

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

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

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

## **From the Chairman**

It's the windiest day of the year in Surrey and Kate and William have just christened baby Prince George. I have gained a great-niece and lost a sister-in-law. Such are the measures of time!

In keeping with seasonal Goodwill your Society continues to serve its members and guests with a feast of talks and meetings and the next few for each location are listed on the Group Meetings Page. The longer term planning for the Conference in August 2015, which our Society is hosting, is also ramping up so please come to the meetings for the latest news and do say hello at any of the Fairs we attend. And don't despair if you live at a distance from your East Surrey ancestral homeland as you can keep in touch through this Journal, via our web site [www.eastsurreyfhs.org](http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org) , our e-newsletter (sent to all members for whom we have a live email address but also available on the web site) and the Society's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ESFHS> or search for 'East Surrey Family History Society' when you are using Facebook. Don't forget to Like the Page!).

The UK Christmas and worldwide New Year celebrations are just a few weeks away and a quick check on international holidays tells me there are many other festivals and events this month around the world. So lots to celebrate and what better gift to give a fellow world resident on a happy occasion than a book or pamphlet from the East Surrey FHS bookstall! Our publications list was a pull out section in the last Journal and you can see our stock list on the ESFHS web site. Items can be ordered by post from the Society, details on our website, or purchased online through the GenFair website (go to <http://www.genfair.co.uk/supplier.php?sid=39> and enter East Surrey Family History Society as the Supplier).

It's customary to remember those we have lost as we move forward to the New Year and it is with much regret I advise you

that our Vice President and early member of ESFHS, Marion Brackpool, passed away recently. Her membership number was 280, and she was active in the running of the Society in one role or another for most of its existence. She contributed much to the success of our Society over the years and despite other family sadness she was recently still active as Chair of the Lingfield Group. On a personal note I was grateful to her for presiding over last year's AGM. We will miss her very much.

Another end of year task is to check that your annual Standing Order to East Surrey Family History Society is in place for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 (£12 pa or forex equivalent). If you need help or wish to pay another way please contact the Membership Secretary or appropriate Overseas Representative (contact details on the inside cover). And don't forget to give us your latest email address so you can receive the e-newsletter.

## Half-muffled blog

*David Underdown {david.underdown95@imperial.ac.uk}*

If you have any ancestors who were bell-ringers you may be interested in the blog at <http://halfmuffled.wordpress.com/> where I am writing up my research into the men named on the First World War roll of honour for the Surrey Association of Church Bell Ringers. Due to where diocesan boundaries fall, it mostly covers east Surrey parishes now in the Southwark Diocese, but there is some overlap with west Surrey and what's now the Guildford Diocese. In addition, I've picked up some information on men who can be identified as ringers who served in the war, but aren't included in the roll for one reason or another.

Interest in family who served will no doubt increase as we approach the centenary commemorations, and this also casts light on an aspect of the activities of ancestors which may not be picked up via standard family history sources.



*The talk discusses the Surrey born diarist and horticulturalist. Since its first publication by William Bray in the early 19th century, Evelyn's diary has been a key source for scholars and local historians of Surrey.*

- |    |  |           |           |
|----|--|-----------|-----------|
| 18 | Coram's Children   | Jane King | Croydon   |
|    | <i>The story of the Foundling Hospital; how it became noted for its art and music at the time of Hogarth and Handel together with details of the lives of the children</i> |           |           |
| 26 | Why Piccadilly?  | John Neal | Lingfield |
|    | <i>The origins of place names in London illustrated with maps and people</i>   |           |           |

## April

- |    |   |              |           |
|----|---|--------------|-----------|
| 3  | Ancestors who fought in the two world wars  | Simon Fowler | Sutton    |
|    | <i>Simon is a freelance researcher and writer who worked in the National Archives for 30 years. He was an archivist at the Society of Genealogist and was Editor of the magazine Family History Monthly</i> |              |           |
| 14 | to be announced   |              | Southwark |

## May

- |    |   |            |          |
|----|---|------------|----------|
| 1  | Pleasures and Pastimes of Victorian Britain   | Ian Waller | Sutton   |
|    | <i>What our ancestors did in their spare time. Ian is an author and professional genealogist. He is Vice Chairman of AGRA and a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists</i> |            |          |
| 10 | Members' Meeting  |            | Richmond |
|    | <i>Friends, family and non-members always more than welcome!</i>  |            |          |

- 
- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Croydon:   | United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.<br>Secretary: Liz Moss (020 8686 8962)  |
| Lingfield: | Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday (except August and December); 2.30 p.m.<br>Secretary: Rita Russell (01342 834648)   |
| Richmond:  | Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of alternate months; 2.30 p.m.<br>Secretary: David Carter (020 8642 6437)  |
| Southwark: | Southwark Local History Library, behind John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1JA<br>Second Monday of alternate months; 12 noon (except August when the meeting dates will vary – see the Journal and the Society website). There will be no meeting in December.<br>Secretary: Sheila Gallagher (020 8337 8580) |
| Sutton:    | St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton SM1 2RG<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday; 8.00 p.m.<br>Secretary: Chris Pocock (020 8642 6789)  |

*Doors usually open 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. Please check the Society website [www.esfhs.org.uk](http://www.esfhs.org.uk) for future meetings and last-minute alterations.*

# Christmas Week 1918

*Susan Streek [10272]*

My great-uncle by marriage, Richard Henry Worton, served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Sussex Regiment during WW1. He lived in Lewisham after his marriage in 1920. I have not located his service record but a small diary of his has survived for the year 1918. As was usual it was written in pencil and the entries were only brief. He fought in Northern France where he experienced heavy fighting and shelling. The Armistice was declared on 11 November 1918 but Richard was still in France for Christmas.

## **Mon 23 Dec**

Weather fine. R.L. from Mr Gill & W.S. Parcel from Mrs H. Filled in form for E. Employ. French Class 10 - 11

## **Tues 24 Dec**

Letter from Dad 20/12. Letter from J.H. Xmas card 19/12. Letter from Miss Lane Xmas card 20/12. French & Shorthand Classes. Weather fine. Saw football match between B & HQ B 2 HQ 1. Jimmy played

## **Wed 25 Dec**

Weather fine. Mutton Sausage Pudding. Custard & fruit Tea - Rissoles. Walk in afternoon. Postcard from B Lane 20/12. Communion 11 am. Guy Moon went home on leave

## **Thurs 26 Dec**

Weather muggy. Walk in morning & afternoon. Wrote to Dad & Mr Gill. No parades.

## **Fri 27 Dec**

Raining. Shorthand. Letter to Mrs H. Concert in evening - passable.

## Are you interested?

We are very restricted for storage space at the Advice and Research Centre in Lingfield, so we are scanning records where possible to store them digitally. In doing the sorting we have come across a collection of copies of family history papers that have been sent to us in the past. Little or no reference has been made to these over the years, which may be due to no one knowing about them. They have therefore been brought out into the light and are on offer to any member who would like them. They range from a single sheet of paper to a comprehensive family history.

The names researched are listed below and if you would like any of them, or would like further information about them, please contact Peter Heather on [esfhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:esfhs@hotmail.co.uk) or ring him on 020 8660 5637.

Baker	Follett	Presnail (see Weller)
Black	Greenwood	Presnell (see Weller)
Boggis	Hills (see Weller)	Pritchard
Boteler (see Kendon)	Hurst	Ray
Browne	Kendon	Sparrow (see Weller)
Carew Sir Nicholas	Kendon	Stewart
Coombes	Kishere	Tidy
Costin	Morgan	Weaver
Crockford	Newdigate	Weller
Donkin	Odd	Wood (see Weller)
Ellis	Powell	

## Colindale Newspaper Library

The Colindale newspaper reading room will have closed by the time you read this. The News & Media room opens in the British Library at St Pancras in March 2014. Further details are at <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/news/newspapermoves/index.html>

# Journal themes for 2014

## March: Southwark stories

What have you found in Southwark? Unusual stories, unusual records. Anything with Southwark as a theme.

## June: Murder in the family

Did an ancestor witness a murder? Were they perpetrator or victim? As murder is profoundly upsetting for the immediate family, the article should describe events at least fifty years ago.

## September: Gone for a soldier

To commemorate the outbreak of WW1, tell us your stories of those who signed up right at the start of the war to end all wars.

## December: Maps for family historians

What maps have you used, and how have they helped your understanding of your ancestor's life?

## Could these be yours?

*The Editor*

I have been sent - anonymously - six death certificates. If anyone believes that they belong to part of their own family, please

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Where died</b>
1849, August	Richard FAYRES	Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, LAN
1852, September	Mary READY	St George, Bloomsbury, MDX
1857, February	Sarah FAYRES	St Mary, Marylebone, MDX
1919, March	Charles SHEPHERD	Uxbridge, MDX
1944, November	Peter SMITH	Maidstone, KEN
1953, May	Florence BROWN	Prince's, Lambeth, SRY

## **Marion Brackpool**

*Sheila Gallagher*

Marion was not a founder member of East Surrey FHS but joined soon after our first meeting at Sutton Civic Offices in 1977. Since that time she has played a continuously active part in the Society's evolution – serving as an Executive Committee member and then as Honorary Secretary, conducting Society business and answering many queries from members & non-members, over several years. She was a dedicated and energetic member of teams organizing meetings, outings and events, especially our pioneering and very successful Sutton Day Conferences. Marion was a lively, friendly lady who certainly didn't sit back and let others do everything and was made a Vice-President of the Society in recognition of her work.

She used the knowledge gained at a Goldsmith's College course, her experience and her enthusiasm to teach family history through talks and very successful evening classes in various locations, two of which grew into enduring groups, the last being the East Surrey Lingfield group of which she was the Chairman. She brought much information, not just theory, to her audiences; when she recommended various records to help with research she had usually used them herself and described how to do it. Added to this Marion had the knack of making everyone feel welcome at the meetings she chaired & the talks she gave.

This short tribute cannot do justice to Marion's personality and contribution to our family history experience – but we have included comments from many members and have tried to leave an impression of the dear friend we have lost.

# The wandering Heatons of Lambeth

*Arthur Pummery <heaton237@gmail.com>*

I have no written or hearsay evidence about the majority of these notes. They are based on assumptions built around facts. If you know different please tell me.

William Heaton (1856-1912) was born in Doncaster and became a 'Journeyman Stonemason'. He married Emma Teasdale/Ward in 1880; the marriage was registered at King's Norton, Birmingham.

A year later in the census he is shown as living with his father-in-law (Frank Ward, a Stonemason) in Conybere Street, Birmingham. About 100 yards down the road is St Alban the Martyr's Church (built 1880-99, Architect a J. L. Pearson).

By 1882, when their eldest son (John William Heaton 1882-1947) was born, he was working in Norwood, possibly on St John the Evangelist's Church (built 1878-87, Architect J. L. Pearson).

However, two years later, when their eldest daughter Hannah Heaton (1884-1966) was born, the family had all travelled 270 miles southwest. They were now living in Middle Rosewin Row, Truro, Cornwall, about 400yards from the Cathedral. I believe he was still working for J. L. Pearson.

John Loughborough Pearson (1817 - 1887), was an Architect renowned for his works on Churches and Cathedrals, in particular Truro Cathedral (built 1880-1910). He was also the "Architect and Surveyor of the Fabric" at Westminster Abbey between 1879 and 1897. When he died he was buried in the nave of the Abbey.

Their second son Frank (1886-1973) was also born in Truro, but two years later my grandmother, Emmeline Heaton (1888-1978), was born and they had all moved back to London (Lambeth). He was possibly working on offices which were being built against the side of Westminster Hall (built 1888, Architect J. L. Pearson).

William and Emma then moved 50 miles south as their third daughter Alice Heaton (1890-1930) was born in Shirley Street,

Hove. Surprise, surprise J. L. Pearson was the Architect for All Saints Church, Hove (built 1889-1901), about 600 yards down the road from Shirley Street.

For their sixth child Esther Heaton (1893-?) they had moved back to Lambeth. William possibly worked on William Waldorf Astor's Estate Office (now known as 2 Temple Place, near Victoria Embankment), designed and built by J. L. Pearson 1890-1895.

Before three years had past though the family had once again 'up sticks and moved' 180 miles west. Their seventh child, Fanny Heaton (1896 -1981), was born in Aberavon, an area of Port Talbot, South Wales. Sure enough down the road is St. Theodore's Church (consecrated on 5th August 1897 and designed by J. L. Pearson).

In 1899 their last child Charles Heaton (1899-1986) was born, they were by then back in London living at 2 Dolland Street, Vauxhall. They were still at that address when the 1901 Census was taken. We do not know what happened over the next decade but they had all moved to 101 Tyler Street, Vauxhall by the 1911 Census.

William Heaton died in 1912: his death was recorded north of the river at St George Hanover Square, London.

I have made contact with most living descendents of six of William & Emma's children. I believe their third child Frank died childless.

I have to-date however been unable to contact any descendants of their sixth child Esther. She married a Whitman and had many children who married Simmons, Sheen and Saunders. If your family tree crosses with these it would be good to talk.

See also my "Can You Help?" entry at the back of this issue.

## **Lingfield Research Day**

Please note that the Research Day for July has to be on the FIRST Saturday (5th) as the building we use is occupied by a large art show starting on our usual second Saturday.

## **Bennett's the coach people**

*Gareth Booker [10218]*

I have been researching my family history for 28 years and I was extremely lucky in that my mother remembered a lot of names and events concerning her family tree. During the course of the conversation she said to me she was connected to Bennett's the coach people of Bensham Lane, Croydon.

Bensham Lane rang a bell as I knew it appeared somewhere on a certificate I already had and going through them I found my grandfather, Percy Card, born 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1894, had been born at 8 Vincent Place, Bensham Lane, Croydon. He was the fourth child of Charles Card and Rose Eliza Bennett. His mother died in April the following year of cancer of the uterus which my mother explained was from an infection giving birth to Percy and in turn from the infection he had a slight problem with his eye.

Rose herself was the daughter of Thomas Bennett and Emily Steer. Thomas was born 1<sup>st</sup> January 1841 at Shirley Common, Croydon, the son of John Bennett and Rosa Bennett, née Mumford. John Bennett was a broom maker and the Card family eventually moved from the Hartfield/Forest Row area of Sussex to Surrey as broom makers and carried on the occupation there. The story goes that when the Bennetts moved from Sussex so did the Card family.

So you can imagine my excitement when I saw the front cover of ESFHS Journal, Volume 35, no 4, Dec 2012, The Broom-makers at Shirley Common. John Bennett aged 78 mentioned in the article appears to be my 4 x gt-grandfather, the father of John Bennett (1804-1847) who was the father of Thomas Bennett (1841-1919).

I also have a photo of Bennett's Broom Yard taken from the Gentleman's Magazine (no date is given).

I have only got as far back as John Bennett Snr at the moment but I am also interested in hearing from any descendants of Rose's brothers and sisters as well as finding out where Vincent Place was in Bensham Lane.

## Useful tips from the Group Meetings

*Liz Moss*

There has been a varied programme of talks at the Groups.

**Croydon** was entertained by a talk on the East India Company by Janet Bateson. This was of interest to both family history research and local history as the East India Company had a college for cadets in Addiscombe and Janet had found that several of the large houses in the Lingfield area had been built by people returning from service in the East India Company. Many middle class gentlemen joined the Company as they did not have to buy a commission as in the regular army. The civil servants needed to control the business of the Company were trained at Haileybury later to become Haileybury Schhol. There were also the institutions the Company set up to deal with the insane who returned from India

Following her talk Janet suggested that the first place to look for East India Company records is undoubtedly the British Library, Oriental and India Office Collections. See also <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpregion/asia/india/indiaofficerecords/indiaofficehub>.

There is a wealth of information but begin with the Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths. The records are arranged by Presidency, or 3 Areas of Administration, Bengal, Madras and Bombay. Depending on what you discover there you can then follow any lead into subject areas, the staff are very helpful. There is also a downloadable introduction: Search British Library / Collections and Family History research. Although there are records at The National Archive they complement the tremendous collection at the British Library. You can then go on to the TNA when you know where your research is leading you.

Another valuable lead is the **Hodson Index** at the National Army Museum. Details of every 'Servant'/Soldier of the E.I.C. were arranged alphabetically on card index when I began my research. I

believe that has all now been modernised, so check with the Museum before going. So many changes have happened recently, particularly to the research room.

The best book I have found as an introduction to the E.I.C. is *The East India Company: Trade and Conquest from 1600* by Antony Wild, 1999.

One of our members, Sylvia Dibbs, has also supplied the following research information on FIBIS (Families in British India Society) 'Researching Ancestors in the East India Company Armies' by Peter Bailey and 'Baxter's Guide, Biographical Sources in the India Office Records', both available in the British Library shop or from FIBIS.

Records of Roman Catholics (Baptisms, Marriages and Burials) in the East India Company are on open access in the Asia, Pacific, and Africa Reading Room at the British Library in St Pancras:

Bengal Roman Catholic Returns IOR/N/1/RC/1-5 : 1842-1856

Bombay Roman Catholic Returns IOR/N/3/RC/1-5 : 1842-1854

Madras Roman Catholic Returns IOR/N/2/RC/1-8 : 1835-1854

Her research of the Dibbs family found a Dibbs cousin a few times removed, who spent nearly 40 years in the care & at the cost of the EIC at Pembroke House, Hackney & then Royal India Asylum Ealing. It's a long and sad story as he was a successful NSW sea captain until his mental illness took hold. He is also the father of three prominent Dibbs in Sydney, including Sir George, a prime minister of NSW. She also found a close Dibbs cousin Bombay Banker, whose son became a leading banker in Croydon,

**Lingfield** had a talk on 'Methods of Execution' by John Eddleston. Having described some very unpleasant methods of execution, John discussed his research into the court cases of the convicted people and was of the opinion that not all of the people were guilty. The records of cases at the National Archives can be found in the following collections: ASSI, HO and DPP.

# News from Surrey Heritage

*Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre*

Surrey Heritage celebrated Black History Month in October by revealing more about the Black community's contribution to life in the county through a series of fascinating stories from archive, library and Historic Environment Record collections. The stories form part of a new range of sources and guides available on the Exploring Surrey's Past website,

<http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/slavery/>. Featuring historical case studies, rare archive sources, a family history guide, and bibliography, the resource can help people learn more about the Black community in Surrey over the last three centuries. Some well-known names appear in the stories, including Admiral Nelson and Henry Goulburn, (1754-1856) of Betchworth, Chancellor of the Exchequer. You can also discover the astonishing story of African Thames Ditton resident Cesar Picton, who featured in Surrey History Centre's 'Marvel of Month' for October. Find out more at

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/recreation-heritage-and-culture/archives-and-history/surrey-history-centre/marvels-of-the-month>

Recent archive accessions highlight the range of records we receive reflecting the county's different religious groups. This is important because a county archive, while preserving the records of the past also needs to reflect the diverse community that makes up Surrey today. History needs to be relevant in order to appeal and be of interest to present and future family and local historians. In the course of 2013 we have received further copies of the Islamic Review from the 1960s, published at The Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking. The Mosque was built in 1889 and was the first formal place of worship for the religion of Islam in England. It was named after its main benefactor Begum Shah (Madame-King) Jahan, a contemporary ruler of Bhopal State in India. The building

of the Mosque was largely due to the inspiration of Gottlieb Wilhelm Leitner (1860-1899), a distinguished orientalist and linguist from Hungary. Following his death in 1899 the Mosque closed until 1912 when it was restored as a place of worship and has recently been designated a listed building of historic interest. In 1912 Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, a lawyer from India, came to England to plead a court case before the Privy Council (the highest court of appeal for India at the time). After the conclusion of the case, he stayed on to establish a Muslim mission in England with the object of presenting a true picture of Islam. The result was the Woking Muslim Mission and Literary Trust, which remained an important centre for Islam in England until the 1960s. Di Stiff, our Collections Development Archivist has established excellent links with Woking's Islamic community and we now have a good set of the Islamic Review, from 1953 to 1970, which will be of great value for future local historians (7831/- and 9201/-).

Alongside these records, we have also received minutes of Byfleet Methodist church, 1990-2012 (9205/-), and a NADFAS record for the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Peter, Leatherhead (9214/-). We have also taken in a lovely collection of photographs of the Rapley and Stillwell families of Byfleet and Chobham, dating from the late 19th century to the 1950s (9206/-), a photograph album of the Burt family of Comforts Place, Tandridge Lane, showing hunting scenes in Surrey during the 1930s (9209/-) and photographs of staff and pupils at Farnham Girls' Grammar School, 1924-1931 (9212/-). Also important are a series of plan approval registers relating to buildings put up in Reigate and Banstead Borough, 1931-1985 (9219/-). We had long held many of the plans but the registers provide a crucial point of entry.

School records can be particularly useful for family historians. In July this year we were delighted to receive a minute book of the trustees of Mortlake British Schools, East Sheen covering the period 1842-1976 (9216/-) and my colleague, Matthew Piggott has

recently completed his detailed catalogue of the records of Rutlish School in Merton (3641/-). Records of this school have been coming in since the 1980s and during recent stockcheck closures, Matt has amalgamated the various temporary catalogues into one comprehensive final catalogue of the school's extensive records covering the period 1895-1995. By his will of 15 Jun 1687 William Rutlish, citizen and embroiderer of London, formerly of Merton, left his copyhold estate in the manor of Merton in trust to the vicar and churchwardens of Merton and 8 other trustees to provide funds for the apprenticing of poor children of the parish. In 1892 funds surplus to the placing of children as apprentices were used to open a school of cookery and in the same year the trustees agreed to establish a technical school on its property, to be part funded by Surrey County Council. This school, the Rutlish Science School, was completed in 1895. Though no school log books after 1898 have been deposited and there are gaps within the sequence of admission registers, it is still possible to research early pupils at the school through the registers of pupils awarded scholarships, 1925-1946, and the Headmaster's mark books, 1924-1962, and to learn about the early staff at the school from the appointments registers dating from 1895.

Matt is also now putting the finishing touches to his catalogue of the archive of Surrey Police, 1851-2002 (9152/-) which includes a complete run of 'Appointment' books from 1851 to 1977 of all police officers joining the Surrey Constabulary. The registers give name, age, physical description, where born, previous trade or calling, number of children, last residence, what public service they had performed, by whom they were last employed, the names of their relatives residing in Surrey, the date of their appointment, rank and where they were stationed. They also provide details of promotions and their conduct during service. These records will be of considerable interest to a large number of family historians.

Interest in family history continues to grow and alongside the interest in Surrey's parish records, now available via Ancestry, we

have noticed an increase in people who are just beginning their research and want to know how to 'get started'. Jane Lewis, who many of you will know as one of the splendid team of Heritage Assistants who help you when you visit our searchroom or answer your emails and letters, has just developed a new talk. Jane has a Diploma in Genealogy from the University of Strathclyde and her talk aims to take you step by step through the basics of family history with advice on where to start, what to do and most important, how to find guidance on what is bound to prove an exciting project. It also includes lots of time (and money) saving tips and ideas, and suggests some of the ways to store and present your research. Jane recently gave this talk at Surrey History Centre on a Wednesday morning and we hope to repeat it again soon.

Finally, please remember that we will be closing for our annual stock-take between Monday 2 December and Monday 16 December. We will reopen on Tuesday 17th as normal, through to Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December when we will close at 1pm. We will reopen on Tuesday 31 December, close for the Bank Holiday on Tuesday 1 January and reopen on Thursday 2 January 2014.

## **Electronic copy of the Journal**

Are Christmas presents taking up too much room in your house? Do you need help with your Spring cleaning? One way to reduce the clutter is to receive your East Surrey Family History Society Journal electronically! Read and keep it on your computer. Guaranteed not to gather dust or fall down the back of the sofa. Please let the Membership Secretary know if you would prefer to receive your Journal by email. Send her a message to *Membership01@eastsurreyfh.org.uk*.

# **Your Society needs YOU!**

Sue Adams, our Honorary Secretary, has to stand down at the next AGM as she will have completed five years on the committee. We are therefore looking for any member who would be interested in taking over this role. The duties include:

To prepare the agenda then record and circulate minutes for committee meetings six times per year and the AGM once a year

To answer general enquiries and to forward queries to the appropriate person

We are also looking for additional members to serve on the committee, so why not put your name forward?

No qualifications are required; just an interest in family history and the Society. The Committee meets six times per year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:secretary01@eastssurreyfhs.org.uk) or speak to any Committee member at meetings.

## **Society Journal back issues**

*Chris Green [4030]*

I have volumes 14 (1991) to 19 (1996) of the Society Journal, and I wish to dispose of them. All years are complete except that Vol 16 #3 is missing.

If anyone would like any or all of these magazines they can be collected from me (in Merstham) for no charge or I am willing to post them for the cost of postage. Please email [editor01@eastssurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor01@eastssurreyfhs.org.uk) or telephone me on 01737 644145.

## News from Sutton Local Studies Centre

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

Some of you may have seen the press release at the end of October of the launch of “London’s Pulse” <http://bit.ly/1cmkgoq> a collaborative project between the Wellcome Library and London local authority archive services (including Sutton) to digitise Medical Officer of Health Reports (present day London boroughs only - but obviously they include former Surrey boroughs). These date from 1848 right up to 1972. For the London Borough of Sutton area the earliest report is Carshalton, 1894.

If you’ve not studied a MoH report before they contain important information such as statistical details of births, deaths and disease in a locality. For those of you interested in meteorological conditions the reports for Sutton in 1906 give details of temperature and rainfall month by month for the whole year. The same report records the number of deaths from measles in 1906 as nil - in 1886 it was 20. One of our regular researchers has already used the Carshalton MoH report for 1920 to show a dip in births - post World War 1.

Another digitisation project which has been reported in the Who Do You Think You Are magazine, is the consortium of record offices working with Brightsolid (better known as the owner of Find My Past) to digitise school admission registers up to 1914. I’m glad to report that Sutton Archives has submitted the records of the Sutton Newtown schools to this project. Additionally you’ll find some of our schools have been submitted via Surrey History Centre. It is going to be a great resource once published.

For those of you who live in Sutton watch this space as we are partnered with London’s Screen Archives and Film London on a film project entitled “A Bigger Picture” which has been allocated £500,000K from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We’re hoping to see the project get off the ground in early 2014. A Bigger Picture’ will engage locals with the screen heritage of their area, and support

the collection of new material to fill in gaps in the region's collections. There will be training for volunteers in basic screen archiving through a certified course at Birkbeck college; a "Kino Van" will visit boroughs showing films and providing a home movie investigation service. New material discovered through the project will be digitised with copies to donors and the originals safely stored for future generations in archive repositories

There is just one deposit I want to mention. Our Accession 874 - Barrow Hedges School presentation volume. In 1978 when Miss Hadingham the first head teacher of Barrow Hedges School in Carshalton retired she was presented with a beautifully produced volume listing all the children who had gone through the school from its inception in 1955. The volume was produced by one of the teachers using calligraphy on hand made paper. After Miss Hadingham's death a few years ago it passed to another teacher who decided it was best preserved in the local archives. A formal presentation was organised followed by tea with several former staff members who had lovely stories to tell - which I've asked them to write down! For Data Protection reasons we can't let the public browse the volume but we are happy to do this on anyone's behalf if you wish to check when you first attended the school.

Our opening hours changed on the 16 September. We now close at 5pm on Tue/Fri, our long day is now Wednesday and we are closed all day Thursday. Our weekend opening has been reduced to every second Sat/Sun. For the first half of 2014 we will be open the following weekends: 11/12 Jan, 25/26 Jan, 8/9 Feb, 22/23 Feb, 8/9 Mar, 22/23 Mar, 5/6 Apr, 19/20 Apr, 3/4 May, 17/18 May, 14/15 Jun and 28/29 Jun. Full details are on our website.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Bev and Tina our volunteers. They have been very busy this year with the usual encapsulation of photographs (never ending), transcribing WW1 letters and a 19<sup>th</sup> century diary of a young bride-to-be, and identifying for our Parks Service those green spaces that were once meadows.

# The future of the census beyond 2011

*Anne Ramon*

As family historians we relish the family, age, occupation and place of birth information provided in past censuses. With the help of the internet search engines we can quickly find an ancestor in England and Wales at ten yearly intervals, on a snapshot date, between 1841 and 1911. Other dates and interval periods are available in censuses in many other countries. This is a normal search process now for all family historians and we have our fingers crossed that on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 we will be able to interrogate the 1921 census information.

The primary purpose for a census, though, is to count the population, to help with the provision of services and to identify and plan future housing, transport and other social needs. Names and family history have been a lucky by-product but this granular detail may be lost in future censuses (2021 and onwards).

Following a request from Francis Maude, MP and Cabinet Minister, the Office for National Statistics have drawn up two different proposals for population estimation going forward, each aiming to save money/ meet population information needs accurately, efficiently and in a timely manner i.e. more frequently than at 10 year intervals. The alternatives for discussion are:

- a compulsory census once a decade, similar to the 2011 census but primarily conducted online. The questions to be included have not been considered yet and would be part of a future consultation if this is the chosen way ahead.
- anonymous data collated from existing administrative sources such as the National Health Service, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, Department of Education and other school sources; cross checked with an annual 4% population online survey (different population each time), collated by local authority areas; questions to be determined.

A consultation is taking place currently to document and understand what census information is used, and for what purpose, so that the variety of uses may be taken into consideration going forward. Discussions were held with the genealogical community at the National Archives recently, which I could not attend, but I did hear the presentations made to the bodies with a geographical population interest, such as local councils, hospital bodies, transport authorities, academic researchers and statisticians. As you might expect the general feeling of this forum was that the granular detail of the existing census format was very helpful for a) small rural area planning b) comparability with past plans c) ability to identify small ethnic or marginalised communities with particular needs. At the same time the groups represented welcomed the possibility of more timely, annual updates.

I fear we will not be able to 'have our cake and eat it' and we should continue to follow the debate with interest, if not for ourselves, for the genealogical interest of the future. You may provide your own feedback on the proposals, and read much more supporting information at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/beyond-2011-consultation/index.html>

(You can find this by googling the Office for National Statistics web site and selecting About ONS>Get Involved>Consultations>Beyond 2011 Consultation.)

The closing date is 13 December 2013.

Please note that these proposals relate to census-taking in England and Wales only.

Your view may be coloured by imagining the real, future family history impact of the absence of the 1931 census (destroyed in the 1960s) and the 1941 census (not held due to WW2).

# WDYTYA Live! 2014 (20 - 22 February)

## Free admission to ESFHS volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help man our bookstall at Olympia next February. No previous experience is necessary as we ensure there is always a mixture of old & new hands helping out. Individual stints last about two hours, and we expect you to do no more than two in a day so there is plenty of time to visit other stalls, attend lectures, chat to old friends and make new ones.

If you are interested, contact us at [events@esfhs.org.uk](mailto:events@esfhs.org.uk) (or snail mail me, Brenda Hawkins, at 100 Beechwood Road, South Croydon CR2 0AB). Let us know which days you are available and whether you prefer early or late sessions. Please note that this year the event runs from Thursday to Saturday. Final timetables are drawn up in early February.

## Tech Topic – Speedy bookmarking

*Brian Hudson*

To bookmark a web page quickly you should press the CTRL +D keys together. A dialogue box will open showing the bookmark details, which can be changed if required.

If you would like the bookmark placed on the bookmarks toolbar, then select that option from the dialogue box.

### **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](mailto:grrs@btinternet.com)

## Oh yes, he was!

Mary Grisdale [647]

I probably will never know what most of my ancestors were doing at Christmas but I can tell exactly where my great, great grandfather George Bradfield was on several Boxing Days - he was performing in Pantomime!

I have identified him from 1871 (when he was aged 32) to 1877 at Sanger's Grand National Amphitheatre (previously Astley's) in Westminster Bridge Road and in 1880 at the Elephant and Castle Theatre. By the 1881 census his daughter, my gt-grandmother, Eliza, was aged 16 and an assistant in the theatre and her brother George William a call boy (in the theatre!).

George appeared in some wonderfully named, and obviously spectacular, productions including:

1871 Sanger's *Lady Godiva* or *Harlequin St George and the Dragon and the Seven Champions*. Mr Bradfield played Leofric 'Earl of Mercia, addicted to taxation and home rule' (according to the programme!). The story managed to make St George the adopted son of Godiva and included a 'Vale of Fairies' and Cairo (where the dragon seems to have lived). The production, as was usual then, ended in a Harliquinade.

1873 was a version of 'Cinderella' when G Bradfield played 'Pumphandle' the Chamberlain.

1874 brought *Aladdin and the wonderful lamp* or *Harlequin and the forty thieves and the flying horses of Lambeth!* This included a herd of elephant, camels and trained oxen - so Christmas in Lambeth must have been interesting. G Bradfield played 'Salamander the Genie of Fire - a gay young spark who would like to consign everyone and everything to Blaizes, wherever that may be'. They also managed to get in a Juvenile version of the Battle of Waterloo at that performance!

1875 was *Godiva* again with a 'Dragon of India' so G Bradfield played Bungwung, a Rajah.

1876 was Gulliver when G Bradfield played 'Captain Bumptious Blowhard', Skipper of the Pennywhistle of London.

In 1880 the Elephant and Castle Theatre produced *Little Bo Peep, Boy Blue* or the *Grim Gold Goblin and the Great Gorilla*. George Bradfield played 'Graspall Gripper', which sounds like a villain to me. He appeared here in productions of plays and pantomimes up to January 1883 when he was Graspall Gripper again.

By the 1891 census George was aged 53 and described himself as an 'actor/comedian', but I have not yet found his appearances between 1883 and 1891. The others my sister and I found on playbills, programmes and newspaper advertisements from various sources including the Theatre Museum when the archives were in Covent Garden, Guildhall Library and British Library MSS department and Colindale Newspaper Library. A lot of these have gone or changed and I am sure if I could use the new online sources (no computer and little time!) I would find a great deal more! But you never know what I might find in the future.

Unfortunately I have no photograph of George Bradfield (that I can prove) and certainly none of his theatrical career but I like to imagine his family spending their Boxing Day getting him ready for his performance and maybe watching in the wings as he did his bit in the pantomime. Perhaps one of your ancestors saw him or may even have taken part in the pantomime too!

## **Digital WW1 memorial**

With the anniversary of WW1 next year there is a new website, set up by the Imperial War Museum with brightsolid, to build a digital memorial. Details are at <http://www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/>

## From a pub to the trenches (continued)

*Peter Moulin [6101]*

I next checked the First World War Medal Rolls to check the brothers' war service. The ones preserved by The Western Front Association, available on Ancestry are the ones to use, as both sides of the card have been scanned, which can give useful family information, whereas the ones at TNA have only the front of the card copied.

From the medal cards and school Roll of Service it appears Henry was in 25<sup>th</sup> County of London Battalion, Harold was in the Royal Field Artillery, serving in France from October 1915 and younger brother Donald was with the 14<sup>th</sup> London Regiment (London Scottish), then the Gordon Highlanders, although he was not old enough to serve overseas by the end of the war. Clarence's medal card showed that he had been a Private in the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC), then commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Suffolk Regiment on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1916. He was promoted to a full Lieutenant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Suffolk Regiment, and had gone missing or died on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1918. The Theatre of War first served in was France, but no date was given. On the reverse of the card his father is shown as next of kin, still living at 159 Merton Road on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1920.

It is probable that Clarence worked in London and may have joined the HAC before the war. It was a Territorial Regiment based in London, very popular with professional people. It even had a membership fee, which made it very exclusive. Many of the members of the HAC became officers, and its 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion became an officer training unit, which appears to be what happened in Clarence's case. Checking the London Gazette confirmed Clarence as an officer on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1916. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website showed that Clarence was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, meaning he was fighting somewhere in the Ypres Salient during the final stages of

the war when he went missing. I consulted *The History of the Suffolk Regiment 1914-1927* by C C R Murphy to find out what his battalion were doing at the time of his death – Clarence might even be mentioned by name, as he was an officer. I was puzzled by the fact that the battalion was not in the Ypres Salient at the time of his death, so turned to the appendices to see if I could find any mention of Clarence, and found a list of officers of the regiment killed while serving with other regiments. Clarence was listed as attached to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, but while the battalion number was given for all the other officers listed, there was no number for him.

The Royal Warwickshire Regiment had 26 battalions serving overseas during World War 1 and there is no published history for the whole regiment, so how was I to find which battalion Clarence was in? There are two books of use in this situation, published in various forms since the 1920s: *British Regiments 1914-1918* and *A Record of the Battles and Engagements of the British Armies in France and Flanders 1914-1918*, both by E A James. In the First World War organisation of the British army, the hierarchy from smallest to largest of infantry on the battlefield went from four Companies in a Battalion to a number of Battalions in a Brigade, then Brigades in a Division, Divisions in a Corps and a number of Corps in an Army. The first of the books mentioned lists which Brigades and Divisions a Battalion served in and when, the second details the battles that Divisions, Corps and Armies fought. It is therefore possible to tell where a particular battalion was at a given time, and this enabled me to conclude that Clarence was in 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Warwicks, part of 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 19<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division.

I was now able to look for a detailed account in the Battalion War Diary, which is available at TNA. Clarence is mentioned three times, the first one being on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1918 when he joined the Battalion. For the rest of May the Battalion was involved in withdrawals and consolidation after the German Spring

Offensive, then training. By July the situation had stabilised and they were in Hesdin training and through to 31<sup>st</sup> July all sorts of training and lectures carried on, culminating in a practice attack. On 4<sup>th</sup> August they marched to Chocques where they carried out gas training and on 8<sup>th</sup> August Clarence 'rejoined' the Battalion but there is no note of when he left or why, but many officers were involved in attending courses elsewhere at this time. They spent a very brief period in the front line on August 15<sup>th</sup> when they carried out a raid near Locon, capturing two machine guns and killing seven of the enemy, then returned to Chocques and Brigade Reserve, with time for baths, training and Church Parade. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September they took part in another attack gaining all their objectives, re-taking the Old British Front Line, returning to support on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The next time they were in the front line was on 10<sup>th</sup> September when they were involved in "Patrol Activity" near Essars and one casualty was listed, "Lt C T Cockle missing, believed Prisoner of War".

It was later presumed that Clarence had been killed in action, and as he has no known grave he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. Fortunately Clarence's brothers survived the war. Bessie and Henry were able to attend the unveiling of the Rutlish School War Memorial on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1921. He continues to be commemorated by the school every November, along with 96 other Old Rutlishians on the memorial.

## **Apology for error, September Journal p45**

*Sheila Gallagher*

The charge brought against the licensee of the *Bull's Head*, Barnes in 1819 was for bear baiting, not bull baiting. Both were horrible pastimes but the three incorrect letters are of considerable significance. I apologise for my mistake.

# Who was Walter Ambross?

*Hilary Blanford [9702] Hilaryblanford@btinternet.com*

I knew that the Ambross family were firmly settled in the area of Peckham known for a period as Peckham New Town in the mid to late 1800s. They and their intermarried families were living in or near Park Row at the time of the 1841 census and later moved south to Stafford Street. In my mind I have nicknamed them the Park Row Mafia because it is very clear from evidence such as witness signatures, shared housing and the involvement of grandparents that their lives were closely interconnected. It looks as though they lived close to the gas works and that this is where Henry, husband to Sarah and father of Emma, worked. Sarah was my gt-gt-grandmother.

When looking for the family in the 1881 census I was initially looking for a Henry or Henry William aged 54, married to Sarah aged 63 and both born in Bermondsey. I was also expecting to find their son Henry or Henry William aged around 26 and Emma aged 24, both born in Peckham. What I found was

Walter Ambross	Head	Surrey, Southwark	55
Sarah Ambross	Wife	Surrey, Bermondsey	60
William Ambross	Son	Surrey, Camberwell	26
Elizabeth Ambross	Daughter	Surrey, Camberwell	25
Jane Plyer	Mother	Middlesex, City	72
William Ambross	Son	Surrey, Peckham	8 mo

Apart from Sarah, who had lost three years, nothing seemed to fit, and I dismissed the entry and put the problem aside for about a year while I looked at other family facts.

However, my mother had obtained Sarah's death certificate and we knew she had an unenviable death, dying in Camberwell Infirmary of 'exhaustion from bed sores resulting from fracture of thigh caused by an accidental fall in the yard on 10<sup>th</sup> November last'. She died on 19 January 1886, just over two months after her fall and the Surrey coroner, George P Wyatt, held an inquest on

21st January. Earlier this year I found a report of that inquest in the local newspapers held by the Southwark Local Studies Centre near London Bridge Station, which describes how her son took her to Guy's Hospital. She remained there for some weeks, was discharged home and then admitted to Camberwell Infirmary. Sarah must have been a tough old bird though, because most people of her age having such an injury would have died from pneumonia quite quickly. She is described on her death certificate as being 66 years of age, widow of Henry Ambross, labourer.

This last statement fixed Henry's death between 1871, the last census return I had, and 1886. Some time later I looked at this certificate again and used the information above to look for his death. This is what I found: Deaths Mar 1883, Ambrose, Henry William, 59, Camberwell, 1d 563. I ordered the certificate and entered the details into my family tree programme and did nothing more with it.

Then one day, when I had become more experienced in searching, I had another look for the Ambross family and found Walter's family again. This time I looked a bit harder and realised that it did not quite add up. The relationships on the census returns are supposed to refer to the head of the household. I thought that someone had described Jane Plyer incorrectly and she should probably have been listed as Walter's mother-in-law. Uncharitably I thought that Sarah was too old to have an 8-month-old son and that this entry was a cover up for an illegitimate son of Elizabeth. And then I looked at the address that had a vague familiarity: 46 Garsdale Road, Peckham. It took me a while to find Henry William's death certificate and that showed he had died at number 40 Garsdale Road. 'Another part of the Ambross family' was my initial reaction. I looked for the marriage of a Walter Ambross to a Sarah Plyer. Nothing. A few hours later light dawned. What if Henry's mother on this return really was his mother and she had re-married? I looked for the marriage of a Jane Ambross to a Mr Plyer. Bingo! Jane Plyer had married Robert Plyer in 1857. I

even found Jane and Robert Plyer in several census returns and for a while I thought that my 3x gt-grandmother had committed bigamy – but that is another story!

I returned to the 1881 census return and wondered about the apparent disappearance of Emma. I had never seen her referred to as Elizabeth so I looked again at the marriage of Emma Ambross and found that she had married four years before the census, so who were William and Elizabeth? I searched the marriage indexes again and found a possible marriage of a William Ambrose (not Ambross) to an Elizabeth Charlotte Hills. Their marriage certificate confirmed that William Henry Ambrose, son of Henry William Ambrose, had married Elizabeth Charlotte Hills and one of the witnesses was Sarah, my 2x gt-grandmother.

But why William Henry, and not Henry William? I looked again at the 1871 census return where I had assumed that Henry William born in 1852 had merely dropped the ‘Henry’ to avoid confusion with his father. It was not so, as the William in the census had been born in 1854 and was actually the third son of Sarah and Henry William and that his birth had been registered as William Henry Ambross. At least one birth, and possibly one death, had been registered as male Ambross which did not help matters. Not to be caught out again I ordered the birth certificate of the latest Ambross, born in 1889, and discovered that he truly was the legitimate son of William Henry and Elizabeth Charlotte née Hills, born at 40 Garsdale Road. I was very pleased and relieved to see that he had been named William Henry Thomas to avoid confusion with the other members of his family. One can but live in hope, for in the 1891 census he is just plain Henry Ambross, living with his aunt in Deptford. Some more detective work showed this aunt to be the married sister of his mother.

All this crosschecking now means that the 1881 census return can be re-written as shown opposite, but it still leaves the question, ‘who was Walter Ambross?’

Walter Ambross	Head	Surrey, Southwark	55
Sarah Ambross	Wife	Surrey, Bermondsey	60
William Ambross	Son	Surrey, Camberwell	26
Elizabeth Ambross	Dau in law	Surrey, Camberwell	25
Jane Plyer	Mother	Middlesex, City	72
William Ambross	Grandson	Surrey, C6Peckham	8 mo

The honest answer is we don't really know, but perhaps Walter was a nickname, used to distinguish between Henry William married to Sarah and Henry William married to Jane; or perhaps the 1881 enumerator made an error when completing his returns, as he seemed to have done with the street numbers. We know that Henry William, my 2 x gt-grandfather, died at Garsdale Road in 1883, and Sarah is hardly likely to have taken in a lover with her mother-in-law, son and daughter-in-law living in the same house – or perhaps she did! We shall never know.

It was Jane Plyer who unlocked this particular problem and her death answered another question. Her death, at 44 Freaan Street in Bermondsey, had been registered by her son – not by Henry William, but by his younger brother John. I knew that she had had a son John in the workhouse in 1832, but as I have never found her in the 1841 census I did not know whether he had survived. Confirmation that he was alive caused me to re-examine some census entries that had caught my eye, including those for John Ambrose, a watchman living with his family on a Thames barge moored in the port of London for almost 20 years. John's barge was called the Hope, a name shared with one of the ships on which his grandfather had been master all those years ago. I followed the progress of John and his children and eventually was able to confirm that John Ambrose, not Ambross, also died at 44 Freaan Street. Still there was nothing to link this John Ambrose with the John on the barge, until I found the baptisms of some of his grandchildren from the same address. And Freaan Street in Bermondsey? It has now been demolished and redeveloped, but its most famous son was one Tommy Steele, born at number 52.

# Military Records

*Peter Thompson [3642] {[peter\\_thompson\\_genii@yahoo.ie](mailto:peter_thompson_genii@yahoo.ie)}*

My interest in Military Records was triggered by the three Pilgrim brothers were Michael, Walter and Thomas Pilgrim of Ewell in Surrey, all of them disappeared from certain census' giving rise to the fact that they had either emigrated, or joined the armed forces. There is an "explosion" of data coming onto the internet, and I have indicated the internet sources that I have used. Using these sources I was able to trace these three men and others people in our families. Regarding Michael and Walter, the Crimean War was being fought through 1853 - 56; this might have influenced them to join up in the Military.

The Army Service Records have a number of pages showing the service details of the person in question.

- Attestation Paper: Information about the person's physical appearance, previous work experience, religion, date joined and for how many years and if pensionable
- Medical History
- Conduct Sheet
- Military History Sheet
- Pay Sheet

## Michael Pilgrim

Michael was the fifth child of William and Marianne Pilgrim. When the 1861 census was taken Michael was aged 24, a Privateer in the Royal Navy on HMS Ganges in the North Atlantic. Using the National Archive Documents Online Service I found that he had joined the Royal Marines, not the Royal Navy as the census suggested. His Attestation papers stated that the Royal Marine joining Party was in Guildford, Surrey and that Michael joined on the 8 October 1855 for a Limited Service of 12 years, Michael made his mark (X). On joining he was given a Bounty of £9, he had also belonged to the 2nd Royal Surrey Regiment Militia.

The most interesting document was the Company's Default Book, which showed that his disciplinary record wasn't good!

- Drunk on duty 35 days detention
- Asleep on sentry duty 7 days detention
- Disobeying Orders 7 days in the ships cells

He was often Absent Without Leave on 104 days in 1866 and twice totalling 63 days in 1867. The ships that he served on are listed with the dates of service.

Michael served just over 12 years; 7 years on board ship and 4½ years on shore Bases. He left the service on the 11 December 1867 and moved to Swindon where he joined the Great Western Railway, later marrying Sarah Cannon in 1871.

## **Walter Pilgrim**

Walter's Military Records have been the most difficult to find. He disappeared from the 1851/1861 censuses but re-appeared in 1871 as a Policeman in the London Metropolitan Police. These records stated that he had served in the Army for 10 years, but no details of his Regiment. After many fruitless years of searching, I found out that Army Records only exist if a soldier's service entitled him to a pension; also one had to know the Regiment that the ancestor served in. The Army used the soldier's records to calculate his pension entitlement; otherwise the records were destroyed.

It was by chance that I noticed in a Genealogy Magazine that [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) had digitised the 1861 Worldwide Army Index (British Army) a snapshot of the 2nd quarter of the year 1861, the information supplied stated that the Pay Books for Walter Pilgrim were in WO12 / 2524 at the National Archives at Kew. The Army Pay Books were recorded by the Regiment's Adjutant for every quarter of a year, for all personnel in a Regiment wherever that Regiment was stationed in the world. I

viewed the pay Book for Walter Pilgrim serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 7 Regiment Royal Fusiliers.

Army Pay Books WO 12 / 2524

Date 1st April - 30 June 1861

India Infantry WO Book #6

1st Btn 7 Reg Royal Fusiliers

Adjutants Roll

Station = Nowsherd, India

Companies = 8 Detachment = 2

Establishment for the whole Regiment = 1,120

Walter Pilgrim No 4564

I can trawl through Walter's army career from the Pay Books from 1856 to 1866, showing the Regiment's movements across the world and what was happening to Walter.

Walter left the Army in 1866 and joined the London Metropolitan Police on the 2nd October 1866. In 1871 he married Emma Wren. Walter retired with his wife and family to Wallington near Croydon, Surrey, where he died December quarter 1917.

*to be continued*

## **A date for your diary – Saturday 26 April 2014**

Surrey - A County of History

All-day event (10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.) with three speakers, including Julian Pooley (Surrey History Centre): A Burden on the Parish: Sources for the History of Poor Relief in Surrey and Jeremy Harte (Bourne Hall Museum): At the Sign of the King's Head: Restoration Epsom.

Plus our Bookstall, Help Desk and much more of interest to local and family historians

This will be followed by the ESFHS AGM and will take place in Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, KT17 1UF.

## Licensed Victuallers in my family (part 2)

C. R Fry [6600], 7, Thornbury Close, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6PE [crfry@iee.org]

Near to the *Gladstone Pub* in Clapham was another, the *Napier Arms*, at 126 St John's Hill.

The licensees were mother's other grandparents Walter John Durham (1858 - 1902) and Emily Amelia née Cass (1861 - 1924). Emily was born at 3 Belgrave Place, East Street, Walworth. Walter John died at the Prince of Wales, Newburn Street, Vauxhall, but was he just visiting? His wife is listed in the PO Directory for 1919 as the publican. I need to obtain his death



certificate. Before his marriage in 1882 at Walworth he is stated to be variously engine fitter, general engineer and iron worker. My mother used to visit the Napier Arms with her mother and remembered an elderly unnamed couple helping Emily Amelia.

Walter J. Durham was the second oldest of nine siblings, children of John Durham and Mary Ann née Milson, who married c1849. He was a journeyman brass moulder. They lived at 60 Shoe Lane, Holborn, where he was born. The other children were Eliza Elizabeth (c1856, Islington), Rosa Pauline (1862, Clerkenwell), Albert George (c1863, Clerkenwell), Ernest Ewart (c1869, Clerkenwell), Ada Mary[ann] (c1871, Lambeth), Agnes (c1874, Lambeth), Herbert (c1876, Lambeth) and Florence (c1878,

Lambeth). Possibly there could be others as I have not checked the death registers.

Emily Amelia Cass mentioned above may have been a beer house keeper at her first marriage in 1882 to W J Durham, but following his death in 1902 is so listed in the 1911 Census living at 80 Newburn Street, Kennington Cross, and in 1914. On the marriage certificate are the witnesses John Edward Barnard and Mary Ann Flinders. Her second marriage was to George Battle in 1920 at Wandsworth. Emily had at least four siblings, namely Eliza Ellen (1863-1911), Henrietta Mary Ann (1865-1868), Henrietta (c1870 - ??) and Amelia (c1871 -??). Their parents were William Frederick Cass and Amelia née Fox, who married 10 June 1860 in Newington living respectively at Trafalgar Street and Westmoreland Row; witnesses were William Skiffins and Jane Willmott. William Frederick was variously listed as fish salesman or fishmonger. He was one of six children of George Cass and Eliza née Blackburn. Likewise Wm Frederick's wife Amelia was one of six children of George James Fox, a lamp-maker, and Eliza née Hill married in 1830 in Southwark. The 1881 Census caused me some confusion initially by the use of hard to decipher initials for these Christian names of the Casses.

Some non-blood line related families have been identified through Ancestry.com. Briefly Eliza Ellen Cass married a Henry Beadon on 29 March 1885 in Walworth with descendants. Eliza Elizabeth Durham married a Thomas Bould about 1880 in Camberwell and had children. Her sister Rosa Pauline married William Arthur Baylis, a brass founder, about the same time and place and her two brothers Albert George and Ernest Ewart married respectively Louisa Caroline Savage in 1884 (witnesses were the parents Charles William and Alice Elizabeth Savage) and Nellie Mann in 1897. Louisa Caroline was born in 1865 at 47 Frederick Place, Southwark, Bridge Road. I have not looked for other marriages, or descendants to the present.

Earlier I mentioned that my grandmother was married three times. Her last husband born in West Ham, Essex, was Ronald Visto Alexander Valentine, MC, (1895 - 1960), an Army Captain, who lived with my parents until he left early one Monday about 1951 without a word. My mother said he never had a job after the War and unhappily spent all the money and jewellery my grandmother had left him. At the time of my parents' marriage he was a Bognor councillor and chairman of the Hotel & Apartments Association.

I would love to find more family photographs to add to my grandmother above and even of the public houses from the period described; sadly I think some have probably disappeared by now.

## **Purley County School for Boys Memorial Panel**

*Brian Hudson*

In 1949 a memorial panel was unveiled at the Purley County School for Boys in memory of the 88 Old Boys who died in the Second World War. The school, built in 1933, was not in Purley itself but a short distance away in Placehouse Lane, Old Coulsdon. Originally a grammar school, over the years it became a comprehensive and then Coulsdon College, which admits only 6th form students.

In 2011 the old school buildings were replaced by a modern college building but, before the work started the memorial panel was removed for safekeeping. Earlier this year the carefully restored panel was re-erected in the new sports pavilion. Due to college security the pavilion is not easily accessible to the public, but I was privileged to be present at the unveiling of the restored panel and took the picture shown on the cover of this issue.

If you have memories or knowledge of anyone commemorated on the panel, please contact the Journal editor.

# Can you help?

## Adshead / Buggs / Wortley

*Caroline Wimble [9829]*

I recently had a contact, via Ancestry, with a lady researching the same family as me.

She sent me a transcript of the details in a lost family Bible. The families concerned primarily are Adshead/Buggs/Wortley based in Bermondsey, Surrey (London)

My side of the family concerns the Buggs family who originated in East Molesey, Surrey.

Mentioned in the Bible list is Ann Elizabeth Wortley b1827 in Norwood, Surrey. She was the niece of my 2 x great grandfather George Wortley b 1807 Merstham, Surrey, & daughter of Elizabeth Buggs & Jonathan (John) Wortley.

Ann Elizabeth is listed as “Ann Wortsey .sic. (Wortley) Wife of James Chritch sic. (Critchfield).Died on her birthday (1846) at 28 Maze, Tooley Street, Borough. Buried St James’s Church Bermondsey in the same grave as her aunt Buggs.”

Previous to this entry we see, “Mr. George Buggs and Mary Pash. sic (Park/Pask), were married at St Georges Church, Borough on the 30th March 1842 ‘Age’ G.B. 40 M.P. 39.” On this certificate the witness was Samuel Adshead & maybe another Adshead, but the second is not clear. This is the only actual reference to both names together.

There are also notes for “Mr. Thomas Buggs. Died 9th June 1844 in his 85 year. Buried 14th June in the same grave as Mrs. Buggs. The ‘Rose’ Snow Fields. Mr. Perkins Undertaker.”

“Mr. William Henry Buggs. Died 4th October 1844 at East Mosely sic in his 42 year. Buried 10th October in the same grave as his wife. Mr. Perkins Undertaker.”

## Can you help?

“Mrs. Lydia Huntley sister of W H Buggs died 4th January 1845 in her 34th year. Buried 9th January at Sydenham Church Yard. Taken from 10 Church Grove, Horseleydown where she died. Mr. Holmes Undertaker.”

Lydia, William Henry & George were all siblings, children of Thomas, who died 9th June 1844. Elizabeth Wortley nee Buggs was their sister and mother of Ann Elizabeth b 1827 who married James Critchfield.

Apart from the Samuel Adshead, who was a witness at George and Mary's wedding we can find no family tie but as so many are mentioned in a family Bible we feel there must be a fairly strong connection.

Please, can anyone help?

## Alford

*Carol Dodge [10251] carolmaydodge@blueyonder.co.uk*

I have hit a brick wall with my research and would appreciate any advice.

I am looking for information for a Josiah Alford. I have a copy of his death certificate dated 20th April 1839 aged 39 years (St George the Martyr Southwark), and I also have information of his marriage to Hannah Payne at St Mary's Lambeth 1824; but I can find no record of his birth.

Any advice on where to go next?

## Brown / Allsop

*Linda Dart [8574] (linda.dart@sky.com)*

Caroline Brown née Allsop, my gt-gt-grandmother, lived for 35 years of her short life in the Dorking area (she died in 1908 at the age of 56). However, census records state that she was born in Borough / Walworth but there is no trace of her in censuses prior to 1871 (when she was living in Dorking). Her birth year could be

## Can you help?

anything between 1848 and 1855 as her given age varies on the four censuses she does appear on.

I can find no record of her birth, or any trace of her marriage to Joseph Brown. It has been suggested that she was a widow when she married Joseph! Caroline and Joseph had eight children so I am hoping there is someone who has been able to find what I have so far been unable to.

## Dudley

*Heather Turner (née Beauchamp) [hdjturner@ntlworld.com]*

I am trying to find out more about my grandfather, William Dudley. He is my mother's father and his name appears on her birth certificate. However, I have reason to believe that he and my grandmother never married as I have never found a marriage and other records relating to my mother suggest that she was illegitimate. He was my grandmother's second 'husband' and she had three children with him, my mother, Elizabeth Louise born 14th April 1917 and twins, Alice Kathleen and Harry born 12th May 1918, 7.55pm and 13th May 1918, 0.35am respectively. Sadly the twins died within a year of being born. William died in Lambeth Infirmary age 47 on 5th July 1918 just weeks after the twins were born.

I would very much like to know more about my grandfather but as he does not appear to have a middle name, I'm having a lot of trouble pin pointing exactly who he was. As he was 47 when he died, there is a possibility that he had another family. Any advice or help you can give me will be gratefully received.

## Gould

*Roger Leivers: The Porch Museum, Godmanchester, Cambs.*

I am seeking help in my research of the crew of a Stirling bomber of RAF XV Squadron that crashed on the outskirts of our town in

## Can you help?

the early hours of 11th April 1942, following a bombing mission over Essen. Two crew were killed, the rest somehow survived.

Sergeant Edward George Spencer Gould was the wireless operator / upper mid gunner. He was rescued from the crash, but died later. It is an amazing story and I'm trying to contact as many relatives of the crew as I can. So far I have three confirmed, with two more 'possible'.

Edward is buried in the Mitcham Road cemetery (Plot L4, Grave 12775), so I'm guessing he was a local boy to Croydon. Can anyone shine any light on this man's family and where his relatives may be today?

We have started a collection and hope to place a permanent memorial to the crew near to the site where they crashed. It would be great if we could get as many relatives there as possible.

## Heaton

*Arthur Pummery <[heaton237@gmail.com](mailto:heaton237@gmail.com)>*

I am one of the many grand-nephews of John Heaton (1882-1947), Hannah Heaton (1884-1966) and Esther Heaton (1893-?).

A first cousin once removed of mine has recently died without leaving a will and with no direct descendants. I am the administrator of the estate and wondered if you know anyone related to these members of the Heaton family?

I have made contact with about 30 descendants of the family, but so far I have hit a brick wall regarding John, Hannah and Esther. Can you help?

## Lansdown

*Judy Woodlock [975] <[woodlock7@bigpond.com.au](mailto:woodlock7@bigpond.com.au)>*

On Ancestry I found London School Admissions and Discharges 1840-1911. My gt-grandfather, William, and two of his sisters, Jane and Elizabeth, are listed as attending the Southampton School in

## Can you help?

Camberwell. Their parent is Daniel, so it is definitely my family. There are also two of William's children listed, Annie and John.

Can any member give me further information about this school and if it is still in existence? Ancestry says that in 1951 it was renamed Dovedale School. John was killed in action in France in 1916 and my father told me that his name was on a memorial board in the school. He remembered it because he attended the unveiling. I made enquiries at Brunswick Park School as it is close to where they lived in Acorn Street. Acorn Street ran into Benhill Road and the whole road is now known by that name, but the principal told me that the school was updated in the 1970s and any memorial board would have been removed. He didn't know where it would have gone.

I would be grateful for any information about this school and possibly the memorial board.

## Lee / Kingston-Lee

*Patrick Lee [10125] {patlee101@live.com.au}*

My father Ernest, and my grandfather also Ernest, were Plasterers living in South Norwood, the surname used was either Lee or Kingston-Lee. I believe we go back at least five generations.

My grandfather and gt-grandfather are both listed as Master Plasterers on their death certificates. Can anybody help me here please? Being so far away I am up against a brick wall and I don't know where to look or start. You can get so much via the internet but you need to be on the ground searching as well, so if anybody can please help me I will be as happy as a dog with two tails.

## Smith

*Ian Smith [smithian1939@gmail.com]*

I believe that a John Smith who was baptised 6th March 1798 at St Mary's, Barnes, Surrey, is my gt-gt-grandfather. His death

## Can you help?

certificate states he had been in born Barnes, in 1800, but I believe that this was 'about' rather than an exact year, as notification was by my gt-grandfather who could not read or write (he signed his marriage certificate with an X).

The parents of the baptised John Smith were Richard Smith and Sarah, and my gt-gt-grandfather named his first son Richard, his second son (my gt-grandfather) being named John after himself.

The siblings of John are Sarah (10/4/1785) presumed deceased as a child, Richard (4/6/1786), Anna Maria (14/11/1788), Joseph (4/4/1791), Faith (14/7/1793) and Sarah (9/11/1795).

I am unable to trace a marriage for Richard and Sarah in Barnes and the most appropriate I can locate in the near vicinity is Richard Smith to Sarah Shillito on 20/2/1785 at St Mary Le Bone. The reason I have selected this marriage is that Richard signed his name, as did my gt-gt-grandfather John and his eldest son Richard, in a good writing hand.

My gt-gt-grandfather migrated to Australia between 1817 and 1823. I can locate him travelling from Sydney to Launceston, Tasmania in 1823, but his death certificate states he first spent some time in Sydney.

Would anyone researching this family or who has any information please contact me on my email?

## Quartermaine

*Ramon Jones [10287] 35 Naylor Street, Carcoar NSW 2791 Australia:  
ramonjones@activ8.net.au*

I would very much appreciate any help to enable me to progress my search for details of my father, whom I have never met or known. The only information I have is that my mother (Jane Ellen Jones) worked in service at a property called Ravenswood, Kingston Hill, in the 1930s. Here she associated with a male who worked in the stables whose name I have been given as Robert

# How you help East Surrey FHS on Facebook

Quartermaine (spelling may not be exact). My mother was <sup>Anne Ramon</sup> 29 at the time and is now deceased.

There is an East Surrey Family History Society Facebook page now that carries short news items, photos, links to interesting posts. He was supposedly 10 years older at around 35. I was born on 14 August 1934 in Camberley, Surrey but there is no record of my father's details on the birth certificate. My mother must have left Ravenswood to have her baby and we sources have either not been aware of her pregnancy or just disappeared.

Mostly light weight and chatty and no substitute for the Journal and Society meetings, but who knows you will find it interesting as it may be that I have a half brother or sister if he married as well as entertaining. If you would like to see the Page and get the updates and you do not have a young person to guide you, you will need:

- o A Facebook account, which is free; to get this you must be over 13 years of age and have a working email address.

## Tadgell

- o A computer and a web browser such as Internet Explorer (Windows users), or Firefox or Safari (Mac users).

My gt-grandfather Charles Alfred Tadgell committed suicide on 7 Feb 1877 when you have a quiet moment. You should be offered a Sign Up box. Enter your first and last names (Facebook expects you to use your real names and it checks for and will block Micky Mouse, Ethel Presley, etc.) Enter your email address and I have tried to find out where it was buried but with no luck. I have also looked up newspapers for any reports about the inquest was on 9th February, etc.) Enter your email address - this will be the one Facebook will send a confirmation message to. You need this email to complete the log on process. Make up an email address (I was born on the age of 5 years, and I have never found out what happened to her afterwards. I have searched on phones but not had any luck. I do appreciate any ideas on this one too.

Facebook uses it to check you are over 13 years old and then uses the date to tell your Friends your birthday is coming up. Then

## Tipper

If everything is OK you will see a second Sign Up box, which is security check to ensure you are a human. You will see a variety of type faces and sizes. Put the two words in the box below with a space between them. You may want to read the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy first, then Click on *Sign Up*.

## Can you help?

Between 1806 when he married Mary and her death in 1810 he crossed the river and presumably lived in the vicinity of St Olave's Church Southwark where Mary is buried.

What might have taken James Alfred to Southwark between 1806-1810?

When he was aged 29 he married for his second time - a widow, Ann Weatherill - at Saint George The Martyr, Southwark. Ann had been married first at St Mary's Lambeth to John Weatherill (all); both Ann and John were originally from North Yorkshire. James Alfred and Ann remained south of the river as in 1815 their first child Alfred was born.

I have been unable to find details of Alfred's birth but on all subsequent census records he is listed as being born in Lambeth. Can anybody help trace his birth?

By June 1820 James Alfred his wife Ann, son Alfred had moved to Camberwell when daughter Elizabeth Ann was born and christened at St. Giles, Camberwell.

Are there any records that might show where in Lambeth and then Camberwell where James Alfred and his family might have lived?

By 1829 James Alfred and Ann had moved to Whitby with Alfred and Elizabeth.

Does anybody have any information regarding the coal trade between Whitby and London 1800-1830, in particular where on the Surrey side of the Thames would crew from the coal ships disembark?

## Wolf(e)

*Mary Halliwell 01942 608207 drhalliwell@blueyonder.co.uk*

I live in Leigh, Lancashire, and I am a member of Liverpool South West Lancashire Family History Society [Leigh Branch]. We are assisting Tasmania Heritage [Founders and Survivors] in a project

## Can you help?

relating to the convict women who were transported to Tasmania in the first half of the 19th century. [our Project Co-Ordinator is Pat Bellas, patbellas@blueyonder.co.uk]

I am researching a convict, Samuel Wolfe, who was born in SFK Yoxford. He left a wife Charlotte and five children (Nathan, Samuel, Elizabeth, Susanna and Robert James) behind in England and married another convict in Tasmania.. In my research I have come across a Julie Wolfe who was born in 1961 [Reg. District - Surrey South East], a daughter of Roy D. Wolfe and Grace I. Holmes. Julie Wolfe is the 3xgt-granddaughter of Samuel Wolfe (the convict) and a descendant of his son Samuel.

I have lots of Information relating to the family of Samuel Wolfe who he left behind in England, and if you are researching the name Wolfe/Wolf I should like to share my research with you.



Have you come up against a

## **Brick Wall?**

Send your request for help to the Editor, whose contact details appear on the inside front cover, for publication in the next issue.