

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

www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk

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

# Group meetings

## September

- 4 The evolvement of the printing and newspaper trade  
Judy Davies Sutton  
*Judy is an author and family historian specialising in social history*
- 13 The Elephant & Castle  
Stephen Humphrey Richmond  
*The old Elephant was a lively, thriving area known as 'the Piccadilly Circus of South London'*
- 16 Child labour in Kingston  
Helen Gopel Croydon

## October

- 2 A tour through the East Surrey FHS website  
Brian Hudson Sutton  
*plus some hints and tips on websites and computers: Brian is the Webmaster of the ESFHS website*
- 13 Disease & Public Health in industrialising Victorian cities  
Paul Carter Southwark  
*Paul will tailor his talk to London. He is on the staff at the National Archives & specializes in the history and records of the poor, especially poor law unions & workhouses.*
- 21 Sin, sex and probate  
Colin Chapman Croydon

## November

- 6 Online resources for London family history  
Peter Christian Sutton  
*Peter is an author and family historian who specialises in IT and family history*
- 8 Deptford to Battersea  
Paul Blake Richmond  
*Researching ancestors from the South Bank to East Surrey*

## 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.

- 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

The anniversary of the start of WW1 has finally arrived and to mark this major event and the consequential hiatus in all our family histories we are inaugurating a special World War One section in our Journal this Quarter. The articles will help you research your genealogy through these troubled years and will help to explain the impact of the War on your ancestors' everyday lives. You can also use this section to write about your own WW1 ancestor; our primary focus will be on East Surrey people, places and resources, but don't let that stand in the way of a good story!

Peter Moulin has kindly volunteered to be Editor for this section. He's an experienced history teacher with a detailed knowledge of the War and the resources that record the events and people involved. Please see his articles in this Journal for a flavour of the excellent material to come. Peter is keen to incorporate your family history stories, photographs and images, so please contact him at [pdmoulin@virginmedia.com](mailto:pdmoulin@virginmedia.com).

The special section will run for the next few years so there will be plenty of opportunity to tell your wartime family history story. I hope you agree that this

will be a fitting and honourable commemoration of our WW1 ancestors, at home or abroad.

We've been less fortunate with our plans for the Conference in August 2015 and we have, regrettably, had to cancel the event. This is not for lack of interest from potential attendees; rather it is the general change in the genealogical market that has moved focus and financial support away from conferences. We had hoped to use sponsorship money to enhance the conference with high-profile keynote speakers and special events but despite our best efforts we have not received the support we need. The pressing schedule of advance payments required by the hotel which puts our Society funds at risk has forced the issue and we have had to make a decision.

I am sorry we cannot proceed and I'd like to thank those organisations who have backed us; these include the Society of Genealogists, the Halsted Trust, FamilySearch, ABM publishing (Family Tree magazine), Mickleprint (who print this Journal), Parliamentary Archives, University of Strathclyde, Berkshire Family History Society and the Surrey History Centre.

## **Tech Topic –Windows 8.1 search**

*Brian Hudson*

You can use the Search icon or, if you are using a keyboard, when you are on the Start screen just start typing and, as if by magic, results will immediately start to appear on the screen.

## **The East Surreys Abroad**

*Anne Ramon*

I attended a talk recently by Ian Chatfield from the Surrey Infantry Museum at Clandon Park on the story of the East Surrey Regiment in 1914 and made a few notes on their early actions.

The Regiment comprised two battalions, and in July 1914 the Second Battalion was already on active service in India while the First was at home in Dublin. At

the declaration of war the First Battalion was brought up to strength (1000 men) and was landed at Le Havre in France on 13th August. They then travelled by train to Mauberge, arriving at the bridge over the Mons-Conde canal on 22 August 1914, joining other British and French soldiers. There were also twenty seven aircraft from the Royal Flying Corps stationed nearby and they reported that they had seen large numbers of Germans but the Army commanders did not believe them. At 1pm on the following day the Allies engaged in an action now called the Battle of Mons. The East Surreys shot well – they could shoot accurately for 800 yards but they were in a forested area with only 100 yards clear view. It was impossible to hold their position and they had to retreat over the bridge and were soon overwhelmed. By the end of the day a hundred East Surreys had been killed and their bodies had to be left behind as the troops retreated.

The East Surreys joined the Retreat back to Dour but were then deployed at Le Cateau near Marez and saw action on 26th August. The fighting was hard; the Suffolks lost many men; the East Surreys were behind them so better off but they still lost eight guns. They had delayed the enemy advance on Paris, however.

The French raised another Army in Paris under Joffre and pushed the enemy line back. The East Surreys moved with them, taking some casualties at the Marne, and then pushed on to the river Aisne where they participated in the Battle of the Aisne on 13th September 1914.

You can read the East Surrey Regimental War Diaries for the whole of the War at <https://qrrarchive.websds.net/menu1.aspx?li=1>. This is the account of the Mons action which lists the men killed, wounded and missing <http://qrrarchive.websds.net/PDF/ESD0011914007.pdf>

The full story of the regiment is at the museum in Clandon Park which was opened in 1980 following the closure of the barracks in Kingston and Guildford. It's free to enter the Museum despite being in a National Trust property. See [www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk](http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk) for more details.

The records of the East Surrey Regiment (formerly the 31st and 70th Regiments) are at Surrey History Centre in Woking and have been fully catalogued. These include battalion war diaries, private journals and photographs. See [www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre) and [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk) for more details.

# East Surrey Family History Society

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Bourne Hall, Ewell

1. Paul Blake, President welcomed members
2. Apologies for absence: Derek Tooke, Rosemary Turner & Jill Alford
3. Minutes of 36<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
*proposed by Sheila Gallagher, seconded by Liz Moss and signed*
4. Matters arising – none
5. Chairman's address presented by Anne Ramon  
*(see pp 4-6 in the June 2014 Journal)*
6. Treasurer's report presented by Lesley Barker

"Good afternoon, everyone.

"I think you all should have a copy of the financial accounts for 2013 which, I hope you've had a chance to look through. If you have, you will no doubt have noticed that we made a loss of £431 in 2013, as oppose to a profit of £261 the previous year. This is a difference of almost £700.

"Whilst it would be preferable not to operate at a loss, given the amount of deposit balances held it is not unduly concerning, but I'd like to just explain the main causes of the loss:

"Our membership in 2013 reduced by about 100 causing a drop in subscription income of £1000. However, this was compensated by an increase in bank interest of over £1100. This was achieved by placing funds in a high interest one-year investment bond the previous year (2012), but unfortunately by the time it matured last year interest rates had dropped considerably, so we won't get the same investment income this year!

"Although it looks as though the Bookstall shows a loss through the drop in income of £800, we also spent out a £1000 less purchasing publications and our income exceeded costs with a profit of £110.

“The main cause of the loss, however, has been the increased cost of the quarterly Journals, by £1400, and in particular the increased postal charges. As Anne has already explained, steps have now been taken to ensure that the weight of each Journal does not exceed the minimum postage rate of 100g, and the proposal to increase the subscription for overseas members, in order to cover the cost of their increased postal charges, will be voted on later in the meeting.

“Finally only 60% of our members have completed the necessary declaration enabling us to claim Gift Aid. This is where for every £12 membership received we can claim an additional £3 back from the Inland Revenue. I know I mentioned this last year but you will see from the accounts that although subscriptions are down by £1000, the amount of Gift Aid reclaimed has been retained through increasing the number of members who have signed the declaration. I appreciate that not everyone may be a tax payer, but if you are and have not signed a Declaration, then please see or contact Ann Turnor, our membership Secretary. It’s a lovely feeling getting money back from the Inland Revenue so please do help if you can.

“Thank you. And should you now have any questions regarding the financial report I’ll answer them as best I can.

“Question: Is it worth putting a code on the Journal membership label to indicate whether or not a gift aid declaration and standing order form has been completed?

“Answer: We will look into this.

*Report proposer: Lesley Barker, seconded: Liz Moss – carried*

## 7. Appointment of Examiner

Graham Moore, the present examiner was recommended to continue

*Proposer: Lesley Barker, seconded: Judith Mitchell - carried*

## 8. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

Chairman: Anne Ramon

*Proposer: Hilary Blanford, seconded: Liz Craig*

Secretary: Judith Mitchell

*Proposer: Chris Pocock, seconded: Rita Russell*

Treasurer: Lesley Barker

*Proposer: Brenda Hawkins, seconded: Lynn Staines - carried*

Committee: Peter Heather  
Brian Hudson  
Sylvia Dibbs  
Liz Moss  
Brenda Hawkins

*Proposer: Sheila Gallagher, seconded: Joanna Reynolds - carried*

A plea was also made for new members as the committee has now been reduced by 2. The task is not onerous so please think about volunteering for your society.

#### 9. Any other business

Motion – “The Executive Committee recommends that the overseas membership subscription for those members electing to receive a hard copy journal be raised to £18 per annum from January 2015. The subscription for those members electing to receive an electronic journal will remain at £12 per annum.”

The Committee regrets this increase but additional postal charges have made the present rate no longer viable.

*Proposer: Executive Committee, seconded: Chris Pocock – carried*

This will be explained in detail in the next journal.

Meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

41 members signed the attendance sheet for the AGM

88 people signed the attendance sheet for the Open Day.

## Croydon Heritage Festival

The photo (opposite) shows Sylvia Dibbs and Geoff Fairbairn on the stall in North End, Croydon, just outside the Almhouses (note the interesting wall and windows behind them). The Society was taking part in the Croydon Heritage Festival on 21st June and we enjoyed excellent weather and chatting with visitors.



## Genealogy and history resources on offer

*Mrs Jane Beeley  
Tel: 01892 533566; email: bw.beeley@gmail.com*

I am offering the following resources, free, to anyone who can use them. Please contact me if you are interested.

I can take my collection to the September afternoon meeting at Lingfield if this helps to facilitate the handing over of resources to anyone who'd like them.

### **Sussex Family Historian**

- Vol. 3 nos. 5-7 June 1978 – Dec. 1978
- Vol. 3 nos. 8 & 9 March & June 1979: Index to Vols. 1, 2 & 3
- Vol. 4 nos. 1-6 Sept. 1979 – Dec. 1980

## **The Sussex Genealogist and Local Historian**

- Vol. 1 nos. 1-4 June 1979 – March 1980
- Vol. 2 nos. 1-4 June 1980 – March 1981
- Vol. 3 nos. 1-4 June 1981 – March 1982
- Vol. 4 nos. 1-4 June 1982 – March 1983
- Vol. 5 nos. 1-4 June 1983 – March 1984
- Vol. 6 nos. 1-4 June 1984 – March 1985
- Vol. 7 nos. 1, 2, and final issue (nos 3 & 4) June 1985 – March 1986

## **National Series**

- Original Parish Registers in Record Offices and Libraries
- (Published by Local Population Studies in association with the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure):
- Original parish registers in record offices and libraries 1974
- The first supplement to original parish registers in record offices and libraries 1976
- The second supplement to original parish registers in record offices and libraries 1978
- The third supplement to original parish registers in record offices and libraries 1980
- The fourth supplement to original parish registers in record offices and libraries 1982

## **Miscellaneous**

- FamilySearch on the internet, by David Hawgood. 1999. Federation of Family History Societies
- Somerset House wills from 1858, by Eve McLaughlin. (A McLaughlin guide). 3rd ed 1985. Federation of Family History Societies
- How to record your family tree, by Patrick Palgrave-Moore. 1979. Elvery Dowers Publications
- Trace your family history, by L G Pine. (Teach yourself books). 1984. Hodder & Stoughton
- Basic facts about...Methodist records for family historians, by Richard Ratcliffe. 2005. Federation of Family History Societies

# Death by Enemy Action

*Olive Josephine West [7687]*

## **Pimlico, London, 1 October 1917**

On the night of 1 October 1917 during an Air Raid over London, four young teenage youths were tragically killed. They had been sheltering in the passageway of No. 3 Glamorgan Street, Pimlico, when a German aircraft dropped a bomb on the house opposite followed by explosions causing extensive damage. One of the boys was my uncle, Frederick Charles **Hanton**, a brother to my father Joseph, who lived at No. 3. His friends were George **Fennimore**, Leonard **Fitzgerald** and Henry **Greenaway**. Tragically, all four boys lost their lives that dreadful night.

In Loving Memory Of  
GEORGE FENNIMORE, 17  
FREDERICK CHARLES HANTON, 18  
LEONARD FITZGERALD, 18  
HENRY GREENAWAY, 18  
Who lost their lives by Hostile Aircraft  
in the Raid on London  
ON OCTOBER 1st 1917.  
“In the Midst of Life, We are in Death”

An extract from the *Westminster & Pimlico News*, 5 October 1917

Failed to Take Cover – Regrettable loss of lives

An inquest held on Wednesday by one of the London Coroners on four victims of a recent evening’s air raid in the metropolitan district was the occasion of some intensely interesting evidence. To the relations the tragedy of young lives prematurely and violently ended was the first consideration, but of equal importance were the hints conveyed as to the behaviour of bombs and the efficacy of precautionary measures.

The victims were four youths, two of them only seventeen, and the other two eighteen years old. Two were munitions workers; a third a fitter’s mate; and the fourth a porter at a large trading establishment. They were friends and were all together when death came by means of a bomb from enemy aircraft. It appears that they, with several others, were chatting in the street when an explosion in

their immediate neighbourhood drove them to take shelter. A refuge was close at hand, for they were just outside where two of the youths resided. Into this they hurried, shutting the front door behind them. The soldier brother of one of them, who had preceded them into the house, came to the head of the stairs to look for them. Some of them were already half way up and the last of the little procession was some feet away from the door. At this moment a second explosion occurred with terrible results. The soldier descended the stairs, and found nine young men, all of whom were injured. Four of them succumbed in a very short time, including his own brother. The front door was open, apparently forced by the violence of the explosion. This witness told the Court that he thought the nine were making a dash for the stairs, and were huddled together when caught by the impact. He saw no fragments of shell lying about but his brother had several big wounds in his back.

This is a story of the catastrophe as told by one who was inside the house. The rest of the tale came from those outside. The house in question is large and substantially built, and is now divided into tenements. The other occupants were all upstairs, many of them in the first floor back. These were uninjured, as also was the soldier at the top of the first flight of stairs. From inside this house it was impossible to tell where the bomb had fallen. A police witness, however cleared up this point – it fell in the area of a house on the opposite of the road. His first duty was to render such aid as was possible to those who were injured. He found one of the deceased youths lying on the footway outside the door of the house to which he had rushed for safety. The second victim was standing by the front door, suffering from an injury in the head. The third was in the passage three or four feet inside the door and the fourth was picked up by his father and brother, who said they had found him on the doorstep. Having seen that these were taken to a doctor the officer proceeded to rescue several people from the house next to that where the bomb had fallen. Not one was injured though all had been in the house at the time of the explosion. By a strange vagary of action the damage to life and limb was confined to the nine young men in the house opposite and, as the Coroner pointed out, the space behind the door is indicated by the incident as one of the danger spots in a building. It was necessary to get well within the solid parts of the house. If people would do that the injuries would be minimised. As an instance of this the witness mentioned a case where three homes were demolished but not a single person received a scratch. If the young men had sought refuge more promptly four valuable lives might have been saved.

The jury returned the only verdict possible in the circumstances: that the death of the young men was due to the explosion of a bomb dropped by enemy aircraft.

Extract from the Story of St Gabriel's, Pimlico, by the Reverend T.F. Shirley

On Monday 1 October 1917 there was an air raid on London at 7 in the evening, and St Gabriel's parish was one of the districts which suffered. Several houses in Glamorgan Street and Lupus Street were demolished or damaged. Four were killed and several others injured. The funeral of two of the victims from Glamorgan Street were held in the church on the following Monday and the service was attended by the Mayor of Westminster. One of the injured died 3 months later in St. George's Hospital.

John Thomas Hanton (Jack) who was a witness at the Inquest and an older brother of Frederick was a soldier in The Australian Imperial Force 5th Pioneer Battalion. He had enlisted on 17 January 1916 at Brisbane and his number was Pte 2217. Military records I have from The National Archives of Australia show that Jack came to England from France from 25 September to 12 October 1917 and was at home in Glamorgan Street on that fateful night of 1 October. During that time, his parents Thomas John and Ada Hanton had a family picture taken.



# Researching relatives who served in The First World War

*Peter Moulin [6101]*

In this series of articles we are aiming to provide guidance for those members wishing to research a relative who served in some way during the First World War. This first article will concentrate on women in medical services.

The first thing to do for any relative is to find out what unit or organisation they served in. If they were, unfortunately, killed while serving overseas, they will be recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Website. Women who served overseas in the forces or as a volunteer in a hospital or canteen were entitled to the same campaign medals as men. Details of these medals are on the medal index cards, but you must use the ones on TNA's Online Record Service because the ones on Ancestry only include male recipients.

*The London Gazette* at [www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk) should also be searched for news of officers in the nursing services, as well as the award of gallantry medals. The initials which relate to nurses are:

QAIMNS – Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

QARNNS – Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service

TFNS – Territorial Force Nursing Service.

Records for all the above are available through TNA's Online Record Service. War Diaries of hospitals may also include information about the transfer of women. These too are available at TNA. RAF Nursing Service records are still with the MoD. The many helpers in hospitals became known as VADs because they belonged to Voluntary Aid Detachments, and were either members of The British Red Cross Society or the Order of St John. Both these organisations kept record cards for individuals, but they are not available to researchers, although staff at the archives will do a search for you and provide information to surviving next of kin, for a donation.

Other useful databases available through Ancestry and Findmypast include Soldiers Died in the Great War, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour and National Roll of The Great War. Female medical staff appear in all of these.

VADs had little nursing training or experience and were less likely than nurses to be awarded The Royal Red Cross for meritorious service, even if the conditions they worked in were just as bad and they were equally brave.

If you have a photograph of your relative, the following website is very useful on uniforms and nurses generally: [www.scarletfinders.co.uk](http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk) You should be able to tell the difference between a VAD and a nurse by the type of uniform. The photograph here is almost certainly of a VAD uniform, as there is no headress or cape. Do not be fooled by the caption "Sister Olive", as it is a photograph of my great aunt Olive Moulin sent to her brother, my grandfather. I have not been able to find out anything about Olive Moulin's First World War service, in spite of consulting all the sources mentioned here. I have come to the conclusion that either she did not serve overseas, or that she served in the French system. It would have been easy to move there from her home in Jersey, and she did marry a frenchman after the war.

The French authorities had a very different attitude to the employment of female doctors to the British, using their services in 1914. It was not until 1916 that the War Office employed female doctors, sending 85 of them to Malta in July. Whereas male doctors served in the army and were officers, female doctors were merely employed. This means that they were not in the army and did not have a service record, so their service is difficult to trace. There are some registers of female doctors to be found at the Army Medical Services Museum in Mytchett. This museum is worth visiting for its displays of First World War medical services and examples of uniforms. It also has an extensive library and helpful archivist, as well as a website at [www.ams-museum.org.uk](http://www.ams-museum.org.uk).



# War Service of Driver James Crome, Royal Field Artillery, 1915-1920

*Leslie Crome [9511]*

My paternal grandfather, James **Crome** (1890-1953), enlisted in the Army in April 1915. At that date he was aged 25, was married with three children, living in Southwark, in south-east London, and was employed as a brewery worker. His Army Attestation Form records that his height was 5 ft. 3½ ins.

James served in the Army from April 1915 to March 1920, and the following is a summary of that service:

10 April 1915: Enlisted at Southwark, in London, for the duration of the war. Joined the 162<sup>nd</sup> (Camberwell) Howitzer Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (RFA), with the rank of Driver

12 April-11 December 1915 (8 months): Served in the United Kingdom

11-12 December 1915: Crossed from Southampton to Le Havre, in France

12 December 1915-22 April 1919 (3 years, 3½ months): Served in France

May 1916: Joined the 33<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Ammunition Column, RFA, part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Division, XI<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Army

December 1917: Joined X4 Trench Mortar Battery, RFA, part of the Trench Mortar Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Division, XVII<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army

January 1918: Stationed in the sector of Monchy, near Arras, in northern France

March 1918: Present with his battery at the time of the German offensive in France, which commenced on 21 March and involved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army in heavy fighting

November 1918: Joined the 37<sup>th</sup> Divisional Ammunition Column, RFA (he was still serving with this unit in January 1919). (2) In Army hospital in France on five occasions, during the period December 1916 -September 1918, for a total period of nearly 5 months: once for an abrasion to the knee; twice for diarrhoea; once for an ankle injury; and once for an unspecified illness

23 April 1919-31 March 1920 (11 months): Served in the United Kingdom

May 1919: Posted to the Army Dispersal Centre at Crystal Palace, in south-east London

June 1919: Transferred to the Army Reserve

31 March 1920: Discharged from the Army on demobilisation

Summary of Army service: France: 3 years, 3½ months; United Kingdom: 1 year, 7 months. Total: 4 years 10½ months.

James Crome was awarded the following medals for his service during the war:

- The Military Medal, for bravery in the field, awarded in January 1918 (formally announced in the *London Gazette* in March 1918 but not actually presented to him until 31 January 1919, when he was on leave in the United Kingdom and went to the Headquarters, Army London District, to ask for it). The Army Medal Office no longer has the citations for awards of this medal in the First World War, so there is no official record of the exploit for which it was awarded
- Three campaign/war medals: the France 1914-1915 Star; the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Sources:

National Archives: WO 363/C1255: Army Service Record of Driver 15073 James Crome, RFA, 1915-1920. WO 95/1468: War Diary of the Trench Mortar Brigade, RFA, 4<sup>th</sup> Division: entry dated 15 January 1918. WO 95/5467, WO 95/5469: Orders of Battle of the British Expeditionary Force in France, April and June 1916, and February 1918 (published by the General Staff of the Army)

ZJ 1/656: *London Gazette*, Vol. I, 1918: Supplement dated 19 March 1918

Letter from the Army Medal Office, Ministry of Defence, Droitwich, 20 January 1997

B.H. Liddell Hart: *History of the First World War* (London 1972).

# Merstham War Memorial refurbished

During the past few months the Council has been renewing and relaying the stonework around the War Memorial in Merstham High Street, at the top of School Hill. The Memorial is now once more a fitting tribute to those men and women who gave their lives for their country during the Great War.



# News from the Home Front

*Anne Ramon*

This is a small selection of the articles that appeared in the *Surrey Comet* (Kingston and Richmond edition) immediately after the outbreak of war. I will place more in the Society's e-newsletters, going forward.

**5th August** – Territorial Training: War Rumours Cause Intense Excitement in Camp (Bordon Camp) 'the camp was struck this afternoon and now the troops are busy loading up horse and steam driven trucks with the tents and other paraphernalia necessary for the troops on trek. Everybody is in the best of spirits. Reveille went at 5 o'clock (the next morning). Transport wagons had to be loaded, cook houses demolished and the cooking utensils packed. Then the men's kit bags had to be loaded onto the wagons . . . breakfast and parading . . . ready in three hours. For the purposes of the trek (to Salisbury Plain) the Division was divided into three columns A, B and C. At the stroke of each hour the troops rested for ten minutes. The villagers turned out in full force to watch the troops pass – over three hours to Chawton Park where the troops were to rest. After a well-earned rest an inspection of feet was made. The weather proved most kind and everyone from the General down to the youngest private bivouacked. Today the Division moves similarly.

**5th August** (Letter to the Editor). What Can we Do? Councillor C. E. Woolnough says Learn to Shoot a Rifle. 'Sir, Many of our young men will be asking today "What can I do that will be of service to my country? How can I help?" The solution of this problem is to proceed at once (if circumstances will permit) and join the Regular Army. If this step is too desperate all at once join the Territorials.'

**8th August** – What Women Can do – Receive Instruction in First Aid, Invalid Cookery and Sick Nursing – Classes Already Arranged. 'With great promptitude the Borough Education Secretary Mr. Roberts has made arrangements for the immediate opening of classes for the instruction of ladies in these topics. Only small fees are charged for these lectures . . . 2s for each course or 5s for the set of three courses.

**8th August** - Travellers Adventures – Surbiton Lady's Startling Journey from Bad Nauheim – 'Mrs W Johnston, of Surbiton, had a typical experience of those who

aimed to regain the homeland when war was declared. The horrors of the journey soon began. At Freiberg a spy was lynched and as they passed Mains Castel they were informed that two spies in nun's attire with bombs concealed beneath their robes had been captured and awaited execution. At Ostend it was impossible for the ladies to attract the slightest attention . . . two Ulstermen took them into their party. The scenes in Ostend were indescribable . . . only possible to get onto the second boat with a struggle.. 2000 passengers instead of 600!

**12th August** – Maximum Prices – ‘In the morning paper yesterday there was published on the authority of the Government a list of maximum prices that can justifiably be charged at the present time. These include the following:

Granulated sugar 4 ½ d a lb; Lump sugar 5d a lb; Butter 1s 6d a lb; Cheese, colonial 9 ½ d a lb; Lard, American 8d a lb; Margarine 10d a lb; Bacon, Continental, by the side 1s 4d; Bacon, British, by the side 1s 6d . . .

**15th August** – Ladies Sewing Party at Malden – ‘A movement is on foot for organising in New Malden a Ladies’ Sewing Party for the purpose of making garments for the sick and wounded. A number of ladies have already taken up the scheme and it is hoped by the end of the week that the scheme will be in full swing. The party will work between the hours of 11 am and 5 pm in the Congregational Lecture Hall. An appeal is being made for sewing machines in order that the work may be carried out with more expedition.’

## News from Sutton Local Studies Centre

*Kath Shawcross, Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager*

The most exciting piece of news is that Sutton Archives at long last has its own online catalogue: [www.sutton.gov.uk/suttonarchivescatalogue](http://www.sutton.gov.uk/suttonarchivescatalogue). The catalogue describes over 8500 items and is growing weekly. It's arrived just in time for the Knights-Whittome glass plate negatives to be added with thumbnail images.

We have also incorporated into the catalogue our local Newspaper Index formerly only available to staff. It may be of less interest to family historians as it only dates from 1998 but we receive so many enquiries regarding recent events that I know it will prove very useful – the public will be able to book newspapers in advance or request a copy of the article. If you have any comments about the catalogue please contact me at Sutton.

London Open House 2014 which this year is the weekend of the 20/21 September. Please keep an eye out for events at Sutton St Nicholas church which is celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They will have parish registers and other original material on display.

Like many other record offices we are organising an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of WW1. The archives exhibition will take place in the Central Library, Sutton from 6 Nov – 12 Dec this year. Entitled “Great War Stories: local people at home and on the front”, the exhibition will form the centerpiece of the Borough’s WW1 centenary commemoration. Making use of original letters, diaries and photographs the exhibition will look at the role played by those who stayed behind and those who fought for their country. It will also examine the little known history of Sutton’s conscientious objectors.

There will be supporting activities in the Central Library throughout the time of the exhibition which will include:

- A semi-dramatised presentation based on the writing of Henry Williamson who had strong associations with the borough and served in WW1. 7 Nov, 7.30-8pm
- Author Elizabeth Speller will talk about her newly published WW1 novel *At break of day*, 11 Nov, 7-8pm
- Renowned folk singer-songwriter, Robb Johnson, performs his WW1 *Gentle Men* song cycle. 20 Nov, 7-8.30pm
- Poems from WW1 – local Sutton student, Sam Dean reads extracts from poems written by his grandfather. 21 Nov, 7-8.30pm
- *Letters Home*: a presentation with music of letters and contemporary local newspaper stories dramatized by Sutton Writers Group. It will feature extracts from original letters on display in the exhibition. 27 Nov, 7-8.30pm
- *Our Friends the Enemy* – written and performed by poet Alex Gwyther – told through the eyes of Private James Boyce. 2 Dec, 7-8.30pm

And finally we have successfully appointed a Project Officer to the Knights-Whittome glass plate negative project – watch this space for news about the project and volunteer opportunities.

# Young violin-playing Chemist in the Front Line

Peter Moulin [6101]

Percey Elmer **Axten**, or Jack as he was known, was born in Wandsworth on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1897 and by 1911 was living at 26 Trewince Road, West Wimbledon, with his father Arthur, a solicitor's clerk, mother Elizabeth, three sisters and a younger brother.

'Jack' won the Junior Surrey County Scholarship in 1909, and started at Rutlish Science School on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1909 going on to win the Senior Scholarship in 1912. When he left on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1914 he was employed in the Madagascar Mineral Syndicate Asbestos Works, Bromley by Bow and became an Undergraduate of the University of London. His knowledge of chemistry may account for him joining the Royal Engineers as Corporal 113209 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Special Brigade. The Special Brigade recruited chemists who were promoted to Corporal when they joined, and paid 3 shillings a day, 3 times what an ordinary Private received. Their job was dealing with gas weapons, being responsible for their use in an attack as well as for implementing defensive measures like a Vermorel sprayer (a crop sprayer using a neutralising chemical, sodium thiosulphate), when gas such as chlorine was used by the enemy.

Jack's Medal Card shows that he arrived in France on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1915, when he was still 18. Soldiers were not supposed to serve overseas until they were 19, but we know there were many younger than this. In *Goodbye to All That* by Robert Graves a Welch Fusilier officer says of a Special Brigade Company like Jack's: "Take those new gas-companies – sorry, excuse me, I mean accessory



companies – their very look makes me tremble. Chemistry dons from London University, a few lads straight from school ... trained together for three weeks...”

Jack was musically gifted, and he played the violin to his fellow soldiers at the front, having been sent the instrument by the *Wimbledon Borough News*. A report of 15<sup>th</sup> April 1916 is shown.

#### Soldier's Appreciation Of the Violin

Corpl. P. E. Axten, serving at the front with the Royal Engineers, to whom we sent the violin very kindly given by Mrs Glanville, of 1, Edge Hill writes:- “Very many thanks indeed for the violin, received in perfect condition last evening... One has no idea how much everybody appreciates a little music here, and when it is from a really fine instrument the pleasure is increased. At present I am some miles from the firing line, having retired for a short time and although we have plenty to do, we have our evenings, when songs and suchlike amusements are indulged in.”

During the second half of June 1916 members of the Special Brigade were very busy preparing emplacements for gas projectors and unloading gas cylinders for use during the forthcoming Battle of the Somme. This was back-breaking work, much of which had to be done wearing gas masks in case the cylinders leaked, and there was the ever present threat of being hit by shrapnel from enemy shell fire.

Jack died of wounds received while in action on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1916. He is buried in Corbie Communal Cemetery extension. Corbie is a town on the River Somme which was behind the front line where Jack had been. He was just 19. Jack is also remembered on his father's headstone at Gap Road cemetery, Wimbledon, and appears in the University of London War List, and on the Rutlish School Memorial.



# Commemoration Service in New Malden

At 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 27th July a WW1 Centenary Service was conducted at the War Memorial in New Malden High Street. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Stephen Kuhrt of Christ Church, New Malden, in the presence of The Worshipful Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor Ken Smith JP, and the Representative Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Colonel Geoffrey Godbold OBE TD DL. The Royal British Legion, Aldermen, local worthies and a large number of local people were there. There were former servicemen proudly wearing their WW2 medals, and some young sea cadets who formed a Guard of Honour.



The memorial already carries plaques naming those lost in the two World Wars but this ceremony included the unveiling a new plaque in honour of those local people in the Armed Forces or civilian services (Police, Fire, Medical) who have died in service since World War Two.

It was a moving occasion and a fitting remembrance for those we have lost. Similar services will be held all over East Surrey in the coming months.



## New Webmaster

In the year 2000 our society's first website was launched: fast forward to 2014 and Webmaster Brian Hudson is still at the keyboard, but next year he will be stepping down after 15 successful and sometimes award-winning years. So it is time to start looking for someone to take his place. If there are any members out there who have website skills and would like to run the website then now is your chance to step forward.

What does the job entail? Keeping details of news, events and meetings up to date, as well making any changes to other pages as they occur. There is also regular maintenance such as changing contact details when there is a new committee and checking on the current status of external links. Our service provider is One & One and the ongoing service renewals must be checked and kept up to date for the site to run smoothly. As you will see the current site uses HTML4 but time and technology have moved on and there is scope to update the site to take advantage of new developments.

This could be an opportunity for someone to design, build and maintain a completely new website.

If you think you may be interested and/or you would like to find out more about it then please send an email to the Society Secretary, Judith Mitchell, at [secretary01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk).

## Old Selsdon

*Kathleen Starr (1922 – 2014), late of 127 Farley Road, Selsdon  
transcribed by Monica Polley [9928]*

*This memoir, probably written about 20 years ago, was found in Kathleen's papers. In transcribing, I have italicised names I have been unable to read clearly.*

It was on a very wet day in October 1927 that I came to live at Croham Heights, as Selsdon was then known. The nearest school was at Sanderstead along the tree lined lane that was the Addington Road, and as my parents didn't fancy that walk for a 5 year old they were glad to hear of Mrs. Prodger who was teaching

a handful of children in the front bedroom of her house in Foxearth Road. In 1928 she and we moved down to 66 Farley Road to Littleheath School, which Costains had set up earlier and she was the Principal there for several years before moving on to Sanderstead and eventually to Bucks. She was a born teacher, had a school wherever she lived and is happily still going strong at 89 years young.

For the first year there were no houses between ours and Little Heath Woods – just the remains of a potato field which in the summer was red with poppies. Interesting to find that after my front garden was rotavated some years ago I again have poppies – the seeds presumably have laid dormant all that time.

Once Farley Road and Croham Valley Road were cut and the commuters of those days no longer had to walk over fields to reach South Croydon station a private bus service was introduced – orange and green tickets had to be bought in advance from a sort of Punch and Judy hut in the front garden of 94 Farley Road. There were no recognised bus stops; the driver would look round before he left the station in the evening and see who was on board and then obligingly stop outside the appropriate houses to drop off his passengers. It was quite a sight when yo-yos first put in an appearance to see children practising them out over the sides of the open top buses. And on the subject of buses it was not uncommon for the passengers on the estate bus which came up the Upper Selsdon Road to dismount at Arkwright Road and help push it up the last steep bit by Houn Hoek.

Little Heath woods were always a happy playground – and at one time provided work for some local unemployed gents who laid gravelled paths between the ‘potato field’ at Brent Road entrance and Foxearth Road. Further afield there were always picnics in the “bird sanctuary” although there were no birds there until water was introduced for them. Bluebells there were in abundance in all the woods, ox-eye daisies on the church side of Upper Selsdon Road between Queenhill Road and St John’s and buttercups up West Hill which used to make me late for school when I went to St Anne’s because I couldn’t resist picking them.

Dr Stafford, our first Selsdon doctor (Dr *Woolrich* from Sanderstead having held a Selsdon surgery until then) used to do his visiting on a bike until he started on a long line of Vauxhalls. The front room of 53 Farley Road was split down the middle into waiting room and surgery until he and his growing family moved into

Swallowfield. Fortunately this older house still remains, albeit without its tennis court and very large garden but over the years it was sad to lose Chasewater, Lakeside and Langley Oaks. It was Langley Oaks that housed Selsdon's first library in whose grounds many of St John's summer fêtes were held.

Opposite the doctor's surgery lived a retired dentist, Mr *Holm*, a very dapper little man with a waxed moustache and a very reassuring manner. He was persuaded to start practising again and did so until his death during the war. I have a lot to thank him for – weekly visits for many years to save teeth which started crumbling after a long illness and for which care he had to be bullied by my father into sending an occasional bill.

Sunday School treats from St John's, in Mr Waynforth's time, were looked forward to – the journey in special coaches on a train from South Croydon to Littlehampton preceded a day by the sea. I don't remember it ever raining.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Selsdon Guide Company, which I joined at the age of 12, met in the hall at Selsdon School on Friday evenings and I well remember being initiated into the delights of a penn'rth of chips from Mrs. Taylor's fish shop on the way home. These had to be eaten behind the Broadway shops, because this was when eating in the street was unheard of. How times change!

The Broadway shops – Welford's Dairy (later United Dairy), Hearn's the butcher, Anderson's the chemist, Worth's the sweet shop presided over Mrs Astington and hairdresser – was Marion England at No 5 before [I think] going across the road over the Co-op. Then Norman's the draper, Butcher's the newsagents with the Post office, Nash's the greengrocer, Taylor's the fish shop and Howard's the grocer.

The Selsdon Players, formed in 1929, presented their 1<sup>st</sup> performance – three one act plays – in the tennis club pavilion and went on from strength to strength using St. John's Hall and when that was bombed "Bailey's Hall" until they returned to St. John's. I saw all the full length plays with the exception of 'The Short Train' – my parents apparently thought I might be frightened and it was a long while before I forgave them and eventually joined the society in 1946 for many happy and rewarding years under the direction of Len Jones and in company with many gifted actors and actresses – Harold Harris, Joe Abraham, Doris Cooper, *Freda* Burn, Ray Ulyatt, Joan Soper, Douglas Rathbone, Ralph Cant and Joan *Crush* to mention but a few.

# Website round up

*Brian Hudson*

**Findmypast (FMP)** has been on the acquisition trail. In two separate deals in June this year they acquired Mocavo and Origins.net. In addition a new project with The National Archives (TNA) had been announced during March.

Macavo.com – This American company was founded in 2011 and developed a sophisticated search engine that brought together a wide range of sources such as family history record indexes, school and college year books, church records and biographies. Macavo's promise is to provide perpetual free access to family history records and FMP have also committed to this promise.

Origins.net – This was the first company to set up a pay-as you-go model for online family history records, it specialises in unusual and often hard to find British and Irish records. Its many early records include rare marriage indexes, and apprenticeship and poor law entries. It also has the National Wills Index. The Origins website will continue to run as it is; good news for those who are not happy with the new FMP website.

**1939 National Identity Card Register Online** – TNA and FMP have announced a project to make records of 40 million civilians held in the 1939 register available online. Once digitised, it is estimated that the collection will comprise almost 1.2 million scanned full-colour images of documents covering the entire civilian population of England & Wales at the outbreak of WWII.

The 1939 register was taken on 29 September 1939 by the British Government and recorded personal details of individuals in order to issue identity cards and ration books. It later formed the basis of the National Health Service's records. When complete, the 1939 register will be fully searchable online for the first time.

The records contain the address, full name, date of birth, sex, marital status and occupation of individuals, as well as changes of name. As the Register is within living memory for many people, information about anyone still alive will be kept closed for 100 years from their year of birth, or until proof of death has been authenticated.

For details of the project go to [www.1939register.co.uk](http://www.1939register.co.uk).

# News from Surrey Heritage

*Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre*

Earlier this year we ran a course of family history workshops called *Family History Research Made Easy*. The topics in this six week course ranged from basic beginners' tips to military records, poor law resources, immigration and emigration and lots more. We were delighted that it sold out almost immediately and there have been many requests to repeat it. Workshops could be booked either as a 6 week block or for individual sessions and included accompanied visits into the searchroom to see and handle original documents and also to explore resources hosted on Ancestry and Find My Past. In addition to enjoying the course, the participants were made aware of the wide variety of original documents (in addition to the better known parish records) held in archives which are available to researchers, and helped dispel the myth that these records are only available for academic research. Some of the participants were members of East and West Surrey Family History Societies but many did not appreciate just how important such societies are and how useful and supportive they are for family historians. They do now!

The latest batch of Surrey records to be made available online via Ancestry include the Land Tax returns for 1780-1832, registers of Surrey Freeholders, 1696-1824, and registers of licensed victuallers, 1785-1903. They are rich and rewarding sources for names, but can sometimes get overlooked by family historians so their publication online is particularly welcome.

The **Land Tax returns** were used by the Clerk of the Peace as the equivalent of electoral registers now, because they were used to determine who had the right to vote in elections. Only people owning or renting property above a certain value had the vote at that time, so the returns by no means list everybody in a parish, but they are a very useful source for finding out more about where people lived and their wealth, at least in terms of land. To lessen the number of disputes at parliamentary elections an Act of 18 Geo.II, cap.18 (1744-45) required sealed duplicates of the Land Tax assessments to be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace by the local Commissioners of Land Tax. No person was to vote in a county election who had not been assessed to pay the Land Tax in the previous year. This Act appears to have been ignored and the measure was repeated in 20 Geo.III, cap.17 (1780), which is when our series starts. Early assessments are in

the form of manuscript booklets. Later pro forma booklets were used. Each assessment generally records names of owner and occupier, sum assessed and rental. From 1799 an additional column is added for sums assessed but exonerated (redeemed by payment of a lump sum); from c.1826 the form allows for a description of the property but this information is frequently recorded at an earlier date (although generally the name of the property is not given).

The registers of **Surrey Freeholders and Copyholders** were kept by the Clerk of the Peace for a similar purpose: By an Act of 1696 'for the ease of jurors and the better regulation of juries' (7 & 8 Wm III, cap.32), constables, tithingmen or headboroughs were to furnish annual lists to the county Quarter Sessions of such men in each parish, between the ages of 21 and 70, as were qualified to serve as jurors. By an Act of 1692 (4 Wm & M, cap.24) qualification was defined as possession of £10 per annum in freehold or copyhold land or tenements, or in rents. By an Act of 1730 (3 Geo II, cap.25) qualification was extended to those in possession of long leases of £20 pa or more. The lists frequently give the occupations of those listed before c.1800 and almost always thereafter. The later lists give a more precise address than just the parish for those living in Southwark and the surrounding parishes.

The **Registers of Licensed Victuallers** are really lists of local innkeepers who have sworn before the county magistrates to be of good behaviour and keep orderly houses. They had to give a recognizance, or sworn agreement (with a money penalty attached) in order to be licensed to run their pub. The Clerk of the Peace for Surrey had to keep a register of all those innkeepers who had given a recognizance. They are a wonderful source for finding out which pubs were in existence at any one time, who the publicans and innkeepers were and what the most popular inn signs were.

We are also pleased to announce that the **Surrey Quarter Sessions** name index and hearings transcripts can now be searched on findmypast, with the royalties going to Surrey History Trust which is a charity that supports our work. Volunteers from the Trust painstakingly produced a database listing details of the 20,000 or so cases relating to people hauled up before the magistrates of the Surrey Court of Quarter Sessions for a very wide range of offences between 1780 and 1820. All human life will be found on this CD. Searching through this index will introduce William Baker, aged only 15, who was sentenced to transportation to Australia for 7 years in 1820 for stealing a pair of stockings, or the quartet of Aram Ball,

Jeremiah Mahoney, John Rice Lewis and John Collings who in 1816 were all fined for exposing themselves naked and in an indecent posture on the public highway in Camberwell. Then there is William Winter, a particularly zealous magistrate, who in 1783 committed 13 women for being 'common night walkers and picking up men and committing other acts of lewdness'. The data are also available for purchase from us on CD because it allows greater scope for data analysis.

Please note that from 1 October 2014 Surrey History Centre will no longer be open late on Thursday evenings until 7.30. 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 further ahead, we will be closed for stocktaking between 1 and 15 December, reopening on Tuesday 16th.

## **New Accessions**

We are very grateful to Surrey History Trust for helping us to purchase a fine set of manorial accounts written in 1300 and covering the manors of Dorking, Reigate, Newdigate and East Betchworth, which at that time were all in the hands of John de Warenne, 6th Earl of Surrey, who died in 1304. They cover the years 1299-1300 and provide a fascinating glimpse of Surrey life and people over seven centuries ago. After conservation work they will be available for consultation in our searchroom under the reference 9311.

Surrey History Trust, The Friends of the National Libraries and an anonymous donor also enabled us to acquire at Christies' salerooms a set of occurrence books, compiled 1838-1849, by Superintendent William Donaldson of Dorking Police. These are a valuable addition to our archive as, until now, little evidence has been found relating to the operation of a salaried police force in Dorking before the creation of the Surrey County Constabulary in 1851. The hundreds of offences recorded in the books range from minor offences to manslaughter and murder; a total of 850 individuals are referred to in connection with the crimes. For further information see: <http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/history-from-police-archives/RB1/Supp/supDorkingOb1838.html>

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

9185 additional. St Peter's, Wrecclesham: photocopy of list of subscribers to the building of the church, (1840), and collection of essays on the history of the church by John Birch, 2012, (1840)-2012

9305. Weybridge Methodist Church: additional records, 1906-2002

9309. All Saints, Banstead: additional parish records, incl registers of baptism, marriage, banns, confirmation, burial and services, minutes of vestry, Institute committee and Wives Group, plans, photographs, correspondence files, faculties and other papers, early 18th cent-2010

9312. St Mary's Tatsfield: additional records comprising registers of baptism (1958-1985) and marriage (1948-1990)

6547 additional. All Saints' and St Katherine's, South Merstham: parish magazines, 1899

7653 additional. All Saints Church, South Merstham: parish magazines, 1978-1988

9320. Parish of Hale with Badshot Lea: additional parish records, including parochial church council minutes, 1914-2013

9288 additional. St Michael and All Angels, Pirbright: parish magazines, 1910

6859 additional. St Catherine's School, Bramley: school magazines, 1950-1951, 1953-1960, 1967; Old Girls' newsletters, 1979, 1994-1995, 2001, 2009

9322. St Ives School, Haslemere: record book, 1911-1962

Z/618. Reedham School, Purley: DVD of photographs of pupils and buildings, 1870s-1959

ESR/25 additional. Corporal Walter William Taylor, 'C' Company, 12th Bn: copy photographs and extract from battalion history with personal notes, c.1915-1980s

ESR/25 additional. Regimental Sergeant Major Harry Budd: photograph album and copy photograph, 1915

QRWS/30 additional. Lance Sergeant Victor James Collins (1898-1918), 10th battalion, Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment: photograph, 1918

9337. Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: photograph of the Queen's 1st Battalion Drums, 1903; photograph of [?Royal West Surrey Regiment Staff Corps], named group of officers and men, nd [early 20th cent]

Z/619. Photostat of letters concerning commissioning of F Stone and HJ Tritton into the 25th Surrey Rifle Volunteer Corps, (1871), with article on Epsom Riflemen by Stephen Turner, 1974

9017 additional. Superintendent Arthur Simmons KPM (c.1859-1926), Surrey Constabulary: article on his life and career, with extracts from Defaulters Books, by Robert Bartlett, 2014

9315. More-Molyneux family of Loseley: additional records including: estate survey, 1820; recipe book, 19th cent; travel journal, 1874; naval records of Admiral RH More-Molyneux, 1850s-1884

0333. Edwards family of Horley: balance sheets for J Blundell Edwards' grocer's shop, 46 Albert Road, 1925-1957; manuscript books of metrical psalms and anthems, nd [post 1825]; and collected records relating to Horley including photographs, postcards and event programmes, 19th cent-20th cent

9308. DuBuisson family of Surrey and elsewhere, including Africa: records including relating to World War I VAD work, World War II intelligence work and travels in Africa, including photographs, letters and diaries, 1948-2000

9327. Messuage and 3.5a called Tyllies and 8a woodland and pasture called Fygges, estates of the manor of Paddington Leigh in Farley Green: lease for 3000 years, 1580

9330. Epsom and Ewell: newscuttings book, 1920s-1960s

9331. Woodside Cottage, Blackheath: deeds, 1733-1973

9335. 'Daru', Birtley Green, Bramley: deeds and papers, 1787-1974

## **Our Projects**

To Journey's End and Beyond: The Life and Legacy of R C Sherriff

Our project to commemorate the Surrey playwright, R C Sherriff, who wrote the greatest of all World War I dramas, *Journey's End*, is well underway. Our project archivist Zoe Karens is cataloguing Sherriff's copious papers, including his letters to his parents from the trenches; volunteers are busy sorting the enormous collection of press cuttings that Sherriff accumulated; and on Friday 28th June an audience at the Rose Theatre in Kingston enjoyed a rehearsed reading by Kingston Grammar School students of Roland Wales' new drama *How Like it All*

is' telling the story of how Sherriff came to write his great play. What made the occasion particularly poignant was that some of the young actors were pretty much the same age as the officers they were portraying. You can find out more about the project through our website and Zoe's blog. For further information see <http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/military/surreys-first-world-war/sherriff/>

## **Talks and Events**

### ***Surrey in the Great War***

A talk by Phil Cooper, Exploring Surrey's Past Officer, Surrey Heritage, for Heritage Open Day Weekend at Leatherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH. Friday 12 September at 2pm. Free, no booking required.

The Great War was the first war fought on foreign soil to have such a deep impact on civilian life at home. Every aspect of life was affected - food, clothing, work. The war was also a catalyst for social change; women entered the workplace in great numbers and class barriers weakened. This talk explores what life was like for those on the Home front in the Great War and how the records preserved at Surrey History Centre vividly illustrate what it was like to live in Surrey through these difficult years.

### ***The Last Summer. Surrey on the Eve of the Great War***

On the 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany. The First World War had begun and life would never be the same again. Using archives and local studies materials from Surrey History Centre, this exhibition provides a snapshot of Surrey in the last summer before the outbreak of war. It explores family and school life, news reported in the county's press, sport and leisure. It assesses how Surrey responded to the demand for women's suffrage and looks at the county's changing landscape and economy at the opening of the twentieth century.

This free display for Heritage Open Day Weekend will be at Leatherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH. Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September. Free, no booking required.

### ***We Will Remember Them – First World War Family History Workshops***

These workshops will help you to find resources for searching ancestors who served in the Great War, discover what information and records are held by Ancestry and Find My Past and understand how The National Archives and

Commonwealth War Graves Commission provide a wealth of material for family historians. There will also be an opportunity to explore your own family history with the support of experts.

- Godalming Library 22 Sep 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Epsom Library 24 Sep 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Staines Library 26 Sep 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Woking 24 March 2015, 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Walton Library 13 June 2015, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Tickets cost £8.00 Please book online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents) or telephone debit/credit card bookings on 01483 543599. A small handling charge may apply. Bookings can also be made in person in any Surrey library.

### ***Beginning your Family History***

A talk by Jane Lewis at Denbies Wine Estate, London Road, Dorking, RH5 6AA on Sunday 28 September at 11am.

*Who Do You Think You Are* for everyone! Fascinating introduction to the joys of genealogy. Researching your family history is a bit like writing your own detective story and getting started is really just getting yourself a bit organised and working out the plot. This talk aims to take you step by step through the basics of family history - where to start, what to do and most important, how you can get help and advice on what is bound to prove an exciting project.

£9.95 per person / Loyalty Club Free of Charge – please note limited availability.

For further details see [www.denbies.co.uk](http://www.denbies.co.uk)

### ***Mapping the Past: Surrey's Mapmakers, Historians and Artists, 1600-1830***

A display to celebrate the bicentenary of the completion of Owen Manning and William Bray's *History and Antiquities of Surrey* in 1814.

The recording of the history and topography of Surrey, in map, word and paint, reflects the cumulative efforts of a host of surveyors, amateur historians and artists working from the late sixteenth century. They were often responding to the demands of the county gentry, who were now likely to be university educated or trained in law and far more literate than their medieval forbears. These

gentlemen, who met regularly to carry out county business, had a growing sense of pride in Surrey's history and traditions. Their ownership of large estates and their desire to defend their titles also prompted them to delve into the past and set down in maps and manuscripts their property and how they had come by it.

The great county histories were born out of the enthusiasm of this educated elite and their sense that the Reformation had irrevocably altered the face of the county and that much was in danger of being lost if not recorded. The work of the historians in turn prompted artists to immortalise the historic towns, houses and landscapes of Surrey.

This display is a celebration of the work of several of such men, whose collective labours have immeasurably enriched our knowledge of Surrey and whose work provides the firm basis for all subsequent research.

This free display will be in our foyer throughout October during normal opening times.

### ***Owen Manning, William Bray and the writing of Surrey's County History, 1760-1832***

A talk by Julian Pooley FSA to mark the bicentenary of the completion of this encyclopaedia of Surreys' past.

Manning and Bray's History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey took more than forty years to research and thirteen to publish. Though acknowledged as one of the finest county histories of its day, its production was fraught with difficulties. The papers of those involved testify to the support given by a national network of antiquaries. This talk, drawing on the rich archive materials of Manning and Bray, the antiquary Richard Gough and the printer, John Nichols charts the research and production of a county history which was completed in 1814 and remains a basic tool for students of Surrey's past.

Surrey History Centre, Thursday 2 October 2014, 7.30pm, Tickets £5.00. Please book online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents) or telephone debit/credit card bookings on 01483 543599. A small handling charge may apply. Bookings can also be made in person in any Surrey library.

### ***The New Sylva: A Discourse of Forest and Orchard Trees for the 21st Century***

A talk by Gabriel Hemery who follows in the footsteps of John Evelyn, author of the original Sylva, his great treatise on trees, published in 1664.

Surrey History Centre, 4 October 2014, 2.30-4pm

Tickets £5 until 13 September, thereafter £6, available in all Surrey libraries and Surrey History Centre, book online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/writersbooked](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/writersbooked) or call 01483 543599.

### ***Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day***

Sunday 12 October

Visit our stand and ask our experts for family history advice at the Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day, 10am to 4pm at the Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire (The postcode for sat navs is RG24 9FP).

### ***Researching the First World War.***

A study day at Surrey History Centre, organised by Surrey Local History Committee. Saturday 18 October. For further details see our website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents)

### ***West Surrey Family History Society Open Day***

Saturday 1 November at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9BA

We are very much looking forward to taking part in this key event in our calendar. My colleagues, Jane Lewis and Justine Pearson will be manning our stand, Isabel Sullivan will be on hand for expert advice on reading old documents and I will be giving a talk on Discovering the lives and experiences of our ancestors.

This talk discusses the amazing variety of archive and printed sources that can be used to build up a picture of the past lives and experiences of our ancestors. Drawing upon the rich collections of Surrey History Centre, it will show how early illustrations, the Gentleman's Magazine, parish correspondence, quarter sessions papers, institutional records, personal letters and diaries can vividly illustrate the personal experiences of 'ordinary' people. This talk looks beyond parish registers and census returns to explore a range of materials that can help you piece together your family tree, and also to bring the past to life.

### ***Surrey on Film 1914-1953: A Community in Peace and War***

This fascinating compilation of rare moving images shows Surrey towns, villages and families in the first half of the twentieth century, celebrating in times of peace and coming together in response to the stress of two world wars.

Presented by Di Stiff of Surrey History Centre at Denbies Wine Estate, London Road, Dorking Surrey RH5 6AA on Thursday 6 November.

Charity Donation to 'Help Our Heroes' in honour of Remembrance Sunday

### ***Surrey Heritage Annual Lecture: The Quick and the Dead. A talk by Richard van Emden***

The Quick and the Dead is the story not only of the soldiers who went to war and did not return, but of the wives and children they left behind to mourn. This talk will look at how a whole nation came to terms with the devastating news of casualties at the front, and how a few unscrupulous individuals sought to profit from other people's misery. It also examines the sometimes controversial subject of where the dead were to be interred, as well as how the fallen would be commemorated at the end of the Great War

Surrey History Centre, Saturday 8 November 2014, 2.30pm

Tickets £10.00 including refreshments. Please book online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents) or at Surrey History Centre

### ***The Surrey Infantry's World War I Victoria Crosses***

A talk by Ian Chatfield of the Surrey Infantry Museum

Ian will be telling the stories behind the award of the Victoria Cross to the 14 members of the Queen's and East Surreys from the Defence of Hill 60 in the battle for Ypres to the capture of Turkish Guns in Palestine. Pte. Dwyer at 19 years old was the youngest man to receive the award at that time and Pte Jack Harvey, who on his own captured an enemy dugout and compelled the 37 occupants to surrender, are just two of the 14.

Surrey History Centre Saturday 29 November 2.30pm

Tickets £5.00. Please book online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents) or at Surrey History Centre.

# Reminiscences of my mother's life

*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. The 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: "My most vivid memory is walking alongside my mother when around three years old, she was pushing the 'mailcart' as it was called those days, a wickerwood kind of pram with wooden handlebars. My youngest brother was in it sucking a toffee apple so he must have been nearly two years old; he was a premature baby. Naturally I also had a toffee apple and was happy, when all at once mother shrieked out, "Oh, he is having a fit." She immediately turned the mailcart around and hurried to my grandmother's house, picked my brother out of the mailcart and took him inside, me toddling



behind. I recall my granny putting a large bowl on the table and almost filling it with some brown fluid but I can never recall what it was, vinegar, Condy's fluid, or beer. After undressing the unfortunate victim she put him in it for awhile and then took him out and dried him, and after dressing him said to my mother, "He will be all right now; it was the sugar from the toffee apple that gave him a convulsion." So with that we went happily home . . . we proudly called it our Tuck Shop. A lovely display in the window of 'gob stoppers', huge sweets nearly the size of a golf ball mostly bought by the boys, toffee apples some with real apple, and others sweet affairs sticky on sticks tasted of pineapple or lemon. There were hundreds and thousands, dolly mixtures and tiger nuts, little dried up nuts one could chew and a milky substance came out, and long dried locust beans sweet inside and a few pips, and aniseed balls, and of course peanuts, which we called monkey nuts. I bought some one day and had a huge bagful for a halfpenny and proudly went home with them and said "Monkey nuts are the cheapest sweets you can buy" and wondered why the family laughed. The tuck shop catered for one and all and had cheese and bacon and cooked meats and paraffin oil, firewood in bundles and vinegar and pickles and odd drapery, stockings, cheap shoes and pinafores . . . a girl or boy would buy a farthing pack of hairpins for mother's birthday. Monday was the day when many children would take a small, some large, basin to school to call at the shop on the way home to lunch to buy a pennyworth or two of pickles for Monday's cold meat, which the man behind the counter would ladle out of big brown jars. My father gave us all a halfpenny every Friday, and one for our cat Tiddles which we would get two ounces of Sharp's creamy toffee and Tiddles would sit on my father's shoulder and suck and devour the whole two ounces. Father had to walk about two miles to work and often Tiddles would follow him all the way.

"Father had a holiday every year and would take us children out one day in the country, one day to the seaside, and one day to London just a shilling tram ride from the top of our road. One evening we went to a Crystal Palace fireworks display . . . huge pictures in the sky of royalty [coronation of king George V 1910?]. I recall going to Margate on the Royal Sovereign pleasure steamer . . . when we got to Margate father would take us to a restaurant for a lovely fish lunch. Next day we would go to the country; my father, getting excited, said something when an old countryman said "I be never sworn I say bounder I do." Then mother and father would have three days on their own getting an old lady to give us our

meals until they fetched us home at night, except when they went to the theatre and would put us to bed with sweet biscuits, cherries and strawberries to go to sleep and not get up. Now and again if there was an afternoon matinée at Drury Lane we would be taken with them.

“Around October preparations would begin for Christmas. Mother would stock up with all the essentials for the Christmas puddings, mincemeat and huge cake, and when the amount was sufficient we were allowed to stay up and help her get ready and mix the Christmas puddings. Father would take a sack on his back a few days before Christmas and have it filled with nuts, oranges, apples and sweets and chocolates, and then the toys. He allowed just one shilling for each of us. The boys had steam engines, not the kind that go along but tall affairs you have to put water in them and some methylated spirit I think, and lit a match at the bottom and steam puffed out of the top. Mine was nearly always a china-faced doll, they always had lovely faces and closed their eyes, real hair and eye lashes, some were double-jointed but I believe a little more than a shilling. The youngest brother would have a push-along wooden horse or tin bus. My dolls always had “made in Germany” on the back of their necks. We would have our stockings stuffed with oranges, apples, sweets and nuts, and odd toys like spinning tops and what we called hurdy-gurdys. We turned a handle and music would penetrate the whole house. My father would always play on our American organ “Christians awake” every year. We always kept Christmas Day for feasting and carols but Boxing Day we always had a party with aunts and uncles and one grandma. We would have musical chairs and waltzing and I would stand in the middle of the room and sing “Oh little town of Bethlehem” while the aunts and uncles sat around. And then each one sang or recited something. “Annie Laurie” was a favourite and “Little Grey Home in the West” and many more. “The boy stood on the burning deck” was mostly the recitation. Father played a concertina and the organ was played for carols, Grandma waltzing with Uncle Jim. She was a character, always put on a little black apron and joined in everything. All the grownups were very portly and jovial.

“Sundays we went to Sunday school and sometimes the boys would play truant and take us nutting and make us younger ones swear to secrecy – and the vicar or Sunday school teacher would call on Monday and want to know why we were not there so it would all come out. Never a hand was laid on us, but told never to do it again.

“After many happy years the 1914 war broke out and rationing and queuing for food was upon us, but we never went short, we had a wonderful mother who always looked after the food. She would buy a target of lamb which included a good piece of best end of neck, middle neck, breast and scrag, which made several nice tasty meals (I asked a butcher for one some years ago and he did not know what it was). Aitch bone was a good week-end buy for a number of people, almost all unknown now.

“Tea-time was another lovely time to hurry home to although we had to wait for ours until nearly 6 p.m. so it did for supper as well. Monday was mostly beef dripping with lovely brown gravy jelly in it if we had beef on Sunday. We made toast by the kitchen range in winter. If we had jam, often homemade rhubarb or plum, there was a huge pile of bread and jam and you put one on top of the other if you had butter and jam, and lovely spicy rock buns or gingerbread or seedy cake [with caraway seeds]. Sunday tea was a fiesta when the winkle man went by and watercress man called out “All fresh today, ay. All fresh today, ay”. People would run out with bowls and get three pennyworth or six pennyworth. If we wanted a lot we told the watercress man to “Sell again please” and he would give an extra bunch, or so we hoped. So the tea-table had a bowl of periwinkles, watercress, homemade jam and sometimes tomatoes, and a large dish of spicy rock cakes mother cooked along with the joint... The sauce man called Friday or Saturday afternoon with a huge bottle of sauce and pickles. We often had standard bread in the War so my mother would often make her own and when some of the school children had fathers home on leave from the war, mother would be asked to make one of her loaves for them as the bought bread was a brownish colour and not very palatable.

“As schooldays drew on the war was getting worse but we as children did not notice it much except for soldiers looking for billets, and one Saturday night after having our ritual of being bathed and hair washed with Lifebuoy soap and to bed in between icy cold unbleached calico sheets we would soon be asleep, when we were aroused with father knocking on the bedroom door and told to get up as quick as we could and come downstairs where mother and father and brothers all lined up at the front door. Father said “He has made it, look” and we all shivering with the cold about 2 a.m., I in my nightie, looked up to behold a huge zepelin. Father said he thought if we were to go we should all go together. Anyway it slowly went past our old home and back to bed we went.

*to be continued*

# Can you help?

## McLachlan

Linda Dimery [10378] [linda.dimery@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:linda.dimery@mypostoffice.co.uk)

My gt-gt-grandfather's name was John McLachlan. He was born in Anderston, Glasgow, in November 1806 to Esther Kellie/Kelly and Robert McLachlan. He moved to York where he married Margaret Smith in June 1829. His trade was glass blower.

They had moved to Tutbury (Staffordshire) by the 1841 census and John was working at the Tutbury Glass Factory. By then they had 6 children. They moved to Lambeth by the 1851 census and they now had 8 children, 5 daughters and 3 sons. Their address was 24 William Street, Lambeth and the name of John's glass factory was "cottage glass works".

The married names of John's daughters are Mary [Bibby], Jane [Pocock], Margaret [Redding], Rachel [Hulford], Anne Howlett]. The names of John's sons are Robert b. 1831 York (my gt-grandfather), John b. 1846 Lambeth, and James b. October 1848 Lambeth. Robert's wife was Eliza Simmonds (my gt-grandmother); John Jr's wife was Maria Stratford and



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.

## Can you help?

James's wife was Emma Henrietta White. John Senior ran the successful glass business with his 2 sons John Junior and James until his death on 19 August 1877. John Jr and James inherited the "cottage glass works". By 1881 the works had been sold and Margaret (John Sr's widow) died in 1888 in Lambeth.

I am trying to find any descendants of John and Margaret's 8 children with the view to exchanging information. In particular I am interested in tracing the whereabouts of the children of James McLachlan and Emma Henrietta White. James and Emma were married in July 1875 at Brixton and had 5 children: Mildred (who died in infancy), Margaret Ethel, b. 1877 Lambeth, James Henry b. 10 November 1878 Lambeth, Sydney John b. Sept 1880 Lambeth, and Stanley Robert b. 4 May 1882 Lambeth.

I have discovered that James McLachlan was committed into the Camberwell house Lunatic Asylum in 1888 by his wife Emma, resulting in the family falling on hard times. The 3 sons James H, Sydney J and Stanley R were placed into the care of Barnardo's at Stepney Causeway in 1890 and were, eventually, all sent to Ontario Canada as British Home Children.

If any one can help me further my investigations I should love to hear from them.

## Wrong REME

*Monica Polley [9928]*

In her article 'My Unsung Hero' in the last journal, Lesley Chaney [6549] mentions that her Granddad enlisted in REME in 1915. This is incorrect as REME was not formed until 1942.