

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

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

# Group meetings

## September

- 3 Their names liveth for evermore Andrew Arnold Sutton  
*Researching Carshalton's WW1 casualties; Andrew is an author and historian specialising in military history*
- 12 Post-Reformation churches Stephen Humphrey Richmond
- 15 Artists, Antiquaries and Collectors Julian Pooley Croydon  
*Illustrations of Surrey collected by Robert Barclay of Bury Hill*
- 23 East Surrey in 1851 Ron Cox Lingfield  
*People & places in the census year*

## October

- 1 A journey in search of convict ancestors Judy Davies Sutton  
*Judy is an author and family historian*
- 12 The Elephant & Castle Stephen Humphrey Southwark  
*Please note a change of venue and later start time. Stephen's talk will start at 1.00 p.m. in the Schoolroom at the Borough Welsh Chapel at 90 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0EX*
- 20 Broken Branch Ian Waller Croydon
- 28 The Parish Ian Waller Lingfield  
*How to use records from the parish chest to expand your research*

## November

- 5 The Gunpowder Plot, 1605 Jef Page Sutton  
*Remember, remember, the 5th of November . . . Jef is a free-lance lecturer in Art History and local historian in London and Essex*
- 14 Pleasures and pastimes of Victorian Britain Ian Waller Richmond  
*What our ancestors did in their spare time*
- 17 Christmas Talk Paul Blake Croydon
- 25 The bastards of Uckfield Allison Caffyn Lingfield  
*Sources for tracing illegitimate ancestors*



## From the Chairman

I've been trying to make some more space in the house! Never easy: I must have kept things for a good reason (once!) but times have changed and everything has moved on so I suppose I should too. I've rediscovered some family history 'treasures' on the way that have reinvigorated my research plans and revised my priorities, so it's a) back to basic family history research techniques and b) time to grasp the DNA nettle to see if that can provide some clues. The Society Journal, the e-newsletter, our Research Centre and our meetings can help both you and me with our research, so do join me in taking advantage of them, and please contribute your own hints, tips and experience. I will be describing my DNA research journey in the e-newsletter.

Do you have an area of expertise which might help your fellow members? This could be in research techniques, media and presentation skills, marketing skills, oral history capture, all sorts! We always need help with chair-stacking and tea-making! In particular we need one or two (job share?) volunteers to become Group Secretary for Sutton and there is a note about the role on the following page, with fuller details on our website ([www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)). I regret that without a Group Secretary at Sutton the Meeting Group will have to close.

We also need more volunteers to join our Committee to help run the Society, encourage membership, provide content for our website and assist at events. If you can help in any capacity please see the website for further details and contact our Group Secretary, Judith Mitchell, [secretary02@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary02@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk) or speak to any Committee Member at a meeting.

I appreciate that we all have so many calls on our time but please consider making ESFHS a priority. I am aware that a neighbouring Society is holding an Extraordinary meeting soon to propose closure and disposal of assets unless some volunteers come forward. I would hate that to happen to a Group in our Society or the Society itself.

Please check the list of 'bouncing emails' to see if our e-newsletter is failing to be delivered to you. Also, apologies if you have problems (from time to time) with accessing our updated website [www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk) as we have experienced the usual difficulties with our web hosting service following the rebuild. We hope to have it sorted out soon.



# Group Secretary for Sutton needed

*Joanna Reynolds (Chairman, Sutton Branch ESFHS)*

As many of you are aware, the Sutton Branch has been without a Branch Secretary since Chris Pocock died suddenly early in January this year. I was happy to carry out the duties of both Chairman and Secretary until a permanent Secretary could be found, not expecting that no one would come forward to fill this important role. This now an urgent matter as speakers need to be arranged for next year as soon as possible. As there is more than one way to skin a cat, as the saying goes, I have some suggestions to make, which involve dividing the role, as we really need more people to run the group.

The Branch Secretary could simply be responsible for arranging the talks, contacting and reminding the speakers before the meetings. Any person who volunteered to do this would of course get help and support and advice on where one can source speakers.

We would need a second person, as well as myself, to hold a set of keys to the hall in case one of the keyholders is unable to come. This person should be willing to help set up the hall with help. There is also a need to have someone to set up the electrical equipment. Two people currently do the teas and coffees, one having done it for ten years plus, so they might like a break sometimes.

If people were prepared to job-share they would not always need to arrive early and would still have time to chat before the meetings.

Judith Mitchell has helped set up the Sutton meetings since she joined ESFHS and she is now the Secretary of the Society, which means she is the main contact for the whole Society on a day-to-day basis. Therefore I feel it is unfair to expect her to continue to do so. I would like to express my gratitude for all the support she has given me since the beginning of this year.

Sutton meetings are held currently at [St Nicholas Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, SM1 2RG](#). The meetings are on the first Thursday evening of each month at 8.00 p.m. See <http://www.eastsurreyfhfs.org.uk/meetings/sutton.html>.

If no one comes forward to help run the Sutton branch I will be standing down as chairman at the end of this year.

Please contact me, at [Sutton@eastsurreyfhfs.org.uk](mailto:Sutton@eastsurreyfhfs.org.uk), or any committee member if you can help.



# East Surrey Family History Society

38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at United Reformed Church, Croydon

Paul Blake, President, welcomed members

**Apologies for absence:** Hilary Blanford, Sylvia Dibbs, Mary Grisedale, Maureen O'Sullivan, Peter Slaughter, Peter Spooner, Rosemary Turner, Derek and Jean Tooke

**Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> AGM** held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were approved by the meeting and signed

**Matters arising** – Those members who have filled in a Gift Aid form for their subscription will have their address label for the Journal marked GA

**Chairman's address** presented by Anne Ramon

*(This was reported in the June 2015 Journal)*

**Treasurer's report** presented by Lesley Barker

*(a précis of the accounts was published in the June 2015 Journal)*

Good afternoon Mr President, ladies and gentlemen.

I think you all should have a copy of the financial accounts for 2014 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 just over £4,000 in 2014, as opposed to a small loss of £431 the previous year.

This increase in operating loss is as a result of the following:

1. Although we recruited around 70 new members last year, more than double that did not renew, so our membership in 2014, as in 2013, reduced by around 100 causing a drop in subscription income of £1,200.
2. As I predicted at last year's AGM, due to the fall in interest rates, our Bank interest is £800 less than that received the previous year.

These account for the £2,000 drop in income.

3. The Committee felt it would be worthwhile to increase our spending on advertising in order to promote our Society and hopefully attract more members.

So we have obtained new portable display boards and posters to take to the various events and fairs we attend, some of which are on display here today. We also purchased new polo shirts and fleeces for the Committee and members to wear when helping at events. Those of you who attended or have seen photos on our website and Facebook of our stand at WDYTYA both last year and just last week I'm sure will agree that these certainly improved our image and helped to make us noticeable.

4. Finally, it was also necessary for us to replace some of the equipment used by Groups at their meetings and we incurred costs of £600 during the initial planning stages of the Conference for this year which was later cancelled.

These one-off outlays account for the £2,000 increase in expenditure, giving an overall net loss of £4,000.

Should you now have any questions regarding the financial report I'll answer them as best I can. Thank you.

David Carter asked how much the e-newsletter cost.

Anne Ramon replied that it cost nothing, as she produced it herself.

David Carter then raised the point that the Society's greatest expense was the Journal, produced four times a year, and he asked whether the Society should be continuing with a printed publication now that the e-newsletter is being produced.

Anne Ramon explained that the e-newsletter was an ephemeral publication that only reached about 650–700 of the Society's members. If we did not continue with the printed Journal, we would not reach all our members. The printed Journal was also sent out to the British Library, the Surrey History Centre and other societies and libraries.

A discussion followed with members pointing out the difficulties with reading onscreen, the fact that we have adjusted the number of pages in the Journal to reduce postage costs, that printing costs depend on the number of copies printed, and that, although we made a loss this year, the Society has a healthy reserve.

Paul Blake asked whether the members considered a printed Journal an important part of their membership. The majority of members present indicated that it was.

It was agreed that the Committee would investigate the matter further, to find out how smaller quantities affect the printing cost, and consider whether to encourage more members to take the electronic version of the Journal.

### **Appointment of Examiner**

Graham Moore, the present examiner, was recommended to continue.

Proposer: Lesley Barker; seconded: Liz Moss – carried

### **Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee**

Paul Blake pointed out that next year we will lose three members of the Committee as they will have completed their five-year term, and asked members seriously to consider joining the Committee.

It was agreed to elect the following en masse:

Chairman: Anne Ramon

Secretary: Judith Mitchell

Treasurer: Lesley Barker

Committee members: Sylvia Dibbs, Liz Moss, Brenda Hawkins

Proposer: Don Knight; seconded Liz Craig -- carried

Joanna Reynolds and Rob Cambridge volunteered to join the Committee

Proposer: Brenda Hawkins; seconded Sue Adams

### **Any other business**

Liz Moss reminded members of the need for someone to take up the role of Secretary for the Sutton Group.

The meeting closed at 4.07 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a display of the new website by new webmaster Rob Cambridge.

39 members signed the attendance sheet for the AGM.

57 people signed the attendance sheet for the Open Day.



# E-newsletter delivery failures

Are you on email and getting the monthly e-newsletter?

I send the e-newsletter to all paid-up Members who have supplied their email address to the Membership Secretary [membership01@eastssurreyfh.org.uk](mailto:membership01@eastssurreyfh.org.uk).

Some email addresses do not work, or at least, I receive notification that the delivery failed, sometimes after several attempts. I have listed below the email addresses affected, partially obscured with asterisks to maintain confidentiality, and if yours is on the list and you would like to receive the e-newsletter by email, please let the Membership Secretary know the correct address to use.

tonyp\*\*\*y@southmail.org;  
marinape\*\*\*t@aol.com;  
bill@wjb\*\*\*e.freemove.co.uk;  
genealogy@\*\*\*2003.yourideal.co.uk;  
A\*\*\*andford@cs.com;  
e\_s\*\*\*l@onetel.com;  
jtm\*\*\*htr@rocketmail.com;  
martinwe\*\*\*an@aol.com;  
dianemarye@whela\*\*\*.freemove.com;  
ste\*\*\*trou@talktalk.net;  
m\*\*\*wayland@freenet.co.uk;  
kathyb\*\*\*r1900@gmail.com;  
barabrab\*\*\*mont@bigpond.com;  
michael&dja\*\*\*@aol.com;  
carol.bl\*\*\*man@rhul.ac.uk;  
the\*\*\*smuggler@tiscali.co.uk;  
kence\*\*\*ns@cs.com;  
b.letc\*\*\*rd@oneteldsl.net;  
peter.h\*\*\*ley@virgin.net;  
helen@davi\*\*\*dhelen.plus.com;  
howar\*\*\*@bp.com;  
ham\*\*\*d@hotmail.com;  
ralph.g\*\*\*an@yahoo.com;  
p.m.h\*\*\*rd@amserve.net;  
dkni\*\*\*s27@gmail.net;  
r@ran\*\*\*lwhite.net;  
suzanne@p\*\*\*man.org.uk;  
r\*\*\*ins@optus.com.au;  
p\*\*\*iksla@hotmail.com;  
mary.s\*\*\*p@fsmail.net;  
pats\*\*\*on1@btconnect.com;  
arv\*\*@ntlworld.com;  
zen7\*\*\*4@zen.co.uk;  
jo.tri\*\*\*23@fsmail.net;  
f.j.ve\*\*\*y@bath.ac.uk;  
nbgalb\*\*\*th@aol.com;  
a\*\*\*na@netspace.net.au;  
whbellch\*\*\*ers@tiscali.co.uk;  
nicola.by\*\*\*@virgin.net;  
wmc\*\*l@blueyonder.co.uk;  
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doreen.f\*\*\*y@mailauth.co.uk;  
kn\*\*\*es@hotmail.com.au  
karen@freem\*\*\*964.freemove.co.uk;  
ray1\*\*\*9@hotmail.co.uk;  
lu\*ty@do\*\*en.u-net.com; da\*n-  
stephanie.g\*\*\*ett@dsl.pipex.com;  
he\*\*\*t@sh\*w.ca;  
isd\*\*\*3@our.net.au;



# The Charlotte Sharman Home for Orphans

*Barbara Beaumont [10397] {barbarabeaumont@bigpond.com}*

Researchers visiting the annexe of the Imperial War Museum in London are unlikely to be aware that the imposing four storey brick building they are entering was originally an orphanage. Situated in Austral Street, Southwark, it was commissioned by Miss Charlotte **Sharman** when a previous orphans' home that she had initially established in houses in nearby West Square outgrew its premises. The home opened its first wing in 1876 and by 1911 it was home to 197 girls.



Born in 1832, Charlotte Sharman grew up in Southwark in comfortable circumstances and spent some of her early years in West Square, Southwark. The garden of this classic London square had been designed by her grandfather in the late 1700s. She was a deeply religious young woman who became concerned at the situation of the many poor children whom she saw in less salubrious parts of Southwark around West Square. She felt called by God to help those of them who were orphans. Having decided on that course, she at first found private homes that were willing to foster orphan children, but later decided that the solution to the problem of orphan children was to open residential accommodation for them.

In 1866 she issued a 'statement' expressing her intention 'to provide a free home for destitute fatherless children'. The word 'home' was significant; her stated

aims were for the children to 'spend a happy childhood and learn to become useful members of society, and true followers of Christ'. In 1867 she was able to open a home for thirteen girls in a house in West Square. This small venture was the start of her life's work of establishing and running homes for her growing family of orphans. As well as the orphans' home in Southwark, she also set up homes in Gravesend, Tunbridge Wells and Hastings. She continued to live in West Square and played an active role in the management of her orphanages until the end of her life.

A great-aunt of mine was placed in the orphans' home at Southwark after the death of her father in 1907. His untimely death left the family with no male breadwinner, a role which was extremely important at that time. It was expected that the man would provide financially, while the woman would stay at home looking after the family. The mother was left in the difficult position of trying to provide for herself and her two children. Work for women, while it existed, was generally either in service, or in poorly paid homeworking occupations. The mother obtained a housekeeping position in faraway Dorset. She was able to have one of her children with her, but not both. Not surprisingly, she chose the younger, a boy, and placed her daughter in the orphanage. We cannot be sure when she was placed there, but if it was shortly after her father's death, she would have been barely six years old. It would have been a traumatic experience to lose a father, then to be separated from her mother and brother at a young age.

Miss Sharman was quite particular about the sort of girls who could enter the home. The children of the 'respectable working class' were preferred. Most children were admitted free but others had all or part of the cost of their stay (depending on their means) paid by the remaining parent or guardian. The annual cost of maintaining a girl in the home was £15.

The home was clearly well run. Detailed reports by Edna Farish in 1895 and Marian Rutherford in 1910, probably for the Charity Organisation Society, stress the cleanliness and good order of the home as well as the attention paid to the well-being and happiness of the girls. Rutherford commented that the girls seemed 'bright and cheerful, with little of the cowed look of institution children'. The girls were well fed and clothed and the building was heated in winter. Although inevitably there were outbreaks of disease, deaths were rare. A small hospital in West Square catered for the really sick.

The girls slept in dormitories on the upper floors that were 'large airy rooms, well lighted and with windows on either side'. The windows were open summer and winter! Dormitories for the younger girls were large. One contained 60 beds and had a cubicle or side room where a teacher slept. The older girls slept in smaller rooms of three or four beds without direct adult supervision.

For everyday wear the girls had navy serge dresses with pink or white pinafores. When out of doors the girls were equipped with brown cloth cloaks as well as a hat and an umbrella. A request for donations of used or new clothing in a booklet written in 1877 requests 'nightgowns and chemises of unbleached calico; flannel petticoats; white or coloured; top petticoats of stout material; brown holland pinafores; coarse aprons with bibs for working girls; knitted stockings and socks'. In 1915 the following donations were gratefully received: frocks, unbleached nightdresses, hand-knitted vests, pinafores, stays and petticoats.

The home had its own school, which the girls attended until they reached fourteen, the school leaving age. It was run similarly to London Board Schools. The examiner's report from 1914, when my great aunt would have been nearing the end of her time in the home, is complimentary about the standard achieved by the girls. The senior girls were examined in arithmetic, dictation, composition, reading, recitation, needlework and knitting. Clearly there was an emphasis on practical skills as the report particularly commends the standard of needlework and knitting as being 'much above the average' and offering 'invaluable training'. Even in the infants' department the examiner commented, 'Great praise is due to the teaching of knitting and needlework. The results are excellent.'

Once the girls had left school Miss Sharman's preference was for them to stay on until age seventeen, working in the home at cooking and cleaning, so that they could thoroughly learn domestic work, as their intended future was in service. Being a domestic servant in a good home was a desirable occupation for young women of the working class and Miss Sharman's girls were well-reputed and very much in demand. All the work of the orphan's home, the cleaning, the making of clothes and the cooking, was conducted by the girls under the supervision of a small number of staff members. The girls were also trained in fine needlework. Items such as baby layettes and ladies' underwear were made on commission by the older girls in order to generate income for the home.

If weekdays were busy with school, sewing and cleaning, the weekends were hardly less so. On Saturdays all the girls were taken out for a walk, often to St

James Park, and in the evening Miss Sharman conducted a bible class for the older girls. On Sundays the girls attended the religious service of two denominations. In the morning there was attendance at the Church of England, as well as a bible class for the whole orphanage, while in the afternoon the girls attended the Congregational Church, Miss Sharman's own denomination. However, there must have been some time for leisure as the children played in the garden in fine weather and, in wet weather, in a playroom where each child had her own storage space for toys.

A booklet 'Remembering the Way', written seven years after the orphanage opened, probably by a friend of Miss Sharman's, strongly conveys the feeling that Miss Sharman believed that she was doing God's work and that God would provide. One of Miss Sharman's principles was never to be in debt and the whole enterprise was financed by voluntary donations large and small, which arrived from a variety of sources. There were regular donations of an amount that would provide for a girl for one year, one-off donations from people who were moved by hearing the story of the orphans, collections from bible study classes and donations of pocket money from better-off children who wanted to help their poorer sisters. As well as financial contributions there were many contributions in kind, including items as varied as a 'nice parcel of clothes', 'a bushel of apples', 'a gift of Lifebuoy and Sunlight soap', 'a ton of potatoes', 'a number of balls for the children' and 'Christmas Annuals and Reward Books'.

There were times when the available funds were almost exhausted but a donation arrived in the nick of time. The writer of the booklet (and presumably Miss Sharman too) clearly believed that God directly intervened – 'the Father of the fatherless had been opening His hand to supply the need of the little flock'. One anecdote in the booklet tells how Miss Sharman had ordered a supply of new boots for the girls, but the order was taking a long time to be completed and delivered. Before the boots arrived, the money that had been set aside to pay for them had to be expended on necessities. Miss Sharman felt that she would have no alternative but to cancel the order. Just as finances were at their lowest ebb, a large cheque arrived. The very same day the order of boots arrived and Miss Sharman was able to pay for them.

Over her long lifetime (she lived to age 90), Miss Sharman cared for many hundreds of girls, putting her deeply held Christian principles into practice. She never married, but devoted her life to her orphans whom she regarded as her 'family'.



# DNA test sheds light on long-standing mystery

*Mary Gill*

My maiden name is **Champion**, and one of the enduring frustrations of my Family History research has been my inability to take that line back beyond 1798, when my great-great grandfather George Champion was born.

Because George was inconsiderate enough to die about a week before the 1851 census, I have never been able to establish where he was born. All I know is that he appeared in Walworth/Southwark around 1830 when he married Hannah Rawson **Gray**.

In my increasingly desperate attempts to find George's origins, I traced the ancestors of any Champions living in and around Walworth in 1851. There were Champions from Surrey, Sussex, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Bristol. Many of these lines disappeared without trace in the late 18th century. Some common family names and other coincidences led me to favour the Bristol line at one stage, but there was no real evidence to support any of the families I investigated. After twenty years I had all but given up hope of ever finding where my Champion ancestors came from.

I decided to have a DNA test through Ancestry and I think I might have made a bit of a breakthrough.

The initial information was not promising: I am 79% British, 8% Irish and 7% West European. Obviously my forebears were not an adventurous breed. However, there was more interesting information included.

Ancestry also give you details of other people whose DNA profiles indicate that they are or might be related to you. These matches come into three categories.

1. So-called starred matches, or very close relatives. So far I have none of these, but DNA profiles are being added to Ancestry all the time
2. 4th to 6th cousins, who are almost certainly related
3. 5th to 8th cousins, whose relationship is highly probable.

Not all of these matches have linked their DNA results to their family trees, and some trees are private, which means that they are only viewable by invitation. However, where the data are available, Ancestry also shows you the surnames common to your tree and those of your cousin.

Most such matches involve names like Smith, Clark and Johnson – names probably found in most British trees, but two of my 2nd grade matches had ancestors named Champion.

Not only that, but both of the Champion families in question came from Alveston in Gloucestershire. Alveston is about 10 miles north of Bristol so, even though I still do not know the exact line of descent, I think I can say with considerable confidence, that my Champion ancestors came from Gloucestershire, which narrows my search down quite a lot.



## A 'different' Members Meeting

*Veronica McConnell*

At Richmond in May the members' meeting took a changed format from the usual 'Successes and Failures'. Members were asked to bring 'Memorabilia and Keepsakes', and to talk about their relevance to their family history.

Among the items brought by members were a find from the foreshore of the Thames, a local newspaper from the 1880s, and some papers about two brothers who joined the St John's Ambulance before serving in WWI. We also learned how among very few family items that had come down to one member was a much treasured book given as a school mathematics prize. Then there was a scrap book about a gentleman who had earned his living as a pianist, and an old signet ring which was passed round for inspection and ideas requested as to what the stone was.

Finally the group had a look at postcard views of a church in Roehampton, and heard letters written from Australia to the folks back in England, which contained quite a mine of family information for this particular member.

The meeting was lively and interesting as each took their turn to display their object. Discussion followed each presentation, and sitting round the tables put together in the middle of the room, neighbours started several conversations. No-one was keen to leave early and most only left when it was time for the Secretary to lock the door on the way out.



# Things my grandmother told me!

*Sara Pearson [10329]*

Some years ago I wanted to start researching my family history but had neither the time nor the resources. However I was able to follow one of the first rules of family history research: 'Talk to your family, particularly the older ones, to get you on the right track'. So filled with enthusiasm I had a conversation with my grandmother and this is what she told me.

My grandfather had a 'withered' hand and my grandma would cut up his food so that he could feed himself with a fork in his good hand. She told me he had damaged it 'falling out of a tree and it had not been set properly'. At the time I thought no more of this explanation until years later, when I got down to some 'real' research.

When my grandmother died I inherited her papers and then everything became clear! My grandfather, Edwin **Wolpers**, was born in 1884 in Hoxton to a German father and an English mother. I could not find my grandfather's birth certificate at first, but I always knew his birthday was 9 May, the same day as my father's (his son). Amongst the papers was my grandfather's school report for 1897 from Christ Hospital London, Latin School.

I discovered that the entrance papers for this school were kept at the Guildhall Library. So I spent a fruitful afternoon there where I found the very detailed application, made by my great-grandfather, for a scholarship at the school. It transpired that Edwin's birth had never been registered (hence no birth certificate) and that he had not been christened either. An affidavit was sworn as to Edwin being the son of Wilhelm Herman **Reinhard** and Amelia Wolpers née **Simmons** to replace the non-existent birth certificate and a promise made to have him christened. This explains why I had finally found him at the very end of the microfilm reel for baptisms at St Anne's church Hoxton at the age of 13 with a notation in the margin giving his date of birth. So two mysteries solved: but what about that withered hand?

Not only were there questions about the family's financial status and Edwin's previous education but there were also details about his childhood health. He had had chickenpox in 1888 and measles in 1841. Then there it was, in my great-grandfather's own hand, the explanation in answer to the question 'any other ailments?' – "The partial loss of the use of his right arm when teething but

this does not affect his general health” – so some sort of infection had been the cause of his disability, which was not as graphic as falling from a tree!

I often wonder how my grandfather came to qualify for Christ Hospital (apart from passing the entrance exam) as he was not an orphan and, as far as I can tell, the family were not destitute. My gt-grandfather was employed as a cabinet maker and was earning about £2 a week. Would any member be able to enlighten me?

Oh well, I thought, my other titbit of information must be accurate. My grandmother Ada Wolpers née Young told me “my mother married the son of the cook at the orphanage”. Naturally I had this romantic ‘orphan Annie’ picture of my gt-grandmother being ‘saved’ from the orphanage by no less than the cook’s son! I am sure you won’t be surprised to learn that this ‘fact’ was also inaccurate.

Charles **Dutton** was born in the East Indies about 1825 (another mystery to solve). He married Mary-Ann Field, daughter of Henry and Mary-Ann **Field** (née **Eaton**), in the Parish church of St Giles Middlesex on 19 July 1849. Hannah Dutton, my grandmother’s mother, was born on 8 March 1861 at 8 Lewisham Street, Westminster. Mary-Ann Dutton eventually had a family of 10 children and died, after childbirth, on 31 January 1867.

So it was that Hannah found herself, with two of her younger brothers, William and Albert, in the North Surrey District School, Anerley School, Upper Norwood on 17 January 1870; so this must be the orphanage. The children were there until the end of the year. Albert left first on 29 September 1870, followed by his sister and brother leaving on 17 November of the same year. I have no idea what happened to their father Charles Dutton but assume he was unable to cope with the family after his wife’s death. I cannot find Hannah on the 1871 census but she was living with her aunt (mother’s sister) and uncle in Horseferry Road Victoria by the 1881 census

Hannah married ‘the son of the cook’, Charles Frederick **Young**, on 31 March 1889 at St George’s Hannover Square, Westminster. It was Hannah’s uncle who was a witness at the marriage; perhaps her father had died by then? Charles Frederick is the son of Charles Young and Jane Charlotte (Clara) **Parker** and was born 7 March 1865 at 3 Norfolk Terrace, Norwood, Surrey.

I do not know how they met but fast forward to the 1891 Census and I found Charles Frederick Young’s mother Jane working as a cook at the Old School, Lower

Norwood. She was a widow, aged 64, and was born in West Smithfield, London,. The Norwood Schools are described as an overflow of the Poor House School and are not listed as an orphanage. A search of the 'Return of Guardians and Paid Officers (18511897)' at the London Metropolitan Archives shows that Jane Charlotte Young became an assistant cook at the Infirmary, Brook Street, in 1886 before taking up the Cook's position at the Old School. She held this post from 1887 to 1897. So she was a cook at an institution for children at the time of Hannah's marriage to her son. So Grandma was almost right!

By the 1911 census Jane, aged 85, was living with her daughter Emma Pearce, her son-in-law and their family in North Brixton. There is a sad ending for Jane. She had a fall which led to her death a few days later on 29 April 1915. There was an inquest (covered by the South London Press) which recorded a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

So my grandmother had done her best to help me; but had her information been right I would not have found out so many fascinating facts that make up a small part of my family history!



## Surrey Stray: Frederick E. Lewis

*submitted by Robert Brown {[robertb99@bell.net](mailto:robertb99@bell.net)}*

I have the marriage registration details for the above Frederick E. **Lewis**, born in Croydon c1873 to the merchant Roderick Lewis and his wife, Martha. At the time of Frederick's Presbyterian marriage to Mary **Campbell** of Caledonia Mines, Cape Beton County, Nova Scotia, Canada on 3rd October 1896, he was employed as a pipe layer.

I have copies of the Clergyman's Registration Slip for the marriage as well as the marriage license and the marriage bond for this couple and will be pleased to share them with anyone in East Surrey FHS from whose tree Frederick may have fallen and disappeared.

# My nomadic family

*Chris Green [4030]*

Thomas **Green**, one of my 3xgt-grandfathers, was born in about 1800; his father was Richard Green, a sawyer, who died before 1850 and probably before 1841.

The 1841 census return (when Thomas was living at Chertsey – see later) states simply that he had not been born in the county – that is, he was not born in Surrey. The 1851 census return gives his place of birth as ‘London’, and putting these two results together I have deduced that he had been born in Middlesex.

Thomas was an engineer in his early life (this information is given in his son’s baptism record). His marriage to my 3xgt-grandmother, Mary **Pucknell**, took place on 12 JAN 1834 at St Mary, Lambeth; this was his second marriage (the marriage entry shows him to have been a widower).

Thomas and Mary lived in Bird Street in Lambeth (this address is shown on the baptism records for both children) and while living here they had two children: Ann Maria (*13 JUL 1834*) and Thomas George (*04 SEP 1836*); both were baptised at St Mary, Lambeth. Bird Street was a continuation of Monkton Street, close to the Lambeth Workhouse and not very far from a timber yard. By 1914 it had become part of Monkton Street and today appears to have been renamed Sullivan Road.

Some time after 1836, for some reason not yet explained, the family seems to have moved from Lambeth to Hammersmith, where William was baptised in 1838. The family appears in the 1841 census at Chertsey, as already discussed, with children Susan, Mary, Thomas, William and an Elizabeth aged 6 months. Unusually for the 1841 census, Thomas’s age is not rounded but given as 43, indicating a YoB of 1798; Mary’s age is given as 30. FreeBMD gives a birth registration of an Elizabeth Green during 1840 in Surrey in Kingston, during the fourth quarter of 1840, and this corresponds with the birth of a 6-month-old baby in April 1841. The Kingston registration district covered an area between Hammersmith and Chertsey.

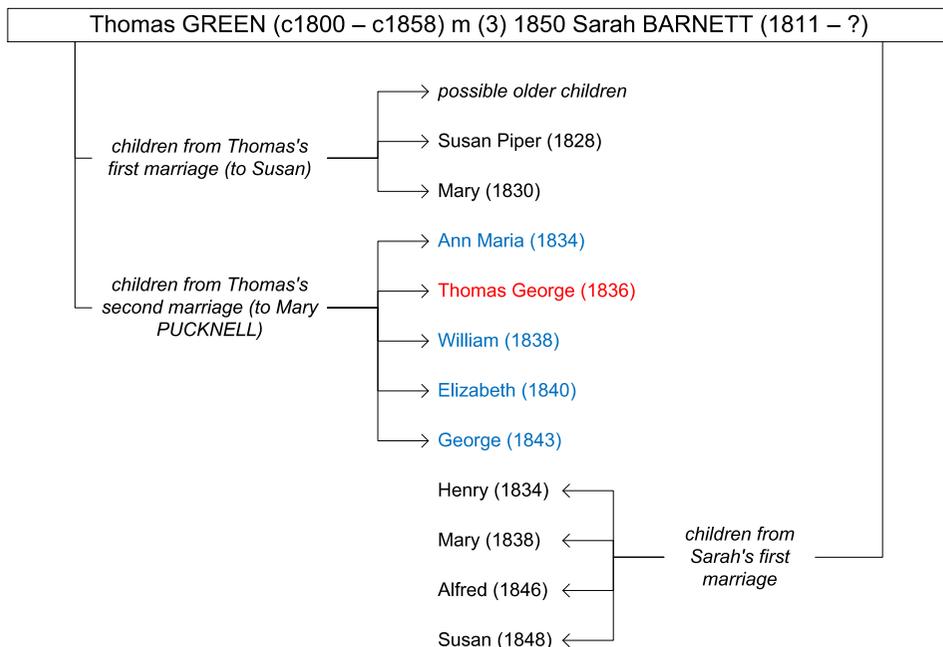
Shortly afterwards they moved even further west to Weybridge (which is part of the Chertsey registration district) where another son, George, was born on 03 APR 1843 and baptised a few months later on *02 JUL 1843* at St James’s Church.

Although no convincing reason has been found for this travel, the most likely reason is that Thomas was moving from job to job.

It is apparent that the family returned to Lambeth, and that Mary died some time before the end of the decade (although this could have happened anywhere between Chertsey and Lambeth) because on 17 APR 1850 Thomas married for the third time, this time to Sarah **Barnett**, a widow.

At the date of their marriage, both Thomas and Sarah were living at 35 Berkeley Street but a year later, at the time of the 1851 census, they were living at 9 Belvedere Crescent; this address was close to the south bank of the Thames, near Hungerford Bridge, which was a footbridge at this date. Belvedere Crescent was formerly known as Ragged Row, probably from the tumbledown condition of the old cottages which bordered it (the houses along the road were all rebuilt in 1828-29). Both on the marriage certificate and in the census entry Thomas is described as a sawyer, as was his father Richard.

The 1851 census return showed Thomas and Sarah with a total of seven children. Three are listed as 'sons': Thomas (15), William (13) and George (9) and these clearly correspond to Thomas's children with Mary. The other four, three boys



and a girl, are listed as 'visitors' and were presumably Sarah's children: Henry (17), Mary (13), Alfred (5) and Susan (3).

All these moves may have been driven by Thomas's job (Thomas, my 3xgt-grandfather, that is). If the family has been correctly identified in the 1841 census he was at that time a labourer. When George was baptised (1843) he was an engineer, yet by 1851 he was a sawyer, having adopted his father's profession. 'Engineer' did not, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, have the meaning it has today; rather, it could have indicated any job working with machinery or equipment rather than as a manual labourer. In fact, when Thomas registered George's birth he 'made his mark' on the certificate, probably indicating that he was unable to write.

No children resulting from this third marriage (Thomas and Sarah) have been found with the possible exception of Alfred and Susan, mentioned in the census return. The record of Thomas's death has not yet been found, although he died probably between the end of 1857 (he is shown as a 'sawyer' on son Thomas's marriage certificate, in October 1857) and April 1861 (the 1861 census shows Sarah as a widow, still living at Belvedere Crescent). There are three possibilities registered in Lambeth: two in late 1857 and one in early 1861.

Perhaps unsurprisingly in view of Green being such a common name, it has proved remarkably difficult to trace the various children – assuming that they were all part of the same family!



## Members' Interests – another reminder

For the past 3 months I have, again, sent out another 200 emails to members whose entries are dated before 2010, asking to confirm if your entries are still current. I have only received about 40% of replies. Please remember your list will be deleted if it has not been updated by the end of November this year. As from May 2016, any entry that is more than 3 years old will be deleted from the online master list. We know that some members do not have access to email, but a letter is acceptable. My contact details are on the inside front cover of the Journal.

As only a few Members' Interests have been received, these are shown on page 29 of this Journal rather than as a separate insert.

*Peter Grant, Members Interests Co-ordinator*

# Poor Grace Blackmore

*Brenda Hawkins*

This story is set in Devon, but before you decide it is quite irrelevant, bear in mind that the situation Grace faced was sadly not unique to either her county or her period.

Grace was born in Totnes, in September 1677, the daughter of Mr Joseph **Blackmore** and his wife Elizabeth. Records in this period are very sketchy. I have no trace of her parents' marriage, nor anything of Joseph's origins, but her mother clearly came from a good family. At her baptism, therefore, dared anyone speculate that she would survive infancy, she might be expected to experience a comfortable life, crowned with marriage within the circles of the merchants and minor gentry in which her parents moved.

Any such fond hopes were of short duration. Her father died when she was a toddler, as did little sisters. Within a very few years her mother was imprisoned for debt in Exeter, desperately seeking someone to take care of her small daughter.

The obvious choices might have been Grace's Blackmore relations. There were at least two uncles and a grandmother alive. Was a plea sent? If so, it fell on deaf ears. So Elizabeth sent word to Arthur **Hele**, her sister's son. This was a wise choice – probably one of the few sensible decisions Elizabeth made in her life. Arthur was old enough to be Grace's father. Married several years, he and his wife had no children of their own. Grace came to a household deep in the Devon countryside brimming with servants, apprentices, younger cousins, an aunt, but no little girl to brighten the place.

The fatherless, friendless, destitute child was treated like a daughter of the house. She could well have been made a drudge. Instead, she was raised according to her status, and sent away to school in Dartmouth.

In the summer of 1689 her Uncle Abraham Blackmore died, in Exeter. Doubtless Abraham was unmarried and had died intestate, for Grace was due a share of his fortune. Nobody quite knew how much: it might be eight hundred pounds, it might even be a thousand pounds. Her Uncle Thomas Blackmore, a London merchant, had come to tell her the good news. He gave her ten shillings and a bond to give her two hundred pounds out of his own purse if she married with his or Arthur Hele's consent. He said he would give her three or four hundred pounds to advance her in marriage with a fit person.

A local farmer coming one Sunday home from church and taking notice of Grace being in mourning for her uncle Abraham asked her what she would do with her wealth. She seriously made answer that if she died unmarried she would give it all to her cousin Hele.

The farmer's wife being sick, Grace went to visit her. Lamenting the woman's want of health, Grace expressed the sense she had of the blessing and benefit of health, having (as she said) had no sickness from the time she first came to live with her cousin Hele. The woman advised her that should she fall sick, she should make her will "seeing she had never for so any years had any sickness probably her next sickness would prove the occasion of her death"

Grace replied that her will would soon be made. If she had a thousand pounds and a thousand, she would leave it all to her cousin Hele. He had shown kindness to her when she had nothing and when she had no other friend. Nor did any of her other relations take notice of her. But, she said "now I have something, other relations may look upon me and shew kindness"

Did she catch her illness from that farmer's wife? Certainly within a week or so, she was sick. Agnes, the miller's wife, was attending her. Grace lay very quiet in her bed. Agnes asked how she did, and Grace said she was not in much pain, but better than she had been. Then she said she had a mind to make her will and asked Agnes to call Arthur Hele and his wife. They came up to the chamber and Grace asked Arthur to write her will for her. He said he could not do it, so she asked that someone be sent for. Would she have the Rector, or Mr **Prowse** (Arthur's brother in law)? She asked for Mr Prowse and Arthur went out of the room to send for him. John Prowse came soon after in the evening. Grace bade him welcome and gave him directions for writing her will. She wanted to leave her fortune to Arthur and his wife. John explained that anything left to Arthur's wife would be vested in Arthur himself, so she said it should all go to Arthur who should be the sole executor. Arthur spoke to her kindly, saying leave it as you chose, then left the room.

Agnes too left the room. When she returned, Mr Prowse was seated at a table near the bed, writing the will. John **Torre** and William **Deering** were called up to be witnesses. Grace greeted them both and expressed herself very freely, saying that there was £50 due her that was given her by her grandmother, which nobody could keep from her.

The will was read very clearly and distinctly, carefully going over each clause. Grace was propped up in bed with pillows. She used her usual seal on the document, John and William making their marks. It was about seven or eight o'clock in the evening of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 1689. She died two or three days later of, the physician said, an illness of the guts or bowels, and was buried on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Grace had worried that she should have a decent burial. It evidently preyed on her mind: no doubt her mother had suffered a pauper's burial before anyone knew of her death. She should have known that Arthur would give her a handsome send off, as befitted a gentlewoman.

Her will is very short. She leaves legacies to Agnes her attendant, to servants and apprentices, to Arthur's younger brothers, with the residue to Arthur. Should Arthur be unable to obtain her share of her Uncle Abraham Blackmore's estate, then those legacies would become void.

Grace was no fool. As a pauper, none of the Blackmore family had shown the least interest in her. Had she died three months earlier, none of them would have cared. Had she lived, then her Uncle Thomas would have found a husband amongst his business associates or extended family. Dying before Arthur's estate was distributed, she threw the Blackmores a challenge. And they refused to release the money.

After six months wrangling, Arthur was forced to go to law. The case was held over three days in April. All his witnesses told the story as they knew it. If they weren't sure, they said so. None were Arthur's servants or dependent on him for work, and Agnes went so far as to renounce her claim to her legacy, so that nobody could say she was lying for the sake of eight shillings.

The Blackmores fought back. Did Grace really know she was due a fortune? Why didn't she sign her name? If she couldn't write, did she really understand the will? Had not her illness rendered her stupid? What of Arthur Hele's pretended kindness for her? Was not Thomas her next of kin?

Although the replies were supposed to follow a formula, the indignation of the witnesses shines through. The whole village knew of her fortune: she had talked of it to John Prowse's children and all of her neighbours. She had been educated at that boarding school in Dartmouth. She might not write, but she could certainly read, and the will had been read very audibly to her. She had addressed everyone by name and patently was not stupid. As for Arthur's "pretended kindness", he

had probably spent fifteen pounds a year on her. And if Thomas were her father's brother, her mother's sister was still alive and equally next of kin. None of the witnesses supported the Blackmores' claims and so the will was proved in Arthur's favour. Just how much money he wrested from the Blackmores, I have no idea as all Devon wills were destroyed in WW2.

This is the sentence, the legal judgement on Grace's will: PROB 11/401/25 and this the granting of probate: PROB 11/401/30. Cause Papers taken by Commission from 1642 to 1722, the proceedings that decided the judgement given in the sentence, survive in PROB 28, and this is the reference for Grace's will: PROB 28/1088. The will and sentence are online, the cause papers available to view at Kew. As sentences are in Latin, PROB 28 shines light in some very dark places.

Finally, just why was I interested in Grace and Arthur, when both died childless? I am descended from Arthur's mother. No researcher has ever found her marriage or that of her sister Elizabeth. I must be forever grateful to poor Grace Blackmore, who died before she could enjoy her fortune, since in PROB 28 lies the clue to her mother's maiden name. But that is another story.



## Gill Hyder

**9.4.1946 – 26.5.2015**

*Sue Adams [3640] ex-secretary, ex-committee member and best friend*

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Gill Hyder, who lost her very brave fight with cancer in May. After being a very fit and healthy person all her life Gill was devastated to be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in late 2013. She fought this in every way advised: a major operation, two regimes of chemotherapy and then a gruelling drug trial. She did not deserve a major stroke ten days before her death, although this may have been a blessing in disguise as by then she was very weak with cancer. Gill bore the burden of her illness with enormous dignity and courage and has been a shining example to us all.

Gill was born in Hammersmith Hospital, and then brought up in Twickenham and Beckenham before making her home in the Croydon area. After a Saturday job in Beckenham Library she went to Brighton Technical College (now Brighton University) to study librarianship. She joined Croydon Libraries in 1968 and was

there until her retirement in 2006, working in various branch libraries before moving to the Stock Unit which she ultimately managed. Gill loved her work until politics and a lack of funds impinged on the service. She was described as a loyal and trusted colleague, and another friend said that it had been a privilege to work with her.

After caring for her aunt, Gill answered an advert for admin support at the Learning Centre at Morden Hall Park (National Trust). She was there for six years, really enjoying the work and feeling useful. Colleagues will miss her greatly and smoother admin processes will be her legacy.

She always enjoyed travelling and her holidays were the highlight of her year. She went to family weddings in Ireland and Thailand, as well travelling to Australia and New Zealand and extensively in Europe. Her greatest love was to travel to America, where she aimed to visit all 50 states: she got to over half but sadly will now never reach her goal.



Gill had been researching her family history for over 40 years. This was mainly in Dorset where her ancestors were not the usual agricultural labourers (like the majority of us) but yeoman farmers who left portraits and wonderful wills listing all their worldly goods. She was an early member of East Surrey Family History Society serving two terms on the committee, latterly in the post of Treasurer. She was a familiar face behind the bookstall at the SOG fair (now WDYTIA) as well as helping to transcribe old documents. Fellow members described her as a genuinely friendly person who was only too pleased to help with anything.

Gill's aunt lived to 91 so it was a great pity that she did not have such a long retirement. Life can be very cruel.



## New members

- 10411 Ms Teresa Deal, 6 Chestnut Avenue, Bucknall, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire LN10 5DU  
10412 Ms Susan Ocock, 6 The Hamlet, The Bank, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire B50 4NT ::  
[su\\_ok@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:su_ok@hotmail.co.uk)
- 10413 Ms Juliet Barrett, 4 Longsands Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1JC ::  
[jas38@hotmail.com](mailto:jas38@hotmail.com)
- 10414 Mr Peter Spence, 135 Killarney Road, Hamilton 3204, New Zealand ::  
[peterms@sklighshot.co.nz](mailto:peterms@sklighshot.co.nz)
- 10415 Mr and Mrs John Smith, 62 Penwortham Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 0QS ::  
[Cariss.Smith@gmail.com](mailto:Cariss.Smith@gmail.com)
- 10416 Mr Roy Bennett, 1942 Summit Ave NW, Oregon 97304, USA ::  
[bennetr15@comcast.net](mailto:bennetr15@comcast.net)
- 10417 Ms Ingrid Hatfield, 27 Ridsdale Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 3BU ::  
[ingridhatfield@aol.com](mailto:ingridhatfield@aol.com)
- 10418 Mrs Jacqueline Williams, 33 Warren Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1LG ::  
[batty@plantheaven.co.uk](mailto:batty@plantheaven.co.uk)
- 10419 Mrs Sally Millin, 111 Green Walk, Crayford, Dartford, Kent DA1 4JP ::  
[sallymillin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallymillin@hotmail.co.uk)

## Email changes and corrections

- 6325 Mrs Sue Taylor :: [sue.taylor-fhc@live.co.uk](mailto:sue.taylor-fhc@live.co.uk)
- 6543 Miss Ann Redman :: [annredman@outlook.com](mailto:annredman@outlook.com)
- 7648 Mr Paul Featherstone :: [prfeatherstone@outlook.com](mailto:prfeatherstone@outlook.com)
- 10192 Mr Patrick Burke :: [PatC4Burke2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:PatC4Burke2@yahoo.co.uk)
- 8321 Mrs Elizabeth Thompson :: [lizthompson1985@hotmail.com](mailto:lizthompson1985@hotmail.com)
- 8282 Mr Stephen Hoare :: [stephen.hoare@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.hoare@gmail.com)
- 4733 Mrs Mary Blakeley :: [Mary.e.blakeley@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.e.blakeley@gmail.com)
- 9149 Mr Tom Long :: [cridlake@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cridlake@yahoo.co.uk)

## Members' DNA Interests

This is a new section where we can share details about surnames we are trying to trace through DNA tests. I am suggesting the headings below but let me know if you think other details will be useful. DNA knows no borders so your families may be anywhere in the world. If you are interested in any of the names you can contact the member by quoting the number (4730 in this example) in an email to the Membership Secretary [membership01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk).

Please send any new entries to [chairman01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk).

<b>Member Number</b>	<b>DNA test taken</b>	<b>Testing Company</b>	<b>Date of test results</b>
4730	Autosomal	FamilyTreeDNA	July 2015
<i>FLOREY (SRY/OXF); CARLOSS (SRY/OXF/GLS); ORGLE(S) (KEN/SRY/SSX); GOODALL (KEN/SFK); LEWIS; ELSEGOOD (SRY/SFK); OVERTON (SFK); MUSTY (SFK/GLS)</i>			

## Ideas on how to spend £100?

Someone very kindly put East Surrey Family History Society forward in Nationwide Building Society's Community Match Scheme. (Thank you!) We didn't win, but we have been awarded £100 for being placed on the shortlist. Rather than just use the money to meet day-to-day expenses we thought we'd use the money on something special, for the benefit of the Society and its members, and we'd welcome ideas (sound systems? laser pointers? glossy adverts? Cake for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017?).

If you have a suggestion on how we spend this money please email our Treasurer at [treasurer01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk).

## Surname interests in Surrey

GEORGE	Newington	M19c	3853
HARRISON	Southwark	19c	10407
HATFIELD	Godstone	M17-M18c	10417
HATFIELD	Chelsham	E-L18c	10417
HATFIELD	Battersea	E-M19c	10417
OVENTON	Ockly	18c	10407
OVERINGTON	Ockly	18c	10407
PHIPPS	Kennington	M19c	3853
RAGAN	Southwark	19c	10407
RAGAN	Newington	19c	10407
SPOONER	Ockly	18c	10407
STEEL	Newington	L18c	10407
STREDWICK	Dorking	c1740	3853
STRUDWICK	Dorking	c1740	3853
TOBITT	Dorking	c1760	3853

## Surname interests in other English counties

CLARK	Millbrook	BDF	18c	10407
EVERETT	Exeter	DEV	M19c	3853
FINCH	Kersey	SFK	E18c	10407
GAUDEN	Oldswinford	WOR	18-19c	10407
GULLIS	Lewisham	KEN	19c	10398
HORTON	All	KEN	18c	10407
KELLY	Dawlish	DEV	c1830	3853
MEAD	Edmonton	MDX	18-19c	10407
PECK	Greenwich	KEN	c1835	3853
PERRY	Oldswinford	WOR	18-19c	10407
ROAST	Fyfield	ESS	L18c	10407
SEARS	Clerkenwell	MDX	c1798	3853
STREETER	Rudgwick	SSX	18c	10407
TOBITT	Hawkhurst	KEN	1780-1848	3853
TOBITT	Maidstone	KEN	c1790	3853
VINE	All	KEN	L18c	10407

## Contributing member:

3853 Miss J Tobitt: 12 Morton Gardens, Wallington, SM6 8EX (no email)

# 'Modern Times' One Day Conference

at the National Archives, 26 September

Booking is still open for the One Day Conference 'Modern times: The Influence of Technology on the history of Family and Place' which ESFHS is co-hosting with three other local societies at the National Archives, Kew, on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

You can book tickets online at Eventbrite using this URL link: [tinyurl.com/ogvpwjr](https://tinyurl.com/ogvpwjr).

If you need help with this please speak to a Committee member at a meeting or email [chairman01@eastssurreyfhhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman01@eastssurreyfhhs.org.uk). For further details see page 7 of the June Journal. Please note that the Earlybird offer has expired so tickets are now £15 each.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Nunhead Cemetery Burial Records

These records are now on Deceased Online

Deceased Online [www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com) have digitised some of the Nunhead Cemetery burial records. Further details can be found at [www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch](http://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch).

DeceasedOnline say that the Honor Oak Crematorium, Camberwell Old and Camberwell New Cemetery records will follow shortly, with the Lewisham Registers scheduled to be ready in mid-September.

The free content will allow you to search for a name and will give you the burial date. With a subscription you can get more detail from the burial record and find the grave on a plan.

Don't forget that ESFHS has microfiche copies of these burial records at our Lingfield Research Centre so, armed with a burial date, you can easily find the other details yourself. Further details about the Research Centre opening times, and about requesting searches, are on our website [www.eastssurreyfhhs.org.uk](http://www.eastssurreyfhhs.org.uk).

# Spring Park Farm Estate

*Sylvia Dibbs (9486)*

In the Journal Volume 37 number 1, March 2014, Ann Ramon reported on an interesting talk, LCC Garden Estates for the Working Class, given by Martin Stillwell to the Richmond Group. The two East Surrey estates described were Totterdown Fields in Tooting completed in 1916 and the Norbury Estate completed in 1922. In the 1920s car ownership was on the increase with small family cars coming on the market from Ford and Morris, well within the reach of some of the better off working class and most of the middle class people to buy. At this time about 90% of the population rented a home but home ownership was an ambition for many. In 1931, according to the Ministry of Labour, 10.6% of the male workers in manual occupations earned around £3 5s per week and could have afforded to buy one of the new houses at about £550 coming on the market. The population was increasing and people were moving further from London and housebuilding exploded. Shirley, on the eastern border of Croydon, became a reasonable commute by train, bus or car, out in the fresh air and with developing amenities. Gower Builders (London) Limited saw their chance. For more about the village of Shirley before this time see the article Shirley Broom and Waste by Sylvia Dibbs in the Journal Volume 35 number 4 December 2012.

The emphasis was again on 'garden estates' and the houses were grouped in rectangles around their rear gardens, giving each house an extensive view over the combined greenery. Original natural features of the old farm were retained for example in the form of the copses in Temple Avenue and Stuart Crescent and the park known as Miller's Pond. The land had proved over the centuries to be poor for agriculture and rather exposed to the elements, but seemed ideal for housing.

The aspirations of the middle classes at the time come across clearly in the advertising, copied below, for the new estate in the late 1920s and one family known to the author has indeed fulfilled them down to the fourth generation.

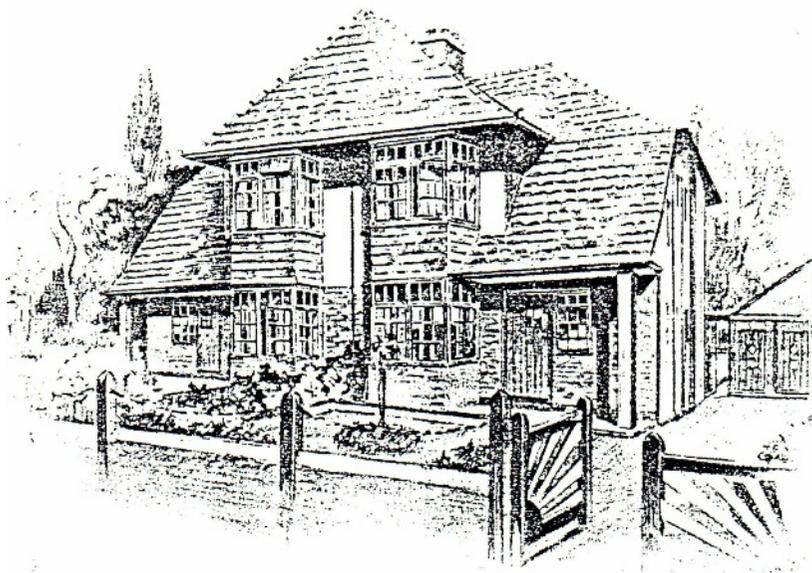
There were six variations with the larger versions having some extra features. All but the 'B' types had an integral garage and the 'B' type had a separate garage to the side of the house. The garages were built to fit the Morris 8 sized type of car and almost all of them have since been enlarged, though still they are too small and are used for the modern accumulation of 'stuff'! Many families have

extended the box room into a more useful extra bedroom. Modern families prefer to have either a separate bedroom for each child with all the paraphernalia children now expect, or a home office or hobby room. The 'kitchenette' has been combined with the 'larder', a redundant room replaced by a refrigerator and a deep freeze.

The elementary school is now Benson Harris Academy for children up to 11 years.

The smallest, B, type house carried the freehold price of £845, with a deposit of £50 and weekly repayments of £21/9. The largest, D.A.2, type came in at £1,350.

### "B." TYPE



Spring Park Farm Estate is situated on the beautiful slopes of the Shirley Hills, 300ft. above sea level. The houses are well built, modern and practical, all that can be desired by the thoughtful and discriminating buyer. From an exterior view simply beautiful – from an interior view beautifully simple. To the visitor a lovely house, but to the Purchaser a lovely home.

Spring Park Farm Estate achieves the almost incredible feat of rising amidst surroundings of rural woods and meadows and yet a mere half an hour from the City of London.

There are facilities for every variety of sport, such as golf, tennis, cricket, football, etc. several super-picture houses are within easy reach, in fact every form of

relaxation that modern life requires. Churches of every denomination are close at hand.

Gower Builders realise that these amenities are only an added attraction and the thing that matters fundamentally is that their clientele should be provided with a house – and a home that is sound in every way and will stand the test of time.

Such are these houses on Spring Park Farm Estate. A house that will last through the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter of your life and then a splendid heritage for your children and your children's children. Such is Gower Builders' policy and upon this they have framed their success. The houses are planned by experts and built by competent men; every inch of space is carefully and economically utilised and any thoughtful housewife cannot fail to appreciate the amazing labour-saving devices included in these low-priced houses. Justifiably, Gower Builders are proud of their achievement and the moral of their success is, of course, that they have given the maximum of thought, care and material for the minimum of payment.

Brief Specification for all Properties. All properties are sold free of road charges, legal fees, stamp duties.

General fittings include:

Solid drawn copper tubes throughout.

Chromium plated door and window furniture, switches etc.,

Lighting points to holders in all rooms, porch and boxroom.

Six heating points. Gas points in main rooms.

Fireplaces and decorations to purchaser's choice.

Solid oak front door. 2" internal doors.

Hall: Central heating and oak floor. Cloakroom with quarry tiled floor, W.C. and lavatory basin.

Kitchenette: Completely fitted cabinet 6' 6" x 8'6". Larder with tiled shelf. Mottled Ideal boiler and gas copper. Walls white glazed tiles to 4'1". Quarry tiled floor with coved skirting.

Wardrobe cupboard in main bedroom fitted with mirror. Electric fire in third bedrooms of C and D types.

Linen cupboard and boxroom.

Bathroom: Walls cream glazed tiles to 4'2", shaving cabinet, "Recesso" soap dish and chromium plated hand shower. W.C. walls cream glazed tiles to 4'2", "Recesso" toilet roll holder.

Rates: 10/10 in £.

Gas: Croydon Gas Company 9d per therm.

Electricity: County of London Electricity Supply Co.  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. per unit flat rate.

Water: 6% rateable value per annum.

Train service:

E. Croydon Station 2d. bus fare – 194 bus – to Cheston Avenue.

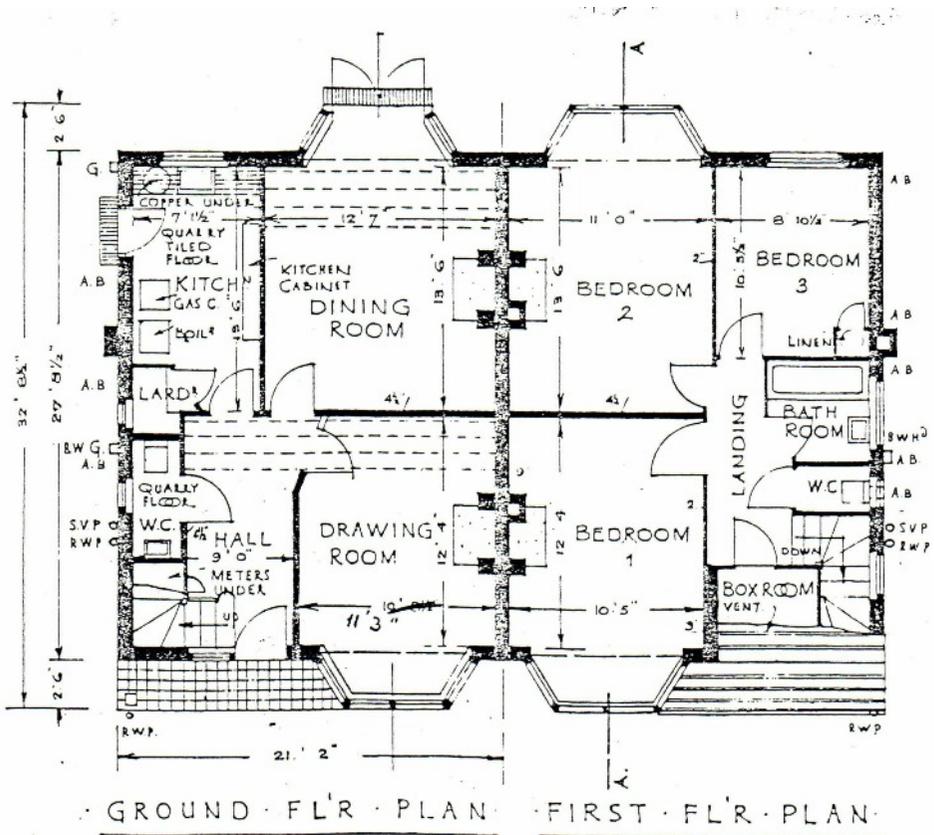
London Bridge, Charing Cross and Victoria £3.7s.0d. per quarter.

West Wickham Station 1d bus fare – 194 bus- to Bridle Road.

Charing Cross or London Bridge £4.7s.0d. per quarter.

Croydon Elementary School situated on Estate. Public, Secondary Schools and Private Schools in Croydon.

Excellent shops within a few minutes' walk of estate, and first class shopping centres in Croydon and West Wickham.



# Researching relatives in WW1 (v)

Peter Moulin [6101]

1915 was a watershed in that it marked the first use of aerial bombardment of civilians, and the first use of poison gas on the battlefield. Later that year the British army tried to use gas during the Battle of Loos, with mixed results. The Germans tried to terrify the British population with random Zeppelin attacks, again with mixed results.

I have used the publication *Croydon and the Great War* to look at Zeppelin raids in the area. This is available in the Surrey History Centre for reference, or as a free download from The University of California Library.

On October 13th 1915 a number of Zeppelins set out to attack London in what was known as the 'Theatre Raid'. Their navigation led to many errors with few of the actual targets being bombed, and Zeppelin L14 thinking Croydon was London.

LZ.14, Alois Bocker, steered a course for Woolwich, veered off to the left crossing the Thames at the Isle of Sheppey, and reached the sea at Hythe, which he mistook for the mouth of the Thames. Thinking he was over Woolwich Dockyard he dropped nine bombs on an army camp overlooking the Channel, killing 15 soldiers and wounding 11. He eventually found his way to Croydon where he dropped the rest of his bombs on private houses. His landing at Nordholz was delayed for five hours because of fog.

The first bomb fell in Eldridge Road where two houses were wrecked, and a mother and daughter who were in bed in one of them were thrown, bedstead and all, into the street. A baby boy in the other house was pinned down by a falling roof but escaped injury.



The bomb that fell on the house in Beech House Road was altogether different. The house was occupied by a father, his three sons and a housekeeper.

Three brothers, Brien (or Brian) 10, Roy 14 and Gordon Currie 15, were all killed by the bomb. The housekeeper said: "I was fast asleep when I heard an awful explosion which awoke me. I seemed to spring from the top of the bed to the bottom. Then I groped my way to the door, which I found was on the floor. I stayed there



because the side wall had fallen in on the stairs and landing. I called out to the father, asking if he was all right. He replied 'I am all right but I can't move.' The next thing I called for the boys. Only the elder one answered."

The fire brigade arrived and found the youngest boy dead, the second died on the way to hospital and the eldest died later from shock.

Much more damage was inflicted elsewhere, with further fatalities, and the last effective bomb hit the upper storey of a villa in Stretton Road killing three people.

The Battle of Loos took place from 25th September to 13th October 1915 and was then the biggest land battle the British Army had ever fought. This was the debut of many New Army divisions raised on the outbreak of war. The following articles relate to two soldiers in 7th 'Service' Battalion East Surrey Regiment during the battle, and highlight differences in record sources between officers and 'men'. All of the information about 2nd Lieutenant Aubrey Hastings written about here I have gleaned from his letters home and the Battalion War Diary.

## 2nd Lieutenant Aubrey Hastings

Aubrey **Hastings** was born into a large family in Southwark in 1889, the son of a solicitor. Aubrey went on to be educated at Wimbledon College, and after the outbreak of war he was commissioned in December 1914 into the 7th battalion East Surrey Regiment, a 'Kitchener' or Service battalion. The battalion had a short period of training, and by the end of May 1915 was in Albuhera Barracks Aldershot, part of 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division. In the meantime Aubrey had married Alice ('Eily') Nolan.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June the battalion moved to Folkestone and embarked on SS Victoria, sailing for Boulogne, where they arrived at 2.00 a.m., with a strength of 30 officers and 837 other ranks. By 4<sup>th</sup> June they were in billets at Wavrans, and it was here that Aubrey wrote his first letter 'on active service' to his brother Basil Macdonald Hastings, from his billet in 'a charming French house':

"Arrived quite safely, ripping crossing. The weather is gorgeous. Heard the guns firing last night but today is quite quiet. Grub is excellent and the beer is A1."



On 20th June the 7th battalion marched to Armentières, and at 2.30 p.m. A & B companies went into the line, followed 24 hours later by C and Aubrey's D companies. While out of the line they were in training for such things as bomb throwing. Aubrey wrote to Basil on 23rd June:

"We went in the trenches for 24 hours on Monday. It was extremely interesting and exciting. They shelled us a bit then threw a few hand grenades and hand mortars. We had only one casualty. I was firing at a sniper with a periscopic rifle and I had driven him from one loophole to another when he fired the piling swivel clean off my rifle and

incidentally, bent the bore, some Hun. He was shooting splendidly all day. The Hun gives you just as much in the way of shells and hand grenades as you give him. But in a hand-to-hand fight they are not much good. We go back to the trenches today. It's raining so I expect they will be pretty sloppy."

The battalion had to be prepared for fighting with the new weapon, gas, and Aubrey described his training in a letter of 27th June:

"I had a novel experience the other day. Two officers per company were detailed to attend a demonstration of the use of the respirator against gas . . . We arrived at the place and found a great crowd of Brass hats and all sorts of officers French and English. A large cylinder about 5ft long, with a tap at one end was lying half across a trench. Officers and men put on their respirators, got in the trench and the Gas was turned on them. Some of them scuttled out pretty quick, nearly in every case due to not having properly adjusted their respirators. I got in and got some up my nose. I fairly gulped that down and then I held my nose after that and was quite alright. I got within a foot of the jet of the cylinder . . . a lot of the fellows were lying on the ground coughing like blazes. Their faces turn a kind of grey blue. It is the most diabolical invention out. It renders you quite useless even if you get one breath of it. You can stand a few up your nose, because it gets purified a bit but if you take it through your mouth you are done."

On July 8th the battalion moved to billets in Le Bizet, where they worked on support line trenches. On July 12th eighteen men from C & D companies were wounded by shells whilst returning from digging, and Aubrey wrote to Basil the following day:

"I've just come through my worst experience so far . . . making our way back through the trenches to the road, it soon became apparent that a severe bombardment had taken place . . . presently another shell wizzed over . . . the approach of a shell is unmistakable and a few seconds later the onimous sound was heard. The men darted right and left. I was in the centre of the road bending down. It wizzed over my head and burst only a short distance in front of me. At first I thought I was hit. I was sent spinning round in a whirlpool of dust and black smoke slightly stunned . . . Then I saw the chaps lying down wounded. I yapped out for stretchers, a Lance Corporal darted ahead for them. Then my platoon serjeant and I carried a poor boy who was badly wounded in the head to the ditch . . . Whilst putting his first field dressing on, two more damn shells burst somewhere near us . . . By this time I was smothered in blood, puttees, coat

sleeves and hands . . . I then went on with the stretcher bearers who had got young Straughan [actually **Strachan**] (the boy who was hit in the head). He kept asking me the way and how long it would take. I cursed the damn Hun for that journey. He died this morning after being unconscious for some time . . . I hope you don't think this letter is too complaining but it's something to get off my mind."

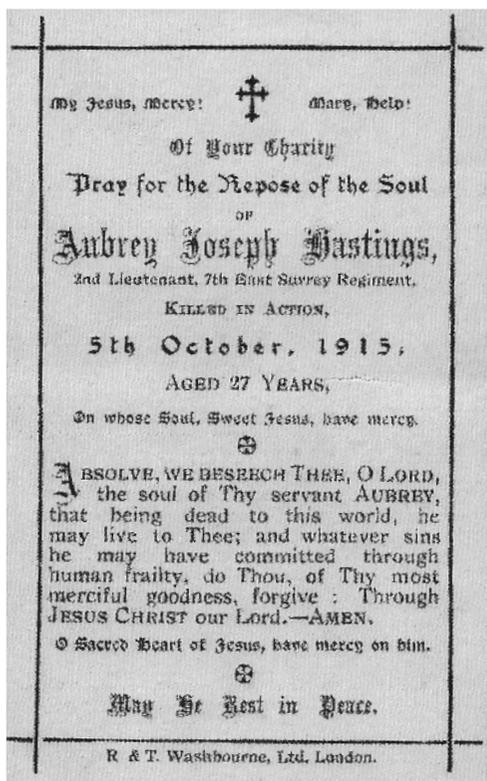
On September 24th the battalion was told about the forthcoming Battle of Loos where they were to take part in the planned attack on the Le Touquet Salient and Aubrey wrote to Basil:

"We are in a bust-up tomorrow so I thought I'd let you know. As a matter of fact the artillery start today. I only told the colonel the other day that I was married & he said it was a pity I had not told him before in case something happened to me, it would be difficult for Eily to get a pension. I just mentioned this in case of events as I know you would help to straighten it out."

Aubrey's last letter to Basil was written on October 4th:

"We took a small part in the advance but did not attack. We have shifted south and are now on the extreme right of the British line. This place is worse than Ypres. Dead men and horses everywhere. We were out on a digging party the last two nights & went right across the battlefields. It was ghastly. I went to see the 1st line German trench. It was very interesting but there were too many dead about. The guns never cease firing all day and all night here. The noise is terrific."

The following day, 5th October, the battalion War Diary records that a battery in D Company's trench was heavily shelled, with the result that 2nd Lieut. A J Hastings and two men were killed, and nine wounded.



# Private Henry Francis Florey

*Anne Ramon [4730]*

I was inspired to research the life of Henry **Florey** when I saw his name in the Book of Remembrance in the Regimental Chapel at All Saints' church in Kingston (see photograph). I have researched the Florey family but I was unfamiliar with this Henry, born 2 Sep 1887 in Hatcham, so I decided to find out about him and understand how he fitted into my family tree.

I interrogated the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, found the entry for Henry Florey and printed off the certificate <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2942529/FLOREY,%20HENRY>. This told me that Henry was the son of John and Louisa Florey, of 187 Canterbury Road, Old Kent Road, London and that he was a Private in the 7th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. His service number was 834; he had died on 13th October 1915 and was commemorated on Panel 66 on the War Memorial at Loos in northern France.

I started two lines of investigation; one the usual family history route, starting with the search engines, and the second the military records of the East Surrey Regiment.

I tracked Henry and his ancestry back three generations in the search engines to 1801; Henry (born 1887) was the son of John and Louisa; John (born 1864) was the son of John and Susan; John (born 1837) was the son of Stephen and Amelia. They all lived in Southwark or Horselydown or Hatcham so hadn't strayed far. The family address in 1911, 187 Canterbury Road, off the Old Kent Road, was very close to where my grandfather Ashton Florey lived, so I guess they are relations; but I haven't gone far enough back yet to link them up. I have been unable to find out how Henry earned his living but I suspect he was a Carman like his father and brothers.

What military records could I find? Henry was awarded three medals: the British War Medal, The Victory Medal and the 1915 Star (medal rolls index card and medal award rolls images on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)). Henry's Attestation Papers are not available but those for his brothers Ernest and Frank are in the Burnt series (British Army Service Records on [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)). The Register of Soldiers' Effects, also on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk), show a payment to Louisa Florey, Henry's widow, of £2 5s 1d on 9th February 1916 followed by a War Gratuity of £4 in July 1919, by which time she had remarried to a John Hall. I then searched

the East Surrey Regiment War Diaries on the Queens Royal Surrey Regiment website: for 7th Battalion in October 1915: [http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/war\\_diaries/local/7Bn\\_East\\_Surrey/7Bn\\_East\\_Surrey\\_1915/7Bn\\_East\\_Surrey\\_1915\\_10.shtml](http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/war_diaries/local/7Bn_East_Surrey/7Bn_East_Surrey_1915/7Bn_East_Surrey_1915_10.shtml)

This provided the diary entry for the fateful day, 13th October 1915, the Operational Orders and the post-action report and analysis. The 7th Battalion, East Surreys, were in the trenches on the Hulluch Road that ran between Vermelles and Hulluch, about two miles north of Loos and just south of the infamous Hohenzollern Redoubt that was then in enemy hands. They were under heavy bombardment with casualties every day. The Operational Orders describe the wave of attacks to capture as much of Gun Trench as possible in minute detail including the units who would comprise each attack force. A covering bombardment and gas would assist their approach and then they had to throw bombs into the enemy trenches, building barricades when they had to stop or regroup. They would be under fire from machine gun emplacements and enemy rifles. The artillery bombardment started at 12 noon, gas and smoke at 1.00 p.m. and then the assault started at 2.00 p.m. The attack was successful and most of the trench was occupied but fighting continued into the night, ceasing at about 5.00 the next morning. The cost in lives was high. Two officers killed, two wounded; 54 Other Ranks killed (including Henry Florey), 158 wounded and 33 missing. The post-action report explained that it had been difficult to occupy the trench as the pre-assault bombardment had battered it so hard that it provided very little cover against heavy enemy fire from adjacent Communication trenches.

I used the detailed report to pinpoint the action on a reproduction Trench Map of the Loos area, entitled 'Loos. Sheet 36C N.W. 3 & part of 1' that I had bought at the National Archives bookshop. The task allocated to the East Surreys in Lt Colonel Baldwin's Operational Order No, 3 was to launch an assault 'on the German gun trench G.12.d.5.7 – G.12.b.2.2'.

See the attached map (Courtesy of The National Archives) and the (red = enemy) trenches. My annotations are in green.

The 'G' is at the top of the map, out of view; the '12' is on an intersection of four grid lines; 'd' is the bottom right of the four grid boxes surrounding the '12' (on the map it is a capital D - the other three boxes are A/B/C); '5.7' are x, y, co-ordinates within box D (5 out of 10 left to right horizontally, 7 out of 10 upwards).



The War Diary for 15th October 1915 says that it was now quiet and everyone was taking a well- earned rest. Major General Scott visited to tell them they had ‘[acted] magnificently and that he was very pleased with us, he also said the Corps Commander had congratulated him on the excellent work we had done.’

A draft of 105 new troops arrived on the 17th. The fighting continued.

I’m proud of Henry. He did his bit, and gave his all. I look forward to attaching him to my family tree.



**Have you come up against a**

## **Brick Wall?**

**Send your request for help to the Editor for publication in the next issue.**

## A Grim Tale

*Sylvia J Dibbs (9486)*

At the June meeting of the Croydon Branch we held a stimulating Memorabilia Evening in which members brought items of interest in their family history. My own contribution started with a Victorian children's book: *Fairy Tales from Grimm*, with an introduction by S. Baring-Gould and drawings by Gordon Browne, published by Wells Gardner, Darton & Co in 1894. A similar copy in better condition is currently available on Amazon at £80! This book belonged to my grandmother, Ida **Turner**, and was given to her as a Christmas present in 1894 'with Aunt Bessie's love' as inscribed on the fly leaf. The book was a firm favourite. Children, even lucky ones, had very few books in Victorian times, so they were especially valued. In her old age she could not see to read and one of her great joys was my reading aloud stories, many very grim, from this book to her. I would have been about nine years old and the same age as she was when she received this treasured book.

One day, she became tearful and taking her gold Maltese cross necklace off she gave it to me as a thank you for reading to her so many times. She wore this piece of jewellery more than any other piece. It had been a present from her father and I realised even at that tender age I was very privileged to be given it. In the photograph she is aged about fifteen years wearing the cross.

So: who was Aunt Bessie and how did father come by a Maltese cross?

Aunt Bessie was the eldest surviving aunt of my grandmother on her mother's side. Her full name was Elizabeth **Beachey**, first married as Kay and following a second marriage, **Heaton**. My grandmother was a great hoarder and I am now benefiting from this





habit because I found Aunt Bessie in an old photograph album in which most of the family and friends were named.

Aunt Bessie looks out from her pictures as a kindly, unflappable person. This impression of her is borne out by finding on the 1891 census that she had the care of a young nephew. The reason for this is a whole other story, but death records show that his mother died, followed soon after by his father, Aunt Bessie's brother. One photograph shows her around 1895 in her Victorian sitting room with her two small grandchildren, a niece and probably her nephew, two of the four orphaned children of her brother. The photograph is an unusually relaxed, informal view, showing the very fussy décor of the era, the little girl holds her wooden doll, the older boy is stroking a cat. On the mantelpiece can be seen, at least in the original, two photographs one of which shows a contemporary view of my ten year old grandmother with her mother. Further research in at the National Archives (J77 series) showed that the parents of Aunt Bessie's small grandchildren divorced and probably Aunt Bessie, their grandmother, became a stable figure in their young lives and also in the lives of

her orphaned nephew and niece. Using the 1901 census, I have found their orphaned twin brothers in the Workhouse, Clutton in Somerset. This workhouse features in the website dedicated to workhouses ([www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)). The 1891 census shows these twins, Reginald Charles and Charles Reginald (yes, really this unimaginative naming!) were living with their maternal grandmother who was not nearly as well off as their paternal Aunt Bessie. Such is the injustice of life. None of these four children did well in life, but Aunt Bessie's charges did not go to the workhouse. The photograph of the four Beachey children shows them around 1882, from left to right a twin, Harry born 1876, Isabel born 1879 and twin born 1877. Their mother died in 1881 and their father in 1886. Sadly there is damage to the picture from be stuck to the one on the opposite page.

So what of my grandmother's father and his Maltese cross? He was in the Royal Marines, though long before he married and had a daughter. The family story was that he had a mistress in Malta. My father obtained a typed copy of his grandfather's service record over thirty years ago and I assumed I knew it all, but we are always told, check with the originals if possible! Thanks to modern databases I instantly found the original records ready to download from the National Archives website. Admiralty Officer's service records for the Royal Marines are in ADM/196. His record



confirmed that he had spent his time on routine patrols of the Mediterranean calling at Malta several times. So perhaps the story of a mistress in Malta was true. It certainly explains the Maltese cross necklace. Two details had been left out of the typed copy. To my dismay the record shows that my father's grandfather was hospitalised at the Royal Marine base in Portsmouth suffering from syphilis, a very common disease amongst marines and sailors. It appears that whoever typed the copy for my father decided to leave this out, perhaps to spare his sensitivities. So great grandfather was declared unfit for service and retired. In due course he married a rich widow, Aunt Bessie's sister, and had a daughter, my grandmother. The second extra piece of information I found on the original document was that his death was reported by his son-in-law long after the event and long after son-in-law had deserted his daughter. The Royal Marines Museum is open to the public, see [www.royalmuseum.co.uk](http://www.royalmuseum.co.uk).

It has always been a mystery as to why my grandmother was left by her husband within months of marriage and before their son was born. My theory is that he got wind of his father-in-law's disease, though it would have been at the secondary, dormant, stage at this time. This disease was much feared as there were no antibiotics to cure it in those days and also it was seen as the result of immoral behaviour, so perhaps the young husband fled in fear and with righteous indignation!

The old marine, in spite of this disease, lived into his 80s dying of cancer of the eye, probably a late stage, the third, of the syphilis. There is a photograph of him with his eye well bandaged shortly before his death. He is posing with his daughter, his much loved grandson and his old sister, a surprisingly happy scene. The absent son-in-law, I have since discovered, was found by his daily help, having died alone of a heart attack, both facts on the coroner's report, after a very lonely, isolated life. This life style came to light in a news report of his brother's death in a French rail accident. There must be a moral there somewhere. Amazingly, I found the news report while searching idly on the Australian newspaper site, <https://nla.gov.au/newspaper>. Australia was just an outpost of England in the 1930s and many news items relate to 'home', that is England. As the site is fully free of charge, it is well worth investigating.

So a 'grim' tale of orphans, disease, desertion and accident all starting with the Fairy Tales from Grimm!



# Can you help?

## Cornish

*Graham Cornish* {[graham@copyrightcircle.co.uk](mailto:graham@copyrightcircle.co.uk)}

Are you related to the Cornish family of Thornton Heath?

My grandfather had two shops in Thornton Heath, and I have photographs of the High Street from the early twentieth century as well as lots of information about the family. If anyone in the Society is interested in this family, I should be pleased to provide any information that I can. Please contact me by email as above.

## Dinsdale

*Joan Dexter née Dinsdale* [10036] [joandexter@googlemail.com](mailto:joandexter@googlemail.com)

Has anybody come across Margaret Dinsdale of Walworth and her sister Elizabeth, who are known to have been alive in 1784?

One of my collateral ancestors was the wealthy wholesale and retail haberdasher Henry Dinsdale of 28 Holborn at the Sign of the Acorn opposite Leather Lane (such a lovely address). He made his will on 23 November 1784 which was proved on 16 December 1786 PCC. Among many bequests was 'and also to my cousin Margaret Dinsdale of Walworth and her sister Elizabeth a Gold Ring each which I hope they will wear in remembrance of me'.

Who are these two ladies? This is the sole reference I have found for them. 'Cousin' in those days may have referred to kinsfolk who were not necessarily a cousin in the sense in which we know it today. I cannot fit them anywhere in to my family tree – but they must belong there somewhere! Dinsdale is a northern name, mainly Yorkshire, and was not common in Surrey. There is a village named Walworth in the parish of Heighington, north-west of Darlington in County Durham, but research there has discounted it as being the Walworth meant by Henry.

I would appreciate any help in breaking down what has been a brick wall for many decades.

# Can you help?

## White

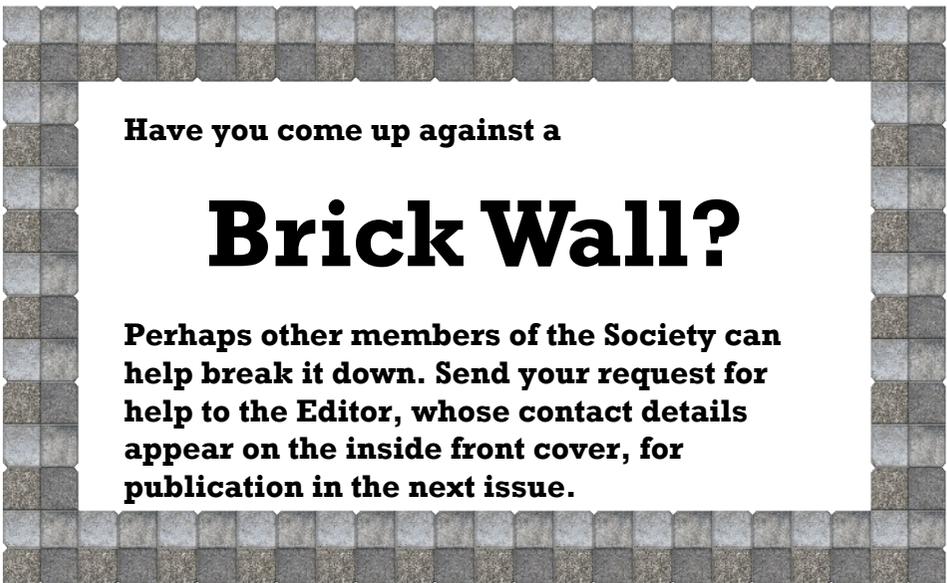
*Pat Staniforth [10390]*

The first record that I have of Henry White is that of his marriage to Sarah Moore in 1826 at Southwark St Saviour. Their first two children, Henry and John, were baptised at Southwark St Saviour in 1828, when Henry was recorded as a 'gentleman' living at Bermondsey. When the next two children, Benjamin and Sarah, were baptised in 1830, the address was St Olave, and Henry's occupation was cordwainer. He was subsequently recorded as cordwainer shoemaker or bootmaker, so why did he have 'gentleman' status in 1828?

In 1841 Henry and Sarah and their nine children were living at 16 Melior Street along with a 14 year old apprentice and two lodgers (how big was that house in Melior Street?!) Also at that address was Frances White age 80, independent (was she Henry's mother? – a Fanny White died in 1842 at St George Southwark).

From the census, it would appear that Henry was born in 1803 in Southwark, but I have been unable to find a baptism.

Henry's parents are my only 3xgt-grandparents that I have not yet traced. Can anyone offer any help, please?



**Have you come up against a**

# **Brick Wall?**

**Perhaps other members of the Society can help break it down. Send your request for help to the Editor, whose contact details appear on the inside front cover, for publication in the next issue.**