a boy. Her son Ephraim lived 1 day, her daughters Sarah and Hannah lived 7 and 8 days respectively. After that I discovered a newspaper article which was published on the day Sarah died (22 OCT 1831); this stated that she had previously had 11 boys.

I haven't yet found any baptisms for the missing boys and I am left wondering whether some of them were multiple births!

. . . or twelve!

Sandra Connelly [5482]

My home town of Grafton (in Australia) is on the Clarence River, and another major town also on the river is Maclean. It is the home of most of a family who had 11 boys (although I understand that there was a twelfth boy, who was stillborn). The father apparently wanted a daughter, and they did not stop having children until they had a girl - which they did, after all the boys.

All the family are still alive, ranging in age from about 50 up to 70. They all married Clarence Valley women from well-known local families, and all except the eldest still live in the Maclean area.

Pre 1858 English Probate Records part 2

Maggie Loughran

The Internet both simplifies and complicates the locating of wills. So in the second part of her article I will set out how to locate and access wills and associated documents.

The average will mentions 10-15 people often with relationships; not just as close family members but also as executors, witnesses, friends, business associates, servants, tenants and retainers. It is estimated that over 5 million pre-1858 wills exist, resulting in the recording of over 100 million names. So even if your ancestor did not leave a will there is a really good chance that they may be mentioned in a will.

Where you have been unable to trace a death or burial record, the will may be the only evidence of death; or, in the case of a common name, it may confirm which of several burial entries in a parish register refers to a particular ancestor.

Probate records include wills, testaments, administrations, inventories and accounts although not all of these documents may have survived for a specific individual. There is a difference between 'wills' and 'testaments'. Wills relate to 'real estate'; testaments refer to personal goods, clothing, jewellery, household goods, tools of trade, farm animals, stocks and shares, debts, and also cash. These were generally united in one document, 'My Last Will and Testament', in England and Wales; this was not the case in Scotland or the Channel Islands.

Inventories are probably the least used and most interesting of all probate records, listing all the property of the deceased, with the exception of his land and buildings. From 1530 to 1782 it was obligatory for every executor or administrator of a will to provide the registry of the appropriate probate court with an inventory of the deceased's goods, together with their value.

A Probate account was also prepared by the executor or administrator and supplemented the information found in inventories (where they survive). It should account for all the goods and debts received and all the debts and legacies paid and expenses incurred during the winding up of the deceased's estate, recording a final balance.

Death Duty Registers encompass a range of taxes levied on estates left by will or administration. They contain brief details of

the estate and to whom it was left and extend from 1796 to 1903. The indexes to these are available to search online at <www.findmypast.co.uk> whilst the actual documents are held at The National Archives (TNA).

If a person died without leaving a will (intestate), someone (usually a relative) could apply to the probate court for a grant of administration, which would allow them to deal with the estate.

Before you attempt to try and locate a will at a minimum you need to know your ancestors name, place / area of residence and a very approximate year (or timescale) of death.

Prior to the commencement of a centralised probate system in 1858, as highlighted in my previous article, probate was controlled by the Church, with over 300 Church Courts functioning at one time or another. It is important to make sure that you search all appropriate courts including adjoining jurisdictions and higher courts.

For help negotiating the labyrinth of these pre-1858 probate courts, Origins.net has a complete set of Jeremy Gibson's probate jurisdiction maps. Organised by (pre-1974) counties for England there are also maps covering Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Each map is accompanied by a detailed legend giving a complete breakdown of the jurisdictions for each county. As each map is unique it is important to look at a map in conjunction with its own legend. <www.origins.net/NationalWills/search/maps/index.aspx>

The England Jurisdictions 1851 project is a FamilySearch finding aid. It simplifies English research by consolidating data from many finding aids enabling you to properly locate a specific place and the jurisdictions associated with it. Features include contiguous parish and radius search lists and relevant jurisdictions, as they existed in England in 1851 <<http://maps.familysearch.org>>

As a very general rule the majority of probate records are to be found in the appropriate county record office or archive, which conveniently doubles as the diocesan (church) record office. Many

now have indexes to their catalogue online, which can include a name index to wills or other probate material that they hold. The full contact details for archives can be found by searching the ARCHON Directory (part of The National Archives website).
<www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/>

Access to (English) Archives (A2A) is also to be found on The National Archives website. It features the online catalogue from 418 record offices and other repositories across England and contains over 10 million catalogue entries, including some probate material <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/> The A2A site also includes a glossary of terms useful to those using the site.

As part of its major indexing project FamilySearch <<https://familysearch.org>> has a number of probate indexes (sometimes with links to the actual documents) available online. FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/#form=catalog> has previously filmed the majority of these probate documents, a microfilm copy of which can be ordered and viewed via your local FamilySearch Family History Center. A list of family history centres can be found at

<www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp> Alternatively, if you are resident in the London area the London Family History Centre holds many of these records on film as permanent stock items. For more information including viewing their catalogue, opening times etc see <www.londonfhc.org>

The US based Centre for Family History and Genealogy has *Discovering English Ancestors*, which includes a very useful probate section <<http://dea.byu.edu/index.php?page=listing>> Searching by county using the drop down menu will give you a detailed listing of pre-1858 probate courts for each English county, with microfilm numbers for those courts filmed by FamilySearch - which can be ordered through your local (FamilySearch) Family History Centre. It also notes where any wills are available online.

Your Archives is part of The National Archives website and has pages giving a summary of probate indexes available online. Full information can be found at:

<http://yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php?title=Online_Probate_Indexes> Please note *Your Archives* was last updated September 2012 TNA having made the decision not to make further updates.

Many commercial websites have probate material online, both indexes and sometimes the actual probate documents themselves. However when browsing some of these sites it is not always easy to determine exactly what courts are covered and for what years. This also applies to FamilySearch. In defence the loading of data online is often an ongoing project so is subject to continuous change, however the absence of a detailed dataset description - including the source - can make it challenging when trying to determine exactly what you have searched. It is important therefore to look carefully at what is available on a specific site. For example The National Archives has Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) wills indexed and downloadable online - however this index does not include administrations nor other probate material relating to the PCC, which is indexed separately to the actual wills.

So when you do find a will it is important to check with the appropriate archive if there are any other surviving probate documents, e. g. inventories or probate accounts. As each archive has its own cataloguing system and method of organisation, these additional documents may or may not be kept or indexed with the actual will.

Parish Register Societies (often organised on a county basis) were established during the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century to transcribe and index mainly parish registers but also occasionally other material that is now of interest to family historians. These tomes were available to subscribers, a practice that continues to this present day. Many

major libraries including the Society of Genealogists have large collections of these covering the whole of the British Isles.

Many of these societies (where still in existence) are based at the various local record offices / archives. Full contact details can be found online at:

<www.royalhistoricalsociety.org/textandcalendars.htm> with links to each societies website and list of volumes published.

The British Record Society (BRS) has published many indexes to wills, administrations and other probate material.

www.britishrecordsociety.org/. An increasing number of these indexes are searchable online via Origins.net National Wills Index (NWI) <www.origins.net/nwiwelcome.aspx> . The National Wills Index is an ongoing project and aims to create a union index for pre 1858 wills, bringing together a large number of will indexes, transcriptions and abstracts (full summaries) and currently covers over 90% of English counties. Information is also available on obtaining a copy of a will where only the index is available online. The NWI also has a glossary of probate terms:

<www.origins.net/help/probateglossary.aspx>

Many commercial sites, archives, FamilySearch and The National Archives etc have free to access help sections on their websites, so do take full advantage of these.

Origins.net are offering a 20% discount off any subscription at origins.net (which includes the National Wills Index) to ESFHS members. Simply enter the code ESFHS - in the promotional box on the Sign Up or Checkout page after you have made your subscription choice. Offer valid until 30 June 2013.

Finding out more

Wills & Probate Records: A guide for family historians by Karen Grannum & Nigel Taylor (The National Archives 2009)

Wills, Probate & Death Duty Records by Jane Cox (FFHS 1998)

The Wills of our Ancestors - A guide for family and local historians by Stuart Raymond (Pen & Sword 2012)

Members' Interests 2013: will you be a winner?

The prize for your entry could be a whole new line of research, discovering a missing link or breaking through that seemingly insurmountable barrier. The only way to win is to be in - in the Directory of Members' Interests (DMI) and with up-to-date information. The preparation of the 2013 DMI will begin after 31st March, which is the closing date for new entries and updates. Please check your current entries and decide if they need amending. Peter Grant, our Members' Interests Co-ordinator, receives many enquiries and they are often of great benefit to both member and enquirer, but only if the information is up to date.

It is also important to make sure that we have your current email address so that enquiries can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. Postal addresses are taken from the current membership list.

The existing DMI section on our website contains the information held in April 2012, listed by membership number, as well as a guide to using the DMI.

If you do not have access to your details on the internet, you can write to Peter for a copy; his contact details are inside the cover of this journal.

To ensure that any revisions are included in the 2013 DMI, send them by email or post to be received by 31st March.

Peter is waiting to process your 'prize' entry right now . . .



Can you help?

Gosling or Coverdale family

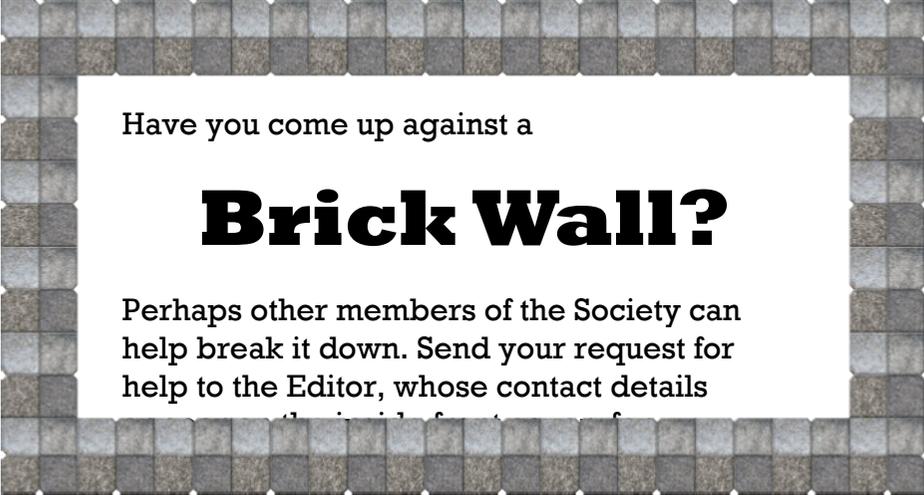
Peter Grant

The reason for my contacting you is to enquire if any of your members are researching the Gosling or Coverdale family.

I have in my possession several old photographs of members of the Gosling Family.

Being extremely interested in family history myself and researching for many years, I decided to do some research on the Gosling family, to which these photos relate, and found that they were born and lived in the Croydon area. The last known address, according to 1911 census, is Teevan Road Croydon. One photo shows Mrs Gosling in the garden at that address.

They came to me via a donation into the Demelza Charity Bookshop in Herne Bay, Kent where I work as the Co-ordinator. I would be delighted if these photographs could be reunited with the rightful family. All initial enquiries, please contact Peter Grant, contact details on the front inside cover of the Journal.



Have you come up against a

Brick Wall?

Perhaps other members of the Society can help break it down. Send your request for help to the Editor, whose contact details

Can you help?

Webb Passport

Linda Harris linda.emmhar@virginmedia.com

I have in my possession an old blue passport dated from the 1920s(detailed below) and I would really like it to go to descendants of the family concerned. I do not want payment of any kind, just to have this wonderful document which shows a photograph and details of family, descriptions and considerable travel during the 1920s.

I would love to have this document if it belonged to one of my ancestors. As a keen family historian, I would appreciate anyone offering to help me find the true owner of this document. I have found out a little about the family concerned on the internet but realise the only way of finding out defendants details would be to order and pay for certificates, wills etc., which are both expensive and I feel it is not my business to delve into another person's family.

The name on the passport is Mrs Elizabeth Ann Webb (formerly Tindall) born 1884 in Boston Spa, Yorks. The children's names are Helen A Webb, born 1920, and Brian A A Webb, born 1924.

I have tried to find out about Brian A A Webb and note that he died in 1995; the death was registered in Mid Eastern Surrey. Would it be possible to find out through electoral rolls where he last lived in the hope someone will know his family? I would appreciate your help in finding the family so I can return this passport to them.