



East Surrey

Family History Society

Who's the lady?

See 'Can you help', page 38

Journal

Volume 41 number 2
June 2018



East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977 — Registered Charity No. 286659

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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.

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

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The deadline for the September Journal is 10.00 a.m., 15th July
All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite

Group meetings

June

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|-----------|
| 7 | tba | | Sutton |
| 11 | The usual Southwark meeting will be replaced by a visit to Lambeth Palace Archives. All places for this visit are full. | | |
| 19 | Croydon High Street and my researches | Carole Roberts | Croydon |
| 27 | Making the most of FindMyPast | Peter Christian | Lingfield |

July

- | | | | |
|----|---|----------------|-----------|
| 5 | Adoption and fostering 1851-1930 | Louise Taylor | Sutton |
| 14 | 'Every Night's a Saturday'
<i>A concise history of Music Hall with pictures, songs and recitations</i> | Peter Charlton | Richmond |
| 17 | Street children | Judy Davies | Croydon |
| 25 | Around Lingfield at war (1939 – 45) | Janet Bateson | Lingfield |

August

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------------|-----------|
| 13 | Hopping
<i>A film and discussion on Kentish Hopping, presented by Lisa Soverall of Southwark Local Archives; please bring your own memories and artefacts</i> | Lisa Soverall | Southwark |
|----|--|---------------|-----------|

September

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|-----------|
| 6 | The Great Exhibition | Jef Page | Sutton |
| 8 | Aladdin's cave
<i>Some major family and estate archives in Surrey History Centre</i> | Julian Pooley | Richmond |
| 18 | Palaeography
<i>with particular reference to genealogical research</i> | Elizabeth Danbury | Croydon |
| 26 | My ancestor was on the census
<i>. . . well, they should have been!</i> | John Hanson | Lingfield |

Group meetings

October

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|-----------|
| 4 | Investigating legal records | Dr Nick Barratt | Sutton |
| 8 | Burial clubs – the unfriendly societies
<i>Audrey is the Records Specialist for Family History at the National Archives and will tell us about the Victorians' emphasis on death, and more</i> | Audrey Collins | Southwark |
| 16 | Croydon Minster
<i>with particular emphasis on the parishioners</i> | David Morgan | Croydon |
| 24 | Institutions in the census | Kathy Chater | Lingfield |

November

- | | | | |
|----|--|----------------|----------|
| 1 | Researching before parish records | Ian Waller | Sutton |
| 10 | Freemen of the City of London
<i>and Liverymen of the Stationers' Company</i> | Andrea Cameron | Richmond |

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

Secretary: Liz Moss croydon@eastssurreyfh.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 lingfield@eastssurreyfh.org.uk

Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SA
2nd Saturday of alternate months; 2.30 p.m.

Secretary: Veronica McConnell richmond@eastssurreyfh.org.uk

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

2nd Monday of alternate months; 12 noon. There will be no meeting in December.

Secretary: Hilary Blanford southwark@eastssurreyfh.org.uk

Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton SM1 2RG
1st Thursday; 8.00 p.m.

Secretary: Gillian Alford sutton@eastssurreyfh.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.

An important message from your Executive Committee

If you don't know what GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is, you will not appreciate its impact on this and all companies, clubs, societies and charities across the whole of Europe and, indeed, the world. GDPR is a European directive that affects all European citizens wherever their data are held, including America and Britain following our exit from the European Union. It will affect everyone, including the East Surrey Family History Society.

Basically, it states that your data (name, address, phone number, any photographs of you, etc.) are your data and you can control who has access to them and how they are used.

This is probably the most significant thing to have happened to East Surrey FHS since it began. As part of the new requirements, the Society has produced a Data Privacy Policy and this has been published on the Society's

website. We strongly recommend that you read it so that you understand what data we have on you and how we use them. Hopefully it is easy to read and understand.

There is a short explanation on page 17 about the next part of the changes, which is very important. We need you to complete the form in the centre of this Journal as a pull-out. How you complete it is entirely up to you; completely your choice. However, if you don't complete it and return it, it will affect what East Surrey FHS can offer you. The options are explained.

If you have any concerns or questions do contact any of the Committee members, whose details are in the front of the Journal, or email gdpr@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk.

This is as important for you as it is important for us.

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the death of Sheila Gallagher, one of our vice presidents, on Wednesday 28 March. A detailed article and memoir will follow in the next Journal.

Website round up

Brian Hudson

www.colorize-it.com is an American website (the clue is in the spelling!) that claims to 'Easily Add Color to Your Black and White Photos'. It analyses the contents of a photograph and converts black and white to the appropriate colours. It does this by using 'algorithmic learning' from a million images to recognise the various parts and tones of a picture and apply colours appropriately.

Is it easy? Yes. Does it add colour? Yes. Is worth doing? Probably, some of my results were surprisingly good transformations. Sky and grass generally came out well, flesh tones not so good with more than one person, buildings were a bit variable.

There is no cost to try it out so there is nothing to lose and you can decide for yourself. Further improvements can be made to the colour image by using a photo editor programme to correct or enhance colouring where necessary.

www.electoralregisters.org.uk As the name suggests it is information about the electoral registers. It also includes electoral rolls and poll books from 1700 to the present day. It is a topical subject since Find My Past have recently added the England & Wales, Electoral Registers for 1920 to their site. The added interest to this set of records is that it includes men and women who had gained the right to vote in 1918, although at this time only female householders over the age of 30 could register.

Over six million records have been indexed but, unfortunately, I couldn't locate anyone in my tree: furthermore, using the name Smith, I couldn't find anyone in Surrey. What is going on? Answers to the Editor.

Bermondsey and my Chambers ancestors

Martin White

My earliest known **Chambers** ancestor was William Stephen Chambers, a leather dresser, who was probably born in Bermondsey c1795. A leather dresser is one who finishes leather by colouring, polishing and preparing for use the animal skins after tanning. He carries out the final stages in converting a hide into leather and preparing it to be made into specific goods. As such, the job of the leather dresser must have been much more pleasant than that of a tanner.

William Stephen Chambers married Mary Anne **Buglar**, the daughter of William and Hannah Buglar of Bermondsey. William Buglar was also a leather worker. Leather processing was, during the nineteenth century, a huge industry in the Bermondsey area. Tanning had been banned in the City of London due to the noxious smells generated by the tanning industry, so the industry moved from the Leadenhall area of London to the Bermondsey area, which was outside the jurisdiction of the City of London. The combination of a good water supply, oak trees (oak bark was used in the tanning process) and plenty of space to keep animals (Bermondsey was then quite rural) led, by the 1790s, to Bermondsey producing one third of all the leather in the country.

Bermondsey was then a town in its own right. Today it is part of the London Borough of Southwark. After the Napoleonic wars, the importance of Southwark grew. New bridges over the Thames were built at Vauxhall (1816), Waterloo (1817) and Southwark (1819). These bridges, in addition to the existing London Bridge, firmly established Southwark as the southern gateway to London. The parishes which make up modern Southwark were not then part of London and they were very proud of their individual identities.

Around this time, other industries were becoming established in Bermondsey. The world's first canning factory, Donkin Hall & Gamble, was built in Blue Anchor Lane (now Southwark Bridge Road), Bermondsey in 1812. Samples of canned food were sent to the military authorities in 1813 and Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington, found the preserved beef to be 'very good'.

In 1814 a vinegar works had been established in Bermondsey by Messrs Slee and Vickers, and by 1833 it was the fifth largest vinegar works in the United Kingdom. The company eventually became Sarsons Vinegar and vinegar production in Bermondsey

Bermondsey and my Chambers ancestors

continued until 1992, when the factory closed.

William Stephen Chambers and Mary (née Buglar) had several children. One of them, also named William Stephen Chambers, was my 2xgt-grandfather: he was born in 1820. Like his father, he grew up to become a leather dresser. The Leather and Skin Market was established in 1833 in Weston Street, Bermondsey. It was built by a company of local tanners and leather dressers. There were two trading areas within the building, one where skins and hides were traded and one which dealt with finished dressed leather.

An enormous change for Bermondsey took place in 1836 with the opening of the first railway in London, the London and Greenwich Railway. The entire route was built on a series of 878 brick arches. The line was opened from Deptford to Spa Road Bermondsey in February 1836 and extended to London Bridge in December 1836. Spa Road station closed in 1915.

It was from Bermondsey riverside in 1838 that the artist J. M. W. Turner painted his famous work 'The Fighting Temeraire tugged to her last berth to be broken up'. This veteran of Trafalgar was broken up at Rotherhithe.

In 1842 in *Illustrated London Volume 3*, edited by Charles Knight, we have the following description of the leather industry in Bermondsey:-

'A circle of a mile in diameter, having its centre at the spot where the Abbey once stood, will include within its limits most of the tanners, the curriers, the fellmongers, the wool staplers, the leather-factors, the leather-dressers, the leather-dyers, the parchment makers, and the blue-makers. There is scarcely a street, a road, a lane into which we can turn without seeing evidence of one or other of these occupations. One narrow road – leading from Grange Road to the Kent road – is particularly distinguishable for the number of leather factories which it exhibits on either side; some time-worn and mean, others newly and skilfully erected. Another street, known as Long Lane and lying westward of the church, exhibits nearly twenty distinct establishments where skins or hides undergo some of the many processes to which they are subjected. In Snow's Fields, in Bermondsey New Road, in Russell Street, upper and lower, in Willow Walk, and Page's Walk, and Grange Walk, and others whose names we cannot now remember – in all of these, leather, skins and wool seem to

Bermondsey and my Chambers ancestors

be the commodities out of which the wealth of the inhabitants has been created.'

In 1843 William Stephen Chambers married Mary **Hobbs**, the daughter of Thomas Hobbs, who was a sawyer. They had at least six children. Their eldest son, again named William Stephen Chambers, was born in 1843 at Minto Street, Bermondsey. In 1851

the family were living at Carlton Cottages, Bermondsey.

In the mid nineteenth century Bermondsey had some of the worst slums in London. Charles Dickens based the scene where Bill Sykes met his end on the area around Saviour's Dock (known as Jacob's Island). Writing in 1845, he described the area thus:

'crazy wooden galleries common to the backs of half a dozen houses with holes from which to look out on the slime beneath; windows, broken and patched, with poles thrust out, on which to dry the linen which is never there; rooms so small, so filthy, so confined, that the air would seem to be so tainted even for the dirt and squalor which they shelter; wooden chambers thrusting themselves out above the mud and threatening to fall into it – as some have done; dirt-besmeared walls and decaying foundations, every repulsive lineament of poverty, every loathsome indication of filth, rot, and garbage: all these ornament the banks of Jacob's Island.'

Another huge change in the life of Bermondsey occurred between 1859 and 1865 with the construction of sewers by Joseph Bazalguette. The health benefits were enormous. There had been cholera outbreaks in 1832 and in 1849, followed by the 'Great



Stephen Chambers 1843-1872

Bermondsey and my Chambers ancestors

Stink' of 1859. A further outbreak of cholera in 1866 was nothing like as serious as the previous ones.

In 1857 the biscuit manufacturer Peek Frean & Co established a factory at Dockhead, Bermondsey. Peek Frean then moved to a much larger factory in Clements Road in 1866. Bermondsey thereafter earned the nickname 'Biscuit Town'. The biscuit factory continued in production until 1989.

Like his forefathers, William Stephen Chambers grew up to become a leather dresser. The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 clearly reveals the very large extent of the leather industry in Bermondsey. In 1878 a new building was erected alongside the leather market emblazoned with the inscription 'The London Leather, Hide and Wool Exchange'.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 also shows that there were three major breweries in Bermondsey and Wapping. These were the Courage or Anchor Brewery which had been established in 1787 near Horsleydown Old Stairs, the Black Eagle Brewery near Bermondsey Street which was run by Noakes & Co, and the Red Lion Brewery which was situated near the St. Katharine's Dock in Wapping.

In 1871, William Stephen Chambers, who was now living in the

New Kent Road, Southwark, married Sarah Jane **Wetherilt**, the daughter of James Wetherilt and Lucy (née **Smith**). Sarah Jane had been working as a servant in the household of Thomas **Taylor**, schoolmaster, at 66 Queen Elizabeth Street, Southwark. William and Sarah Chambers had four children, one of whom, Albert Edwin Chambers born in 1876 at 29 Alfred Street, Bermondsey was my grandfather.



*Sarah Jane Chambers née Wetherilt
1844-1901*

Bermondsey and my Chambers ancestors

William Stephen Chambers senior died in 1872, having moved to Spa Road, Southwark. He had clearly prospered. William Stephen Chambers junior died in 1886.

During the late nineteenth century there were further profound changes for Bermondsey. Outside the City, the government of London had been highly fragmented. In 1855 the Metropolitan Board of Works (MBW) had been established to take responsibility for London as a whole. Bermondsey Town Hall was built in 1881 in Spa Road. The London County Council (LCC) was set up in 1888 and all the responsibilities of the MBW were passed to the LCC. The twenty eight Metropolitan Borough Councils, amongst them Bermondsey, were set up by the London Government Act of 1899. Bermondsey Borough Council lasted until 1966 when it was absorbed into an enlarged Southwark. Between 1801 and 1901, the population of Bermondsey increased from 46,281 to 130,760.

In 1901 Albert Edwin Chambers was still living in Bermondsey, at 14 Layard Road. None of the family was now working in the leather industry and Albert was working as a grocer. In 1891, his mother Sarah had been working as a 'Grocer's Porter' and

perhaps it was this that inspired Albert to take up the grocery trade. Later in 1901, the family moved from Bermondsey to Nelgarde Road, Catford, now in south-east London. My mother told me that they wanted to 'live in the country'. Catford was then a lot more rural than Bermondsey, the 1914 OS map of Catford showing that there were still a lot of open fields around Catford and neighbouring Lewisham. In 1902 Albert married Florence (Florrie) Harriet **Langley** from



Albert Chambers and Florence (née Langley)

Bermondsey and my Chambers ancestors

Wiltshire. Two of Florrie's brothers had left Wiltshire to work in Bermondsey as baker's van men. Albert became acquainted with the Langley brothers and through them, he met Florrie. On a visit to Wiltshire with either one or both of the Langley brothers he met Florrie at her home, Pond Farm, near Malmesbury.

Albert's grocery business was not based in a shop. He used the family home as a store and delivered grocery items, mostly to households. When he moved to Nelgarde Road, he had an outhouse built at the bottom of the garden where he kept most of his stock. The outhouse was a substantial building with a tiled roof. He was supplied by wholesalers such as Kearley & Tonge and Brooke Bond. He would take delivery of such items as chests of tea, sacks of sugar, blocks of butter and cheese and large tins of biscuits. He would slice ham and bacon. He blended tea and packed it into individual bags. Sugar was packed likewise. The blocks of butter and cheese were cut into convenient pieces. The hallway of his home in Nelgarde Road was lined with biscuit

tins. Albert's granddaughter, my cousin Brenda, remembers him giving her glace cherries and a 'finger' of butter as a treat. Delivery to households was carried out on a three-wheel box cycle and Brenda remembers a man named Bill being employed to do this.

Albert (Alb) and Florrie (Flo) Chambers continued to live in Nelgarde Road, Catford. They had five children, one of whom, Kathleen Mary Chambers, was my mother. She was their youngest child born in 1919. Following the outbreak of war in 1939 Albert and Florence went to live in Wiltshire with Florrie's family. Albert and Florrie returned to Nelgarde Road in 1944. Albert died of a sudden heart attack in 1944. I was not born until 1948 so I never knew him. My mother spoke very fondly of him. Florrie died in 1957, and I remember her very well; she was a really lovely lady.

Tanning in Bermondsey declined in the twentieth century. The last working tannery in London, S. O. Rowe & Sons of Tanner Street Bermondsey, closed in 1997. Thereafter the tanning industry in Bermondsey was no more.

Buckmaster meets Dibbs!

Rita Russell & Sylvia Dibbs

*They say that whenever a group of people are in a room,
two of them will be related.*

Thomas **Dibbs** was born as one of twin boys on 12 September 1819 (for more on the Dibbs of East Surrey see *It's a small world* in the ESFHS Journal Vol 30 No. 2 June 2007). His brother Robert died at the age of 11 years from 'water on the brain', now known by its Latin name *hydrocephalus*. Their father, also a Thomas, was a shoemaker in St Monance in Scotland. They had five brothers and two sisters. Brother John was a sailor; brother James was a shoemaker, like their father and grandfather. Brother David was an agricultural labourer on the Duke of Athol's land; brother Edward was an engine fitter; brother Alexander was a cooper; and sister Jean was a seamstress. No record has been found for eldest sister Ann. David was the great-grandfather of Sylvia Dibbs' husband.

This was a family well settled in the south-eastern regions of Scotland. The Thomas Dibbs of this story was also gainfully employed, as a blacksmith. On the 1841 census in Scotland he was in Anstruther Easter in Fife, but in 1849 he married Catherine **Gibson** in Dover. What drove him, not just south of the border, but all the way down to Dover

on the south-eastern coast of England? Scottish records show a son George born on 18 September 1840 to our Thomas Dibbs and Helen **Farmer**, but there is no record of a marriage. Shortly after George's birth, his mother made an aliment action against his father, from which it is apparent the pair was not married. It is pure speculation, but it looks as though 20-year-old Thomas fled from his responsibilities, took ship and sailed out of Helen Farmer's life and started a new life in the port of Dover. There is a happy ending for baby George, as he sailed off to Australia in 1865, where he founded another branch of the Dibbs clan before dying in 1925. One of his sons, Thomas, became a policeman in Sunshine, Melbourne, Australia (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>), as did a Dibbs and a Buckmaster earlier back in England.

Thomas Dibbs made good on paternal responsibilities with nine children by his wife Catherine. The first three were born in Folkestone. For a blacksmith there would have been plenty of work around a port or with horses and carts everywhere. The rest of the children were born around

Buckmaster meets Dibbs!

Deptford, Rotherhithe and Greenwich. Again, plenty of work for a blacksmith along the River Thames at that time.

With this move the family was well settled in the territory of the ESFHS. It seems very unlikely that Thomas had any further contact with the folks back home in Scotland, nor indeed ever knew that illegitimate son George went to Australia. That is one of the amazing bonuses of family history research, knowing more about the fate of family members than they did themselves at the time.

Thomas' first son by his wife Catherine was born in 1850, and also called Thomas, a frequent Dibbs family name. Did Catherine know that there was an older illegitimate son? In those very early Victorian times it would have been easy to 'disappear' and keep a past life secret. This son Thomas joined the newly developing police force in Deptford in April 1869. The date of his 'removal' was 20 April 1894. Two of Thomas' brothers, Nathaniel and Robert, became Thames lightermen: one, William, became a ship's fireman, and the other, George, became a licensed victualler and went to Wiltshire.

While working as a police officer Thomas met Agnes **Buckmaster**, the daughter of a retired police sergeant,

Joseph Buckmaster. The pair married in St Paul's Church, Deptford in 1872 (the registers are in London Metropolitan Archives), three years after Thomas joined the force and seventeen years after father-in-law retired. Thomas was in L Division, that is Lambeth, and Joseph was in R Division (Greenwich), but both these Divisions were in No. 4 District. So a contact between the two men was quite possible, perhaps at a social event. Certainly Agnes' father would have been happy to welcome a fellow police officer as a son-in-law. It is possible that the families met through church activities. More research would be needed to establish such an association.

Meanwhile James, born in Scotland in 1865, son of Scottish Thomas Dibbs' younger brother David Dibbs born in 1822, moved by stages down to the south-western coast of England and settled in Cornwall. James' grandson, another David, moved from Cornwall to Croydon, the second Dibbs to do so, though unknown to each other. Here David's wife joined the East Surrey Family History Society and two families connect again: Dibbs with Buckmaster 155 years after the first linking!

Joseph Buckmaster was born in 1814 in Chalfont St Giles,

Buckmaster meets Dibbs!

Buckinghamshire. His father was a farmer or husbandman, a beer seller and publican, work associated with rural and village life. Joseph junior married Charlotte Bailey in 1835 in Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire, where his father was born, and died in Dulwich in 1878, bringing him into the East Surrey Family History Society patch.

Joseph was a police officer in the Metropolitan Police. There are some good records, which are either downloadable for a fee (some are free on the National Archives website (MEPO)). By the 1851 census he had retired from the police force, but still working, now as a time keeper in a factory. On probate documents he was described as a Superannuated Sergeant of the Metropolitan Police.

Joseph and Charlotte Buckmaster had nine children. Sadly, but not unusually in this era, the three youngest died young, Benjamin aged eight years, Maria aged 17 years and Georgina aged 12 years.

Agnes Fanny Buckmaster was born in 1848 in Deptford parish, which was a Kent parish, though Deptford was in Surrey. There was some overlap at this border. She married Thomas Dibbs in St Paul's Church, Deptford. They produced six children and appear in

the 1901 and 1911 census. Of three sons one was a boiler maker, one a messenger and then a general labourer, and one a ship's plater helper, all part of the docklands industries. Meanwhile Agnes' cousin Hubert Roger Buckmaster, a butcher, married and had children in Willesden, Middlesex, one of whom, George Buckmaster, married and produced a daughter, Rita, who later became Russell.

A lucky chance: at the Lingfield meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 24 January 2018 (for an interesting talk by Jane Lewis on dating photographs by using costume and fashion) Rita Russell and Peter Heather were working in the resources room. Sylvia Dibbs arrived wanting to speak to Peter. Rita asked Sylvia if she had a Thomas Dibbs, Deptford police constable on her Dibbs tree.

Sylvia assumed that Rita had been looking at the Society's Super Name Index and, rather surprised that Rita should have taken time to look up the Dibbs family. Sylvia replied that she did indeed have a man fitting that description! What Rita exclaimed next was even more unexpected: she announced: "I think we're cousins."

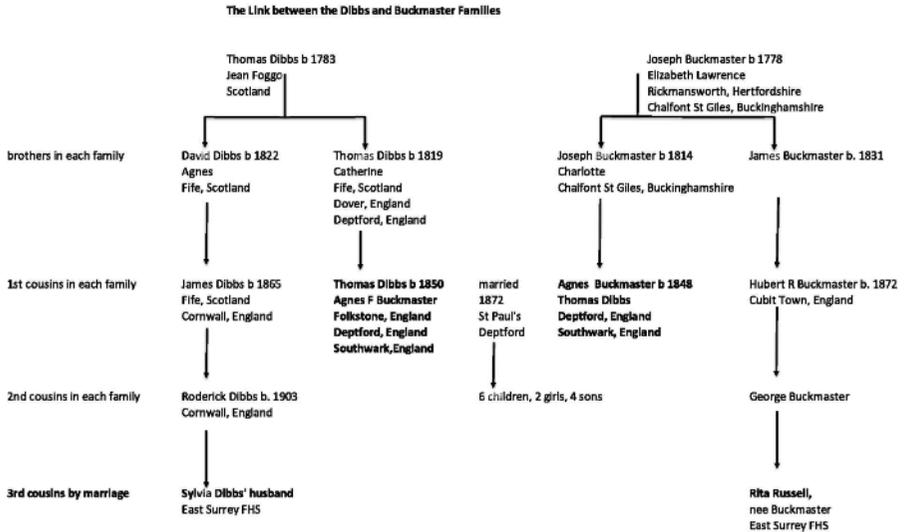
Now that did seem very unlikely, but looking closely at Rita's computer

Buckmaster meets Dibbs!

screen, there he was: Thomas Dibbs. This Thomas was married to an Agnes Buckmaster in 1872. Later that evening Sylvia checked her Dibbs tree and sure enough there was the same couple. The main branches of the two trees are shown below. Agnes Buckmaster was Rita's grandfather's first cousin; Thomas Dibbs was first cousin of

Sylvia's husband. The children of these grandfathers shared the same second cousins, namely the children of Thomas and Agnes Dibbs.

Rita and Sylvia's husband are third cousins by marriage: a rare coincidence in a situation like this but also proving the saying at the start of this story.



Tech Topic – screen brightness

Brian Hudson

Research suggests that using a laptop, tablet or mobile phone late in the evening could be to blame for difficulties in falling asleep. The problem is that the screens emit a blue light which apparently suppresses the production of the sleep-inducing hormone melatonin.

If you are a night-time researcher or book reader then there is a solution; most modern operating systems have a setting that changes the colour balance to reduce the blue light from the screen.

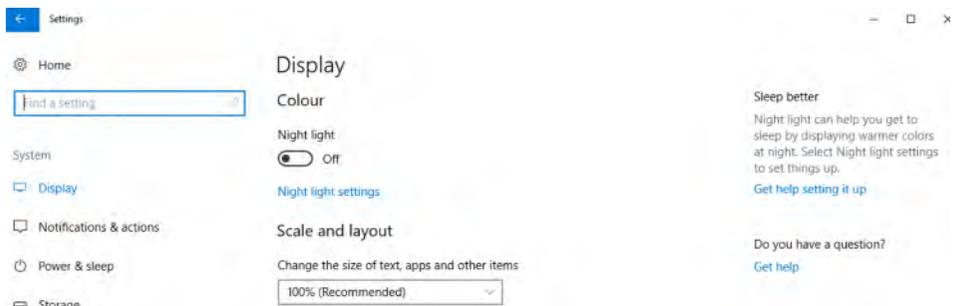
In Windows 10 go to Settings and then Display where there is a night

light setting that, when turned on, operates from dawn to dusk. Go into the night light settings to change the time as well as the colour temperature.

Apple devices using their more modern operating systems (from iOS 9 and from macOS 10.12.4 onwards) have a night shift setting. Go to the display settings and there are similar options to those in Windows 10.

Android is not so easy, there isn't an equivalent setting in the current versions and an app is required. If anyone has tried one of the apps then please write or email in.

Windows 10 settings



Important – this affects you

From 25 May 2018 new legislation is changing how we contact members of the Society. We are required to ensure that the personal information about you that we hold is correct and only held for specific purposes. In addition, we will not be able to contact you by any means unless we have received your explicit consent to do so.

The personal information that the Society holds is your Name, Postal Address, Membership Number and, if provided, Telephone Number and Email Address. We will not share this information with anyone outside the Society except our printers so that they can post the Journal to you.

Put simply, we need you to confirm the contact details that you want us to hold and to agree, or not, to the way we can contact you in future. The Society's Privacy Policy on holding and processing personal data can be viewed online at the Society's website or you can request a copy to be sent to you.

Your membership includes the Journal and access to the Members' Area of the website, but unless we have confirmation of your contact details we will have to delete the details we hold at present and be unable to send you the Journal or renewal advice. **It is essential that you complete the form online, or post back the form that is in the centre of the Journal to the Membership Secretary.**

If you do not provide the consents required, the Society will not be able to

- deliver Journals to you
- communicate by email to you
- contact you in urgent situations, for example when an event, meeting or payment has to be cancelled
- send messages relating to meetings near you
- notify you about membership renewal
- contact you for any other reason

You can change your permissions at any time by notifying the Membership Secretary or through the Members' Area of the website.

WW2 Merchant Naval Seamen unsung heroes

Peter Thompson

My younger years were spent in Sydenham (south-east London) during the Blitz, Doodlebug and V2 Rocket period of WW2. In 1943 I was 10 years old and started my new senior school, Forest Hill Central School for Boys in Brockley Rise, Brockley. During the war, a school could become a member of the Ships' Adoption Society whereby the children could write to seamen on a ship. We did write to the crew of a ship, although we had no idea of its name or who we were writing to.

In April 1945, just a few weeks from the end of the war in May, the headmaster announced at a school assembly that there was sad news: the ship had been sunk and some of the men had lost their lives.

After the war the government set up a scheme by which returning service personnel, after demobilisation, could be fast-tracked to become teachers. Our school had quite a few of these men. The English teacher had been a tank commander in the 8th Army and fought at the battle of El Alamein, through North Africa and Italy; two other teachers were at Dunkirk – one of them was

saved from the beach, the other taken prisoner-of-war. He was on the 1,000-mile forced march of prisoners marched across Poland to Germany in front of the advancing Russian army. My class teacher had been a bomber pilot.

After the end of the war the school held a Memorial Service for the seamen who had died on 'our' boat. Local dignitaries came and some members of the seamen's families managed to attend the service. The woodwork teacher (Mr Moyse) loved wood carving; he made an oak lectern and carved the seamen's names around the top.

It was decided to adopt four of the sailors' names to represent the four school Houses:

- 1 Atkinson (blue House)
- 2 Exelby (green House)
- 3 Harrington (red House)
- 4 Hopper (yellow House)

The Arts teacher (Mr Doswell) designed a new school badge with the names of the four seamen on it, and on leaving school each boy was given a bible with the school badge on the flyleaf. My bible is still in use.



WW2 Merchant Naval Seamen unsung heroes

Some years later I joined the RAF. Being in the forces made me more aware of the sacrifices that serving men and women had made during the war, but I also realised the importance of the unsung heroes of the Merchant Navy who kept the wheels of Great Britain well-oiled throughout the conflict, supplying fuel, food and armaments for Great Britain with the threat of U-boat and aerial attacks.

In 2012 the BBC set up a forum called WW2 Peoples' War, asking people to send in their stories. The response to my request for information about the seamen, their ship and the details of its sinking came to light.

Briefly, the ship's name was the SS Gasray, carrying coal from the coalfields of the north to London Power Station; the ship had a crew of 24. On 5 April 1945 it was two miles off St Abbs Head (in Scotland, just across the border north of Berwick-on-

Tweed) when it was torpedoed by German U-boat 2321. Its position was 55.57°N, 2.05°E. Of the crew, 16 men were saved but 8 men lost their lives. Their bodies were never recovered nor was the ship found.

One of the stories was about Robert Atkinson. He was 23 and married, and he had just found out that his wife was pregnant. Robert was a Fireman on the ship, basically a Stoker down in the boiler room below the waterline. When the ship was hit neither Robert nor the ship's Chief Engineer William Exelby (age 55) could escape from the engine room. It makes for very sad reading.

A memorial was built at Tower Hill in London. Called simply the World War 2 Memorial, it commemorated the names of civil personnel who died but have no known grave, and their names are scribed on panels. Six of the men that died on board SS Gasray can be found on Panel 51.

Details regarding Robert Atkinson can be found on the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/49/a5993049.shtml> and details of the names on the memorial are found on the Commonwealth Grave Commission website <http://www.cwgc.org>. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_submarine_U-2321 for information about U-2321.

Researching Relatives in the First World War

Peter Moulin

The last German offensive on the Western Front failed when they were counter-attacked by the French at the Second Battle of the Marne (15 July – 6 August 1918). 8 August saw the start of the final 100 days Offensive that would end the war on the Western Front.

One method of finding out about the young men who lost their lives is by school records. Sometimes these remain with the school, and sometimes they can be found in places like the Surrey History Centre. Very often names are commemorated on a school war memorial. Some boys went straight from school into the army and their death shortly after had an impact on their teachers and fellow pupils.

Joseph Charles Moate

Joseph was born on 3rd November 1897, the fourth child and second son of Joseph William and Harriott **Moate**. They went on to have two more daughters, both born in Wimbledon. Joseph William was a bookmaker's clerk and by 1901 the family lived at 125 Faraday Road, Wimbledon.

Joseph Charles' older brother Herbert attended Rutlish School from 1906 to 1911, but he emigrated to Canada in April 1914, later serving in the Canadian Army. Joseph attended

Queen's Road Elementary School, Wimbledon before going to Rutlish from 12th January 1911 to 24th February 1912. His school record notes that he was apprenticed at a factory at 30-31 St Paul's Churchyard in 1912.

Joseph enlisted on 2nd September 1914 in Wimbledon when he was only 16, lying about his age by adding three years. He was 5 ft 10ins tall, with brown hair and blue eyes. He served firstly as a private in the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, going to France on 1st April 1915, and was later promoted to Corporal. Joseph was wounded once, and invalided home on another occasion. He was later transferred to 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers. His battalion was part of the 3rd Division and on 21st August they were taking part in the 'Advance to Victory' on a front between Moyenville and Beaucourt. The attack took place at 4.55 a.m., and their role was to pass through the front line troops to continue the advance. By the evening they had moved on 2 – 3 miles to where the Germans made a stand along the Arras – Albert railway. Joseph was killed on this, his third time out at the front.

His officer wrote to his father:

"I have known him for the past few months, and feel his loss very deeply.

Researching Relatives in the First World War

He was an excellent and brave NCO, liked and respected by all he met. It might be some small consolation to know that he did not suffer, as he was hit by an enemy machine gun bullet through the head, being killed instantaneously, whilst leading his men in action. It will probably help you to bear his loss to know that he died a hero's death."

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Panel 6.

Edwin Kingham Powell

Edwin was born in Wimbledon on 10th April 1893 and was the youngest son of Henry George and Annie Sansom **Powell** of Gap Road, Wimbledon. Edwin had two older brothers, two older sisters, and a younger sister. Henry was of independent means in 1911, being a retired journalist (aged 80) but he died in 1914 before war broke out.

Edwin attended Queen's Road Elementary School, Wimbledon before going to Rutlish School between 16th January 1908 and 27th July 1909. He was fond of sport, and vice-captain of the cricket team. By 1911 Edwin was working as a clerk for the Port of London Authority, but he emigrated to

Australia on 12th April 1912, along with his older brother Charles, sailing to Sydney. He married Sylvia née **Clark** in Australia and they had a son, Leonard George.

Edwin enlisted in Australia on 11th August 1916 and sailed from Fremantle on Christmas Eve 1916, arriving at Devonport on 16th February 1917. Time was then spent training at various camps in England. Much time was spent in hospital in 1917, including a period in isolation hospital at Fovant with mumps, and he was classified medically as B1A3. He eventually arrived at Etaples on 2nd May 1918 and was taken on the strength of 51st



Researching Relatives in the First World War

Battalion A I F (Australian Imperial Force) on 5th May. The battalion took part in the Battle of Amiens: this started on 8 August 1918, and is otherwise known as the 'Black Day' for the German Army. It also started the 100 days that led to the Allied victory.

Edwin was wounded in the side, leg and shoulder on 15 August 1918, taken to 53rd Casualty Clearing station, then 5th General Hospital at Rouen on 17 August, and died there on 27 August. He is buried at St Sever Communal Cemetery Extension, Rouen.

1939 Register – Address not known

Brian Hudson

After encountering several mis-transcribed names, the 1939 Register on FindMyPast (FMP) can feel very much like a work in progress. It can be frustrating but, if an address is known, then an address search usually resolves the problem.

What if the name and address are known but the person still cannot be found? My father was a fireman during the war and fortunately, unlike many others, his record card survived with his 1939 address clearly shown. However, a search by name and address drew a blank; it was time to dig deeper.

The address in question was Flat 3 Faversham Court, Faversham Road, Catford, SE6; but a search for Faversham Court (FC) produced no result. Faversham Road produced two results:

Faversham Road; this had 89 entries of which five had no house numbers. On inspection of the image of the record the occupants were in a multiple-occupancy property. An error for FMP to correct.

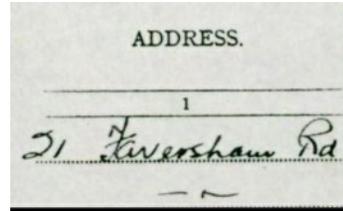
Faversham Road Court, which had no addresses; it is wrong since there is no such road on the map.

1939 Register – Address not known

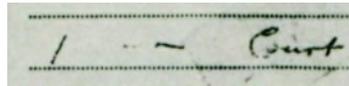
I then examined Faversham Road by way of Google Maps and Street View and found Faversham Court next to number 47 Faversham Road.

Back to the images on the 1939 Register, and number 47 was located. Lo and behold! above it, at the top of the page, were numbers 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 Faversham Court. At last! However, where 3 and 6 should have appeared was a black line showing the record was officially closed*.

Why couldn't I find Faversham Court using the address search? Going back one page, at the bottom is 1 ditto, Court. The ditto is from Faversham Road written at the top of the page, so the literal but wrong transcription is 1 Faversham Road Court. There are two occupants and, as mentioned above, nothing appeared in the search result. Faversham Road at the top of the page.



1 ditto Court at the bottom of the page



Obviously something has gone wrong with indexing and transcriptions. The problem has been passed to FMP but, several weeks later, I'm still waiting for the problem to be resolved.

If you are having trouble locating someone or an address in this register then don't give up, the truth is probably there somewhere, just well hidden, possibly under a black line!

*Another error for FMP to correct – my father's record should have been clearly visible since it is well past the 100-year rule. How many other records should have been unlocked by now? The closure stops a surname search if there is only one family occupant at the address.

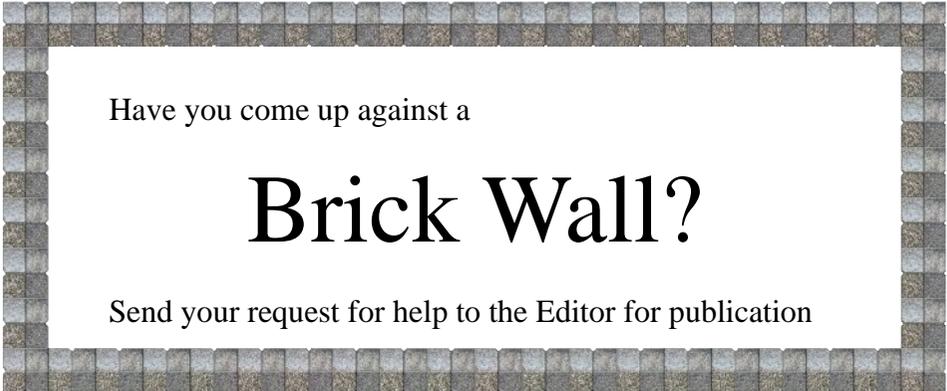
News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley

Preparations for celebrating our anniversaries this year are now well underway.

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of Surrey County Council's professional archive service, the 20th anniversary of the opening of Surrey History Centre and the 10th birthday of our ever-growing website, 'Exploring Surrey's Past' (<http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/>).

It is also 90 years since the establishment of Guildford Muniment Room by Guildford Borough Council and Surrey Archaeological Society. GMR became part of Surrey Record Office in 1971 and moved to Woking with us in 1998. To mark these anniversaries we have invited present and former members of staff, volunteers, depositors, searchroom users and project partners to select their favourite items for our archive, library or archaeological collections and tell us, in about 100 words, why that item is special to them. Seventy of these fascinating contributions will be published in an Anniversary Booklet to be published this summer and, having spent the past few weeks reading and preparing the texts and images for the designer, I am delighted with the extraordinary range of materials that have been chosen. Deeds, photographs, poor law records, maps, records of hospitals, charities, families and business all come together to tell the story of our county through the precious materials we have rescued, preserved and made available for research over the past seven decades. The booklet will be freely available both in print and online and I will have further details about it in the next issue. Many of the items will also be on display at our Anniversary Showcase at Surrey History Centre on Saturday 20 October.



Have you come up against a

Brick Wall?

Send your request for help to the Editor for publication

Forthcoming Events at Surrey History Centre

For full details of these events see www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents. Places can be booked online, in person at Surrey History Centre (130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND), at any Surrey Library or by calling us on 01483 518737.

Beginning your Family History

Saturday 7 July, 10am - 12.30pm. Tickets: £12.50

This is Who Do You Think You Are for everyone! This talk aims to take you step by step through the basics of family history, where to start, what to do and most importantly, how you can get help and advice on what is bound to prove an exciting project. It will also include lots of time (and money) saving tips and ideas, and outline some of the ways to store and present your research. This talk is similar to week 1 on the six-week Family History Course.

Family History Online

Saturday 4 August, 10am - 12.30pm Tickets: £15

A workshop devoted to tips and techniques for exploring your family history using the many and varied sources available online. In addition to learning more about the large commercial websites such as Ancestry.com and Find My Past, we will also include information on using the Family Search website and hopefully introduce you to many wonderful free websites. We will also touch on how to share your information online and keep it secure.

Researching your Irish Family History

Saturday 18 August, 10am - 12.30pm Tickets: £12.50

A talk devoted to exploring sources and resources for Irish family history. During the morning we will cover most aspects of Irish genealogical research, including the recent publication of online Irish records, and there will be a Q&A session along with plenty of opportunities for discussion. There will also be a bibliography and list of useful websites to take away.

Six-week Family History Course

Autumn 2018 (Fridays, 10am-1pm): 14 September, 21 September, 28 September, 5 October, 12 October, 19 October. £80 – booked as a complete 6 week course.

Forthcoming Events at Surrey History Centre

Run by professional genealogists and archivists this 6 week course will cover all you need to know to enhance your research as well as providing many tips of the trade.

Keeping it in the Family

A four-week course Thursdays (10am–12.30pm): 4 October, 11 October, 18 October, 25 October. £60 – booked as a complete four-week course.

Reading and Interpreting Legal Records of Inheritance for Genealogy with special reference to the handwriting of examples from before 1800, this course introduces the use of title deeds, wills and manorial records for family history.

Week 1 discusses marriage settlements, deeds of arrangement between families to provide for the couple during their lives and for the inheritance of their heirs. We look at a deed and introduce some techniques of palaeography.

Week 2 discusses wills and where to find them, with a detailed look at reading one in 16th century Secretary Hand.

Weeks 3 and 4 discuss manorial records, which document inheritance by tenants even where they may have been too poor to make a will. We look at some 18th century examples and introduce how to extract and interpret information from court rolls.

Surrey Local History Committee and Surrey Heritage present: *Surrey Diaries*

Saturday 3 November 2018 at Surrey History Centre. Times and ticket price to be confirmed.

Speakers include:

- Gordon Cox, William Bray's travel diary,
- Kirsty Kirkpatrick, Surrey Diaries at the Mass Observation Archive, University of Sussex
- Alan Gibbs, Lucy Broadwood's diaries
- Isabel Sullivan, John Evelyn's diary and Surrey
- Dr Catherine Fergusson, Samuel Pepys's diary and Surrey
- Dr David Taylor, Susan Lushington's Diary

Forthcoming Events at Surrey History Centre

- Mike Page, County Archivist, The World War One Diary of Frederick A Robinson of Cobham

It is advisable to book early as places are limited. For full details of times and ticket price see www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents. Places can be booked online, in person at Surrey History Centre, at any Surrey Library or by calling us on 01483 518737.

Morning and afternoon refreshments are included. Please make your own arrangements for lunch. It is recommended to bring a packed lunch as there are no cafes near the Surrey History Centre.

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Please also come along to see us at Basingstoke Family History Fair on 23 June, at Romany Weekend at the Rural Life Centre at Tilford on Saturday 23 June, at Party in the Park in Woking Park on 7 July and at Brooklands in Sound: Learning To Fly at Brooklands Museum on Saturday 14 July.

St Saviour's Church, Raynes Park

Barbara Sanders [6264]

Is there a man in your family who died in WW1 and might be one of the 94 names recorded on the War Memorial of St Saviour's Church, Raynes Park (Surrey then, London SW20 now)? For the list of their names see the website at www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/12351.

We are preparing for the restoration of our War Memorial and an exhibition. The men's basic information is available from published databases, but we hope to find out more about their individual stories – their war experiences or something of their family and the life they led before that terrible sacrifice. Quite a few of them, as we might expect, served in the East Surrey Regiment. A photo would be a bonus.

New Accessions at Surrey History Centre

Items with the Accession number underlined have been acquired with the generous support of Surrey History Trust. Please do consider joining them to help support our work. Further details and membership forms can be obtained from surreyhisttrust@surreycc.gov.uk.

9014add8

West End History Project: handwritten list of West End villagers by the Rev Mills Robbins, c.1920s, and photocopied photographs of Chobham and Bisley (with West End) Home Guards, 1940s

9033add1

St Mary of Bethany, Woking: marriage registers 1923-2013

9754add

Robert Anthony Merson (1950-2016), local historian of Farnham and Frensham: additional collected papers 18th cent-20th cent

9800add

St Nicholas' church, Godstone: parish magazines, 1867-1966; St Stephen's church, Godstone: service register, 1994-2014; St John the Evangelist, Blindley Heath: service registers, 1988-2008

9855

Elkins family, brewers of Guildford: family papers and photographs, including relating to George Elkins, son of William Edmund Elkins, four times mayor of Guildford, 1841-1861, and to George's three sons Benjamin, Richard and Edward, all killed in action in 1916, and his daughter Clara 18th cent-20th cent

9857

Farnham Girls' Grammar School Old Girls' Association: records, including: minutes, 2006-2015; School and Association magazines and newsletters, 1910-2017; registers, 1970s; school photographs, 1920-1972; colour slides of school buildings, 1980s-1990s

9861

Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare: additional records including minutes, annual reports and correspondence 1928-1980s

9863

Property in Horsell: deeds, 1701 and 1721

New Accessions at Surrey History Centre

9864

Goldsworth Old Nurseries, Knaphill Nursery Ltd and Slocock's Nursery: records including letter book, 1903-1904; sales day book, 1905-1908; employee records, 1945-1980; catalogues, 1936-2005; RHS certificates, 1950s-1975, and records relating to rhododendron breeding and cultivation, 20th century

9866

Hall Place, Shackleford: photographs c.1900-1910

9867

Kingshot and Cook families of Haslemere and Frimley: papers relating to schools and education in Godalming, Guildford and Shottersmill, and World War II service papers; papers of Sylvia Watts relating to youth services and activities in Surrey 20th century

9868

The Rev Andrew Cranston (d.1708), Vicar of Reigate and founder of the Cranston Library: photocopy of letter, (1702); Reigate church: sketch of Saxon carving, 1944

9870

Farnham Isolation Hospital: records, including minute books, ledgers, admission and discharge registers and visitors books 1898 - 1960

9873

Brookwood Hospital, Woking: additional records including administration files relating to staff, patients and statistics 1960s-1980s

9874

Film footage of War Weapons Week, Dorking, 1941; copy of speech given to Dorking ARP, 1941

9875

All Saints' church, Headley, Hampshire: additional parish records, including PCC minutes, 1935-2009, and accounts, 1934-2007

9876

Bowyer family of Betchworth, Charlwood and Redhill: papers and photographs relating to H & A Trower Ltd, millers and corn merchants, Redhill; and published history of the Bowyer family early 20th cent-1994

New Accessions at Surrey History Centre

9877

Wey Valley Methodist Circuit and predecessors and constituent churches (Addlestone, Byfleet, Cranleigh, Godalming, Knaphill, Merrow, Ripley, Shepperton, Weybridge and Woking): records, 1888-2018, including baptism and marriage registers, 1888-1997; circuit plans, minutes, orders of service, records relating to church fabric and property, activities and events; publications and photographs

9878

Edward Henrik Hartry and Teresa Krystyna Hartry, architects of Woking: magazine articles and photographs relating to Pipidowek, Maybury, Woking, and Laleham Court, Horsell 1960s

9879

Egham Cottage Hospital: minute book 1915-1931

9885

Guiding Surrey East (and predecessors): records, including meeting minutes, scrapbooks and newsletters 1910s-2010s

9887

Edward Henry Williams, parish clerk of St Mary the Virgin, Ewell: notebook with accounts 1855-1887

9890

St Mary, Merton, additional parish records: church rate book, 1853-1855, and minute book of committee for enlarging the church, 1864-1867

9891

Richard Lucock Wilson of West End, Woking: diaries, books, maps, papers and photographs c.1915-2017

9892

Caterham Lime Kilns: plan drawing nd [late 19th cent x early 20th cent]

9897

Punt 'Carpe Diem': log of trip on the Wey Navigation by DH Williams, John Sturney and Michael Joynt 1946

New Accessions at Surrey History Centre

FETadd5

St Mary's, Fetcham: additional parish records including baptism registers, 1942-2011; marriage registers, 1953-1994; burial register, 1940-1981; service register, 1995-2012; papers relating to incumbent, 1975; church log book, 1976-2014; quinquennial reports, 1976-2014; papers relating to faculties, 1976-2017; and other papers relating to church fabric and property including church hall; church membership, 1980; and income and expenditure account, 31 Dec 1980

ESR/10add

6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment Gun Section: photograph. Names given: Pte Letford, Pte Griffin, Pte Eggleton, Pte Poston, Pte Greathurst, Pte Voller, Pte Young, Pte Callow, Sgt T Houghton, Lieut E V Edsell, Cpl Fullbrook, Pte Jeffrey, Pte Lege, Pte Marston, Pte Manning, L/C Browne 1914

ESR/16add

2/21st London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles): photograph of Machine Gun Section nd [1914]

QRWS/30ad71

Private Ralph Henry Bennett, 7th Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: letter, 1918 1918

QRWS/30ad72

Private William Worsfold Banks (1887-1943), Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: digital copies of letters and photographs 1915-1919

Pxadd2

John Hassell (1767-1825) and his son Edward Hassell (1811-1852), artists: watercolours of Dorking High Street, Betchworth Village and More Place, Betchworth (catalogued as PX/53/121 and PX/16/30-31) 1821-1825

Z/689

Long Grove Hospital, Epsom: panoramic photograph of hospital staff 1927

Z/691

Arnold, Duffell and Chandler families of Rowledge: photographs of family members including at Wood Cottage and Yew Cottage, Rowledge, and other locations around the village, 1893-1969; and family members' graves, nd [2018]; and family history research papers, 2018 1893-2018

Two signatures on a marriage certificate

Veronica McConnell

On 30 October 1933 P. M. **Brierley** and E. L. Brierley were the witnesses at a marriage at Richmond Register Office. For a long while I have wondered about these names. Who were they, and what was their connection with my aunt? The other question I have is 'why were the witnesses not relations of the bride or groom?' I cannot answer the second question, as there is only family myth available to me as I write in 2018. All the people who were at this 1933 marriage, or who might have been there, have passed on, and here is not the place to speculate.

However, I have researched these two 'Brierleys' and have found that P.M. Brierley was Phyllis Mary, the daughter of E. L. Brierley, who was Ellen Louise **Poole** before she married Harry Heaton Brierley in the first quarter of 1903 in London City District.

I do remember hearing, years ago, mention of Phyllis Brierley and that she was a particular friend of my aunt. Perhaps they went to dancing classes together as children. Perhaps they were school friends. Their mothers were friends, a cousin tells me.

In 1907 Phyllis Mary Brierley was born in East Sheen to Harry and Ellen. The birth was registered in the last quarter of 1907 in the registration

district of Richmond, County of Surrey. Phyllis was baptised on 1 April 1908 in Mortlake.

In the 1910 Kelly's Directory of Richmond, Kew, Twickenham, Isleworth, Teddington, Mortlake & Sheen (*Buff Book*), price one shilling net, Phyllis's father, Harry Heaton Brierley is listed at 8 Oaklands Road, East Sheen, described as running from South Worple Way to Vernon Road.

On Ancestry.co.uk I found the family in the 1911 census: Harry Heaton Brierley, 35, born Stannington, Northumberland, an Engineer working for a Brewer, Ellen Louisa Brierley, 37, born Maldon, Essex, and their daughter Phyllis Mary Brierley, 3, born East Sheen. At 8 Oaklands Road, East Sheen, Mortlake, London S W, their house had six rooms, apart from bathrooms, offices, etc. Harry and Ellen had been married for eight years and Ellen had given birth to only the one child.

Harry continued to live at 8 Oaklands Road, according to Kelly's Directory for 1915-16 and Surrey Electoral Registers for Kingston Division. As females mostly did not have the vote until after 1918, Harry's wife Ellen is not listed.

I wondered whether Phyllis's father served in the armed forces in the Great

Two signatures on a marriage certificate

War. Or was his 'Engineer' position at Watneys Brewery in Mortlake a protected occupation during the years 1914 to 1918?

Having dropped the name 'Watneys' into my story, I will now turn to Harry Heaton Brierley, Phyllis's father. He was born on 21 June 1875, his birth registered in the Apr-May-Jun quarter in Castle Ward District in Northumberland (Vol 10b, Page 275). He was baptised in Stannington, Northumberland on 1 August 1875. His parents were Henry Willis Brierley and Mary Anne (Select Births and Christenings, Ancestry.co.uk).

In the 1881 census Harry was a schoolboy, living with his parents in Staffordshire, in the village of Alrewas, the birthplace of his mother. (Registrar's District of Lichfield, Sub-District of Yoxall) Harry's father was a schoolmaster, and they lived in School House, Mill End.

Harry was educated at Burton Grammar School, according to records of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He received Technical training by 'Mr R. N. Blackburn, Whit. Sch.' This is backed up by Harry's 1891 census record: Harry (age 15) is described as 'Engineer's pupil'. His father 38 was now a Clerk & Commission Agent, so Harry and his

parents were no longer living at School House, though they were still in Alrewas.

Harry served an apprenticeship of nearly five years, from September 1890 to July 1895 at Messrs. Thornewill & Warham of nearby Burton on Trent. From 1895 to 1899 he worked as a Draughtsman at Messrs Allsopp and Sons' Brewer, also in Burton on Trent. In 1899 Harry was promoted to Chief Draughtsman.

In the 1901 census Harry and his parents were still in Alrewas but had moved to Post Office Lane. Harry aged 25, was a Mechanical Engineer (worker). His father, also a 'worker', was described as Assist Overseer, formerly Schoolmaster.

For one year, 1902 -1903, Harry became Assistant Manager at Rawdon Foundry in Moira, Leicestershire. Early in 1903 he married Ellen Louisa Poole in the City of London, and in the same year moved to Co. Durham, where he was employed as Superintendent Engineer of New Colliery working for Horden Collieries Ltd.

On www.durhamtime.org.uk I read that 'Horden Colliery was one of the deep pits sunk into the concealed coalfield which lay below the magnesian limestone of East Durham. It reflected not only the demand for

Two signatures on a marriage certificate

coal in the years shortly before the first World War, but also the improved technology which enabled coal to be extracted from deep below the earth's surface and for the considerable quantities of water encountered to be dealt with.

'Work began to sink the first of Horden's three shafts late in 1900, using cast-iron cylindrical mouldings, or tubing, to keep back the large volume of water. The difficulty of the work meant that it was 1904 before any coal was drawn. The coal was of good quality and versatile, being used for steam boilers, gas and coking plants, as well as household purposes, and for much of its life Horden Colliery was the largest mine in Britain. The colliery was worked by the same company, Horden Collieries Ltd., right through from sinking to nationalisation, a situation unusual in County Durham's mining history.'

Sometime in 1905-1906 Harry moved to the south of England, holding the position of Superintendent Engineer of New Works, for Sussex Portland Cement Co Ltd in Newhaven, Sussex, for about a year.

About mid-September 1906 he joined Messrs Watney, Combe, Reid and Co, Brewery in Mortlake, London S. W. There he had 'entire charge of all

the machinery in the Brewery, which is of a very varied nature'; and 'He had under his control, the whole staff of engineers and mechanics, etc.'

On 6 Oct 1906 Harry Heaton Brierley became Member number 6579 of *The Institution of Mechanical Engineers*. His proposal form, dated 5 October 1906, tells that his business address was The Brewery, Mortlake, S. W. He was proposed by Robert **Thornewill** (signature R. W. Thornewill), seconded by Leonard P. **Mell**, (both of Burton-on-Trent) and supported by Edwd. F **Daniel**, Charles R. **Western** and Frederick S. **Metcalfe**

The Brewery statement to the Institute of Mechanical Engineers continues: 'Mr Brierley has a staff of between 60 and 70 men under him. The plant consists of cooling machinery, electric lighting and motors for power purposes, hydraulic lifting plant, gas-engines, pumps of all descriptions, including large pumping plant for the sewage works, which by the way age under his control. We are also installing large refrigeration plant from plans prepared by Mr. Brierley.' Additionally there were ten boilers at work, and more were to be added. A large plant for drying grains was in the process of being erected, and would also be under Mr Brierley's supervision.

Two signatures on a marriage certificate

In the Commercial part of Kelly's Directory Mortlake Brewery, where Harry Heaton Brierley worked for Watneys, Combe, Reid & Co. Limited, was listed at High Street, Mortlake. Harry would have been able to walk to work from his house in Oaklands Road, just across the railway line.

And so, with Harry settled down in Mortlake, with a good job and a wife. I shall return to his daughter Phyllis Mary Brierley.

The *Representation of the People Act 1918* saw British women over 30 gain the vote. In 1928 British women won suffrage on the same terms as men, that is, for persons 21 years old and older. In the 1930 Surrey Electoral Registers I found a Phyllis Brierley at St Edmund's in Hindhead. Wikipedia tells me St Edmund's is a boys' preparatory school, originally founded in Norfolk. In 2018 the school takes boys and girls. In 1931 and 1932 Phyllis was listed at 'The Cottage, St Edmund's School, Hindhead.

And so here I am again at the 1933 marriage, imagining Phyllis and her mother putting on their best clothes and travelling to nearby Richmond to support their friend on her wedding day.

The following year, 1934, Phyllis Mary Brierley married Francis J

Lauwerys, in the District of Richmond South, Surrey. I have not yet found any details of where Francis and Phyllis began their married lives, or whether they had children, nor whether Francis served in the forces during WWII.

By 1935 Phyllis's father (aged about 60) had left East Sheen, and was living at 'Surbiton Bungalow', Surbiton Hill Park, Surbiton, per Kelly's Directory of Kingston Surbiton and District, still 'Buff' in colour, but no longer described as such on the front cover.

In 1938 Harry's father (Henry Willis Brierley of the Hollies, Alrewas near Burton-on-Trent) died on 14 April. His death was registered in the 2nd quarter in Lichfield, Staffs. Probate was granted in London on 17 October to Elizabeth Ann **Barnett**, spinster. Effects £1011 10s 7d. Elizabeth Ann Barnett was Henry's niece, who was with him in the 1911 census.

The death in 1953 of Harry H Brierley, aged about 78 years, was registered in the last quarter of 1953, in the District of Chelsea, Inferred County: London, Vol: 5c, Page: 291.

From the National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) in the year 1954 I learned that Harry Heaton Brierley, of 295 Surbiton-hill Park Surbiton Surrey, died on 15 December 1953 at The

Two signatures on a marriage certificate

Royal Cancer Hospital Fulham-road
London SW3 Probate London 30 March
to Ellen Louise Brierley widow. Effects
£1811 17s 11d.

So far I have told very little about Ellen Louise Brierley née Poole, just that she was Harry's wife and Phyllis's mother, so here is some of Ellen's history. In 1881 she was the third eldest of seven children in a household in Maldon in Essex. Her parents were Richard and Isabella Poole. Richard was born in Maldon, Isabella in Ohio, United States of America, but was a British Subject. Ellen's father was a 'Master Printer employing 6 men & 3 boys, also Bookseller and Stationer'. The family were residing in Maldon High Street, and the eldest son still at home, 15 year old Edwin Henry Poole, was following his father into the printing business. In 1901 Ellen Poole, aged 25, and living on her own means, was with her brother Richard Poole, and his family. Richard was running a Stationers' business in Up Toll Park in Hornsey, Middx. In 1903, as described above, Ellen married Harry Brierley. I am still at a loss as to how Ellen and Harry might have met!

In 1969 Ellen Louise Brierley, of Surbiton Hill Park in Surrey, died on 8 March at 26 Wolverton Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames. Probate was

granted to Phyllis Mary Lauwerys, single woman: this is the first indication that Phyllis was no longer married.

Phyllis and Francis must have divorced, as in 1957 he married again. His marriage to Enid F **Bates** was registered in Harrow, Middlesex. [In the National Probate Calendar for 1976, I find that Francis John Lauwerys died on 8th January 1975 at The Wheatsheaf Hotel in Daventry, Northants. Such recent probate entries do not disclose to whom Probate was granted, in this case on 15 July 1976, in Bristol. Francis's second wife, Enid Frances Lauwerys died just over ten years later, also in Daventry.]

So Phyllis's marriage had not worked out, neither did my aunt's (where this story began); and in 1964 and 1965 I find a Mary Lauwerys of 38 Woodside House in Woodside in Electoral Registers for Wimbledon North. There were no other voters in those years at this address.

Phyllis Mary Lauwerys died in the summer of 1996, her death registered in the London Borough of Merton. Ancestry.co.uk does not supply Probate Calendar entries after the end of 1965.

Can you help?

Manor House School, Limpsfield

Alexandre Solcà {aleksandrsolka@yandex.com}

I am from Switzerland, and have an academic training in Egyptology, as well as in Old Greek, Latin and ancient England. I recently discovered a wonderful book entitled *Death be not proud*. It was written by Mrs Elizabeth Nicholas, and concerns activities in France during WWII. It was published in 1948.

One particular passage mentions a school that Mrs Elizabeth Nicholas attended, along with a Ms Diana Rowden; they definitely had classes together between 1935 and 1942. After a little research, I identified this school as the Manor House, Limpsfield, Surrey (see, for example, the website at <http://www.limpsfield.org.uk/html/manorhouse.html>).

Do you know of any persons connected with the Manor House school, or people living in the neighbourhood, who would remember both Diana Rowden and Elizabeth Nicholas? The photographs are of Diana as a young woman.



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Can you help?

Who is the lady?

Enid Locke {enid.locke@boslowen.com}

This photograph was taken in 1926, and the seated lady is my mother, Maud Mary Woodhams née Post, born 1903. From the age of 14 my mother was in service and I wonder if the lady who is standing was one of her employers, possibly a Mrs Morris who lived in Streatham. I think she may be the same lady who appears in a photograph of the bride's family when Maud's brother Frederick married Dorothy Robbins in Southwark, December 1921.

Can anyone identify her?



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Ann Turnor (ESFHS Membership Secretary)

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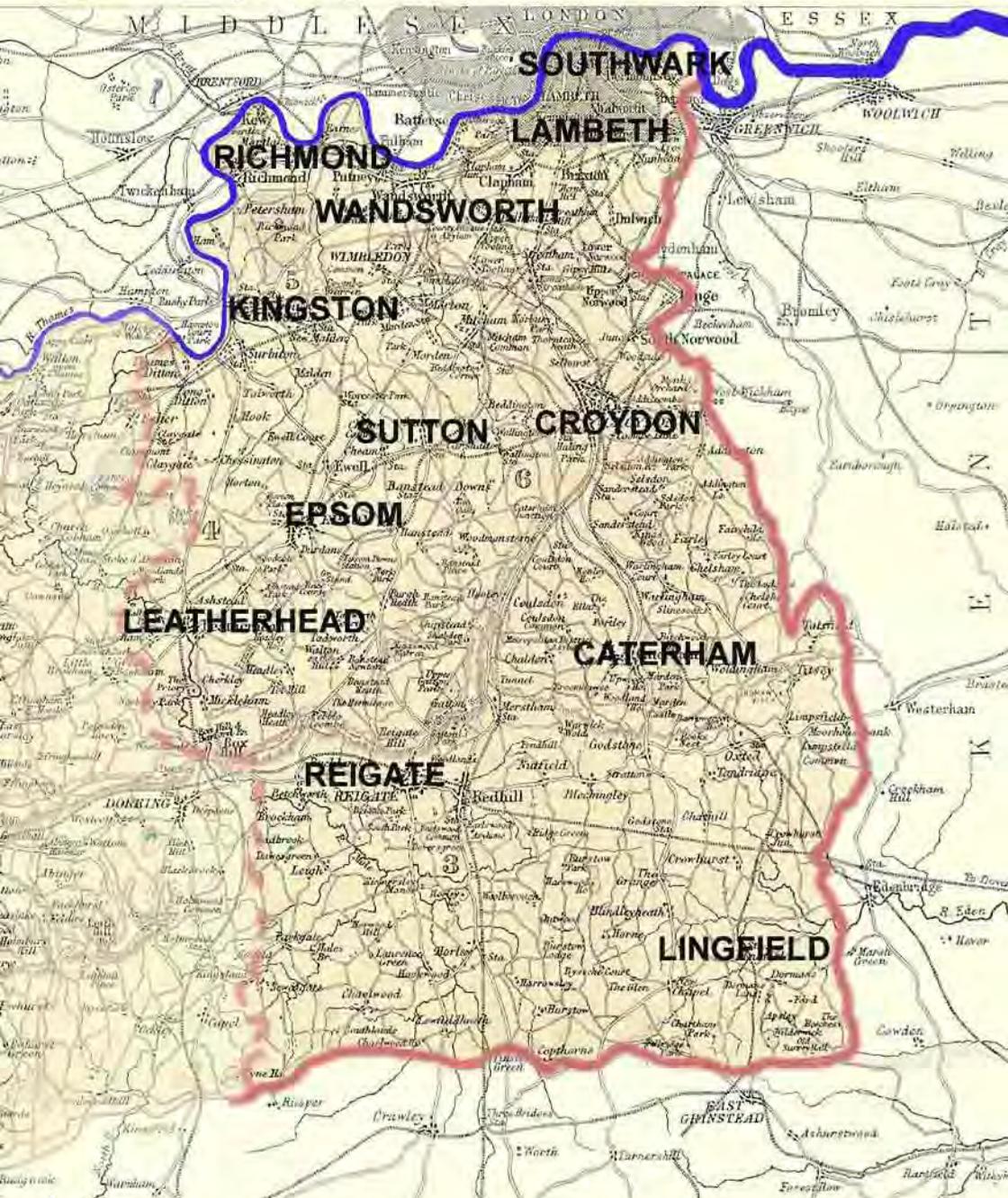
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