

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

www.eastsurreyffhs.org.uk

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

# Group meetings

## December

- 4 The unwrapping of Christmas Paul Blake Sutton  
*The origins of Christmas and its traditions. Paul is a professional Genealogist and President of the ESFHS*  
*Christmas Social: Contributions of food and drink are invited.*
- 9 Lunch Southwark  
*in the cafe across the road from the John Harvard Library, Borough High Street. Please phone or email Hilary Blanford to reserve a seat*

## January

- 8 Social History in Sutton John Phillips Sutton  
*John is a local historian and archaeologist in Sutton*
- 20 A moment in time: census dress 1801 – 1911 Jayne Shrimpton Croydon  
*Snapshots of how ancestors dressed at each time of the census*
- 28 Who do you think they were? Julian Pooley Lingfield  
*Discovering the lives and experiences of our ancestors*

## February

- 5 Presenting your Family History Sue Gibbons Sutton  
*Sue used to be a librarian at the Society of Genealogists*
- 9 The catacombs of London Kathy Chater Southwark  
*Little known records of London. Kathy is well known to the group and is both knowledgeable and entertaining*
- 25 Surrey Tithes Sally Jenkinson Lingfield  
*Collecting the records and the project to put them on a CD*

## March

- 5 Institutions in the census Kathy Chater Sutton  
*Kathy is an author and Family Historian*
- 17 Pressed or volunteer? Judy Davies Croydon  
*Tracing the life of my boatswain ancestor*

# Group meetings

25 Queen Victoria's Men Elizabeth Lanyon Lingfield  
*A woman ruling in a society dominated by men*

## April

2 Are we British? Immigration and emigration Ian Waller Sutton  
*Ian is an author, tutor and Family Historian*

13 The Institute of Historical Research Kate Wilcox Southwark  
*Kate is the Reader and Technical Services Librarian; she will be accompanied by Danny Millum, from the Publications Department. They will give an introduction to the library collections held at the Institute of Historical Research and the IHR's online resources in the context of family history research*

## June

4 Surrey Gardens in Walworth 1831 – 1878 Stephen Humphrey Sutton  
*Stephen is a Local and Family Historian in Southwark*

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.

Secretary: Liz Moss 020 8686 8962 [croydon@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:croydon@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB  
 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (except August and December); 2.30 p.m.

Secretary: Rita Russell 01342 834648 [lingfield@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:lingfield@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of alternate months; 2.30 p.m.

Secretary: David Carter 020 8642 6437 [richmond@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:richmond@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

Southwark: Southwark Local History Library, behind John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1JA

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.

Secretary: Hilary Blanford 01634 685219 [southwark@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:southwark@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton SM1 2RG

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday; 8.00 p.m.

Secretary: Chris Pocock 020 8642 6789 [sutton@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:sutton@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

*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.*

# From the Chairman

*Anne Ramon*

First of all, I wish all our members a very merry Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year! I hope your family history searches of 2014 have been fruitful and interesting and you are looking forward to more successes in 2015. We're certainly hoping to help you with our hobby in 2015 so don't forget to make your membership renewal if you don't have a standing order.

We'd love to hear from you so please think about writing up your family history experiences for the Journal, as learning from each other is a key benefit of a society like ours. You could make this a resolution for next year! Can I suggest some more? Perhaps try a new website or visit a new record office or library? There's a comprehensive list of Local Studies, Libraries and Archives on the Contacts page of our web site (<http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/contacts.htm>). Perhaps you'd like to come to a Society meeting? See the listing in the Journal, and also do please keep an eye on the Meetings page on the website (<http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/meetings.htm>).

We have plenty to offer our Members but, like most organisations, the effort falls on only a few shoulders. We need a new Webmaster and new Group Chairmen/Secretaries for our Richmond and Lingfield Groups, and help is always welcome at our AGM in April and at the Shows we attend. Please think hard to see if you can help us in any of these capacities. We can soon tell you what is involved and most tasks are not as daunting as you might think. And you have fun!

We are rounding off 2015 with an appearance in the *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine which features a different County each month in its *Around Britain* section. Surrey last appeared two years ago and it's our turn again in the December 2014 issue. We provided the journalist with plenty of interesting and exciting information about East Surrey Family History Society and we have our fingers crossed that our enthusiasm spills into the article.

## Dates for your 2015 diary

We are planning to attend the *Who Do You Think You Are* Show in April 2015, which will be at the NEC in Birmingham, and we will be welcoming volunteers to help as usual. The advertised dates are Thursday to Saturday 16-18 April 2015 but best keep an eye on the website for updates and offers (<http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/>). Our AGM and Open Day is the following weekend, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015, at the United Reformed Church Hall in Croydon. The theme of the day is Occupations and we are planning some interesting talks and displays.

## ESFHS Open Day and Annual General Meeting

For 2015 we are returning to East Croydon United Reformed Church in Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP to hold our Open Day, followed by the Society's AGM. The subject of the Open Day will be *Trades and Occupations*, with three expert speakers, plus our Bookstall and Help Desk. Please put the date in your diary: Saturday 25 April 2015

Full details will follow in the March Journal and on the website.

## 2015 renewals

With renewal of memberships due in January it is now possible to pay for this online through GenFair. You will find the link on our website and is an alternative method of payment, as well as by either Standing Orders or cheques.

### Overseas Members 2015 renewals

This is a further reminder that if overseas members would like to receive their journals via email, the renewal subscription will remain at the present rate of £12.00 for 2015. However, as explained by our chairman in this year's June Journal the cost for a posted paper journal will unfortunately have to be increased to £18.00 due to the very high overseas postal rates.

# Carshalton War Memorial

Andrew Arnold [1987] [carshaltonwarmemorial@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carshaltonwarmemorial@yahoo.co.uk)

Longstanding readers of the Journal may recall that in 2009 I wrote about how I had recently started researching the 243 men whose names are inscribed on Carshalton war memorial. In 2009 I set up my website, which is at [www.carshaltonwarmemorial.webs.com](http://www.carshaltonwarmemorial.webs.com), and the information I have about the men has continued to grow since then. I have been fortunate to make contact with a number of their relatives and descendants, some of whom got in touch after my article appeared in the journal, and who have provided me with photographs, letters, and other information. With the centenary of the First World War on the horizon, in 2012 I approached *The History Press* to see if they would be interested in publishing a book about the men. They agreed and the finished result, titled *Their Name Liveth for Evermore: Carshalton's First World War Roll of Honour*, is out now. The book includes biographies of all 243 men on the memorial, and nearly one hundred pictures, many of which have never been seen before. Although the book has now been published, if anyone has any further information about the men on the memorial I should be delighted to hear from them.

## An Ordinary Man

Linda Dart (née Stephenson) [linda.dart@sky.com](mailto:linda.dart@sky.com)

My grandfather Lester Jessie Stephenson volunteered for army service on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was 27 years old, a married man with one son. His entry in the Surrey Recruitment Registers states he was enlisting into the Army Service Corps. These men were enlisting for the Duration of War only. What Lester actually did for his country is still a mystery; family recollections state he saw service at Ypres.

Lester Stephenson was awarded three WW1 medals, which are still in our possession: the 1914-15 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal. These medals were affectionately referred to as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.

On his return to civilian life at the war's end Lester and his wife Alice (née Brady) had two further children: Peggy Jessie (b. 1920) and Philip Eric (b. 1922). He resumed his pre-war occupation as a commercial vehicle driver working for Carter Paterson based in Kingston upon Thames.

# Carshalton ancestors who died in WW1?

Liz Moss

If your ancestors lived in Carshalton and died in WW1 you may be interested in a book written by Andrew Arnold entitled *Their Name Liveth for Evermore: Carshalton First World War Roll of Honour* that is published by The History Press, with an ISBN of 978 7524 8991 9.

Andrew has researched the 243 names on the Carshalton War Memorial and also looked at the battles they took part in. Andrew highlights one family and the number of deaths it suffered. One local resident, Mary **Wyatt**, lost her son Thomas George Wyatt, two grandsons Herbert **Bowles** and James **Nicholls**, two nephews Thomas and Ernest Wyatt and a son-in-law Ernest **Baker**. Ernest Wyatt was my great-uncle and although I knew of his death I did not realize how many other people I was related to on the Memorial.

The two nephews, Thomas and Ernest Wyatt, enlisted together on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and have consecutive Army numbers: Thomas Service Number R/2305 and Ernest Service Number R/2306. They were both in the Kings Royal Rifle Corp. It was recorded in the local press that when Thomas was killed in 1915 Ernest wrote to Tom's mother that he had been wounded and subsequently died. Ernest died in 1916.

Andrew's early research into the names on the war memorial can be seen at <http://carshaltonwarmemorial.webs.com/> but this has not been updated as the work on the book progressed.

The book is a small snapshot of what was happening in every town village and hamlet but it also contains interesting information about Carshalton before WW1

The Memorial was in the news in 2011 when the metal plaques recording the names of the WW1 dead were stolen. In 2012 BBC London [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-16922604](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-16922604) reported a donation from a local scrap metal merchant, Mr Nebbett, towards Portland stone plaques to replace the stolen ones. "I wanted to make this gift to the community to make it clear that we run a professional operation, which had nothing to do with this theft, and that I was as outraged as everyone else that the local war memorial should have been plundered in this way."

# Great Rifle Shooting Match

*Sylvia Dibbs*

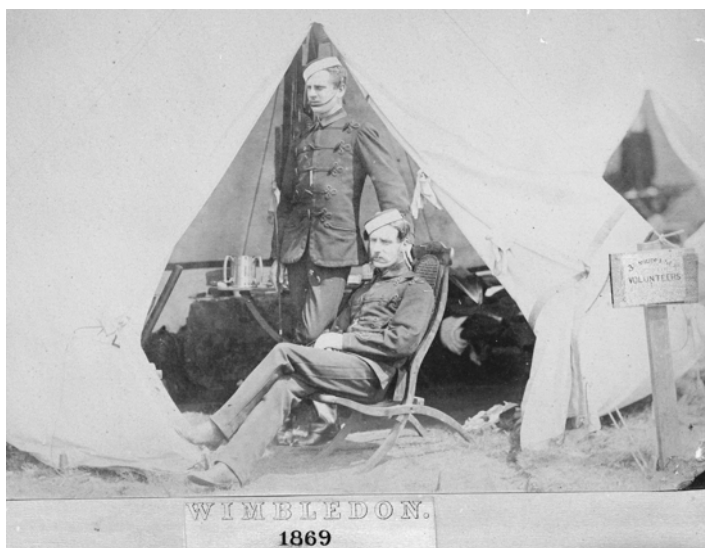
This photograph was in the album of my great-grandmother. As far as I know the soldiers are not family members, but probably posing for a souvenir picture.

On-line research at <http://britishmilitariaforums.yuku.com/topic/8054> suggests that the event was The Great Rifle Shooting Match of Wimbledon Common. In 1869, Queen Victoria attended the event and fired the first shot. These soldiers may have been taking part in the Army and Navy Challenge Cup.

From the sign by the tent, we can see they are from the 3rd Middlesex Volunteers, which I think is a rifle group.

I hope it might be of interest to members and perhaps someone knows more about the event, which seems to have taken place every year.

I'm afraid as a very old picture it is faded and my brother-in-law has kindly enhanced as far as it will go.





# Guildford Union Workhouse

*Mary Timmins [10033]*

Guildford Union Workhouse is the only workhouse which has been restored and which is open to the public, as many workhouses have either been pulled down or else converted into hospitals. It is known as a "Union" workhouse because it was the largest one in the area. One of my ancestors died in Godalming Workhouse.

It is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 to 16:00 and guided tours are given by volunteers. There is no need to book; just turn up and ring the bell, but please note it is closed from mid-December until mid-January, and, in the winter, it is necessary to check that they are open first. It is possible to have a guided tour by volunteers in period costumes but you need to book those in advance.

Guildford Workhouse is known as 'The Spike'. Part of it has been restored but part of the ground floor has been converted to a community centre known as the Spike Community Centre. This raises money to subsidise the workhouse running costs and restoration costs. The 'spike' is a casual ward of a workhouse as opposed to the proper workhouse intended for paupers of the parish. What remains of the workhouse at Guildford is now only the casual ward.

The other half of the ground floor contains the female cells. These are larger than the male cells because when women came into the workhouse they often had children with them.

Upstairs there is a reception for the vagrants who were not allowed to return to the same workhouse within 30 days. Here there is an audio-visual presentation about the conditions of the workhouse and how the inmates were treated. First they were searched to see if they had any money; if they had they used to hide it or bury it in the grounds before they went in. Next they had to answer questions and they were given some food. This was a certain amount of bread and gruel (like porridge made with oats and water). Then they had to take off their clothes which were fumigated by placing them in an airing cupboard to get rid of the germs and lice, however all the clothes were placed together which encouraged the spread of infection and disease. Then they had to have a bath. This was in a tin bath which had been used by other inmates so the water gradually got dirtier and increased the risk of spreading germs. They were then given a nightgown to

wear which was itchy and not necessarily clean. They were then locked in their cells overnight. At the time there was no electricity or heating. Now there is electricity and lights but there is no heating, so if you go in the winter it can be cold and damp so do dress accordingly, and wear sensible footwear as the floors and steps can be uneven. There were grilles in the walls which gave fresh air and helped to let out the smell.

There were private cells which could be paid for, but otherwise the vagrants had to do some work to pay for their keep. They slept in their rooms but some of the rooms had an extension where the inmates were supposed to work. This is the only workhouse remaining where the extensions survive and this is why Guildford Workhouse is a listed building.

There were three forms of work: breaking stones used for construction; kindling – breaking logs for firewood; and splitting rope for rope-yarn. This was done using a tool like a spike. The vagrants were not allowed to leave until they had spent the allotted time doing their work and this used to take several hours. By the time they had finished those vagrants who were genuinely looking for work would have missed any opportunities, as any jobs would have been taken by other people also seeking work.

When the vagrants left, they made marks on the walls of the workhouse, rating the facilities for other vagrants. You can see these as you leave.

In 1838 there was no National Health Service and few hospitals. Several of my ancestors died in workhouses as they had sick bays and they were the nearest thing to hospitals, and many of the workhouses became hospitals. The sick bay at Guildford Union Workhouse was developed into a busy hospital and was used for casualties in both World War 1 and World War 2. There is an exhibition at The Spike called *From Workhouse to Hospital*.



The inmates were made to do a task of work in the event that they couldn't or wouldn't pay for their night's 'kip'. One of the tasks was wood chopping or sawing, for example the used railway sleeper shown here.



When we went there we only had one hour, due to traffic problems on the M25, which was not long enough, so do allow plenty of time for your visit. Photography is not allowed so leave your cameras at home. Also there are no credit card facilities so take plenty of money.

There are no catering facilities at the workhouse but if you book a group tour you can have teas, coffees and cream tea at additional cost. As we were driving from London, we used the A3 and stopped off at The Little Chef on the way down and at Starbucks on the way back.

The photographs have been kindly supplied by the Charlottetown Jubilee Trust who own The Spike.

For more information, visit [www.heritage.charlottetown.co.uk/Visit.htm](http://www.heritage.charlottetown.co.uk/Visit.htm).

# World War One War Diaries

*Anne Ramon*

The War Diaries were written in the field on a daily basis, in indelible pencil, with a copy being returned in a timely fashion to the War Office in London where the information was used for strategic planning and logistics. All units overseas completed them including the Field Hospitals, and they cover the entire period of the units' involvement in the war, from their arrival on the front to their departure at the end of the war. Units that remained in the UK might only have 'Log Books' for this period, not war diaries, which will be at Local Record Offices.

The war diaries are arranged at The National Archives (TNA) by operational theatre first - France and Flanders, Gallipoli, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Salonika, Russia, India - then by GHQ, then Army, then Corps, then division, then by the units within each division. The war diaries include details of the unit's activities, often on a daily basis, and they do name individuals, especially but not exclusively officers, and in some cases offer personal insights into life (and inevitably death) on the front line. Don't forget to look in the Appendices (monthly/quarterly).

The War Diaries comprise millions of pages and TNA have started to digitise them. Whilst they have digitised around 1.5 million pages of war diaries so far they do need help to complete the project and they have launched a 'crowdsourcing initiative'. This will allow keen and interested volunteers to do some of the transcribing from the comfort of their own armchair and there's a short training video on the website if you think this might appeal to you. For further details see [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/firstworldwar](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/firstworldwar) and select 'Unit War Diaries'.

Please note: The digitisation project means that some diaries will be unavailable in the TNA reading rooms for a short period of time in the next few months so do check the TNA website or phone them if you want to consult this material.

# WW1 Member Articles for the Journal

*Anne Ramon, Chairman*

The stream of WW1-related articles that first appeared in the September 2014 Journal, under the editorship of Peter Moulin, continues in the December 2014 Journal with three articles on a Navy theme. Peter has provided one article but I'm delighted to report that two are from other members.

We are really hoping that more members will supply us with their family history stories from this era and Peter has kindly supplied an overview of the themes he's proposing which I hope will inspire you. This is a first stab, of course, and there's plenty of room for other topics, including the impact of war at home and the contribution of non-combatants so don't feel constrained by this list.

- Maybe your family members fought on both sides or were pacifists or detainees
- Perhaps they were politicians or town clerks or in reserved occupations
- Were they medics, artists or entertainers?
- Engine drivers, munitionettes, shopkeepers, suffragettes, scientists, seamstresses, schoolchildren, insurance clerks, curates, Belgian refugees, recently arrived East Europeans?
- Was their home bombed or requisitioned?
- How did the War impact them?

Peter has a wealth of knowledge about the WW1 era and as a former history teacher he is used to helping people with their research. If you need help with your WW1 family history story, please contact him at [pdmoulin@virginmedia.com](mailto:pdmoulin@virginmedia.com).

# Researching Relatives who served in WW1 (ii)

*Peter Moulin [6101]*

In this edition we are going to sea. Most sailors were already in the navy at the start of the war, or had previously been in the navy and were reservists. About 200,000 men joined during the course of the war (excluding those who served in the Royal Naval Division, who were essentially land based soldiers). The total casualties suffered during the war were 34,642 dead. Unusually, this total is far fewer than Second World War dead in the Royal Navy. Their service records are at TNA and available online. Officers and non-commissioned warrant officers are in the series ADM196, while the rest – known as ratings – are in ADM188. Information given includes the ships served on, with dates, medals, any promotions, conduct and when discharged, or died. The officers' records show the ships served on, with dates, and written remarks. It is also possible to consult ships' log books at TNA (provided they did not sink) to find out what they were doing on particular dates.

Findmypast has recently published ratings records who enlisted from 1899 to 1919, claiming this takes in both The Boer War and First World War. It may do so chronologically, but sailors used to join young, and, as I have said, most were already serving at the time of the war, so you may not find your ancestor's records there. My great uncle Eugene **Moulin**, shown here enlisted in 1898, so is not in Findmypast. As ever, a photograph can be a very useful item of evidence. It is the sleeves that need careful study. Eugene is unfortunately not wearing his cap which would have indicated the name of his ship, but on his left sleeve is an anchor which indicates a Leading Seaman or Leading Signalmen. Below the anchor are three Good Conduct badges. We know that Eugene was a Signalmen because of the crossed flags and star on his right sleeve. The meaning of various insignia is shown on this website:



[www.naval-history.net/WW1NavyBritish-Ranks](http://www.naval-history.net/WW1NavyBritish-Ranks). This picture was taken after the war as Eugene is wearing his medals. We can see he was involved from the start as he is wearing the 1914-15 Star, followed by the War Medal and Victory Medal.

The fourth medal looks like a long service and good conduct medal, which means he had served for at least 15 years. To help identify medals, use this website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_campaign\\_medals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_campaign_medals)

Some aspects of Service records can be confusing – see Juliet's article below. Eugene's Service Record shows for almost the entire duration of the war he served on the light cruiser *HMS Inconstant*, and took part in the most significant sea battle of the war, The Battle of Jutland. Many books have been written about this and other actions, so you will be able to see the bigger picture of what your ancestor was involved in. The following website has information about Royal Navy ship movements and scans of their log books. [www.naval-history.net/OWShips-LogBooksWW1.htm](http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-LogBooksWW1.htm) . The Royal Navy suffered greater losses than The German fleet at Jutland, but it is recognised as a strategic victory because the German fleet was sailing away, and did not put to sea again. It was the Royal Navy's blockade of Germany that ultimately led to victory. Our member articles start with an example of the heroism of Jutland.

## Albert Victor Osmond: a life remembered

*Juliet Bailey [9985]*

Albert, born on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1897, was the fourth of six children born to Benjamin John **Osmond** and Louisa Ambrose **Hider**. Benjamin and Louisa started their married life in Benjamin's home area of Southwark but by the time Albert was born the family had moved north of the Thames.

Albert joined the Navy in January 1915, aged 17, as a Boy 2<sup>nd</sup> class (according to his service record at The National Archives: number J.35283), serving initially on HMS Ganges (a shore training establishment in Hampshire), and later on HMS Dido (a depot ship for the 3<sup>rd</sup> destroyer flotillas based at Harwich).

On his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1915, he was legally old enough to enlist and he signed on for 17 years, suggesting that he viewed the navy as a career, not just wartime service. At this time he was 5ft 8.5in tall, of very good character and satisfactory ability. From 2 June 1915 to 1 June 1916, he is listed as an ordinary seaman on the Dido, the Vivid and the Hecla but each time, HMS Tipperary appears in brackets after the depot ships. At first glance this is confusing but at this time many small ships didn't carry paymasters, so the crew were listed on the books

of the depot ship and all pay accounting would be undertaken and recorded there. He was actually serving on the destroyer HMS Tipperary.

HMS Tipperary, built in at Cowes on the Isle of Wight in 1914, had six 4in guns, two 21in torpedo tubes and a top speed of 32 knots. On 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916, under the command of C. J. Wintour she was off Jutland, on the North Sea coast of Denmark

when German ships were sighted and the largest naval battle of WW1 began<sup>1</sup>.

In mid-afternoon, Captain Wintour became



aware of a line of ships to starboard and after tracking them for some time, he challenged them. Salvoes at point blank followed from the German dreadnought SMS Westfalen, and the Tipperary burst into flames. She managed to fire both her torpedoes but the first salvo had swept away the bridge and she was left a mass of burning wreckage. The Tipperary had a crew of 197, of whom 185 died (including Albert) and just 8 survived.

Albert was declared lost at sea on 1 June 1916 and is commemorated on panel 14 of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial<sup>2</sup>. His record shows that his parents received a war gratuity on his death although, as these were based on length of service, it would have been small and little compensation for the loss of a son. His parents would also have been sent his Victory, 1914-15 Star and British War medals after the war.

<sup>1</sup>See [www.westernfrontassociation.com/great-war-at-sea-in-air/naval-actions/435-jut-prine.html](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/great-war-at-sea-in-air/naval-actions/435-jut-prine.html) and [www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?10793](http://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?10793) and [www.ewhurstfallen.co.uk/men-research/francis/francis.htm](http://www.ewhurstfallen.co.uk/men-research/francis/francis.htm) for more details and pictures.

<sup>2</sup>See [www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk/southsea/naval.htm](http://www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk/southsea/naval.htm)



# Lost at sea

*Marilyn Charbonneau [7817]*

Red Cross Street in Southwark, London, England was a row of working class brick houses. My uncle, Joe **Deverill**, was born there on 17 January 1898. His family, including a younger brother and two sisters, were members of the Salvation Army and his Dad played a number of brass instruments in the band. The tuba he played was as big as Joe's little brother. When he was only 14, his dad died suddenly of a heart attack leaving Joe as the man of the family to help his mother. What a responsibility for a boy so young! By the time he was 17, Joe had decided to join the Navy. The First World War had begun in 1914 and this would be a good way to have a steady job and serve his country. He left home to enlist in the Royal Navy on 30 March 1915, for a volunteer period of 12 years.

Uncle Joe was small for his age. His Royal Navy Service Record states that he is



Joseph Deverill  
Royal Navy 1915

4ft.11 1/2 in. tall as a boy of 17. A few years later on his advancement to a man's rating he is still only 5 ft. tall, has brown hair, gray eyes and a fair complexion. In pictures of him with his Navy mates, he is the small one, and liked to have his picture taken seated so he didn't look so short. His daughter Joan describes him as having "a quiet personality and kind disposition". He loved his work and decided to make the Royal Navy his career.

During this time, Joe's mother became seriously ill, so his siblings were fostered with relatives, and Joe, home on leave, sometimes took his little sister to visit their mother in the hospital.

During the First World War Joe was serving on the British M-Class destroyer H.M.S. Mary Rose. It was a new ship, having been launched on 8<sup>th</sup> October,

1915. On October 17, 1917, his ship was escorting a convoy of 12 ships called merchantmen (2 British, 1 Belgian, 9 Scandinavian) in the North Sea between the Shetland Islands and Norway. The Mary Rose led the convoy about 6 miles ahead. Another British ship called the Strongbow, was at the rear of the convoy. Two mine-laying German cruisers disguised as British ships crept close to the convoy and attacked at the rear. The Strongbow tried to transmit a warning ahead to the Mary Rose, but the Germans jammed the signal. The Mary Rose heard the firing behind and returned fire, but as the ship turned it was hit full on and sank in a very short time. The Strongbow was badly damaged and was scuttled, and 9 of the 12 merchantmen were also sunk by the enemy. This was a disastrous day. Altogether about 250 lives were lost in the battle, and only ten men (2 officers and 8 men) from the Mary Rose survived. One of these lucky men was my 19-year old Uncle Joe. Huddled in their lifeboat, battling the winds and waves of the cold North Sea, the survivors eventually reached the Norwegian coast near Bergen where the lighthouse keeper took in the bedraggled sailors, fed them and tended to their injuries.

After the North Sea battle, the first telegram from the Admiralty brought news that Joe was lost at sea and presumed dead. But just a few days later another telegram was received that brought the wonderful news that Joe had been rescued and was in Norway. Sadly this last telegram was received five days after his mother was buried.

After floating around in the sea when his ship was sunk Joe took in some bunker fuel into his lungs and would go beet red and sound awful when coughing. It seems there was a lot of the fuel in his lungs that never came out. He did have the ability to fall asleep while standing, leaning on the piano. After nearly not getting off the first ship that sunk he wedged himself between pipes and slept standing near the exit stairs of his next ship.

<http://www.hmsstrongbow.org.uk/sinking.htm>

<http://www.gwpda.org/naval/maryrose.htm>

# Ancestry of adopted people

Anne Ramon

The Department of Education has announced new rules on investigating the ancestry of adopted people which take effect from November 2014. Whilst these are clearly to assist the identification of genetic or 'family' health issues, they will also help family history research.

The announcement was made on 25th September 2014.

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*'Children, grandchildren and other relatives of adopted adults can now trace back through their ancestors' lives - helping them to unearth their family history, discover more about their medical background and reach out to long-lost relatives under new rules introduced today.*

*Previously, only the person adopted and their birth relatives were able to use specialised adoption agencies to help shed light on their family history and make contact with their biological family members.*

*The new rules will extend this right to all relatives of adopted adults, from children and grandchildren to partners and adoptive relatives, allowing greater openness in adoption while ensuring adopted people have the right to a private, family life.*

*For example, those who have lost a parent to cancer or a heart problem will be able to discover whether their grandparents or other birth relatives suffered from the same condition, giving them the chance to seek advice and support.'*

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The new rules make provision for intermediary services to facilitate contact between 'persons with a prescribed relationship' and the birth relatives of a person adopted before 30 December 2005. The regulations will define 'persons with a prescribed relationship' as anyone related to an adopted person by blood (including half-blood), marriage or civil partnership or by virtue of the adoption. This will include all relatives of the adopted person, including but not limited to the children and grandchildren of adopted persons.

The regulations will ensure that that the consent of the adopted person is obtained before contact or information sharing is facilitated between persons with a prescribed relationship and birth relatives, other than:

where a person with a prescribed relationship seeks non-identifying medical information from birth relatives of the adopted person and this can be shared by the intermediary agency without sharing identifying information

where a person with a prescribed relationship wishes to make contact with a birth relative and the adopted person cannot be found, despite all reasonable steps having been taken where the adopted person has died or lacks capacity.

The Minister making the announcement was Children and Families Minister Edward Timpson, who has two adopted brothers. He said:

It's right that descendants and other relatives of adopted adults are able to access important information, such as medical records or genetic health conditions, which could impact upon how they live their life today.

They should also be able to find out about important events from their past, as well as make contact with family members if they wish.

Julia Feast OBE, from the British Association for Fostering and Adoption (BAAF) said: "The British Association for Adoption and Fostering is delighted that the government's consultation about extending intermediary services to descendants of adopted people has now been published."

We are very pleased that the government has extended the rights of descendants and other relatives to access an intermediary service whilst ensuring that the adopted person's rights are not overlooked and will be at the centre of the decision making.

# White Christmas

*Brenda Hawkins*

The vicar had reached the list of announcements. "Christmas Day, being next..." Then came a pause. *Which day was Christmas?* He lent from the pulpit to hiss at the squire, whose pew was up in the chancel "Which day is Christmas?" and the squire, awakened from a peaceful doze, said "Wednesday".

The Favourite Wonder Book, given to Dad's sister at Christmas 1942, opens naturally at this tale by Ralph Arnold: presumably the author and publisher Ralph Crispian Marshall Arnold (1906 -1970). It is set somewhere in the late 1930s. The tiny village has three radios, all with flat batteries, and nine-foot snow drifts have completely isolated them from the outside world. The shopkeeper thinks (correctly) that Christmas is on Thursday; the sexton that it is on Friday. The schoolmistress is baffled and everyone else thinks the vicar must be right.

Dad, some nine years older than my aunt, would tell us of snow so deep that they could not open the front door of their terraced house. His father had to leap out of the bedroom window into the street, taking a shovel to clear a path and unblock the door. In Portsmouth? (My aunt says it *never* snows there.)

Dad must have been quite small for the snow to have made such an impression and for him to have stayed indoors with his mother, rather than dashing out to help. But I had no idea when it happened. The obvious first port of call would be the Portsmouth Evening News, a daily newspaper, but there was no way I could sit at Colindale, turning fragile pages, in the hope that I hit on the right date. Online newspapers could not help, as there was nothing for that Hampshire in the 1920s. Precipitation tables don't distinguish between rain and snow.

Then I went to a talk by Ian Currie. This weather guru has an encyclopaedic knowledge of 20th century weather conditions. The hottest, coldest, wettest, driest are all at his fingertips. In the midst of a welter of information, I suddenly realised that the Christmas of 1927 experienced blizzard conditions.

Well, I had to visit Colindale, didn't I? Inertia ruled and by the time you read this the British Newspaper Library at Colindale will be closed for good. An opportunity lost. I enlisted the help of online friends and we established that Christmas 1927 was indeed snowy, not just in Surrey, but across Southern England. On Salisbury Plain, the drifts were twenty feet deep. But was there snow in Portsmouth?

Finally I did what you should do in such circumstances: contacted the local record office. Portsmouth actually only had heavy rain on Christmas Day 1927. But there was a blizzard on Boxing Day and the snow was so deep, they had to get the snow ploughs out. So I can keep my picture of an excited little boy, watching the snow at Christmas.

And the village that celebrated Christmas on the wrong day? Subconsciously or deliberately, Ralph Arnold mentions 1927 in his story. Any parent, reading to a child would no doubt have embellished the story with their own memories. Could it have happened? I look at those registers where the dates are self evidently wrong and like to think that perhaps somewhere, and some time, it actually did.

## From Manning to Myers (1)

### A Great Granny, Her Descendants & Connections

*Victor Nutt [10317]*

This is the story of my great grandmother, Annie Zilpah **Manning**, who died aged not quite 21; she was a woman of little consequence but many descendants, including me.

Annie was born on 6th June 1868 to Joseph Manning and Sarah (née **Rogers**) at 1 Linsey Street, Blue Anchor Road, Bermondsey. She was the youngest of seven children. She was christened three months later on 6th September in Christchurch, Bermondsey, as were all her elder siblings: Frederick William (1857), Joseph Thomas (1858), Edward (1860), Henry Thomas (1862), Elizabeth Sarah (1864) and David Richard (1866). Annie's middle name, Zilpah, was presumably inherited from her aunt Zilpah Manning, one of Joseph's sisters.

[The name Zilpah is of Hebrew origin. She was a handmaiden to Leah, a wife of Jacob. Leah bore Jacob four sons but he also had two sons, Gad and Asher, by Zilpah (see the book of Genesis for the full story).]

In 1871 Annie was living with her father, mother and four siblings, plus her father's widowed mother-in-law and her family of four children and a grandson at 13 Wellington Street, Bermondsey. Edward, aged eleven, appears to be at the South Metropolitan District Court Schools, Sutton (this place will appear again

later) whilst Joseph junior cannot be located positively in this or any subsequent census or death registers between his birth registration in the first quarter of 1859 and April 1871 – the date of that year’s census – although the death of a Joseph George Manning was registered in the second quarter of 1860 in the right area. Joseph senior, a carpenter by trade, originally came from the village of Wingrave in Buckinghamshire, whilst his wife’s feet were firmly planted in Southwark. Like many people in those days, Joseph almost certainly came to Bermondsey for work and there met his future wife.

In 1881, at the tender age of just twelve, Annie was employed or living as a nurse girl (domestic) at 10 Jamaica Road with James and Alice **Badcock** and their family, who shared the dwelling with two other couples, Thomas and Eliza **McHugh** and James and Matilda **Kirkley** and their son. She was presumably tending the four Badcock children aged 8, 3, 1 and just six weeks! Annie’s mother, father and three of her siblings are nearby at 131 Galleywall Road, Rotherhithe.

What happened to Annie during the next three years is unknown, but on the 11th March 1884, at the age of just 15, she gave birth to a daughter, Sarah, at 3 Bombay Street, Southwark Park Road, Bermondsey. There is no father on the birth certificate, but I am as certain as I can be that this Sarah was my grandmother, as the address is the one where Annie’s older sister, Elizabeth, gave birth to two of her children in 1885 and 1888 after her marriage to Lovell **Cannon** in April 1881. The name of Sarah’s father will remain unknown, but given the crowded nature of the living arrangements and the servant/master relationships of those times, speculation is not too difficult. (Bombay Street appears to have been in development at the time of the 1881 census.)

For many years the whereabouts of Annie after the birth of Sarah had been a mystery to me. Then one day about eighteen months ago whilst idly trawling through Ancestry looking for any possible Manning matches I came across a marriage between an Annie Zelpha Manning and John Frederick **Myers**. Could this be my great-granny? The coincidence of the unusual middle name, albeit spelled slightly differently, made it worth chancing £9.25 for a marriage certificate. A worthy chance indeed, confirmed by the witness names, Elizabeth Sarah Cannon and Frederick William Manning, Annie’s married sister and her eldest brother! The date of this marriage is January 25th 1887. Annie was still only 18 even though she stated on her marriage certificate that she was 21, a not unusual occurrence.

On the 22nd October 1887 a daughter, Annie Elizabeth Myers, was born at 3 Ambrose Street, Bermondsey. The baby's mother, Annie Zilpah Myers (née Manning) now had one illegitimate daughter, a husband and another daughter and was still only 19. Whether Sarah, the first-born daughter, was living with her mother and new husband is unknown, but for some reason I suspect not.

There was always a family rumour that Sarah had had a twin, vigorously denied by my last living aunt, but no explanation offered as to why the rumour existed in the first place. I suggest that the existence of Annie Elizabeth caused this rumour and was hushed up, but why?

Tragedy struck less than two years later when on 8th May 1889 Annie Zilpha Myers died, aged only 20, of 'Acute Rheumatism (2 weeks), Cardiac Disease and Thrombosis'. (Another slight change in the spelling of her middle name, but it is definitely the same person.) John Frederick, the baby's father, a ship's fireman presumably at sea, was not the informant: that unfortunate circumstance fell to her sister, Elizabeth, present at her death at 8 Anchor Street Bermondsey.

After the death of my great-grandmother the story moves on to the fortunes of the two half-sisters, Sarah Manning and Annie Elizabeth Myers.

In some respects it could be said that Annie Zilpah Manning had been fortunate to have had such a caring and devoted sister in Elizabeth, and Sarah could so easily have been lost into the 'baby farm adoption system', rife at the time, if it had not been for the supportive and enlightened nature of the family, Sarah having been taken in by her own grandmother, possibly from birth. But was the other daughter, Annie Elizabeth Myers, so lucky?

In 1891 the elder of Annie's two daughters, my grandmother Sarah Manning, was living at 10 Litlington Street, Rotherhithe with her own grandmother, Sarah Manning, née Rogers, her husband Joseph having died in 1887 at the age of 51. Interestingly, Lovell and Elizabeth Cannon were still nearby at number 3 Litlington Street.

In the 1901 census the two Sarahs were still together at 334 Southwark Park Road, but described as mother and daughter. This may be because the younger Sarah was now 17 and is of marriageable age and it becomes expedient to gloss over the illegitimate nature of her birth. Indeed, on Christmas Day in 1905 aged 21, she married John Johnson **Wilmot**, born 25th September 1885, who says he



is 22! The marriage certificate states that he was a silversmith living at 5 Litlington Street whilst she was again at number 10. The marriage certificate also indicates that her father was Joseph Manning – and not deceased! Did Sarah really think that Joseph was her father, and by extension that presumably her grandmother was her mother, or was naming him on her marriage certificate just for propriety? And why lie about his death? The Mannings and Wilmots were obviously aware of each others familial situations as they lived so close to each other, and had done so for some time, so why the subterfuge? The sad thing was that Sarah senior had died in 1902 aged 67, so did not live long enough to see her granddaughter marry. Incidentally, two of Sarah's cousins, David and Annie Cannon, children of Annie's devoted sister Elizabeth, were the witnesses to the marriage.

Within six months Sarah had given birth to her first child: Mabel Sarah Wilmot was born on 31st May 1906. Sarah and John **Johnson** went on to have seven children in total. There were four sons: John (1907-1975), David (1909-1982), Frederick (1911-1992) and Leslie (1924-1998); and three daughters, Mabel Sarah (1906-1992), Elsie (my mother) (1920-1993) and Alice (b1922). All seven children went on to marry and have children of their own (me, my sister and nine cousins). Interestingly, my mother Elsie and her older sister Mabel married brothers, Leslie Douglas and Stanley James Nutt. (As an aside, John Johnson's mother Sarah and her sister Phillis also married brothers, Henry and Charles Wilmot, in the 1850s).

But what happened to Annie Elizabeth Myers? Born in 1887, by the time of the 1891 census she was living with an aunt and uncle, Margaret and William **Lock** at 14 Surrey Buildings, Truscotts Court, Horsleydown, Southwark.

What of her father? He seems to have gone missing, as a sailor, which was not unusual. There is, however, a possibility for him. In the 1891 census there is a John F. Myers born 1865 in Middlesex, who was an able seaman, living in Liverpool with his wife Alice. There is no further reliable sighting for John Frederick in subsequent census returns but there is a death registration for a John Frederick Myers of the right age in West Derby, Lancashire in 1898.

A further interesting aside is that when looking for the baptism records for John Frederick Myers, it is to be found on the same page as that for Elizabeth Sarah Manning in the Parish Register for Bermondsey St Paul

*to be continued*

## Reminiscences of my mother's life (cont.)

C. Spinage [5465]

*Clara Harriet **Lovell** was born on 16 September 1904, the daughter of William Lovell and Deborah Clara Hawkins, his second wife. He had two surviving sons by his first wife Frances Harriett Adams, who died after the birth of the third. Richard, brother to Clara, was born in 1906. William Lovell joined the Croydon Gas Company in June 1901 working as a fitter until becoming a night-watchman before retirement in 1934. His father, James Lovell, was one of the original employees of the Company, working as a self-taught engineer in what was a new industry.*

*Clara was probably born at 6 Wortley Road, Croydon, before the family moved to 27 Aurelia Road, the latter house being hit by a flying bomb in WWII but no one was there at the time. A photo shows her and her brother about 1910 in their smocks. Clara married Alfred James Spinage in 1930, who in 1936 became the first governor attendant of the new Carshalton Gas Holder recently been constructed on the site of an old gas-works, before leaving in May 1940.*

*In 1981 Clara wrote down some notes of her Victorian childhood. The first part of her story appeared in the September 2014 Journal; now read on.*

“My father had an uncle who lived in Belgium [Frederick William **Pilbeam**, a jeweller who later lived in Croydon]. He owned a factory that made silver goods, his daughter was getting married when the Germans invaded Belgium so they had to move his merchandise to the vaults, and also his daughter's reception. After the reception they all fled to England and for a time settled in London. From there he came to visit us telling us all about it. I can see him now, a jolly plump man. He sat on the edge of the kitchen table and said how glad he was to see his nephew, my father, and then began to sing a song in Flemish. He left us to do some more visiting and we never saw or heard of him again. After the war we would sometimes have an aunt from Australia visit us, there always seemed to be all sorts coming to our house.

“When my father had his holidays he used to take mother to see her old uncle Dickie **Baker**, her mother's brother, who retired to the Chelsea Barracks for retired war veterans [Chelsea Pensioners]. He had served in all the old wars, Crimea, and others, and was very fat. They used to take him a bag of cherries

regularly for a long time. It was nearly always sunny weather so they were able to sit in the gardens. I remember how happy they were [my parents] to go to see him. We were never allowed to go, I do not think any children went, but we went to an old friend for our meals until they picked us up. Mother loved visiting people, especially old ones and one was a dear old lady she had known for years called Mrs. Field. After greeting us she would always say "Soon be in worms' land," although she always appeared to be happy.

"Then there was Great Uncle Henry and his parrot. We used to go and see him, he was my mother's father's brother [Henry Edwin Hawkins]. He had a parrot which would shriek if anyone came. He had a lovely garden of roses and sweet smelling lemon plant, also lovely apple trees with huge apples on them. He said we could pick one so I was thrilled to do so and plucked one as big as my then young head. It took me the whole day to eat."

Before he retired Henry ran a temperance tavern which opened in 1878, The Beehive Coffee Tavern, Streatham High Road, situated next to The Pied Bull Public House, for the Immanuel Church Temperance Association. Clara's mother Deborah worked there for her uncle before she married. She used to get so worried whether she had undercooked or overcooked the hams for apparently if wrong Henry would chase her around threatening to kill her. She lived on the top floor and got so nervous at night that she was allowed to take her cats to bed. Clara always said that her mother hated cooking, perhaps because of her childhood experiences. The late 1890s photo shows right to left, Henry, his wife Martha, and Deborah in the doorway. The Rev. Stenton Eardley, vicar of Immanuel Church, was a prime leader in the local temperance movement and was concerned that workers from the adjacent P. B. Cows rubber factory, spent much of their time in The Pied Bull and hoped that by providing an alternative place for the men he could reduce the amount of drunkenness. The nearby rubber factory and the school and 'factory square' where poor people lived is now a Sainsbury's car park, while a solicitors' firm now occupies the tavern. Henry let out two halls to Immanuel School with Girls over one door and Boys over the other. Before The Beehive Henry had managed another coffee tavern called The Beacon opposite a public house called The Yorkshire Grey at Stratford. In 1870, aged 18, he had sailed to Australia on The Boomerang as Officer Steward, discharged upon arrival and sailed back on the Patriarch as Third Steward, arriving back in London in March 1872. He went to sea because he could not find work

at home but could not find work in Australia either, presumably then managing The Beacon after his return (mainly from notes by Deborah Martin).

“When holidays came mother sent me to stay with grandma in London or my cousins in the country. I well remember my Grandma Hawkins, she had about six pillows and I had to sleep beside her and sit up in bed to reach the pillow, I seemed to sleep nevertheless. They had a sweet shop in the road [Beehive Bridge, Mitcham, Surrey?] where for a halfpennyworth of sweets you could have a go at a lucky dip and draw a number. Mine came up and I won a huge stick of pink and white peppermint rock all for my halfpennyworth of sweets..

“I had some lovely cousins, five girls and five boys [“The girls at Tooting” daughters of Frederick Hawkins and Nellie (Ellen) **Godbold**: Edie, Daisy, Florence Deborah, Mary and Hilda Hawkins. There were only three boys, George, Fred and Henry]. I loved to stay. Auntie was up at 5.30 to light the kitchen fire and get the breakfast. We sat at a long table with mugs of hot milk and large plates of “fry-up”, vegetables and fried bread. We loved it. The farmers would let us pick up all windfalls, lovely plums, apples and pears. Each cousin had a box under the bed, a big bed for the girls all five slept in, and me at the edge when I was there. Each fruit box was labelled with their name and they got some out as they wanted it. On Saturdays we went to the miller as he was called and got all the bread that was over at half price, a barrowful.

“Schooldays over, I went daily as mother’s help to some twins. On the whole I enjoyed it but when the lady wanted me to have my meals in the kitchen on my own I felt very miserable after being always together at home and with my cousins I could not understand it, so gave up and left and flitted from one job to another and then one was at a dressmaker. I thought I would like to learn that, but another let down, the rooms we were engaged in were all palms and lovely velvet curtains and the workroom was a basement and dismal with dirty ashes in the grate.” [She went to Boston Road School where the Head Teacher was Florence **Brindle**. In March 1915 she won a prize for needlework in Standard IIa of the Girls’ Department.]

She eventually trained as, and became, a nurse, but did not record these experiences. She did say that the family doctor said it would be worse than going in the army. She began in 1925 at Pembury Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, now demolished, being there in 1926. Her lecturer’s name was Ely. She then moved



on to Lambeth Hospital where she spent her third year in 1927, briefly recalling walking the corridors until her feet bled and the ferociousness of the matrons, disarming a deranged patient who threatened her with a knife, and saving the life of an elderly black man by discovering a cache of apirins under his pillow which he had been hoarding because he wanted to die. A 1927 snapshot shows her with friends at Lambeth, left to right

nurses Cales, Austin, (Clara), Pat, and doctor (Plates 4). Another shows Clara in the driving seat of a hospital car, a matron apparently joining in the fun. A telegram dated July 1926 from Tunbridge Wells offers congratulations from Humphreys, Hemp, and Petts. This must have referred to her transfer to Lambeth. She presumably found it too demanding for by 1929 had moved into private nursing. After a brief period as a nanny to two young boys she nursed an elderly prim Edwardian lady, Mrs. Cartland, who lived at Haslemere, Cedar Road, Sutton, from about April 1929 until the lady's death in January 1930, then becoming engaged and marrying the same year.



# The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 'Discover 14-18'

*Paul Blake*

The site from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is well known for help in finding the final resting places of the 1,700,000 men and women who died in both the World Wars in some 153 countries across the world.

The CWGC's new website, Discover 14-19 [www.cwgc.org/Discover1418](http://www.cwgc.org/Discover1418) now adds more historical information for the First World War. The site will continue to develop over the centenary to help you discover more about the conflict, and where those who died are commemorated today.

The Discover tab opens up detailed information about The Home Front, Gallipoli, The Battle of the Somme, The Ypres Salient, War in the Air and War at Sea. These in turn lead to information on the cemeteries and memorials and histories of the campaigns, all very well written and illustrated.

The timeline is what it says on the tin, but again has superb illustrations. The Trails feature suggests themed journeys retracing the steps of the Allied soldiers. At the time of writing this piece, The Retreat from Mons Remembrance Trail is the only one covered, 250 miles taking 2-3 days. But Gallipoli and Loos may have been added by the time you read this.

This is a well thought through, informative and respectful resource and a worthwhile adjunct to the familiar CWGC website.

## WWI from Above

*Paul Blake*

First broadcast on BBC1 on 7 November 2010, the BBC's *World War One from Above* has been broadcast several times since, mainly on BB4, and more recently on the *Yesterday* channel.

The documentary, presented by Fergal Keane, tells the story of the Great War from a unique new aerial perspective. Based on two remarkable historical finds,

including archive footage filmed from an airship in summer 1919, capturing the trenches and battlefields in a way that has rarely been seen before. It also features aerial photographs taken by First World War pilots - developed for the first time in over ninety years - that show not only the devastation inflicted during the fighting, but also twists of fate and human stories visible only from above.

The French pilot of the airship, Jacques Trolley de Prévaux, whose story is also included, was executed together with his wife by the Germans in World War Two for working in the French Resistance. Their daughter, who knew nothing of his film work, is introduced to it at the end of the documentary – incredibly moving.

The documentary is sure to be shown many more times during the centenary commemorations. Look out for it – it is an unknown story and quite extraordinary.

## **New East Surrey webmaster wanted**

*Brian Hudson*

As you will have read in the previous Journal, I shall soon be stepping down as Webmaster after 15 years and we would like to find a new volunteer webmaster.

This vital post is an opportunity for someone with existing IT experience and skills to take on the current website and work towards the development of a new one. There are a range of tasks that come under the auspices of a webmaster, not least of which is keeping the content fresh and up to date for the benefit of our members and for visitors.

At present the website is created using Dreamweaver but one of the favoured options for a future site is to use a content management system such as WordPress. To make the most of that technology some knowledge of PHP or MySQL would be an advantage. Among the new website features we should like to develop are an online shop and a secure mailing list.

If you would like to find out more or express an interest please send an email to our Secretary Judith at [secretary02@eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary02@eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk).

# Death, burials and resurrection

## Southwark Meeting Report (June)

*Hilary Blandford*

Alec Tritton gave us a whistle stop tour of many of London's lost burial grounds, beginning by telling us that burials frequently depend on social status. As an example he cited the executions of prisoners in the tower of London. The nobility were executed within the confines of the tower, and buried, well most of them, at St Peter at Vincula, whose current incumbent still holds the registers. The hoi polloi were executed on Tower Hill and the remains (below the neck) were buried at All Hallows.

In 1895 a lady called Mrs Isabella Holmes conducted a survey of London burial places on behalf of the LCC. She was able to identify 362 burial grounds, of which 113 had already disappeared and today only 41 are still in use. The aim of her study was to identify and protect London's green spaces as open spaces tended to be seen as development opportunities. Today, only 14 of the City of London graveyards survive, one of the best known being Postman's Park. Of the 107 city churches before the fire of London, 86 were destroyed and 35 not rebuilt. Alec entertained us with burial figures that were so large as to be inconceivable. Some bodies were barely buried before they were removed and the health hazard from some of the burial yards gave rise to the 1852 Act which prohibited further burials within London and gave rise to the Great Seven Cemeteries.

We learned about plague pits, watch towers, private burial grounds, hard to find graveyards, Jewish burial grounds, The Hardy Tree, Quaker burial grounds, exhumations to Brookwood, charnel houses, resurrectionists and some very dubious characters. The talk prompted a lively discussion, followed by lunch.

## Tech Topic – Windows 10 - back to the future?

*Brian Hudson*

In September Microsoft announced Windows 10. For some reason '9' has been omitted, perhaps to put some space between it and the largely unloved '8'. The new version harks back to the look and feel of Windows 'XP' and '7'. One item making a welcome return is the 'Start' button.

Windows 10 is expected to be available in April 2015.



# Killing or Curing

*Anne Ramon*

At our last Southwark Group meeting (13<sup>th</sup> October) we heard Lady Mary Teviot's fascinating talk entitled 'Kill or Cure'. We learned some interesting facts about our ancestors' struggles against illness, especially in the workplace, and the benefits of cleanliness and inoculation.

- It was unusual for a doctor to be called to a dying person so the 'Informant' on a Death Certificate might be guessing about the cause of death. It was the Birth and Death Act of 1873/4, which was passed to help control the baby farming of that era, that first required a doctor to confirm the cause of death.
- It was only in 1911 that the General Registrars adopted the International List of Diseases, putting an end to Causes of Death such as 'Indiscrete Bathing', 'King's Evil' and 'Black Jaundice'.
- There was a smallpox 'epidemic' in Brighton in the 1950s and 26 people died. Smallpox immunisation had been compulsory since 1898, and despite birth registration also being compulsory from 1872 some parents failed to register their children for fear of them having to be immunised. NB Prisoners were forcibly immunised and 'Big' prisoners possibly in both arms, to be sure!
- If you look at old photographs check the hands of the older people to look for signs of rheumatoid arthritis.
- Chloroform vapour became available in the late 1840s and Queen Victoria used it to help with the birth of her eighth child. Lady Mary has even come across an unlucky child named 'Anaesthesia'.
- Teeth (we all squirmed when dentistry was mentioned!). Replacement teeth sometimes came from the dead on the battlefield. 'Waterloo' teeth were particularly prized.

In the lively Q&A session after the talk Hilary (Southwark Group Secretary) was able to explain the condition 'Weaver's Bottom' and I've provided her notes on this and the expression 'being hamstrung' below.

### Weaver's Bottom:

*Bursitis of the ischeal tuberosity. An inflammatory condition, similar to tennis elbow, frozen shoulder or many of the current repetitive strain injuries - there is not much that is new! The pelvis is made of three pairs of bones. In adults they are fused. The ischium is the part that we sit on and the tuberosities are the pointy bits under our bottom. The bursa, which is a fluid filled sac between the pointy bit of bone and the skin, becomes inflamed because the weaver is sliding on the bench in front of the loom.*

### Hamstrung:

*The muscles known as the hamstrings are joined to the tuberosities so as well as inflammation making sitting very uncomfortable, walking is also painful. And I am sure that you know that 'to be hamstrung' meant that the hamstring tendons at the back of the knee were cut behind the knee. This meant that walking was possible but running was not and it was a punishment meted out to runaway slaves.*



I think this weaver looks a bit uncomfortable.

# William Henry Tipper

## The brother who did not return

*Terence Chapman [6328]*

My great grandparents Margaret **Tipper** (née **Geale**) (1861-1950) and Lewis Tipper (1858-1906) were married at St Peter's Church, Battersea on 10 December 1882. Their first child, my grandmother, Mary Ann Elizabeth **Chapman** (née Tipper) was born in 1883 at 48 Lothian Street, Battersea. The family remained in Battersea for many years apart from a few years in West Hartlepool in the 1890s to which they moved because of the employment opportunities there.

By 1901 the family were back in Battersea and living at 24 Latchmere Road. The marriage of Margaret and Lewis Tipper lasted for 23 years and produced six children. It was brought to an untimely end on 9 September 1906 when Lewis died after being run over by a horse-drawn van in Battersea Park Road. At that time the family were living at 19 Atherton Street, Battersea.

Of the four boys of the marriage, three joined the services before 1914. Thomas William Tipper (1886-1953) joined the Queen's Regiment and became a Colour Sergeant. George Lewis Tipper (1891-1923) joined the Royal Navy in 1908. Both Thomas and George survived the 1914-18 War.

William Henry Tipper (1894-1915) was a town carman when on 15 August 1912 he enlisted in London to serve for six years in the Lincolnshire Regiment. His enlistment forms show that he was 17 years 8 months; height 5 feet 4 inches and weighed 116 lbs: he was fit but suffered from some dental defects. From August until December 1912 he was on recruit training and on attaining the age of 18 on 16 December 1912 he became part of the regular Army. By then his weight had increased to 130lbs and his physical development had improved from 'fair' to 'good'. He was posted to Portsmouth.

Great Britain was at war with Germany from 4 August 1914 and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was immediately sent to France. On 13 August, William Henry Tipper and his comrades in the 1st Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment took ship from Portsmouth and sailed to Le Havre. After a few days they advanced to Mons where they engaged the enemy but such was the overwhelming force of the enemy that the BEF had to retreat from Mons. William Henry and his battalion were involved in the Battles of Le Cateau and the Marne. In mid

September 1914 they advanced to the River Aisne and this month saw the beginning of trench warfare. The Battalion Diary notes 'The men were in a very exhausted condition. Seventeen days in the wet and mud of the trenches with no time to take off their clothing and only one day on which they could take their boots off had made their feet in a very bad state.'

The British and French High Command agreed that the more appropriate strategic position of the BEF was on the left of the allied line. William Henry Tipper and other members of the BEF were withdrawn from the Aisne and relocated further north where they were engaged in the Battles of La Bassee, Armentieres and Messines between October and November 1914. William Henry was appointed Lance Corporal on 20 November 1914 and with his battalion was involved in trench warfare in the Ypres salient. Initially they were in a comparatively quiet part of the line but on 21 February 1915 they moved into their new trenches which were in close proximity to the Germans.

On 2 April 1915 William Henry and the 1st Battalion moved to trenches near St Eloi Dikkebus in the most exposed part of the line for miles. The Lincolnshire Archives were very helpful and sent a relevant extract from the Battalion's War Diary which records that on 4 April 1915 'Enemy's artillery active. D Company in trench T1 heavily shelled with howitzers causing casualties: 1 officer wounded; 3 other ranks killed and 10 wounded.' Among those killed was William Henry Tipper aged 20. His name is engraved on panel 21 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial which bears the names of men who were lost without trace in the defence of the Ypres salient. His effects were returned to his next of kin, his mother, now re-married, Mrs Margaret Mills of 3 Simpson Street, Battersea.

I visited my great grandmother when she was in her 80s and living alone in one room in Block 'O' of Peabody Buildings, Stamford Street, London SE1. I always remember that in pride of place on one of the walls was a framed photograph of her son, William Henry Tipper, together with his war medals. So he was not forgotten.

Sources:

The Army papers of 9510 William Henry Tipper.

The History of the Lincolnshire Regiment 1914-18 (full text on line)

The War Diary of the 1st Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment held by the Lincolnshire Archives.

# News From Surrey Heritage

*Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre*

I am delighted to report that National School admission registers and log books for 154 Surrey schools, covering the years 1870-1914 are now accessible on findmypast.

They offer precious evidence of the gradual introduction of universal education in England and are another fascinating source to explore for family historians with Surrey connections. For many schools records begin after the great Elementary Education Act of 1870 which brought a basic education in reach of all. However, for some schools the records go back as far as the 1820s when education provision was far more haphazard and the involvement of the state far less. You can explore these records at <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/school-registers>

These records have been published as part of a National Consortium Digitisation Project managed by the Archives and Records Association (ARA), which will make millions of names from school records held by over 100 archives in England and Wales searchable online on [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk). The names of the children in the admission registers have been indexed; and the log books can be browsed to read the headteachers' daily reports on events in the schools. These reports often mention pupils by name. Visitors to Surrey History Centre and members of Surrey libraries will be able to search these records for their Surrey ancestors free of charge in any local library in the county, and subscribers to [findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) across the world will also be able to view them in the comfort of their own home.

Earlier this year we ran a six week course of family history workshops called Family History Research Made Easy. The topics ranged from basic beginners' tips to military records, poor law resources, immigration and emigration and lots more. The course proved hugely popular and was over-subscribed, and so we will be repeating again early in 2015. The course will start on Thursday 5th February running until Thursday 12th March and will take place at 10.00 am, lasting for approximately 2.5 hours. In addition, individual workshops will run on Saturday mornings as follows:

January 10th; February 14th; March 14th; April 11th; May 9th; June 6th.

The six week course has to be booked as a whole (£60); the individual Saturday workshops will be £15 each. All workshops have 'light refreshments' and will include an escorted visit to the Search Room to examine and handle (if appropriate) original documents and supervised sessions on computer sources including Ancestry.com, Find My Past and Online Newspaper sources if wished.

## **New Accessions**

Highlights of recent accessions that will interest family historians include the following:

WAN/add/2/- St Bartholomew's Church, Wanborough: baptism register, 1861-2000

8334/add/-1 St James, Elstead: marriage register, 2011-2013

9312add/- St Mary's, Tatsfield: marriage registers, 1999-2013

9355/- Cove, St John the Baptist, with South Hawley: registers of baptisms, 1952-1987, marriages, 1966-1989, and services, 1984-1989

9358/- College of St Barnabas, Lingfield: records, including annual reports, minutes and newsletters, 1896-2014

9359/- Worplesdon Parish Council: minute books, 1895-1990

Z/623/- James Child (1838-1924), gardener of Pyrford and Epsom: transcript of autobiography

Z/624/- Cobham parish accounts, 1870-1875, 1878-1884

Z/627/- Cobham parish: extracted copies of parish magazine entries relating to World War I and copy of article 'St Andrews Church, Cobham' by HWP [Price] and 'Cobham War Memorial and the dedication' by the vicar, reprinted from the 'Winchester Diocesan Chronicle', 1914-1919

9356/- Stedman family of Cranleigh: deeds, 1735

7768add/- St Andrew's School, Cobham: loose photographs, 1876-1950s

ESR25ad/36 Captain Harry Smith, 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment: photographs, including in India and Egypt, 1927-1937

QRWS/30ad42 Warrant Officer Henry Herbert Edward Palmer, 2/7th Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: story of his life, 1914

QRWS/30ad43 Private Percy Walter Eden (1895-1966), 5th Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: diary, 1914-1916

## **Talks and Events**

2015 will see the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. We will be marking this with a series of talks, displays and events throughout the first part of the year, beginning with a display of a facsimile of a copy of the charter in our foyer in January.

9 May 2015 Study Day: Surrey in the Age of Magna Carta. Speakers will include Professor Nigel Saul on the meaning of Magna Carta and the 2015 Commemoration, Rob Poulton on the physical archaeology of Surrey in the thirteenth century, Dr David Stone on Surrey's economy in the thirteenth century, Dr Naomi Sykes on parks and hunting and Professor David Carpenter on the aftermath of the charter.

20 Jun 2015. The Surrey Heritage Annual Lecture: Dr Nick Barratt, '1215 and all That', a talk which will look at the build-up, event and aftermath of the sealing of Magna Carta and the way it came to be accepted in society in the following century.

We are planning further exhibitions about Magna Carta in June. For full details of these and to book places at the study day and annual lecture, join our mailing list at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyheritagemailinglist](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyheritagemailinglist) or see the Heritage Events page on our website, <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents>.

We will also be marking Holocaust Memorial Day in January with a display in our foyer and LGBT History Month with a display in the foyer in February.

We look forward to seeing you at *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* in Birmingham 16-18 April and we will also be holding a Military Ancestors Roadshow at Surrey History Centre on Saturday 18 April.

## **Opening Times**

Surrey History Centre is no longer open late on Thursday evenings. We now close at 5.00 p.m. This decision has been made in the light of extremely low visitor numbers during these extended opening hours. Redeployment of staff to core hours will enable us to address standard archive work, such as cataloguing and

packaging, which is vital to our making more of our collections accessible for research by the public.

Looking ahead, we will be closed for stocktaking between 1 and 15 December, reopening on Tuesday 16th.

Our Christmas and New Year opening times are as follows:

Wednesday 24 December: 9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Thursday 25 - Monday 29th December: CLOSED

Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31st December: 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. as usual

Thursday 1 - Monday 5 January: CLOSED

We will re-open Tuesday 6 January at 9.30 a.m.

## Camberwell House Lunatic Asylum

*Linda Dimery [10348] [linda.dimery@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:linda.dimery@mypostoffice.co.uk)*

My great uncle James **McLachlan** was born on 11 October 1848 at The Cottage, William Street, High Street, Lambeth, the youngest son of John McLachlan and Margaret **Smith**. He was baptised on 12 November 1848 at St Mary's, Lambeth; when he was older he was taken into the family business and taught the art of glass blowing along with his elder brother John.

Their small factory was called the 'Cottage Glass Works' of William Street, Lambeth. James married Matilda **Howlett** on 22 October 1869 in Clapham, but Matilda died in 1873 and James married for the second time to Emma Henrietta **White**, on 10 July 1875, at St Mathew's Church in Brixton.

Emma had five children between 1876 and 1882. The first child was Mildred Emma, who died in infancy in 1876; the second daughter was Margaret Ethel, born 23 May 1877; then came the first of three sons: James Henry, born 10 November 1878, followed by Sydney John, born 25 September 1880, and finally Stanley Robert, born 4 May 1882.



All of the family can be found on the 1881 census living at 68 Southville, Lambeth; but by 1882 they had moved to 160 Grosvener Road, Millbank, in Westminster, which was not such a good area.

I think James's family's demise, and the beginning of James's mental illness, started with the death of his father in 1877. James inherited the family business along with his older brother but by 1879 they had sold the glass works. It looks like the family lived on the profit from the glass works for a while but by April 1888 James was committed into Camberwell House Lunatic Asylum by his wife Emma. At that time this Asylum was private, so the family would have had to pay for James's treatment. I have been able to find an entry for James in the Asylum in the 1891 census, but can find nothing of Emma. When I looked for the children, I found the daughter Margaret Ethel, but not the boys, living with her grandmother in Brighton. After more searching I discovered that in 1890 Emma had signed her three sons, James 12, Sydney 10, and Stanley 8, over to Barnardo's children's home at Stepney because she was destitute.

The three boys were sent to Toronto in Canada by Barnardo's as British Home Children, James and Sydney in March 1893 and Stanley in June 1894. Their sister Margaret Ethel stayed in England and married but had no children and died in 1959 in London. I finally found Emma's death registered as dying in the Lambeth workhouse in May 1904 aged 48.

More searching revealed that James stayed at the Camberwell House Lunatic Asylum until May 1893, when he was transferred to Claybury Lunatic Asylum in Ilford. This Asylum was later renamed Claybury Hospital and James remained a patient there for the rest of his life, dying in May 1923 aged 75. I felt so sad on discovering this.

Because he was fed and cared for ironically he outlived his wife Emma by 19 years, although he never knew her fate or that of his children. Barnardo's will not let me purchase the records of the three boys because they say that I am not a direct relative (for instance, a granddaughter) so I must get written permission from a direct descendant in order to do so.

I will continue to search for any descendants of James Henry, Sydney and Stanley and if anyone reading this knows anything that may help me move forward, would they please contact me via my email address above?

# Website round up

*Brian Hudson*

[www.londonroll.org](http://www.londonroll.org)

This site has searchable records of Apprentices and Freemen in the City of London Livery Companies between 1400 and 1900. Currently the database includes information about apprenticeship bindings and freedom admissions for nine of London's Livery Companies i.e. the Bowyers', Clothworkers', Drapers', Girdlers', Goldsmiths', Mercers', Musicians', Salters' and Tallow Chandlers'.

If anyone of interest comes up in a search then more details can be displayed and the record easily exported to a PDF file.

<http://1914-1918.net>

This excellent site has the title 'The Long, Long Trail'; it is presented in a clear concise style and packed full of information about the British Army in the Great War. The author is a freelance military historian, and researcher. The first section is The Regiments and Corps where there are details of each Regiment and Unit of the army. Other headings include formations, battles, army life and regulations. There is also a very helpful guide with lots of advice about researching a soldier.

Another interesting section is about finding soldiers through the 1918 Absent Voters Lists which contained the details of service men and women for the General Election of 1918. The information usually included the regiment, number and rank, as well as home address. These lists are held in a variety of locations but do not exist in their entirety.

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

During the First World War there were over 90,000 British Red Cross volunteers at home and overseas and the records of the volunteers are being made available on the Red Cross (RC) website. At the time of writing only personnel records for surnames beginning with A and B were available, but more names are being added every few weeks. There are details of some of the famous volunteers including Agatha Christie, E M Forster, Vera Brittain and Sir Stafford Cripps along with articles on the work of the RC and an appeal for help in identifying volunteers in old photos.

## Unusual Sources

### a list of Bank of England employees in 1720

Anne Ramon

I found some interesting names in a typescript document at the Society of Genealogists Library recently. The document was entitled *The staff of the Bank of England in the year 1720*, and had been prepared by B. T. K. Smith in 1986. It consisted of about a dozen pages listing staff members at the Bank of England in the year 1720, which had been extracted from archive material published in the Bank's staff magazine *The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street* in June and September 1927. So it is needed to be used with caution.

The document was entitled *1720 April 7. A list of the servants of the Bank and their Wages* and has the SOG reference PR/BAN/12444 box 102 file 22. About 100 names are listed under different Department headings with their job title and wages, and a number have other personal information, some of which seems to have been extracted from newspapers. I found two entries which mentioned places in East Surrey:

Accountant's Office. 4. Benjamin Parker. (Elected 1695)  
4<sup>th</sup> December 1732, at his house in Carshalton in Surrey. 'Chief Clerk of the Bank Transfer-Books, reputed to be worth £10,000.'  
Universal Spectator.  
Wages: £160 per annum.

Cashier's Office. 38. Thomas Maddocks (Elected 1694. Resigned 1739. Chief Cashier 1699-1739)  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 1745, at Beddington, Surrey 'formerly the Head Cashier of the Bank'. According to the General Evening Post he had retired 'some years' from business and 'was upwards of 80 years of age'.  
Wages: £250 per annum.

The wages for other staff were:

Bank Tellers: £50-£70 per annum; Cashier's Office: £50-£90 per annum  
Accountant's Office: £50-£70 per annum; Messengers: £30 per annum

These were good salaries, as the average annual earnings in Britain, in 1720 money, was £13 to £14 per annum. (Source: <http://www.measuringworth.com>)

## Can you help?

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.

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## Subscription Changes for overseas members

The changes only affect those members who live outside the UK and who require a *paper* copy of the quarterly Journal. For these members (only) the annual subscription has increased from £12 to £18 (or foreign currency equivalent). If you live in Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA your local Representative will be able to help you with this amendment, and their contact details are given on the inside back cover of this Journal. Otherwise our Membership Secretary will be pleased to help you and her contact details are on the inside front cover.

If you are an overseas member and you are happy to receive your Journal by email there is no change in your subscription. Just let the Representative or Membership Secretary know what email address to use and we will place you on the distribution list.

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