



East Surrey

Family History Society



Journal

Volume 39 number 3 September 2016

*One of the soldiers that did not
return: his story is on page 22*

East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977 — Registered Charity No. 286659

All addresses are in Surrey unless otherwise stated

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(continued on inside back cover)

The Society **Research & Advice centre** is at Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield. It is open every month (except August and December) on the second Saturday from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and on the fourth Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Postal sales – CD and fiches	Sue Adams, 10 Cobham Close, Wallington, SM6 9DS postalsales@esfhs.org.uk
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(1st January - 31st December)

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The overseas rate is the sterling equivalent of £12 if the Journal is taken electronically; if a paper copy of the Journal is preferred the rate is £18. Exchange rates to sterling will be advised in the December Journal and on the website. Overseas members may, if they prefer, pay their renewal subscription in local currency to their local representative.

The membership covers two or more related persons living at the same address, although only one copy of the Journal will be sent

All records of membership, including names, addresses, and subscription details, are held on computer. Please inform the Membership Secretary if you do not wish your details to be held on computer and special arrangements will be made.

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Members must quote their Membership Number in all correspondence

The DEADLINE for the next Journal (December 2016) is 1st November

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

www.eastsurreyffhs.org.uk

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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

August

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------|-----------|
| 4 | Drought, deluges and dust devils
<i>300 years of SE weather</i> | Ian Currie | Sutton |
| 8 | Scandals and Skeletons
<i>The talk will include the presentation of a trial from the Old Bailey, with various characters played by regular members of the Southwark branch. Never let it be said that our meetings are dull!
This replaces the previously advertised talk by Sheila Gallagher</i> | Ken Ripper | Southwark |

September

- | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Mapping your ancestors | John Hanson | Sutton |
| 10 | Two twentieth-century resources
<i>The Lloyd George Doomsday and National Farm survey</i> | Paul Blake | Richmond |
| 20 | Bat boat to Red Arrows
<i>100 years of aviation in Kingston upon Thames, from Sopwith to Hawker to British Aerospace to BAE Systems and the closure of the factories in 1992. David is from Kingston Aviation Heritage, which charts the history of aeroplane production and the people who worked in the factories in Kingston and Brooklands</i> | David Hassard | Croydon |
| 28 | Family history in Southwark
<i>in the 18th – 20th centuries</i> | Stephen Humphrey | Lingfield |

October

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|-----------|
| 6 | The Victorian Underworld | Ian Waller | Sutton |
| 10 | Records of Shopkeepers
<i>Sue is a former librarian from the Society of Genealogists. This will be a very lively talk</i> | Sue Gibbons | Southwark |
| 18 | My ancestors in the Royal Navy
<i>Following a single family, with many generations in the Royal Navy, most of the more important records are explained. Paul is the ESFHS President and lectures on family history in the UK and abroad</i> | Paul Blake | Croydon |

Group meetings

- | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|
| 19 Kenley airfield | Amy Todd | Lingfield |
| <i>Amy is from the City of London Corporation and will talk about the local history of RAF Kenley, one of the most important WW2 fighter airfields, and the project to revive and restore it. Please note that this meeting is one week earlier than usual.</i> | | |

November

- | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| 3 The Genealogists' Anthem | Gill Alford | Sutton |
| <i>... and a muse on the indispensable ag. lab. Gill is the Secretary of the ESFHS Sutton Group.</i> | | |
| 12 Tracing ancestors who fought in two World Wars | Simon Fowler | Richmond |
| 15 Tudor Christmas Cookery | | Croydon |
| <i>History on the Move. Qualified teachers who aim to bring alive what our ancestors in Tudor Times would have eaten at Christmas.</i> | | |
| 23 Victorian London | Ian Bevan | Lingfield |

- Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP
3rd Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.
Secretary: Liz Moss 020 8686 8962 croydon@eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk
- Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB
4th Wednesday (except August and December); 2.30 p.m.
Secretary: Rita Russell 01342 834648 lingfield@eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk
- Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA
2nd Saturday of alternate months; 2.30 p.m.
Secretary: Veronica McConnell 01372 363015 richmond@eastsurreyfhhs.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 01346 685219 southwark@eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk
- Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton SM1 2RG
1st Thursday; 8.00 p.m.
Secretary: Gillian Alford 020 8393 7714 sutton@eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk

Doors usually open 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. Please check the Society website www.esfhs.org.uk for future meetings and last-minute alterations.

Latest news from the committee

As members know, we currently have no chairman of the ESFHS Committee. However, we are delighted to report that Don Knight came forward after the AGM this year and offered to rejoin the Committee. The members of the Committee were pleased, therefore, to co-opt him on to the Committee for the coming year.

Other news is that Sue Adams has recently taken over the role of co-ordinating the email Volunteer List, which was established last year, from Liz Moss. The Volunteer List consists of the email addresses of those members who have expressed an interest in helping the Society to man tables/stands at family history fairs and other relevant events. Being part of this list does not commit you to anything but it keeps you up-to-date with what events we have been invited to attend and gives you the opportunity to get involved if you would like to do so. Please email Sue at sueadams@sky.com if you would like your email address to be added to the list.

Finally, we would like to point out that after next year's AGM in April the Committee will not only need a Chairman (if no one has come forward by then) but also a new Secretary and a new Treasurer, since both Judith and Lesley will have come to the end of their five-year term. As you will appreciate, the role of Treasurer is fundamental to the good running of the Society so please do consider offering your services if you have a little experience of book-keeping or accounting and live near enough to the East Surrey area for you to be able to attend Committee meetings. If you are interested but would like to know more about what is involved in any of these roles then please contact either Judith or Lesley whose email addresses can be found inside the front cover of the Journal.



Derek Tooke – an appreciation

Brenda Hawkins

I cannot remember when I first met Derek Tooke. As a founder member of our society he was just always there. His enthusiastic greeting, when his whole face lit up, made you always feel welcome.

There were five founding members of our society in August 1977, notable amongst them Derek and Jean Tooke. Derek already had form. He was also a very early member of the then Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society, founded several years earlier, so he had a clear idea of the possibilities and values of such a mutual support group. He held senior roles within a bank, in the days when a bank manager was a respected member of society, and he brought the skills of patience, meticulous attention to detail and unswerving courtesy to his roles within ESFHS. He was an early chairman of the society and the committee meetings were hosted by Derek and Jean in their own home. He was on the committee for the first ten years, by which time ESFHS was firmly established, but it had been touch and go in the early years, when nobody knew for sure how the public would respond to a family history society, and they dare not even hire a meeting room too far in advance lest the whole venture flop.

I knew Derek mainly through his interest in his Norfolk roots. He found time to chair meetings for the NNGS in London and produced several useful transcripts. We would often travel back together on the train. He was always good company and always a gentleman to his fingertips: a quality rare in modern society. Even when I dragged him onto a train at London Bridge heading in the wrong direction, he did not scold me for my folly.

If he and Jean could not attend an AGM, there was always a formal apology for their absence. Sadly, he was dogged by ill health in later years, so many of the newer members did not have the privilege of knowing him.

In an internet age, when you can trace a family across several counties and censuses at the click of a mouse, it is easy to forget the huge challenge our hobby was 40 years ago. But we are standing on the shoulders of giants. There have been thousands of us with cause to be grateful to Derek and others like him. Not only did they help us with our research in all the familiar resources of a family history society, but they also have made our lives so much the richer by all the friendships they have enabled.



Gotobed

Ken Read [9125]

I read with some interest in the previous Journal (June 2016) about the surname **Gotobed**. I have been pondering for some time about my 5xgt-grandfather christened 'Gotobed son of William & Catherine [Reed] Read' at St Michael's, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire on 16 Oct 1713. This seems unusual as a first name? I have since found out that his mother's maiden name was **Godfrey**.

I have found a marriage for a Godfrey **Read** and Ann **Reynolds** 3 May 1733 at Bishops Stortford. Ann died in October 1738; Godfrey then married Ann **Edridge** on 1 Oct 1740. They had three children, including my 4xgt-grandfather William Read.

Do you or any of our readers think that is reasonable to assume that Gotobed and Godfrey are one and the same person? His birth date and age at death seem to indicate this is so.

It would be interesting to hear any comments from other members on this or if they know of Gotobed as a Christian name.



The Clay family – DNA project

John **Clay** came from England and arrived in Virginia USA in the year 1613. The 'Clay Society of America' is most interested to learn from which Clay family in England he is descended.

The members of the Society have traced their family trees back to this John Clay but can get no further, hence the Society is enquiring if any male person in the UK with the Clay surname would like to take part in a free DNA Project to help further the Clay family descent. This would be at no cost. If any male Clay surname persons are interested in receiving a free DNA kit please contact David Clay, 30 Mill Street, Mansfield, NG18 2PQ (email dave@kicknrush.co.uk or telephone 01623 648236).



Postcards as a Family History resource

Roger Sutton 4 Penistone Close, Lancing, BN15 9AR

My great-grandmother (1848 – 1940) was born Louisa Elizabeth **Hale**. She married Charles **Gerrett** on 4 February 1868 at St Bartholomew, Sydenham. His grandfather Thomas Gerrett was from Godstone.

Louisa was widowed at the age of 33. She lived at various locations in South London, including Penge, Upper Norwood, and South Norwood. One property was 'Reculver', Crescent Road, South Norwood; it was a detached house on three floors, with a croquet lawn.

Her children were Louisa (1870), Charles (1872), Agnes (1874) and my grandmother Florence (1877). Her husband Charles was an auctioneer and estate agent of 1 Railway Buildings, Norwood Junction, Croydon. The main reason Louisa frequently moved house was because Charles kept finding new houses for his mother.

In the early 20th century there was a craze for collecting and sending postcards to family and friends. The three Gerrett sisters embraced this craze wholeheartedly. They never worked, and so were ladies of leisure. They cycled around South London and west Kent, looking at Anglican churches, which fitted in well with buying hundreds of postcards depicting the churches they had visited or intended to visit.

Many of these postcards have survived, more than a century later, whereas letters have usually been destroyed. Most of the postcards in my possession are those that my grandmother Florence (1877 – 1967) sent to her sister Louisa. I remember Florence recalling that Louisa was the clever member of the family; she had received a formal education at school. In contrast, Florence had been educated at home by a governess, which was very common in Victorian times. Florence's great-uncle John William Hale (1803 – 1886) was the founder and treasurer of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution; he was also a director of the Bank of England. He was a close friend of the Buss family, and financed Miss Buss when she started the famous North London Collegiate School for Girls.

I shall limit this article to those postcards sent during the period 1904 – 1910, which coincided with the boom in postcard sales. The first of these cards is dated 7 January 1904: Florence was staying with her future husband Arthur **Pickering** and his parent at 'Fern Bank', London Road, Bromley. Arthur worked

Postcards as a Family History resource

for a firm of Jewish architects in Old Broad Street, in the City. They specialised in designing synagogues, such as that at St John's Wood and the Chatham Memorial Synagogue. Florence sent the postcard to her sister Louisa, who was then staying with the future husband Ernest **Rollinson** and his parent in Brierley Hill, Staffordshire. Ernest was training to be a solicitor and would eventually establish a business in Uckfield, East Sussex. Florence reported that she had a collection of about 260 postcards. She had attended Mrs Pickering's 'At Home' day. This was a middle-class convention whereby a lady was available to receive visitors, at a certain time on a certain day of the week. Elsie (Arthur's sister) had gone to see somebody at Shortlands. Florence frequently used initials to denote individuals, which makes it difficult for me to discover who she was talking about. Incidentally there were four marriages between the **Wilkinson** family (ancestors of the Pickerings) and the **Ricardo** family, including David Ricardo (1772 – 1823), the famous economist, and his brother Moses (1776 – 1866), known for his 'vast intellect'.

In July 1904 Florence, her brother Charles, and a friend were spending a fortnight's holiday in Suffolk. Among the cards I have is one dated 28 July 1904 depicting St Matthew's church, Ipswich. Florence mentioned trains, steamers, charabancs (and punctures mended by Charles).

Florence was spending a lot of time with Arthur at 'Fern Bank'. She got on particularly well with Arthur's father, John Turney Pickering, who had worked as an accountant for the London Joint Stock Bank in the City. She recalled that he was an extremely generous man: if you said you liked something, he would buy it for you.

Louise seems to have been living permanently with Ernest in Staffordshire. In Florence's postcards there is much mention of illnesses suffered by members of the Gerrett, Hale and Pickering families. Doctors were frequently mentioned. These were the days well before the NHS, when doctors were paid when you consulted them. Home visits were very common, and you often developed a close relationship with your doctor. Florence mentioned that in three cases a second opinion was sought, sometimes from a specialist.

Because the Gerrett family was wealthy, servants were employed. On the other hand, Florence made her own clothes and also made jam and

Postcards as a Family History resource

marmalade. One August day she picked 15¼ lb of blackberries, presumably to be made into blackberry jam.

My mother Eileen Pickering (1913 – 2008) used to talk about her Pickering and Gerrett families. The former were a jolly lot and enjoyed the good things in life. They were much given to parties, bridge parties and musical evenings, with Arthur's mother Annette playing the piano. The Gerretts were more staid and austere. They considered themselves to be of Huguenot descent, which would be consistent with this. Florence was a great patriot: whenever the National Anthem was played, she would always stand to attention.

She clearly very much enjoyed staying at 'Fern Bank', and said that she had a jolly time. The Pickerings seemed to seize on any excuse to hold a party. On the 39th anniversary of the wedding of John Turney Pickering and Annette **Rolls** (Arthur's parents) there was a family party and Florence reported that she had a very enjoyable evening.

On one card, in 1905, she listed eight of Shakespeare's plays, perhaps suggesting that she had seen them all. On the same card she mentioned that her mother wanted a dog. It appeared that her children didn't like the idea. Florence absolutely adored cats, but never had a dog.

On a 1906 card a game s evening is mentioned. Piladix, Pitt and Hunt the thimble were all played. Among those present were Rosa **Paddon**, whom Charles Gerrett married that year. Florence was one of three bridesmaids at the wedding. Charles was the first of the Gerrett children to marry. Louise married Ernest in 1907 and initially they lived in Ebbw Vale. Florence married Arthur on 27 June 1908 at St Mark's, South Norwood; they were married by the vicar of St John's, Penge. The notice of their marriage appeared in *The Times* dated 30 June. Agnes Gerrett never married.

A card from Florence to Louise starts with "The servant has come back". Florence goes on to explain that the doctor does not think the girl has had mumps, but thinks it would be as well for her to keep away from Elsie's children, so Florence would be staying on a bit to look after the children while Elsie finished getting straight. Elsie (Pickering) had married George Hale, a member of Louisa Elizabeth's Hale family, on 2 August 1899. Clearly the middle classes were still very dependent on servants to look after their children.



News from Sutton Local Studies & Archives

Kath Shawcross (L B of Sutton Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager)

I have very exciting news to impart, of which some members of the Committee will already be aware. In July we were awarded a further £95,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to continue our project to clean, rehouse, digitise, catalogue and research the glass plate negatives of Edwardian photographer David Knights-Whittome who had shops in Sutton and Epsom. Very special thanks to the Society for supporting us in this bid.

The new project is called *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times: Rediscovering the Female Portraits of David Knights-Whittome, Photographer, 1904-1918*. It's a completely new project, hence the new title, but with some of the same aims as the *Past on Glass*. So as before our volunteers will continue to carry out the work in caring for the plates, digitising and researching them.

What is different about this project is the theme – women. To date, images of women make up the greatest number of negatives taken between 1904 and 1918. The Edwardian period was a tumultuous time for women, with many aspects of their lives changing: in the home, new job opportunities, the fight for the right to vote and then of course WW1, which all brought new challenges.

We will be working with Sutton Writers' Group, the Sutton Women's Centre and Women's Hub with the writers' group organising writing workshops for women and local school students. They will also be producing an anthology of prose and poetry taking inspiration from the images. We will be working specifically with St Philomena's School in Carshalton, which Knights-Whittome photographed extensively, and with a class from the Sutton Tuition and Integration Service (STARS) focusing on different types of images.

In the last year of the project there will be an exhibition in Honeywood Museum in Carshalton and a symposium for Heritage professionals will be held jointly with the University of the Arts, London.

I'll keep you up-to-date on our milestones but in the meantime please continue to follow our blog at www.pastonglass.wordpress.com Scanned images can be found on our Flickr site www.flickr.com/photos/pastonglass

Finally, a reminder that over four million names from Sutton Archives were published on Ancestry this past April. They include parish registers, rate books,

News from Sutton Local Studies

electoral registers and the Royal Female Orphanage in Beddington. If you have any queries please email me at local.studies@sutton.gov.uk.



David Knights-Whittome

Guildhall Police Museum

A City of London police museum is opening in the Guildhall in October 2016. See the details below.


**CITY OF LONDON
POLICE MUSEUM
UPCOMING TALKS**

8th November 2016 6pm
COMMANDER CHRIS GREANY
**FRAUD ...FROM THE CONFIDENCE
TRICKSTER TO THE CYBER CRIMINAL**



National Police
Co-ordinator for
Economic Crime,
Chris Greany
explores the many
faces of fraud,
including the
growing cybercrime
threat. He explains how the City of London
Police investigates such crimes and the
challenges faced in bringing criminals
to justice.

24th November 6pm
TRACY ALEXANDER
**FORENSIC INVESTIGATION;
MURDER AND MAYHEM...**




Tracy Alexander, Director of Forensic
Services at the City of London Police,
looks at the key part that forensics play
in today's criminal investigations. Using
actual crimes, she explains how forensic
advancements have helped solve cold
cases and miscarriages of justice.

November 15, 2-3pm (Free)
CATHERINE COULTHARD
**1000 YEARS OF POLICING IN THE
CITY OF LONDON: A COLLECTION
AND ITS STORIES**



Using the Police
Museum Collection,
Catherine Couthard,
former curator, will
take you on a tour
of the City's criminal
history. Terrorism,
murder, gun fights
and Olympic gold come together in
the history and reality of policing in the
City of London.

December 8th, 6pm
DUNCAN CAMPBELL
CRIME AND THE CITY



Duncan Campbell,
former crime
correspondent
for the Guardian,
chairman of the
Crime Reporters'
Association and
author of *We'll All
Be Murdered in Our Beds! The Shocking
History of Crime Reporting in Britain (2016)*
tells the story of the City of London's
impact on the way crime is investigated,
punished and reported.

Share your experiences
#CityPolice



Follow the hard-working
four-legged City Police
@CityPoliceDogs
@CityHorses
@CityPolice

All evening talks £5 plus booking fee and can be
booked in advance at www.ghlevents.eventbrite.co.uk
Includes drinks reception after the talk.

cityoflondon.gov.uk/policemuseum

On the street where you live . . .

Chris Green [3445]

When my wife and I chose our present house almost 21 years ago, one of the things that attracted us to it was that it was a little out of the ordinary.

Part of the house was around 400 years old; it had originally been built as one of four farm labourers' cottages. Around 1907 two of the cottages had been bridged by a 'join' to form a much larger house with six bedrooms, but in the early 1970s the house was divided again into two dwellings. Our house comprises one of the original cottages plus the majority of the 'join', and is Grade II listed. We were both interested in family history and felt that the obvious next step was to do some research into the history of our house. One thing led to another and I began to research every house in the road (of which there are around 75). The earliest to be built (with the obvious exception of our own house!) was, at the time, just under 100 years old and others had been built over the following 50 years.

To cut a long story short, this has been a fascinating diversion from the usual tracing and recording of family trees. The results can be seen at www.rockshawroad.org.uk and I can recommend the exercise. Many of the sources are those which you would use when tracing your family – indeed, much of the road's history relies on personal histories and some of these sources are discussed.

Electoral Registers

Historical registers should be available at your local County Record Office (at Woking, in the case of Surrey). *Ancestry* has published many Surrey registers online – search for “UK Census Records & Electoral Rolls”. Depending on the area you are searching, the date range covered is generally 1918 – 1945; earlier and later registers do exist but you may have to visit the CRO to see them. In theory all those people aged 21 and over were listed, together with their address, but before women were enfranchised in the 1920s few females were included (because they weren't able to vote). The registers were published every year (twice a year for much of the 1920s) but weren't always kept up to date. The two biggest problems with using these registers are that nobody under 21 is shown and no relationships are shown – thus although a household of a male and female with the same surname probably means that they were married, this isn't necessarily so – they could have been father and

On the street where you live

daughter, widowed mother and son, or perhaps brother and sister. There is generally no way of telling which names belong to servants and which to the 'family' of the house, although servants often tended to stay only a few years.

Kelly's Directories

These were originally Trade Directories but they later included all householders. Some are available online but most CROs hold printed copies. They can sometimes be useful to fill in gaps in the Electoral Registers but were not updated regularly and I have found several instances of a name being listed for a year or more after the death of that person.

Census returns

These will be familiar to anyone who has done any family history. The biggest disadvantage is, of course, that they were published only every ten years. The 1911 census is particularly useful as it shows the number of rooms in each house, but if the road you are researching is less than about 100 years old then census returns will be of no use to you. On the other hand, the returns do show relationships of each person in the household and their ages, so it is rather easier to establish how they fit in. Remember, though, that the census return was a 'snapshot' of people resident over one particular night, so it may include visitors (though they are usually described as such) and it will not show any member of the family who was away from home at the time.

1939 register

This is available on FindMyPast and you may find that this can provide you with a lot of information. You can search by address, and for each house every occupant is listed together with occupation and, most useful of all, their precise date of birth. However, no relationships are given although often 'family' can be distinguished from servants because of the occupation. The entry for anyone born later than about 1915 has been redacted as they could possibly still be alive. Be careful if you rely on the transcriptions as these have often been done very badly.

Newspapers

Many newspapers, both British and foreign, are available online through Find MyPast and filters can be applied to search for a date range, a particular place,

On the street where you live

or even a road (although if you happen to live in the High Street, or The Crescent, this won't be of much use). A search for 'Rockshaw' (the name of my road) returned 664 articles: most of these are from the *Surrey Mirror*, the local paper, although others come from further afield. Most of the transcriptions are simply awful and it is always worth looking at the original image.

Parish registers

These will also be familiar to any Family Historian. Not all include the address but when they do they can give a lot of useful information.

Wills and emigration lists

Depending on how deeply you wish to conduct your research, both these (and others) are worth consulting.

Internet search

If the houses in your road have names rather than numbers (as mine do) then it's worth trying a simple internet search on the name of the house – you might be surprised what turns up.

Personal memories

It's worth trying to find people who have been around the area for many years as they often have interesting stories to tell, but memories are sometimes not all that accurate!

When you start writing your Road History you will find that many of the individual house histories are not much more than a list of dates and occupants. If that's all the information you have, then you must accept it; but often you will be able to discover other information that you can add to the bare facts. This is not going to be a literary masterpiece – but then anyone who reads it is likely to be searching for information, rather than seeking to be entertained.

Finally, take care not to upset anybody who might take offence at your history. When I first started I wrote to every house in the road explaining what I was doing. A few people asked that their names should not be included, but most people seemed interested in what I was doing and several gave me a great deal of information about their own house and about other houses in the road.

Website round up

Brian Hudson

<http://surname-society.org/>

Across the world there is a vast number of people studying surnames. Some research independently, while others collaborate in various groups, associations and societies. In 2014 the Surname Society was founded as a not-for-profit entity by a worldwide group of genealogists. Concentrating on single surname studies, the Society aims to meet the needs of family history researchers as it evolves over the coming years.

<http://bettergedcom.wikispaces.com/>

BetterGEDCOM was formed in 2010 after a group of people had problems sharing genealogical information about a mutual family line. Their data had become lost or mangled in the transfer. Knowing that others had the same frustrations led to the BetterGEDCOM wiki, an open forum for the exchange of ideas. The original goal was to develop a standard for genealogy data storage and transfer that would be accepted internationally. On the back of this, an *ad hoc* committee of BetterGEDCOM wiki members established the Family History Information Standards Organisation (FHISO), a standards-setting organisation, to develop general data standards for the benefit of the genealogy community.



Save the Date!

Next year East Surrey Family History Society celebrates its 40th anniversary and your Committee is pleased to announce that it has booked the Centennial Suite at the Croydon Park Hotel for our Open Day and AGM on Saturday 22 April 2017.

The hotel is near to East Croydon station and reduced rate parking will be available. Further details will follow in due course but we would love to see as many members as possible, especially those of you who were instrumental in setting up the Society. Please book the date in your diaries now!



Researching Relatives who served in WW1

Peter Moulin [6101]

One of the most important aspects of genealogy is factual accuracy, and two incidents I have come across recently demonstrate the need to check and re-check facts. The first of these also illustrates what I used to teach children: do not believe everything you find on the internet. The *Hampshire Family Historian* had a picture on the front cover of British soldiers in World War Two battledress leaping over a trench, which was illustrating an article about the Battle of the Somme! When I pointed out to the editor that they did not have the correct jacket or any puttees, he told me they had found the picture on the internet labelled as WW1. I have found it correctly labelled as WW2. The second incident was more serious because I found it written by a professional in *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine in an article relating to the Battle of the Somme, stating that there were over a million dead on both sides. This is, quite simply, not true. Total deaths were about 300,000 with about 131,000 of them British. When I pointed this out to the editor, she checked with the author, who said he had made a mistake and copied down the number of casualties. I am not trying to belittle the sacrifice of the soldiers involved, but to exaggerate the deaths by 700,000 is irresponsible. The purpose of history is to be as accurate as possible about the past. When we talk about the First World War we must distinguish between deaths and casualties (killed, wounded, missing, prisoner).

In this issue we have a member's article about the new technologies. In September 1916 the Battle of the Somme was moving into a new phase with the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on the 15th of that month. There was one field gun for every 10 yards of front compared to one every 29 yards on 1st July. There was also a small number of tanks available, still in their infancy. Compared with previous battles this one was successful. A large stretch of the German front line was taken, with the second line breached in the Flers sector. However, British casualties were high at 29,000. The Germans did not collapse, and the Battle of the Somme carried on until November.



The New Technology of WWI

Barbara Davis (8475)

Two forms of transport could have been described as ‘new technology’ during WWI, and my grandfather experienced both.

A Sainsbury’s shop assistant living in Croydon, Bertie Thomas **Day** was married with a daughter under a year old when he enlisted in the Rifle Brigade in 1915, before transferring to the Tank Corps in 1916. He fought at Arras (where he was mentioned in dispatches for ‘coolness and straight shooting’), Ypres, Villers-Bretonneux, Guillemont; and he won a Military Medal at Cambrai, in what is often considered the first major tank battle, before being taken prisoner in August 1918 and finally demobbed in 1919.

The first prototype tank, called ‘Little Willie’, was built in Great Britain in the summer of 1915 as an attempt to break the stalemate of armies dug into trenches and moving relatively slowly. To maintain secrecy, the project was initially described as ‘building mobile water tanks for Mesopotamia’ (now largely Iraq). Once their true purpose was known, the ‘tank’ part of the name stuck. The first tanks carried a crew of three and could travel as fast as three mph. They were initially labelled either ‘male’ or ‘female’; male tanks had cannons and females had heavy machine guns.

Battlefields were both deeply pot-holed from shelling, and often sodden with mud from heavy rain. Although horses were frequently used for transport, both they and conventional vehicles were usually useless in those conditions. The caterpillar tracks of tanks helped overcome these obstacles and their rhomboidal shape was designed to enable them to climb parapets and cross trenches – although they still became stuck more often than hoped.

Fighting in a tank was extremely unpleasant. The noise was horrendous, with the metal box acting as an echo chamber. The engine took up most of the inside space, leaving the men squatting in uncomfortable and cramped positions, and exhaust fumes tended to fill the remaining space. Further, the enemy soon found ways of combating them, such as the use of armour-piercing bullets and ‘tank



The New Technology of WWI

traps', which were pits half-full of water and covered by wire netting, canvas and a thin layer of earth. The water caused the caterpillar tracks to slip, thus preventing the tanks from climbing out of the pit.

My grandfather saw one of these monsters a year after the first prototype and couldn't wait to transfer to them. His experiences in tanks are briefly mentioned in a book, *The Boiler Plate War*, by John Foley, published by Muller in 1963 – a few copies can still be found on-line if you are interested.

During the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917, Bertie (then a Lance Corporal) found himself in charge of a tank of seven men when the officer who was supposed to command it was wounded just before the battle started. After a direct hit on their tank, the men bailed out, but Bertie returned to rescue a wounded fellow soldier. The men sheltered in a trench but unfortunately they selected one already occupied by Germans, resulting in hand-to-hand fighting before advancing infantry helped them out. As well as a Military Medal for this effort, Bertie kept as a souvenir the trigger spring of his gun, which he had disabled before bailing out.

What he did not do, unfortunately, was rescue a wicker basket. This housed two pigeons used to communicate with headquarters and, although both the pigeons in Bertie's tank had been despatched, there was a shortage of baskets – and heaven help the soldier who forgot to recover the cage on evacuating his tank under fire while helping a wounded friend. Bertie was asked to account for the loss. Knowing my grandfather, my guess is that his explanation did not mince words.

Tanks were not the only new technology Bertie experienced, as he persuaded a pilot to give him a flight in one of the first aircraft used in war. Initially these were used for reconnaissance. Before they could deploy guns, it was necessary to develop a means of preventing their bullets hitting their own propellers. The solution is described in a Wikipedia article on synchronization gear.

As for tanks, in 1918 Winston Churchill allegedly wrote to Lloyd George, referring to the men of the Tank Corps, "It is no exaggeration to say that the lives they have saved and the prisoners they have taken have made these 18,000 men the most profit-bearing we have in the army." My grandfather would rightly have been proud of that.



William Tipper: the brother who did not return

Terence Chapman [6328]

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

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

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

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

Great Britain was at war with Germany from 4 August 1914 and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was immediately sent to France. On 13 August, William Henry Tipper and his comrades in the 1st Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment took ship from Portsmouth and sailed to Le Havre. After a few days they advanced to Mons where they engaged the enemy; but such was the overwhelming force of the enemy that the BEF had to retreat. William Henry and his battalion were involved in the battles of Le Cateau and the Marne. In mid-September 1914 they advanced to the River Aisne, and this month saw the beginning of trench warfare. The Battalion Diary notes 'The men were in a

William Tipper: the brother who did not return

very exhausted condition. Seventeen days in the wet and mud of the trenches with no time to take off their clothing and only one day on which they could take their boots off had made their feet in a very bad state.'

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

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

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



Two Brothers in the First World War

Barbara Beaumont

In a family that consisted of seven girls and two boys, it is not surprising that Benjamin James and Arthur William **Stapleton** shared a special bond. They were only three years apart, and enjoyed a boyish rivalry during such pursuits as bike races and the occasional fight. Beneath the rivalry lay a deep affection.

The boys were part of a working-class London family. Ben, the second child, was born in 1894, while Art, the fourth, was born in 1897. In his autobiography Art tells us that Ben was ‘a lovable character’ whose ‘one ambition appeared to be to give service to others and I cannot recall hearing him ever speak ill of any friend or acquaintance’. Art’s temperament was more fiery and rebellious – he was often in trouble at school – and he admits to dominating his gentle elder brother.

When war was declared in 1914, Ben was twenty and Art seventeen. Like many others, they thought the war would be over in a few months and did not rush to enlist. But as the war dragged on, their father, who had served in the British Army in India, and was a great patriot, urged them to join up. He could hardly have foreseen how different the conditions of the First World War would be from his experience in India.

Ben was the first of the brothers to volunteer. Probably because of the asthma that had plagued him from childhood, he was assigned to the 2/12th Battalion, the Rangers, a ‘second line’ unit intended for home defence. Early in the war Ben’s Battalion was engaged in home defence activities, but in January 1917 they were mobilised for service in France.

Art soon followed his brother’s lead and joined up. He hated the bullying discipline meted out to the ranks, and on his very first parade was punished with a week’s pack drill. He quickly realised that there was no point trying to argue or reason in the army, but used his wits to organise revolts more subtly without actually breaking any rules. During initial training at Winchester he volunteered, or more accurately was volunteered by the sergeant, to join the



Ben Stapleton in uniform

Two Brothers in the First World War

Machine Gun Corps, which was formed in October 1915. He was trained at Grantham to use a Vickers machine gun, a very heavy weapon that needed a crew of four to operate it; but due to the short supply of guns they had to train using boulders to simulate the action of moving and assembling the parts of the gun.

Following training, Art was sent to France as part of 22nd Brigade of the 7th Division where he came face-to-face with the terrible realities of trench warfare. He was appalled by the carnage, and particularly moved by the fate of the horses, who could have had no understanding of what it was all about.

Art took part in the two attacks on Bullecourt, of which he wrote 'It would be hard to conceive a more futile or stupid attack than the first attack on Bullecourt' and he expressed his bitter anger against the 'stupid generals ... who could think of nothing better than sending wave after wave of men to be slaughtered'. Had he been an ordinary infantry soldier, this would probably have been his fate. Paradoxically, being a member of the 'suicide squad', as the Machine Gun Corps was sometimes referred to, probably saved him. At the end of the failed second attack, when the guns fell silent, Art and his fellow machine-gunners were marooned in a dugout in No Man's Land. They made a break for it and, amid a renewed hail of bullets, Art reached the shelter of the nearby railway embankment where he sheltered until nightfall. Under cover of the dark, he managed to make his way back to his section where those who had survived were amazed to see him, having given him up for dead.

Although in different regiments, the two brothers met up in France during the war. Upon hearing that his brother's division was bivouacked nearby, Art, ever the rebel, illegally left his own camp and went searching for his brother, whom he soon found. They spent the day together before Ben returned to his camp and Art made his way back across country to his, dodging the military police.

A few months later, on 12 July 1917, Ben was killed in action. A letter from Ben's company commander informed his family that he was killed by a shell exploding nearby, implying that his death was instant. It also testified that he was 'popular throughout the company... a splendid soldier, wonderfully brave'. Ironically, the next day Ben's company was retired from the front line.

Two Brothers in the First World War

The family was, of course, deeply upset by Ben's death. His father was torn between grief at the loss of his first-born son and pride that he had served his country, but his mother hardly spoke for weeks after the news. When Art, still in the trenches, received a letter from home telling him about the death of his brother, he reacted with a furious diatribe against the leaders on both sides who were running that terrible war.

Art saw further service in the Ypres salient, including at Passchendaele, where he received a leg wound which resulted in him being repatriated for hospital treatment. Following convalescence, he was selected for the Royal Flying Corps, which was at that time being amalgamated with the Royal Naval Air Service to become the RAF, and was posted to the Middle East. This was good news, as Art had always been fascinated by the East. As well as the usual adventures in Alexandria, he enjoyed two months of respite, as his papers had been lost, so officially he did not exist.

Finally his papers caught up with him and he was transferred to Bombay, travelling via the Suez Canal, then on to Lahore, one of the hottest stations in India. Temperatures frequently reached 132° F (55.5°C) which meant that death from heatstroke was a constant threat. The men were only too aware that in 1916 sixty-four British soldiers had died of this condition while crossing the Sind Desert by train. While Art was at Lahore there was a riot by the Indians and martial law was declared. As this was shortly after the Amritsar massacre, when British troops had fired live rounds on unarmed civilians, the Indians were seething with anger, so this was a dangerous situation to be in. Art was greatly relieved when his squadron was sent to the hill station, Quetta, where cooler conditions, both climatic and emotional, prevailed.

All the men in the squadron were disgruntled at being kept in India for no apparent reason. Most were civilians who had signed on for the duration and six months, and nearly two years after the end of the war, they were still there. On one occasion, when they rebelled and refused to work on a Sunday, they were punished by being reduced in rank and made to do pack drill after the day's work. Finally Art obtained his discharge by accepting the challenge of a visiting general for any man who had a complaint to step forward. Only two

Two Brothers in the First World War

of them dared to do so, and both obtained their discharge papers shortly afterwards.

When he returned to civilian life, Art, like so many, found himself unemployed in the 'fit country for heroes' and became depressed and morose. He was supported through this difficult period by his parents and sisters. In later years he developed a successful business in electrical instrument making.



Ben's grave

News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley

A Surprise Discovery

Documents relating to Surrey turn up everywhere. Earlier this year we were contacted by Steve Annear, a reporter with the Boston Globe, who was working on a story about a document found at the Massachusetts Historical Society, apparently dating back to the fourteenth century and with possible links to Surrey. Helpfully, he included a link to a blog post about it by the Historical Society who were seeking help in deciphering it.

At Surrey History Centre we hold many thousands of deeds of this kind relating to Surrey families, people and their land, from the twelfth century onwards. For the medieval period deeds are particularly important as a more limited range and quantity of evidence survives. Sometimes the evidence recorded enables us to pinpoint exactly the land described on a modern large scale map, while at other times the information may be frustratingly vague, because at the time property law relied on the spoken testimony of the local witnesses.

We were delighted to see that many people had contributed to the blog, identifying key people as William and Agatha of Bramley (here spelt Bromlegh) and John and Richard de Billinghamurst (here spelt Bylingehurst and Bylynghurst), as well as the witnesses, whose names helped to locate the document in south west Surrey (Stonebridge, Burningfold, Rickhurst, Loxley).

My colleague Isabel Sullivan was able to identify the document as a 'quitclaim', drawn up to forestall disputes about ownership or inheritance. William of Bramley was renouncing any claim on land which Richard de Billinghamurst had given to his daughter, William's mother Agatha, probably at the time of her marriage; this was in favour of John de Billinghamurst, who was doubtless the heir of Richard de Billinghamurst, either son or grandson. It is possible that William agreed to the quitclaim on the death of his mother, who held the land for her lifetime only, or maybe John needed to secure his right to the asset of 16 acres for pressing reasons of his own, such as raising a loan.

The Massachusetts deed tells us about the inter-relationship of a family, land holding in Bramley, and even how a group of people, friends and neighbours, met in Bramley on a particular day (29 May 1337) to witness the transaction. We will certainly be asking the Massachusetts Historical Society for our own copy, so that anyone exploring the archive here can make use of it.

News from Surrey Heritage

Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers

My colleagues in Surrey in the Great War team are delighted to announce that the project website, officially launched in April, has received 134 stories from people around the world, remembering family members who fought in the conflict, as well as giving insights into life in Surrey towns and villages between 1914 and 1918. Please do visit www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk to read the contributions, and even add your own. In recent weeks we have been busy finding out about Surrey people at the battles of Jutland and the Somme, in time for the respective centenaries this year, sharing discoveries on our social media pages, website and in the Woking Magazine. We have also been out and about, hosting a showcase event at Farnham Museum, taking part in 'Time to Remember' (an event at Farnham to mark the first two minutes' silence in May 1916) and having a stand at the Caterham Festival Street Party, where we were joined by members of the East Surrey Family History Society. Project Officers Kirsty and Imogen also spoke at the Caterham Local History Centre, with help from volunteer Viv Bennett. Volunteer newspaper indexers have now completed 41 quarters of the twelve Surrey newspapers, identifying over 11,000 stories about people and places in the county and how the war impacted on them; these indices will be available to use as a research tool on our project website.

The Gentleman's Magazine Project

On the morning of 5 November 1770, 'Michael Thomas, a black, and Ann Brandley, a white, were married at St Olave's, Southwark, but while the ceremony was performing, a press gang interrupted the minister in the celebration of his office; upon which a contest arose, and the clergyman received blow on the breast, but a constable being called immediately, the Lieutenant was secured and carried before a Magistrate . . . The poor black, with his bride, made his escape in the fury.'

This is just one of many thousands of references to Surrey people, places and events that our two volunteers have transcribed from the Gentleman's Magazine in our library at Surrey History Centre. The transcripts will eventually be published in a series of volumes by Surrey Record Society – but there is a lot more work to be done before that. Published every month, every year

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between 1731 and the late 19th century, and doubling in size after 1783, this is a huge task. Although our volunteers have reached 1787, we need help with the immense task of checking these fascinating references to identify the people, verify the events and place them in context. Two brave volunteers have recently joined the team to do just that, using the archive and library collections here at Surrey History Centre but also the wealth of family and local history resources online to ensure that our transcripts are as correct and as useful for further research as possible. If you would like to contribute to this absorbing project, please let me know at shs@surreycc.gov.uk. We are looking for people with expertise in particular parts of the county or specific subjects – or simply people who relish wide ranging research. You don't even need to visit Woking: if you have access to the internet, you could easily tackle many of these questions at home.

New Accessions

Woking United Reformed Church: booklet, 'The First Ten Years, 2005-2014' by Neville Ledsome 8894add

West End History project: additional items, including CD of West End, Windlesham & District Agricultural & Horticultural Society photographs, 1940-2015, West End Cricket Club score books, 1968-1977, and print-outs of miscellaneous photographs with captions, 20th-21st cent 9014add6

Eva Barr of Woldingham: letters to Laura Dodd, Brazil, Jun 1917-May 1919; other family correspondence, 1881-1901 9412add4

Richard Jordan, Capel: account book, 1780s 9590/-

Lambert family of Banstead and Woodmansterne: pedigree and family account, estate plans, portrait and carte de visite albums, 19th -20th cents. 9593/-

St Jude, Englefield Green: marriage register, including marriages in Royal Holloway Chapel, Egham, 2012-2014 9594/-

St John the Baptist, Windlesham: additional records, including copy of Jewel's Defence of the Apology, c.17th cent, parish registers, 1927-1999, PCC minutes, 1928-1972, and parish magazines, 1906-2012 9596/-

News from Surrey Heritage

St John the Baptist Church, Windlesham: additional parish records including parish magazines, 2013-2015; loose and framed photographs, 20th cent; notes on parish church of Windlesham, John Cree, 1927 9596/add1

East Horsley and surrounding parishes: photographic record of buildings designed or modified by the Earl of Lovelace, compiled by Mr A W L Fraser, 1985-1986 9598/-

St Peter the Apostle, Walton on the Hill: additional records including registers and Parochial Church Council minutes, 19th cent-2016 9599/-

Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon: additional parish records, including baptism registers, 1952-2008; banns register, 1999-2013; service registers, 2000-2014; 9600/-

Land and property in Burpham (Burgham): assignment of lease, 4 May 1761 9601/-

Burpham church: additional records, including PCC minutes, 1994-2010, and parish magazines, 1896-2014 9602/-

Boxgrove School, Merrow: 'log book' recording admissions, 1918-1943 9603/-

Nost family of Mitcham and estates at Biggery Mead, Mitcham: deeds and probates, 1773-1811 9604/-

St John the Baptist Church, Capel: parish magazines, 1884-2015 9606/-

Abinger Hall Estate Company: records including servants' wages books, estate accounts and rentals, sale particulars of Abinger Hall (1803, 1865, 1868) 9608/-

Farrer family of Abinger Hall: additional records including correspondence of Thomas Farrer (d.1833) and Cecilia Farrer, 1815-1846; correspondence and notebooks of TH Farrer, 1876-1899; accounts and brief memoir of Oliver Farrer (d.1808), 1770-1808; photographs of Abinger Hall, including family and staff, 1869-1899; postcard, c.1920 and photograph nd [1960s] 9609/-

John Tilt of the Holmwood, Dorking: inventory and valuation of household goods, 1811; Pondhead Farm, Abinger: inventory and valuation of tenants' interest, 1896 9610/-

Manor of Smithbrook: minutes of court, 1698 9611/-

News from Surrey Heritage

Princess Mary Village Homes: informal photographs of staff, buildings and school trip, 1964-1981 9614/-

St Mary's, Frensham, and Church of the Good Shepherd, Dockenfield: additional parish records including registers of baptism, 2006-2010; banns of marriage, 1956-1978, 1960-1992, 2006-2010; and burials, 2002-2010; parochial charities and trust, 1871-2011; 9615/-

Corporal John Hazlewood, 31st Regiment of Foot: army journal, 1852-1863
ESR/25add47

East Surrey Regiment: photographs of graves of men of 1st Battalion at Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, 1943 (2016) ESR/25add48

Sergeant Arthur George White: copy records relating to his wartime service in 2nd/6th Battalion, The Queens, in Italy, 1942-1946 QRWS/30AD/63

Forthcoming events

‘Woking in the Time of H. G. Wells’

‘I am doing the dearest little serial . . . in which I completely wreck and sack Woking . . .’ – Herbert George Wells, in reference to his novel ‘War of the Worlds’.

This year marks the 150th year of the birth of H. G. Wells and the 70th anniversary of his death. Author, scientist and humanitarian, Wells was decades ahead of his time and best known for his science fiction novels. To commemorate this great literary figure, we will be hosting a display entitled, ‘Woking in the time of H. G. Wells’. Combining the rich resources of Surrey History Centre and The Lightbox, the display will provide a fascinating glimpse of what Woking would have been like in the year 1896, when this renowned writer was one of its inhabitants.

Wells took inspiration for some of his greatest works from the villages and countryside around Woking. His knowledge of the area was gleaned from his many cycling trips throughout the county. At ‘Lynton’, 143 Maybury Road, he began his work, the ‘War of the Worlds’, in which the Martians landed on Horsell Common and destroyed many towns and villages on their path to

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London. Wells also wrote 'The Time Machine', 'The Invisible Man' and 'The Wheels of Chance' while residing in Woking.

This free display will be at Surrey History Centre 1 September to 1 October 2016 during normal opening times and will be of interest to Wells fans of all ages.

H. G. Wells and Woking: The Literary Heritage

Saturday 17 September 2016, 2–3.30pm

Surrey Heritage Annual Lecture and book launch of *The War of the Worlds*: from H. G. Wells to Orson Welles, Jeff Wayne and Steven Spielberg with Peter Beck, Emeritus Professor of History at Kingston University, whose book will be published in September 2016 by Bloomsbury. This talk will explore Wells' most famous book and how since its publication it has developed a life of its own – from book to radio programme, film and stage production.

At Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND.

Tickets are free but places must be booked [online](#), in person at Surrey History Centre or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737.

Surrey Heritage Showcase in Lingfield

Saturday 8 October 2016, 12 noon - 4pm

Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6AB

Join us for our biggest event of the year which brings together not only the experts and amazing resources held at Surrey History Centre, but also local organisations and societies to showcase the heritage of the area, all for free!

GIS-enabled tithe and OS maps of Surrey – one day course

Saturday 8 October 2016, 11am–3.15pm

Surrey History Centre has launched a new range of 'seamless' GIS-enabled digital tithe and 25inch OS maps of Surrey. This course will provide an introduction to the maps and the software needed to use them.

£10 includes refreshments (please bring your own lunch).

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At Surrey History Centre. Please book [online](#), in person at Surrey History Centre or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737.

From Loseley to Lushington: Family Archives at Surrey History Centre

Saturday 15 October 2016 11.00am to 3.30 pm

Dr David Taylor FSA, 'The Lushington Family Archive'

Eliza Wheaton 'The value of the 16th and 17th century Loseley Manuscripts for Surrey Historians'

Mike Page and Isabel Sullivan, 'Aladdin's Cave: some major family and estate archives in Surrey History Centre'

Tickets £10.00.

Places are limited, so please register in advance with Gerry Moss by email - g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk or by post, 10 Hurstleigh Drive, Redhill, Surrey RH1 AA Applications will be acknowledged by email. Postal applications will be accepted, but only acknowledged if SAE included. Tickets will not be sent out – please pay on the day.

Morning and afternoon refreshments are included. Please make your own arrangements for lunch.

Oral History Training

Thursday 3 November 2016, 10am–4.30pm

Join Rib Davis, oral historian with over 30 years experience, and trainer in oral history across the UK and abroad for this informative training course on oral history.

£50 includes refreshments (please bring your own lunch).

At Surrey History Centre. Please book [online](#), in person at Surrey History Centre or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737.

The Birth Of A Town – Woking Between 1851 and 1871

Thursday 17 November 2016, 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

News from Surrey Heritage

Woking began to grow as a new community around the railway station in the late 1850s, and by the early 1870s observers noted that a town was starting to emerge. This town was characterised by confusion and uncertainty, lacking an overall plan and resembling something of a 'free for all'. At the same time, Knaphill and Brookwood saw the building of the convict prison and county asylum. The population of the parish almost tripled between 1851 and 1871.

This talk will be given by Alan Crosby, one of Britain's leading local and regional historians, editor of *The Local Historian* and contributor to the BBC *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine. Alan was born in Woking and grew up in the town. His *History of Woking* (1982, revised 2003) is the definitive history of the town.

Minimum donation £5. Proceeds will go to Woking and Sam Beare Hospices.

Booking is essential. Please email Sally Gardiner: sallyatsixty@hotmail.com or call 07973 616614.

Family History Course – Research Made Easy!

Run by professional genealogists and archivists, this six-week course will cover all you need to know to enhance your research as well as providing many tips of the trade.

£60 – booked as a complete 6 week course

We run courses throughout the year, to register your interest in future courses and to be placed on a waiting list please email shs@surreycc.gov.uk.



Growing up in Dickens' London

Jean Black [10083]

My mother, Georgina Sarah **Haynes**, was born in Southwark, London and went to the Charles Dickens school. Here she excelled at English, and in 1931 won the Queens Memorial Prize for 'Educational Progress during the last academic year'. The prize was a copy of Charles Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers*. The prize was awarded by the 24th London Regiment, 1914 – 1918, to perpetuate the memory of the men of the local Regiment who fell in the Great War, as many of its members lived and were educated in Southwark and Kennington. Over 1000 officers and men from the regiment gave up their lives during the course of the war.

I recently came across a school exercise book, which included several pieces my mother wrote at school. I thought members may find it interesting to read how it was for a child growing up in Southwark in 1931.

Dickens' Associations

The Charles Dickens School, which stands in Lant Street and Tوترun Street is so named because it is believed to have been built upon the site of the house in which Dickens lodged whilst his parents were in the Marshalsea Prison. The prison stood behind St George's Church, in the centre of Southwark, around which Dickens weaves so many of his famous stories.

Dickens, whilst lodging in his lonely attic in Lant Street, worked in a blacking factory and his landlady re-appears as Mrs Pipchin, a kind motherly soul in *Dombey & Son*. Mr Bob Sawyer, a prominent character in *Pickwick Papers* was a student at Guys Hospital. It is believed that he also lodged in Lant Street.

Charles Dickens always seemed to pick out living people for his stories and so we get *Little Dorrit*, a book telling how Dorrit's parents were cast into prison for being in debt; in consequence little Dorrit spent practically all her young life living in the prison looking after her father. When she grew older she obtained a post at Mrs Blenham's house as a needlewoman and all the money she obtained went to the buying of delicacies that her father required and also to help her 'worthless' brother who would do no work unless he was forced to. Little Dorrit saved enough money to send him abroad, thinking that he would obtain a job in farming. After he was halfway to Liverpool he spent the money that she had provided for him and returned to Marshalsea Prison to depend

once more upon Little Dorrit's good nature; later he was put into prison himself for debt. Little Dorrit later married Arthur Blenham, her employer's son, at St George's Church. There is a Blenham street named after him, and there is a recreation ground near the church which is called "Little Dorrit's Playground".

Georgina Sarah Haynes 4th January 1931



Have you come up against a

Brick Wall?

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

Tech Topics

Brian Hudson

Online photo management and sharing

A keen photographer recently told me that, in addition to local storage, he uses the flickr website for storing and displaying his pictures. I used flickr many years ago and at that time free storage was very limited, but things have moved on and online data storage has become much cheaper. Flickr now offers a massive 1,000GB for free which is more than enough for the average user to store pictures, and they confidently state ‘ . . . you can upload every photo you’ve ever taken!’

The content can be kept private, shared or showcased. Photos can be organised with notes and tags added to them, and permission given for friends and family to collaborate if you so wish. For family historians this could be additional information relating to a picture. As would be expected these days a flickr app is available for both Apple and Android devices. For more information go to www.flickr.com.

Technology extra – Magnifying Glass with Light

This free app is available from the iTunes store. It is handy for reading small print in a dimly-lit corner of a records office or church by combining a digital magnifier with a flashlight.

A similar app is available from Google Play – look for Magnifying Glass Flashlight. At the time of writing it was free.



New members and members' interests

SUMMERFIELD	Horsham	SSX	1800s	10463
TATE	All	ALL	All	10231
TOURLE	All	SSX	All	10231
TROUBRIDGE	All	ALL	All	10231

Surname interests in other countries

DONALDSON	Alloa	CLK	SCT	1800s	10463
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Members' Interests contributed by

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10231	Mr S. Troubridge	43 Oak Avenue, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8EP	stevetrou@talktalk.net
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10373	Mr J. Honeyman	Avergess, Nyton Road, Westergate, Chichester PO20 3UN	avergess@btinternet.com
10462	Mr & Mrs Knight	30 Oak Drive, Larkfield, Aylesford, Kent ME20 6NU	peterknight-14@hotmail.com
10463	Mr & Mrs Pelham	16 Queens Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 7AH	jeanpelhamk@sky.com

**Information relating to membership is supplied by
Ann Turnor, the Society Membership Secretary;
that relating to surname interests by Peter Grant.**

**Contact details for both Ann and Peter
appear on the inside front cover.**

New members and members' interests

New members

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- 10466 Miss Vera Grimmett, 5 Meadow Road, Frome, Somerset BA11 2JE
- 10467 Mr Roger Minot, 24 Northumberland Avenue, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5HU ::
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- 10468 Tony and Mrs Sue Skelton, 39 Kew Crescent, Sutton, Surrey SM3 9RU ::
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- 10469 Mrs Maxine Doyle, 24 Salisbury Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5LE ::
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- 10470 Miss Nicola Waterfall, 23 Little Roke Avenue, Kenley, Surrey CR8 5NN ::
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- 10473 Ms Penny Cleaves, 28 Dineen Court, Kitchener, Ontario, CANADA N2B 3X3 ::
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Amendments and corrections to name/address

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:: dianewhelan@icloud.com
- 10131 Mrs Gloria Davies, 8 Livingstone Drive, Papamoa 3118, New Zealand ::
Gloria@thinkb16.com
- 5582 Mrs Pat Hartley, 4 Noel Square, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8JA ::
pathartley@hotmail.com

Change of email address

- 10433 Ms Alison Boulton :: am.boulton@outlook.com

Death of member

- 8406 Alan Foster

New members and members' interests

Surname interests in Surrey

BARBER	Croydon	1890-1960	10462
BROWN	Newington	19c	10471
BUMFRISS	Southwark	pre 1850	10373
CALLENDER	Lambeth	19c	10471
CHANTLER	Charlwood	1800s	10463
CHANTLER	Leigh	1800s	10463
DEADMAN	All	All	10472
DEDMAN	All	All	10472
DONALDSON	Dorking	1800s	10463
DONALDSON	Haslemere	1800s	10463
DOWDINE	Penge	1860-1920	10462
DUDMAN	All	All	10472
DYER	Rotherhithe	19c	10471
FROST	Norwood	1860-1940	10462
GADD	Rotherhithe	19c	10471
GOODWIN	Southwark	pre 1850	10373
GREEN	Norwood	1850-1920	10462
HOLMDEN	Crowhurst	16-17c	6586
HONEYMAN	Horseley Down	pre 1850	10373
JEFFRIES	Kingston	pre 1850	10373
KEEFE	Lambeth	18-19c	10468
KNIGHT	Croydon	1860-1960	10462
MARSHALL	Epsom	All	10318
MARTIN	Rotherhithe	pre 1850	10373
MORLEY	Redhill	1800s	10463
PELHAM	Leigh	1800s	10463
PELHAM	Dorking	1800s	10463
PENMAN	Lambeth	18-19c	10468
PERRETT	Camberwell	All	10318
PERRETT	Croydon	All	10318
PERRETT	Lambeth	All	10318
PURSEY	Farnham	1830-1930	10462

New members and members' interests

SKELTON	Walton on the Hill	18-19c	10468
SKELTON	Walton on the Hill	18c	10471
SKILTON	Walton on the Hill	18c	10471
SKILTON	Epsom	18c	10471
SKILTON	Sutton	19c	10471
SKILTON	Camberwell	19c	10471
STARCY	Kennington	18-19c	10468
SUMMERFIELD	Lambeth	1800s	10463
TARRANT	Rotherhithe	19-20c	10471
TARRANT	Bermondsey	19-20c	10471
TOURLE	All	All	10231
TUPPER	Southwark	pre 1850	10373
WATKINSON	Croydon	1910-1960	10462
YUILL	Barnes	pre 1850	10373

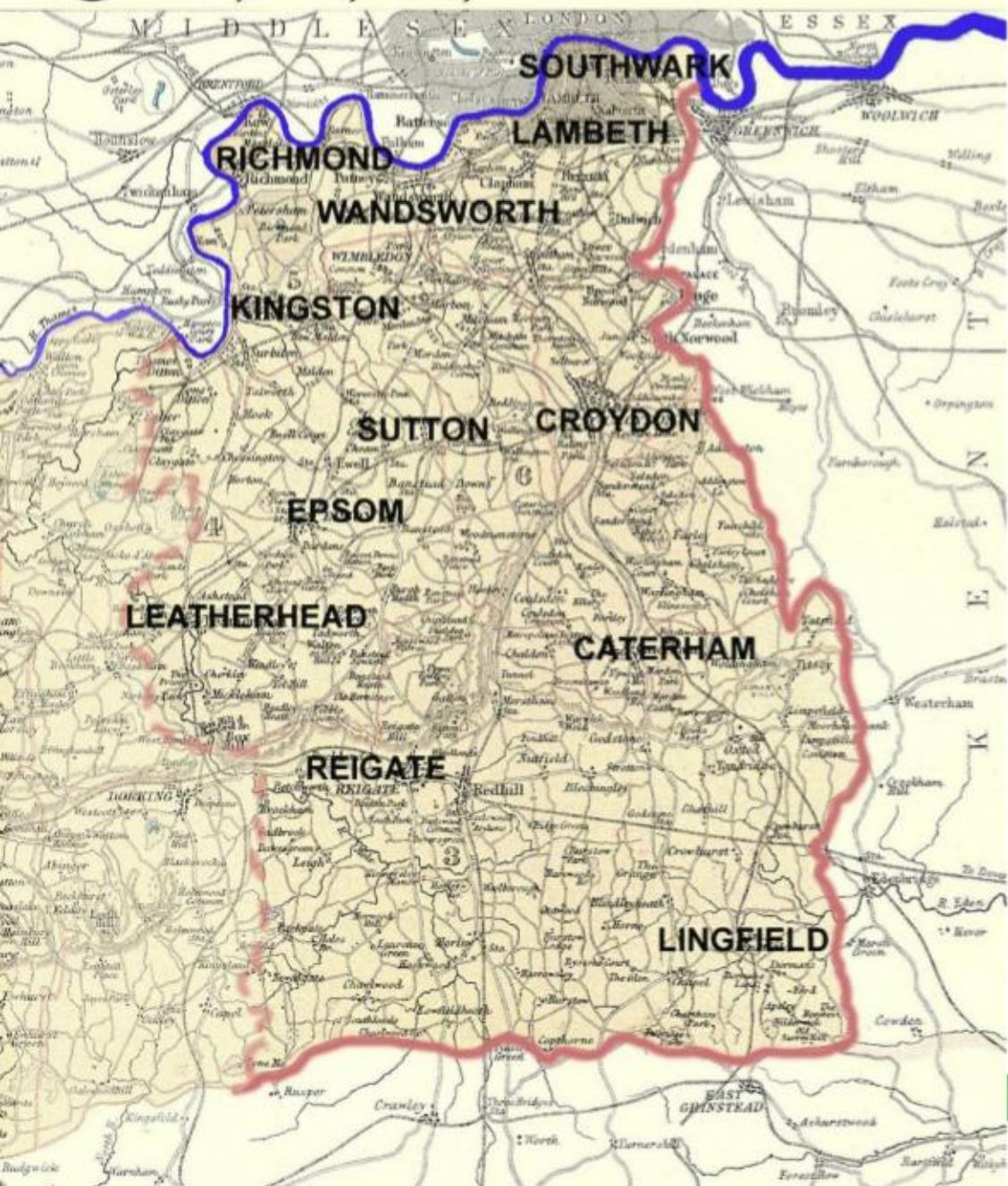
Surname interests in other English counties

BEECHER	Wickhurst	KEN	15-16c	6586
BLUNDELL	Edenbridge	KEN	15-16c	6586
COLE	Edenbridge	KEN	15-16c	6586
CONYERS	Coggeshall	ESS	18-19c	10468
DAVIS	All	KEN	All	10231
EAMES	All	ALL	All	10231
EATON	All	ALL	All	10231
GLADSTONE	Blackwall	MDX	18-19c	10468
OCKELFORD	All	ALL	All	10231
OCKLEFORD	All	ALL	All	10231
PARR	Canning Town	LON	18-19c	10468
PERRETT	Birmingham	WAR	All	10318
PERRETT	Sheffield	YKS	All	10318
PRUDENCE	Rotherfield	SSX	1840-1940	10462
SMENING	South Stoke	OXF	18-19c	10468



EAST SURREY

Family History Society



We have regular meetings at Croydon, Lingfield, Richmond, Southwark and Sutton