



# East Surrey

Family History Society



What do ancient rock  
carvings have to do with East  
Surrey? Find out on page 8

## Journal

Volume 43 number 3  
September 2020

# 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. During the current pandemic it is closed but it is normally 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

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

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## **Society items**

Calling all members in Sutton	19
Can you help?	5
Membership and M I pages	39
Message from the committee	2
News from Surrey Heritage	35
Tech Topic	25
Website round-up	4

## **Members' articles**

An unusual document	8
Another anniversary	26
At last, a wrong 'un	20
Barefoot to school	22
Christopher James Snell	6
Diary of Leonard Harwood	14
Thomas Buckmaster – from convict to constable	33

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The deadline for the December Journal is 10.00 a.m. on 1 November

*All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite*

# A message from the committee

Times have changed slightly since the last message from the Committee.

There is more freedom to go out but face masks have become the norm in most situations. We hope you have all kept well and have maybe managed to solve some of your family history puzzles.

The Society is grateful to Hilary Blanford (the Southwark Talks Secretary) for hosting Zoom meetings and to the others who organise the speakers and help on the day. We know that our non-local members are enjoying and appreciate these meetings. There may be some of you who do not allow email contact with the Society so will not have received the email advertising these meetings. Details of the talks and how to join a zoom meetings can be found on the Society website events page

<https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/meetings-areas>.

It is worth checking the page regularly as there are some speakers still to be confirmed. Although the Committee has decided to continue these Zoom talks until the end of the year, we are watching the possibility of some of our meeting venues opening later in the year.

The following information was correct at the end of July and we hope there will not have been a spike in the Covid19 levels to have caused a change in the following information.

The archive services are beginning to open but you must book and may only be allowed to view a few items as they all have to be quarantined after use. You will find information on the various archive websites.

**The Surrey History Centre:** [www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre)

**The National Archives:** [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**London Metropolitan Archives:** [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/london-metropolitan-archives](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/london-metropolitan-archives)

**The Society of Genealogists:** [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

Various organisations have been running online courses during the closure of their premises. The details of the courses are advertised on their websites. The talks will need to be booked in advance, and for some there is a fee.

## A message from the committee

**The National Archives:** [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/events/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/events/)

**The Society of Genealogists:** <http://www.sog.org.uk/books-courses/events-courses>

**The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies** also run online talks but there is a fee for these: [www.ihgs.ac.uk](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk)

We have also been notified of online fairs as the normal fairs have been cancelled and we hope to have a virtual bookstall and volunteers to answer queries at the following:

**The Family History Show** London on Saturday 26th September. For more details visit [www.thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online](http://www.thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online)

**The FHF Really Useful Family History Show**

The virtual show will take place on Saturday 14 November. Visit the dedicated website for the event - [www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com)

Keep checking the Society website for more virtual events to come.

We wish you all a successful family history journey in the next few months.

## A plea from the Membership Secretary

*Ann Turnor [827]*

Please would any member who has recently changed their email address let me have their new one so our records are kept up to date?

I have recently been sending out invites for our on-line Zoom presentations. A few of these have not been able to be delivered as the address is not a current one, so a few members have missed receiving invites to some very good presentations.

Many thanks.

# Website round up

*Brian Hudson*

## **Royal College of Nursing (RCN)**

The good news is, that if you are looking for a nursing ancestor then the RCN have digitised the records of over 1.5 million nurses have who trained and worked in the UK and Ireland. The other good news is that they are available online but (the bad news for non-subscribers) it is only available on Ancestry.co.uk\*.

The RCN also offer a personal search service using their original registration records, from 1921 to

1968. A Family History Search Service form is also available at [www.rcn.org.uk/library/archives/family-history/family-search-service](http://www.rcn.org.uk/library/archives/family-history/family-search-service).

\*Some good news: At the time of writing in July some councils in the UK had made their library editions of Ancestry available to home users: check for a link on your local council website or any other council's website.

## **Memories of Nursing and midwifery**

**<https://memoriesofnursing.uk>**

The archives page of this site has links to documents and articles that could prove useful to anyone with a nursing ancestor.

There are also video and oral clips available that add more context to the history of the profession.

## **The Business Archives Council (BAC) Journal archives** **[www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk](http://www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk)**

The journals date from the 1960s and they can be browsed or searched.

The journals include articles, book reviews, bibliographies and

notes of business records deposited. Use Search to find a specific name of a person or company. Any useful results can then be downloaded as a PDF.

## Website round up

### Genealogical Misconceptions

<http://rootdig.genealogytipoftheday.com/?p=4062>

Rootdig is Michael John Neill's Genealogy Website, and the page on Genealogical Misconceptions is a semi-serious look at some misconceptions that genealogists (and non-genealogists) have about family history. There are 30 of them and you

may well recognise the truth of some of them.

For a shortcut to the correct website type Genealogical Misconceptions into a search engine and the link should be among the top results.



## Letter to the Editor

*Patricia Holmes [4474]*

I have just been reading 'Oh, what a tangled web they wove' by member Robert G. Page [3375]. I would like to add to his tangled web by asking 'Why did he assume that George Spriggs died in 1837 as his 'wife' married in the December of the same year?' If he has researched this aspect, I apologise for the following:

There is a marriage for a George Spriggs in Q4/1837 in Leicester. There is also a death of a George Spriggs in Wellingborough in June 1840 and incidentally the death of a John Pell in the same quarter the same year.

Has Mr Page considered that George Spriggs and Hannah Barker could have married separately bigamously? It is a thought.

# Christopher James Snell (1866-1944)

*John Snell [9009]*

My grandfather, Christopher James **Snell** (always known as Jim), was born in 1866 at 5 Park Cottages, Kew Lane, Richmond. His father, James Snell, was a waterman, as was his grandfather, another James and also his great-grandfather – this time named Henry – who was born in Ealing in 1705. A long line of Thames watermen.

My great-grandmother was Mary **Lewis**, born 1840, the daughter of James Lewis (a coachman), but she didn't marry my great-grandfather until 1874 – eight years after Jim was born. Nothing has changed! There were three other children, all girls: one was older than Jim, and three were younger. Jim married my grandmother, Agnes **Thorns**, in 1896, and by 1908 they had four children. The eldest (my father) was William James, born 1899. In 1901 they were living at 11 Artichoke Alley, Richmond, with Jim described as a fishmonger's assistant; but by 1911 the family was living at 9 St James' Cottages, where Jim was to continue living until his death in 1944.

The Rugby Team shown above is dated 1902, and includes my grandfather next to the rugby ball and holding my father, then aged three. A very tough looking group! A couple of collecting boxes are in view so perhaps some game for charity was planned.



At some time in the early 1900s Jim started his own business as a fishmonger and poulterer.

This second photograph, taken at about the same time, shows my grandfather involved in political support. The candidate he was supporting was named Cave. Further research reveals that he was the 1st Viscount Cave. He was elected to Parliament as an MP and was appointed Vice-Lieutenant of Surrey in 1907. Subsequently he was to become Attorney General to the Prince of



## Christopher James Snell (1866-1944)

Wales, Home Secretary under Lloyd George and as such introduced the Representation of the People Act 1918.

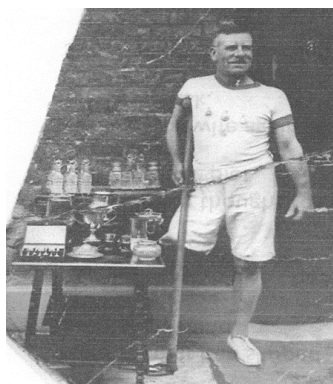
In March 1918 my grandmother Agnes died, a victim of the Spanish Flu – the previous world-wide pandemic. In 1920 grandfather Jim married again. Mabel **Leeves**, his new wife, was 30 years his junior, she being 24 and Jim 54; but it was to be a happy union until they were separated by his death in 1944.

My grandfather only had one leg, having lost one due to a childhood accident (falling from a tree, according to my father) but he could move like lightning using just one crutch. Following the end of the first world war and the establishment of the Star & Garter Home for disabled servicemen between 1921 and 1924, Richmond must have been the home of many limbless servicemen. Every

year on Boxing Day Richmond held a Regatta, and this included a race around Richmond Green for one-legged men. My grandfather came first on many occasions and below is a picture of him outside 9 St James' Cottages with some of his awards. Not bad for someone well into his 50s!

As well as being an athlete grandfather was very much into supporting charities, and was a regular member of RAOB (Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes – the Buffs) and the family have some long-service medals that were awarded to him. He is present in the photograph, second from the right, third row from the bottom.

I am proud of my grandfather Jim. From an early start living in a slum dwelling in Artichoke Alley he progressed to be self-employed and a respected member of his community, and I wish I had been old enough to have known him better.



# An unusual document

*Peter Heather [0200]*

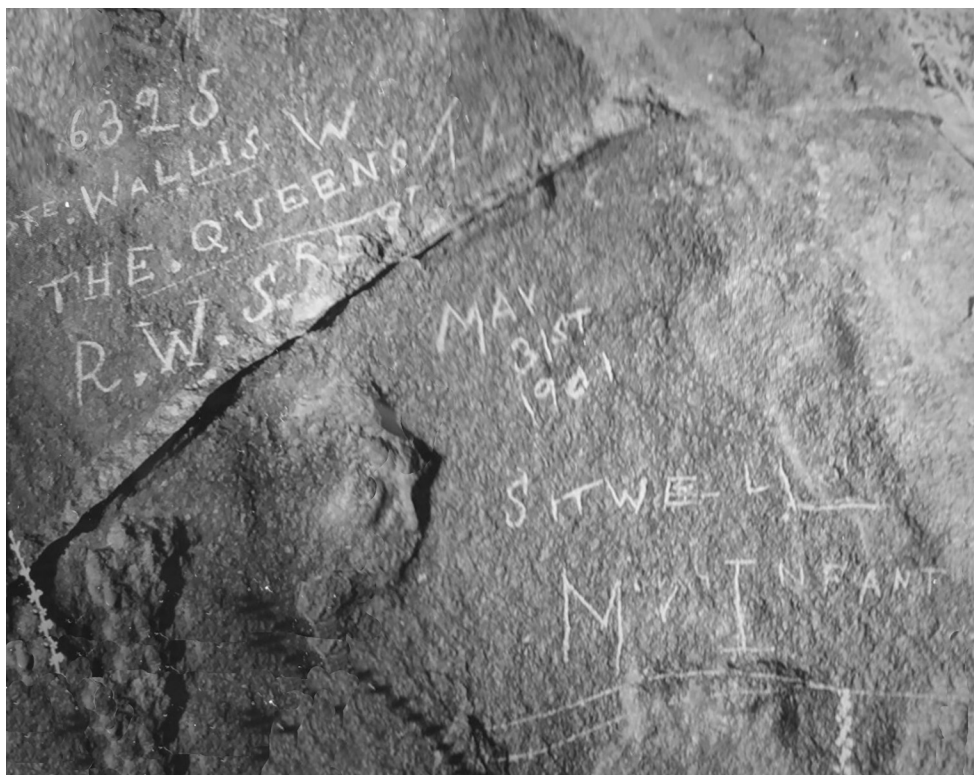
At the Society's Advice & Research Centre we are used to being asked to trace someone mentioned in an old dusty document, but we've never been asked to decipher a rock before! A while ago, a farmer in South Africa sent us a photograph of a rock outcrop on his farm that was covered with ancient carvings.

Over the centuries, bushmen had carved images of people and animals, but beside them was a more recent inscription. Scratched into the rock, Private W Wallis had left his

regimental details and the date, while serving towards the end of the Second Boer War. The farmer wondered if there was any record of him and was keen to send a photograph to any descendants.

While paper and parchment records are often difficult to read after suffering water or other damage, this one was remarkably clear despite being out in the open under a South African sun for over 100 years!

The carving says **6325; Pte Wallis W; The Queens R W S Regt; May 31<sup>st</sup>**



## An unusual document

**1901; Sitwell; M Infantry.** Not hugely informative but it was an unusual challenge, so we devoted some time to try to identify this soldier. It was a piece of detective work and frustrating in some respects, but we managed to uncover something of W Wallis's life.

The key to all this was his regimental number, 6325. From that I was able to find a single reference in the records of the Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, at the Surrey History Centre. This gave his full name as William **Wallis**, number 6325, and from Rotherhithe.

The words **Sitwell; M Infantry** that William carved into the rock referred to Lieutenant Colonel William Henry Sitwell, born in 1850, who raised and commanded the 22nd Mounted Infantry in 1900 for operations in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony and Cape Colony until May 1902.

On the face of it there would seem to have been no reason for William to have been on the farm, which was in the Northern Cape and already British territory, and a long way from the Boer territory that Britain was determined to take. The current farmer doesn't know why William would have been on the farm, which was owned by his great

grandfather at the time. There was a blockhouse guarding an important bridge over the Orange River not far away, and an internment camp near the farm housing hundreds of Boer women and children with a large adjacent military camp, so perhaps William's unit was based there for a time.

The farmer in 1901 had a Boer surname and his wife frequently took food and other supplies to the Boer woman and children who were kept confined in the camp. There was also a Boer general with the same surname, so it is likely that the farmer's loyalties lay with the Boers. However, he also invited the British for games of croquet on the lawn, perhaps to convince the British he was on their side, and it is entirely possible that William was part of an escort to his commanding officer. He would have had plenty of time to carve his name while the officers played croquet!

Returning to the search for William, bearing in mind I was searching for a veteran of the Boer War, I was a little surprised to find that his record card showed him as being in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion and that he was also listed as a Prisoner of War in 1918. Firstly, William must have been in the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion during the Boer

## An unusual document

War, as the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion had been in India during that conflict, whereas the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion served in South Africa and only returned to England in 1914. William must have transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion at some point, probably to bolster that battalion when it was posted to France.

There were no other details, but checking the medal records for the First World War, I found that William entered the conflict on 19 September 1914. He had been awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His 1914 Star had a clasp that was only awarded to those who had served at the front under fire between 5 August and 22 November 1914. William had already been awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal and the King's South Africa Medal for his service in the Boer War. The WW1 medal card also confirmed that he was taken prisoner.

I looked for his service record that would have given his date of birth and other details such as next of kin and physical details of height, colour of eyes etc. but frustratingly it is missing. The majority of WW1 service records were destroyed by bombing in the Second World War and only about 25% survived.

There was no way of telling how old William was, but he should have

been at least 17 to be in the army in 1901, so would have been born on or before 1884, but unlikely to have been over 35 when sent to France in 1914, so born after 1879. Despite this narrow window there was many a William Wallis born then, so I was no further forward.

However, the fact that William was a POW meant that there could be other information about him. Both sides in WW1 kept records of prisoners and they were copied to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland. The ICRC have fairly recently released these records and I searched for any reference to William in them. I was fortunate to find two cards for him. One in English from the British Army said that William Wallis, Private in the Queens Regiment was missing from 30 October 1914. The other record, in German, said that William Wallis, 6325 of QRWS Regt., was captured at Ypres on 31 October 1914 and was initially at Gustrow POW camp. By 18 April 1918 he had been transferred to Parchim. The breakthrough was that William's date of birth was given in full as 19 June 1885 and that he was born and lived in London.

I looked up the War Diary for the 1st Battalion and on 30th/31st October 1914 they were in trenches at

## An unusual document

Gheluvelt, a village outside Ypres. The Germans attacked before dawn and after fierce fighting, drove the British back. When the British recaptured the village later in the afternoon, only 20 men were collected from the village, all the rest being missing or captured. William was clearly one of those captured that day. Although he would not have wanted to be captured, and the life of a POW was not at all comfortable, it probably saved his life by escaping the subsequent carnage.

While we are all aware of the terrible death roll during WW1, it's often not realised that the regular army that formed the initial British Expeditionary Force, was virtually wiped out in the first few months. William's battalion fought at Mons, Aisne and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres in the three months since landing at Le Havre. At the end of 1914, only 32 out of nearly 1,000 men of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion could be mustered.

In the absence of William's service record, we cannot know the full details of his army career, but we can glean some idea. It was usual at the end of the 19th century to sign up for 12 years, with 7 years in the army and 5 years in the reserves. But William's medal card shows his regimental number as L6325 and the L indicates a regular soldier still on the

muster roll and not one who has been called back to the colours for war service, so it appears William would have served continuously from 1901, or before, right through until the end of WW1. The 1<sup>st</sup> battalion had landed at Le Havre, France on 13 August 1914 but William is listed as entering France a month later, on 19 September, probably because his 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion only returned to England that month.

To find any family details of William, having a precise date of birth helped, so I looked for any William Wallis born about 1885. One was found who fitted very well. A William Wallis was baptised at All Saints church, Rotherhithe on 4 December 1889 along with his brother Thomas James Wallis, the sons of Charles and Amelia Wallis. Charles was a stevedore living at 15 Nelson Street, Rotherhithe. That would have seemed to be too late for 'our' William, but fortunately his date of birth is also recorded in the register as 19 June 1884, although the 4 is indistinct. The day and month fit our William exactly. Rotherhithe is also the address given in the regimental record for William.

A subsequent check of the civil registrations of births showed that William was actually born in 1883. The census for 1891, taken in April, shows William, age 7, with his parents and

## An unusual document

siblings, still in Rotherhithe, which confirms that year. Although William's POW record shows him born in 1885, it was not uncommon for people to forget the exact year of their birth by a year or two, but to remember the date of their birth exactly.

William would therefore have been 18 when he inscribed his name on the rock, and 35 when he was released from his POW camp.

The censuses for 1871 and 1881 revealed that William was one of nine children born to Charles and Amelia after their marriage on 4 April 1870, only two of whom lived to old age. Four of them didn't see their first birthday and the three others died fairly young.

This level of mortality, especially amongst young children, was not uncommon in Victorian England, especially in places like Rotherhithe. At the time it was a densely populated part of London with poor housing clustered round the docks where Charles worked as a stevedore loading and unloading ships. The work was hard, and employment was by the day, with men having to queue outside the dock gates every morning in the hope of being picked for work. Charles would have had irregular and little income to feed his large family.

Bermondsey immediately to the west was a centre of the tanning industry that produced foul smells that would have wafted into Rotherhithe on the prevailing wind.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find that Amelia died at the age 44 in 1896 and Charles followed age 47 in 1899. William would have been 13 when his mother died and 16 when his father died. With the only prospect of work as a dock labourer like his father, it is easy to see how William might have felt that the army was an attractive proposition, with his food, clothing and accommodation all provided and the chance to see the world.

William was repatriated from Germany after the war and returned to Rotherhithe. He did not marry, and he died in 1930 in the Rotherhithe area, age 47. Had he survived, as an old soldier, William would no doubt have joined the Home Guard in the Second World War; like Corporal Jones in Dad's Army, sporting a chest full of medals showing him as a veteran of bitter conflicts. So, after all that, there are no descendants to whom photos of the rock could be sent. However, at least William is no longer forgotten, and his 'memorial' still stands in the sun in South Africa.

# Can you help?

## Cummings

*Peggy Cummings [10273] {cummings2247@gmail.com}*

My paternal grandfather, John Joseph Cummings, was born on 2 June 1856 at Crown Court, St Olave, Southwark. His parents are listed as Margaret Mahoney and Michael Cummings. Over the years I have tried to locate the marriage certificate of my great-grandparents, but without success.

As the family were Catholics, about five years ago I contacted the archivist at The Most Holy Trinity Church at Dockhead, Bermondsey, to check the possible baptism record of my grandfather. I was delighted to learn that they did have a record of a baptism for a John Joseph Cummings

born to a Michael Cummings, but born some seven weeks earlier on 5 April 1856; and the mother's maiden name was listed as either Hurley or Hinley but definitely not Mahoney.

However, I am still extremely hopeful as the godmother is listed as Helen Mahoney! (Incidentally, the godfather has the splendid name of Conducci Norman.)

I have tried numerous searches along a possible second marriage for my great-grandmother but to no avail. Can anyone help with the Mahoney/Hurley/Hinley connection?

## Ede's Fields

*Bronwen Summers [10548] {bronwensummers@gmail.com}*

Ede's Fields is an area roughly to the west of South Park, in Reigate. I should be grateful if anyone can supply any information about the

history of this area, and how it came to be so named. I have information of the Ede family going back to approximately 1580 in Charlwood.

# Diary of Leonard Cuthbert Harwood, 1872-1926

Sue Adams

This fascinating diary was discovered during lockdown by the author's step-great-granddaughter. The diary was handwritten on tissue type paper, which would have had carbon paper underneath. The copy pages had been torn out. Some parts of the diary were difficult to read and unfortunately it is too long to reproduce in full.

It describes a journey Leonard took by ship, steamer and various other means, leaving from the Royal Albert Docks in London on 4 November 1925 on the P.O. SS Dongata, travelling to Port Said, Khartoum and eventually Shambe, South Sudan. Leonard was travelling as a member of a party who were big-game hunting, which at the time was an acceptable activity.

The next few days were spent in very rough seas: *"the dining saloon had become very sparsely attended by then: apart from the discomfort of moving about and the difficulty of hanging onto a glass of beer and a plate of soup, or trying to bath and dry oneself with one hand whilst hanging onto a rail with the other, I had no squeamish feelings whatsoever."* By 9 November they had sight of Gibraltar before a glimpse of the African coast, probably Algiers, the next day. Leonard was fascinated by *"a flight of about 20 Gold Finches sought the lee of the vessel flying low in the troughs of the waves most driven high to escape the spray of the crests, then came driving heavy rain, could there be any hope for their safety!"*

At 10.45 on 11 November, Armistice Day, a service was held with the two-minute silence observed and

the engines stopped. The following day they steamed into Malta harbour where several of the passengers, including Leonard, went ashore: *"a party was made up of six, each member paying £1 to a bank, a large motor car was bargained for that took us all over the island during the morning, one call we made was to St Anthony's gardens orange trees carrying a lot of fruit still all green, Chrysanthemums in bloom showing it was autumn, but lots of other plants, unknown, in bloom, and a great variety of trees and bushes in bloom and avenues of palms, returning to town had a nice lunch with wine, visited St John's church famous in connection with the old crusaders, then to the Governors Palace Parliament chamber, Ball room and Museum, principally filled with weapons and armour used by the*

## Diary of Leonard Cuthbert Harwood, 1872-1926

*Turks in their wars with the Maltese and relics of Napoleons occupation. returned to the boat only ten minutes before she started, it was quite hot on shore but chilly when we put out to sea and accounts were settled each received 6/- so it was not very costly for what we had seen."*

Anchor was dropped at Port Said on 15 November, a place Leonard seemed to have visited 25 years previously. *"What we did see of Port Said should say that the only building that I had seen before was the office of the Canal, the whole place as I knew it had been pulled down and rebuilt in much larger scale but still retaining its well-earned character."* The ship then moved through the Suez Canal, a journey cut in half to 12 hours by major improvements.

On 19 November *"an iron frame lighthouse marking a long of hidden rocks over which the waves were breaking, the land was hardly in sight another two hours we passed a similar lighthouse after passing this turned at right angles and were soon entering the harbour of Port Sudan. This place is entirely new, a long quay has been built, three ships were lying alongside and occupied the whole length one the B.I. Matiana which should have all the material for the expedition, so the Dongala had to drop anchor in the*

*fairway until the Matiana left."* A special train was run to Khartoum: *"Dinner was served at 7 and at 8, we all choose the latter hour; everything was prepared nicely, soup, fish, joint, sweets, and coffee, beer, whiskey, and minerals iced, the sleeping bunks had all been taken from the people from the P.&O Chitral that got in a few hours before us but this made no odds there were only two in each carriage and I had one to myself, the seats are extra wide and they supply you with two sheets two pillows and a blanket the hire of which is 4/-, while at dinner the bed is made up and it was not long before we all retired, turning out the electric lights, but leaving the electric fan running."* During the night the train passed through a hilly part of the country rising to 3,000 feet but daylight saw them viewing flat desert with little cultivation although cattle and goats grazed on what they could find.

Arriving in Khartoum the party stayed at the Gordon Hotel, where Leonard noticed the sparrow chirps first thing in the morning, much the same as in England. Khartoum was very different from his previous visit in 1899: *"one shop occupies a large square block with arches carrying a wide veranda all round the building on three sides they have a few plate glass*

## Diary of Leonard Cuthbert Harwood, 1872-1926

*windows about 6 ft wide in these compartments the latest fashions are displayed, boots and shoes in one, lady's hats, another, ties another and so forth in fact quite a Harrods, few of the other shops have any glass windows so you see their merchandise through the open doors."*

There was a lot of waiting around for the next few days, as no baggage had arrived. This included three Citroen cars and a Morris, which were required for the expedition. These had to be lifted onto the steamer Kaibar, a large flat-bottomed barge driven by a high paddle at the rear. The steam is fuelled by wood which has to be replenished from stations along the Nile. *"The upper deck of the Kaibar has a very confined dining saloon right in the front of the boat behind this a smaller saloon 10 cabins and two bathrooms down the centre of the boat with a gangway done each side, and a small space of deck at the end where our meals are served the whole of this space is framed in and fitted with copper wire gauze that keeps all the flies and insects out especially mosquitoes, over this deck there is another the front part of it is the navigating bridge then an open space for deck chairs and another mosquito house in which four or five people can sleep this is of course fitted all round*

*with gauze wire all the boat is lighted with electric light. Lashed to the side of the Kaibar is another barge with an upper deck on which in the centre is a mosquito house about 20 feet by 10 ft, there are four cabins in which we keep our clothes but far too hot to sleep in so our beds are in the mosquito house, unfortunately there is no bathroom on the barge so we have rigged up a bathing tent and got a canvas bath in it is a difficult matter to dry oneself and emerge in a decent manner as we are in direct view of the other boat. A pontoon barge carries three Citroens, Morris tractor and two motor boats, we must look an awkward lot from the shore, the speed on an average is five miles an hour, and it takes 15 days to get to Mongala."*

The party was joined by the Maharaj of Kutch, his grandson, a secretary and seven servants with two and a half tons of luggage. They left Khartoum on 7 December after eight donkeys, some turkeys and chickens were put on board. Further along the Nile Leonard noted that *"the air was thick with ducks and geese flying in flocks in all directions as far as the eye could see, few came within shot of the boat, numerous herons, spoonbills, pelicans, darters and waders remained at rest as the boats went by."*

## Diary of Leonard Cuthbert Harwood, 1872-1926

(There follows quite an upsetting description of hunting animals on shore which I have deliberately not included.)

The steamer continued down the Nile, passing large bales of cotton on the shore evidence of a growing trade. On 18 December the party awoke to find the boat moored at Malakal:

*"Oleander bushes up to the bank in bloom and different trees planted that do give some shade, a relief to look on after the everlasting Acacias along the river banks, but these have their charm the leaf is hardly large enough to give the tree a green appearance but the bank is a vivid rust colour verging on orange, in the setting sunlight the colour is intensified to a degree that it would be hard to reproduce. Malakal is one of the last big stations South a Governors palace, barracks for soldiers, a post office and a row of shops kept by Greeks and government sheds for merchandise complete this part of the station."*

Further down stream they entered game country: "we saw several groups of Waterbuck all females with some three part grown young but only saw one male, all the land on the West side is a game reserve so no shooting is allowed on the other side you are free to shoot but only a very few water buck were

*seen. Some giraffe were seen a long way off, but nothing else. The country is for the most part bush and absolutely flat, occasional stretches of grass with a few isolated trees or bushes. Every night we have seen the country burning in the distance, it is purposefully done to give the new grass a chance to grow."*

On 21 December Leonard noted that the country was uninteresting, and not a sign of game, with very few birds. The group were disappointed that the country did not prove to be up to expectations, speculating that rain had attracted the animals elsewhere. "There is very little flower to be seen occasionally a water lily, a few bushes that carry a yellow bloom close to and all along the branches and a pinkish mauve convolvulus which is just as ready to throw its long tendrils along the surface of the water as to climb up the stems of vegetation it has adapted quite an aquatic appearance the stems are much thicker and the leaves more fleshy, the flower looks just the same."

Although they were proceeding south, the nights were getting much cooler but it soon warmed up when the sun rose. "When evening falls it will be a delightful hour but for the gnats and mosquitoes when it gets quite dark the fire flies appear in the

## Diary of Leonard Cuthbert Harwood, 1872-1926

*reeds myriads of miniature electric lights sometimes they settle on the wire gauze when you can have a good look at them, the locals say they eat the mosquitoes it would probably be in the larvae stage if it is a fact. Two days from Khartoum the Doctor started everyone on two grains of quinine every day of the week at breakfast time except Sundays."*

By 23 December their destination, Shambe, was reached when the cars were run on shore. Once again the general opinion of the country, as far as shooting was concerned, was not good so they reloaded the cars and sailed further south.

On Christmas Day the stores from Fortnum and Mason which had been intended for the side expeditions were enjoyed. Elephants were spotted and

unfortunately one was shot and killed the next day.

The diary ends very abruptly on 27 December when Leonard complains of "*a bad night through mosquito bites*". Leonard is recorded as dying on 11 January 1926 at Shambe, South Sudan. His cause of death is gastritis and heart failure. Shambe is now a National Park in South Sudan.

Leonard's connection with East Surrey Family History Society? He was born in 1872 in Mitcham and is recorded there in the 1881 and 1891 census with his family. He married in 1907 and listed his occupation as taxidermist – hence the reason behind the game hunting.

My thanks to Lisa, who transcribed the diary.



How long have you been searching for your ancestors?

Do you have any tips for other family history researchers?

The Editor (contact details inside the front cover)  
welcomes any articles or stories for the Journal.

# Calling all members in the LB of Sutton

*Abby Matthews (Archive and Family History Centre Manager)*

Many of us will be recording our thoughts in this unprecedented time, either as a means of making sense of the experience or simply to record the previously unimaginable events unfolding daily. Sutton Cultural Services are calling people across the borough to consider keeping a diary of their experiences and thoughts during the COVID-19 outbreak. The contributions will be added to Sutton's borough archive collection as an important and hugely valuable record of events.

Diaries capture history in a personal, unique manner, directly reflecting daily life during ordinary – or, in this case, extraordinary – circumstances. Importantly, keeping a diary can help reduce anxiety and manage stress. It can also help one get rid of negative thoughts and can overall improve wellbeing.

The primary aim of the project, titled *The Locals: Diaries*, is to provide a simple and creative emotional outlet to participants at these difficult times, aiming at boosting their wellbeing, and, through being part of a wide

community project, creating a sense of belonging. The content will provide an important historical record of this period for researchers of the future.

There is no restriction as to the format of the diary, and entries can be as short or as long as you like. One can document a single event, a day, a week, or keep an ongoing diary. Entries can include photographs, drawings, poetry or ephemeral material – they may be handwritten or digital. People can also record their thoughts and submit them as audio recordings. We also encourage group and family journals. Any way one chooses to record events and thoughts is equally valid and of great importance.

We are currently reaching out to local organisations to see how the project might fit their work and interests, aiming at involving people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

If you would like to get involved, please email Sutton Heritage at [oralhistory@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:oralhistory@sutton.gov.uk) for more information.



# At last, a wrong 'un

Julian Turner

It's not often I find particularly interesting ancestors. There was the thrill over 20 years ago when I found a centenarian in Grandma's scrapbook. Grandma must have known her in Victorian times. Not direct line to me but a little exotic. Then there were the Bluebeards, who got through three wives, but I bet they didn't feel special. Rather just adjusting to circumstances. And a 'Sir' who did not impress me . . . probably on the wrong side in the Civil War. A great-grandfather who was born in Newmarket Union Workhouse, but that just creates a near-impossible task of finding out who his father was! So it was intriguing to find Richard **Doubell** buried in Lingfield, Surrey, and annotated 'one of the Hawkhurst gang'. Date: 11 August 1793. What was this getting at? To my surprise, Google came up with the answer.

The Hawkhurst Gang was a large smuggling organisation concerned with getting goods, principally tea, ashore on the Sussex coast and off to a market in London. Hawkhurst was the centre of operations, its population quite supportive of the smuggling as it afforded income to the area and employment. The Gang were a cavalry of armed men who would ambush even the Revenue men, who had seized contraband.

They killed people and used punitive methods to go about it. Inevitably the State took notice and deployed dragoons *et al.* Smuggled tea was untaxed and that was far more interesting than the 'honest trading' of slaves that would have been going on at the same time.

Here is a schedule of the Hawkhurst Gang:

They operated approximately 1735 to 1749 (according to Wikipedia and other sites).

In 1740 they intercepted dragoons who had found 15 cwt of tea in a barn in Etchingham and were taking it to Hastings. The 30 gang members attacked near Robertsbridge, killed the officer in charge, and captured the other soldiers.

In 1744 three boats landed enough contraband in Pevensey to need 500 pack horses to take it inland.

It begins to sound like the Piranha Brothers, the Monty Python spoof of the Kray Brothers gang. They began to lose local support because of their violence. In Goudhurst there was enough intimidation that a retired army corporal got a militia together.

On 21 April 1744 the Hawkhurst Gang not only attacked Goudhurst but set the day, and saying they would

## At last, a wrong 'un

burn the village to the ground. The militia was prepared and defeated the Gang. This was probably the beginning of the end.

October 1747 they extended to the Customs House in Poole, Dorset and carried off 30cwt of tea. Again there were 30 armed cut-throats.

In 1748 the Government was gathering names and offering rewards for information, they then bagged their victims for trial in 1749.

So how did Richard Doubell survive to the age of about 82? He was tried much earlier, on 20 April 1737. We do not know what he had been doing, but it was a group trial at the Old Bailey. The record is on line at <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?div=s17370420-1>

In case you can find a name of interest to your family tree, here are the names and the judgements:

“Death, 8: Dorothy Felton, Samuel Moreton, Richard Harper, Mary Brown, \*Ann Mudd, Jonathan Adey, Henry Bosworway, James Kelly.

\*Ann Mudd was sentenced to be drawn on a Hurdle to the Place of Execution, and then to be burnt at a Stake.

“Dorothy Felton and Mary Brown, pleaded their Belly's and a Jury of Matrons being impannell'd,

found Mary Brown only, with quick Child.

“Burnt in the Hand, 3: Matthew Martin, Richard Leaver, and John Rickets.

To be Transported, 38: James Thompson, Charles Burn, Ann Hardware, James Abbot, Elizabeth Monntague, Nathaniel Visard, Eleanor Smith, William Rants, Richard Debell, Joanna Nichols, Alice Haperjohn, Richard Cook, Peter Binyan, John Newman, John Irons, Richard Blunt, William Powel, William Starr, Sarah Silly, Thomas Hargrove, John Steel, Samuel Neal, Joseph Clapton, John Clapton, Stephen Wilmot, John Phillips, William Warner, James Ingram, Henry Johnson, Constant Seers, Thomas Killcup, Thomas Davis, John Dixon, John Nichols, Mary White, Mary Pye, Thomas Matterson, and Robert Williams.

So Richard Doubell/Debell was only deported. It may not have happened if strings were pulled. If it was carried out, it would have likely been to the American colonies. People did get back from transportation. I have found no marriage for Richard; he is not in direct line to me, but his younger brother Daniel is. Daniel's wife was born in the Weald so maybe he had a finger in illegal earnings too. Who knows?

# Barefoot to school, and a penny for a haircut

Fred Waite

My father, also Fred **Waite**, was born in 1901 in Bermondsey. In 1974 he sent a letter for publication to the *South London Press* that told of his memories when growing up in that area. His letter was given a centre-page spread.

With all the redevelopment that has been going on in London since the last war it is obvious many places have changed out of all character in comparison to what they were. One place, Tabard Street in Bermondsey, has had as remarkable a change as any in London, or the whole of England for that matter.

Tabard Street had everything when I went to school there nearly 70 years ago. I attended Charter School, which at the time was administered by the School Board for London, which had taken over from the Ragged School Union. It was nothing for me to go to school with no shoes or stockings and wearing only a shirt and knickerbockers. I went to this school from infancy until I left at 13 to work in a leather manufacturers.

In those days there were seven public houses in Tabard Street within 400 yards. 'The Wagoners Arms', 'The Black Horse', 'The Camelot', 'The Rose and Crown', 'The George', 'The White Bear' and 'The Royal Oak', which is the only one left standing, although the 'Black Horse' was pulled down and rebuilt in Great Dover Street.

## BAREFOOT TO A PENNY FOR A HAIRCUT

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In those days there were seven public houses in Tabard-st within 400 yards — 'The Wagoners Arms', 'The Black Horse', 'The Camelot', 'The Rose and Crown', 'The George', 'The White Bear' and

was pulled down and rebuilt in Great Dover-st.

Handmade merchandise of all descriptions were on sale in the shops and one could look through iron grills in the pavement into the basement workshops where the goods were produced.

Brushes, carpets, mats, pots, pans and kettles were

made as well as chairs,

firewood was tied up in bundles and was in great demand, as every home was heated by a coal fire.

On the corner of Black Horse Court was a forge where the horses was shod, and there was a second-hand outfitter's called 'Jesus Christ's'.

Here many merchant seamen

lives, love letters and tiger nuts to name a few — and many farthings were spent there, and a half-penny would buy enough to last most the day.

Another shop specialised in Christmas decorations and supplied crepe paper, tinsel and bunting, made

flowers.

'Old Joe's' — the barber charged 1d for a man's haircut, a penny for boys and a penny a shave, and boys would be given a bag of sweets or a monkey on a stick when they left the salon.

The corn chaffers had everything to do with horse feed and chaffing as well as all kinds of bird seed and the birds themselves — finches, chaffinches, larks and pigeons — could be bought from Joe Barker.

At 'Rice's' you could take a tea cup along and get a mixture of tea, sugar and condensed milk for a half-penny. Corned beef cost a penny, hot butter and a cottage loaf 1d.

At 'Giles' the fellow-monger a man called Bob Shipley would keep the yard tidy and sweep the pavement for at least 25 yards each side of the shop.

Handmade merchandise of all descriptions were on sale in the shops and one could look through iron grills in the pavement into the basement workshops where the goods were produced. Brushes, carpets, mats, pots, pans and kettles were made as well as chairs, cabinets and other small pieces of furniture. Firewood was tied up in bundles and was in great demand, as every home was heated by a coal fire.

On the corner of Black Horse Court was a forge where the horses was shod, and there was a second-hand outfitter's called 'Jesus Christ's'. Here many merchant seamen

## Barefoot to school, and a penny for a haircut

returning from a voyage would take the opportunity for a change of clothes, leaving the cast-offs to be repaired, cleaned and sold again. A complete change, including boots and a bowler hat, could be bought for 5/-.

A small shop known as 'Dolly Motes' sold sweets of every description – honeycomb, iced candy, locus, love letters and tiger nuts to name a few. Many farthings were spent there, and a half-penny would buy enough to last most of the day.

Another shop specialised in Christmas decorations and supplied crepe paper, tinsel and handmade flowers.

'Old Joe', the barber, charged 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d for a man's haircut, a penny for boys, and a penny a shave, and boys would be given a bag of sweets or a monkey on a stick when they left the salon.

The corn chandlers had everything to do with horse feed and stabling, as well as all kinds of bird seed and the birds themselves – linnets, chaffinches, larks and pigeons – could be bought from Joe Barker. At 'Rice's' you could take a teacup along and get a mixture of tea, sugar and condensed milk for half a penny. Corned beef cost a penny, best butter and a cottage loaf 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d.

At 'Gales' the fishmonger, a man called Bob Shippey would keep the yard tidy and sweep the pavement for at least 25 yards each side of the shop. He always seemed to have a broom in his hand.

'Antonio Dicea's' was the ice cream shop, The cream would be hand-turned in a container inside a larger one containing ice and freezing salt and boys would be paid a penny to turn the handle for about half an hour until the ice cream was ready.

The boot and shoe repair shop had been established for a very long time and the chimney sweeps, Prices, claimed the business had been in their family for over 100 years.

Wade's owned a number of shops, using the basements as workshops and top floors as a lodging house, where rooms were let at fourpence a night.

Bill Devy had a horse-drawn van which went out to surrounding districts every day loaded with local produce, while Hardings supplied all the materials necessary for the street's manufacturers, and every Monday morning gypsies would drive their horse-drawn vans into the street to load up with the merchandise on offer.

Almost every evening drovers would drive flocks of sheep and herds

## Barefoot to school, and a penny for a haircut

of cattle through the street on their way from London Bridge station to a slaughterhouse in the Old Kent Road.

Men with barrows would parade up and down shouting their wares of shrimps, winkles, celery, watercress or muffins, and tinkers would offer to men pots and pans, or sharpen knives and scissors.

Craftsman would carry out repairs to chairs, mats and clocks on the pavement outside your house. They always carried the tools of their trade on their back, among them the glazier with a frame containing various sized panels of glass. He always had plenty of work on hand, as in those days the beer was both cheap and strong and there were plenty of windows to be mended in the public houses on Mondays. When a fighting drunk was arrested the police would lash him to a stretcher, which was on

wheels, and push him off to the station. Another feature of the seamy side of life were the groups of men on the street corner gambling with dice.

At lunchtime girls from the local jam factory 'E. J. Pink' would sit on the curb eating fish and chips, while others danced to the music of street organs.

Lunch for the down and outs would often mean a free meal of faggots and pease pudding from the German butchers, while the Mission Hall known as 'Big Joe Jacksons' welcomed the elderly with a mug of tea and a bun, and children had film shows composed of slides.

Dewrance's, the engineers, occupied a large part of one side of the street and were always prepared to employ any boy leaving Chaucer School.



All this I wrote about has now entirely disappeared. The old school and most of the rest of the street have now been replaced with blocks of flats. Probably the only thing Tabard Street will be remembered for is that Chaucer's pilgrims in the 'Canterbury Tales' passed through it after leaving the Tabard Inn in Borough High Street; but I shall always remember life in the street before the war and the old school song:

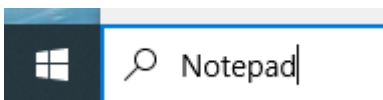
*"At old Chaucer school in Tabard Street / We Chaucer schoolboys love to meet,  
And always try to play the game, / For if we try we know we can,  
And he who will not seek or try, / Down among the hooligans let him lie."*

# Tech Topic – using the Notepad in Windows 10

Brian Hudson

When words need to be copied from a website or a few notes jotted down, it isn't always necessary to open a word processor such as Word. Anyone who has used Windows for a long time will probably remember the very handy **Notepad** program. It still exists even though it is not in the program listing.

To bring it into use type **Notepad** into the Windows **Search** box on the bottom left of the screen.

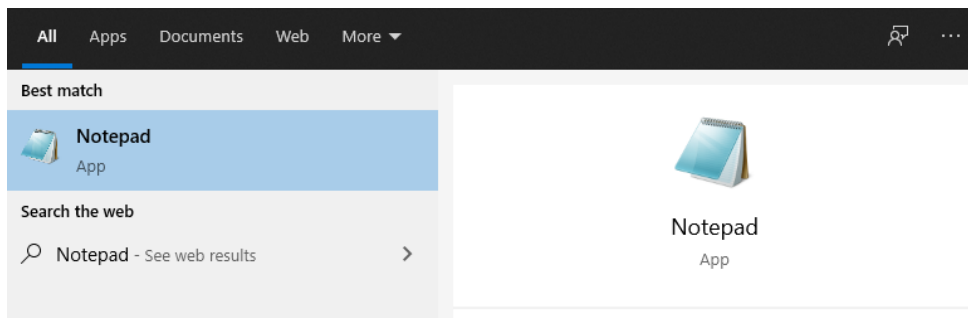


**Notepad app** will be at the top of the search list.

Right click on the **Notepad app** and a short menu will appear (see below).

To add to the **Start** menu click on '**pin to start**' or, to add to the **taskbar**, click '**pin to taskbar**'.

The **Notepad** box will now be showing in the **Start** menu and, similarly, the **Notepad** icon appears on the taskbar. In either case they can be dragged to the position you want them.



# Another Anniversary

Maureen Fitzgibbon

This article was first published in *Catholic Ancestor*, Volume 18 Number 1 (April 2020), and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the researcher, Maureen Fitzgibbon, and the editor, Paul Leigh-Baker

This year seems to have produced several 200 years' remembrance of important years of events. In our Society, for example, we are looking at the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the birthdays of Elizabeth Prout, the foundress of Cross and Passion Sisters and of St John Henry Newman, recently canonised. But some of you may also have heard elsewhere about the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale and the celebrations that are being organised to remember her work in many aspects of health care, and in particular, her involvement in the role of nurses and the foundation of Schools of Nursing.

What is not so well known is the work of many Catholic nurses in the improvements that were made in this country. Florence, who was a very intelligent woman, was very interested in care of the sick. She looked for ways to learn more, including trying to get practical experience by spending time in hospitals on the Continent run by religious organisations, which of

course had not been available in this country since the Reformation! She was a close friend of Fr Henry Manning (later Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster) who arranged for her to spend time with some French nuns, but unfortunately her family did not approve. In 1853 she took a post as Superintendent of an Institution for the care of Sick Gentlewomen.

Things changed significantly in March 1854 when England and France declared war on Russia and the Crimean War began. The English Army, which landed in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in June, was not well organised, particularly in the medical field. Cholera was rife and when the fighting commenced there were many casualties. However, telegraphic communications between countries was now available and on 9 October *The Times* correspondent gave a full account of the sufferings of the sick and wounded soldiers to the people back home. Two days later further horror stories of the poor treatment appeared, but this time contrasting it with the good care available to the

## Another Anniversary

French Army. In particular 'the help of the Sisters of Charity----these devoted women are excellent nurses'. The public were infuriated by all this terrible news and the next day, a letter in *The Times* asked 'Why have we no Sisters of Charity?'

Immediately the Secretary of War, Sidney Herbert, began to receive offers of help from voluntary organisations. One of the offers came from the Bishop of Southwark, Thomas Grant. He offered to provide ten nuns with nursing experience, ready to leave for the Crimea the next day. The Bishop was assisted in the negotiations by Fr Manning. Sidney Herbert was also a close friend of Florence Nightingale and knew what interests she had. As the complaints and offers began to come to him he made a formal proposal that she should organise and lead a group that was capable of and willing to provide the care that the Army needed. She was delighted to accept and began to contact acceptable volunteers.

To understand the proposal made by Bishop Grant we would need to know where the promised nuns could be found and what care of the sick experience they had. He began immediately to start the search by going, that night, to the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Bermondsey to

discuss the proposal with the Superior, Rev. Mother Mary Clare Moore.

The Irish Order of the Sisters of Charity was founded in Dublin in 1815 by Mary Aikenhead, the first nuns having been trained by the French Sisters of Charity. Over the next few years more convents were opened providing care for the sick in other parts of Ireland. Then in 1834 they were able to open their first hospital, St Vincent's in Dublin, which is still there.

In 1827 another young Irish woman, Catherine McAuley, who had had a lot of experience looking after sick poor people in Dublin, gathered a group of like-minded people to work together to provide care for the sick. This proved very successful and in 1831 Catherine set up the Order of the Sisters of Mercy, whose main work was to be the care of the sick in their homes and in hospitals. The first members acquired nursing experience with the Irish Sisters of Charity. By 1841, when Catherine died, ten more Mercy convents, doing the same work, had opened including the first English convent which opened in Bermondsey in 1839, with nuns from Ireland. Mother Mary Clare Moore was the first Superior.

## Another Anniversary

The Bishop had offered ten nurses to the cause but there were only five available, including Mother Mary Clare. He needed to seek help elsewhere so the next day he went to the Virgo Fidelis Convent in Norwood. This was an orphanage which had been opened in 1848 by a small French order of nuns. It was the first orphanage for Roman Catholic girls established in England since the Reformation. Even though the nuns had little nursing experience the Bishop obtained the five volunteers needed, led by the Superior, Mother Mary ad Nibes, who was English. So he was able to confirm the offer to Sydney Herbert.

On 17 October the ten nuns set off for Paris, where they were joined four days later by Florence Nightingale and her twenty-seven volunteers. The whole group set sail from Marseilles two days later and after a dreadful journey arrived in Constantinople on 3 November. From there they sailed on the Black Sea to the hospital at Scutari. They were there in time to prepare to receive the sick and wounded from the Battle of Balaclava which had taken place on 25 October.

The nuns carried on with their valuable work until the end of the war. In January 1856 there had been a call for more nurses and the Bermondsey Convent was able to



## Another Anniversary

send three more nuns. Peace was declared on 2 April 1856. The English nuns returned home with the troops sometime later. Two of the nuns, Sister Winifred Spey and Sister Elizabeth, both from Liverpool, had contracted cholera in Balaclava. They died and were buried there. There is a monument to them in the Mercy Convent cemetery in Old Swan, Liverpool.

After the war both the English and Irish Catholic nursing orders continued to expand, including providing hospitals and nursing homes and being very involved in the training of those (religious and secular) wishing to nurse. This was very much in tune with what happening throughout both countries, where hospitals and clinics with improved patient facilities and providing training

for nurses were being built. The changes had also spread to other countries. From the early 1840s the Sisters of Mercy had begun to set up convents in Newfoundland, Australia and New Zealand all committed to the originals plans of the foundress.

Florence Nightingale remained in very close touch with Mother Mary Clare and Sister Mary de Gonzaga for many years and visited them at Bermondsey. There is little doubt that the pioneering work that Florence did over the next few years, and indeed for most of her life, dealing with politicians and doctors, spreading ideas for improving care of the sick and supporting training programmes for new nurses was inspired by the experience that she had in the Crimea.

The England-based nuns who worked in the Crimean hospitals were:

<b>Names in Religion</b>	<b>Birth Names</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>
Mother Mary Clare	Georgina Moore	Dublin
Sr Mary de Gonzaga	Georgina Barrie	Walton-le-Dale
Sr de Chantal	Maria Monica Huddon	Hackney
Sr Stanilaus	Margaret Jones	Marylebone
Sr Anastasia	Sarah Kelly	Bermondsey
Sr Mary Martha	Catherine Digby-Beste	Bath
Sr Mary Helen	Amelia Ellis	Bermondsey
Sr Mary Joseph	Sarah Hawkins	Bermondsey

## Another Anniversary

### **Mother Mary Clare Moore**

Georgina Moore was born in Dublin 20 February 1814 daughter of George and Catherine Moore. Her father died in 1817 and in 1823 Catherine and her children became Catholics.

In 1828 Georgina became acquainted with Catherine McAuley and acted as governess to her niece. In 1830 she joined the Community and in 1833 she was one of the first four to profess religious vows. She became Superior of the Cork Convent in 1837. Two years later she was sent to England to become Superior of the new Bermondsey foundation. She returned there after her stint in the Crimea and remained there until she died in 1874.

### **Sister Mary de Gonzaga**

Georgina Ffarington Barrie was born 5 October 1825 at Lostock Hall, near Preston, Lancashire. Her father, Admiral Sir Robert Barrie, was Governor of Upper Canada and Georgina spent most of her childhood in Kingston, Ontario. Her mother, Julia Ingilbys was part of an old Catholic family from Ripley Castle, near Harrogate, Yorkshire. Julia died in 1837 and Sir Robert in 1841.

Georgina was received into the Catholic Church on 4 October 1846 and two years later entered the

Convent of the Sisters of Mercy in Bermondsey. She went to the Crimea with the first group and returned to Bermondsey after the war. In 1856 she was appointed Superior of the new Catholic hospital of St Elizabeth in Great Ormond Street, London, which the Sisters had opened in association with the Knights of Malta. She returned to Bermondsey in November 1867 and died there in 1873.

### **Sister de Chantal**

Maria Monica Hudden was born in 1824 in Hackney and daughter of William. She entered Bermondsey Convent in 1851, made her vows in November 1853.

On her return from the Crimea she was sent to the new Foundation convent in Wigton, Cumberland (now part of Cumbria) and worked there until she died in 1906.

### **Sister Stanislaus**

Margaret Jones, born 1822 in Marylebone. She entered the Bermondsey Convent in July 1846 and made her vows in July 1849.

She went to the Crimea with the first group. Her skill as a nurse was praised by Florence Nightingale. On return from the war she helped to found the new hospital in Great Ormond Street and worked there for many years. She died in 1913.

## Another Anniversary

### **Sister Anastasia**

Sarah Kelly, born in Rotherhithe in 1827 daughter of Michael and Bridget Kelly. She was baptised in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, next door to the Bermondsey Convent.

She entered the convent in 1842 (age 15!) and made her Profession in 1846. She remained in the Crimea for the duration of the war and on her return was selected to be one of the team of nurses in the new hospital in Great Ormond Street. She died in 1911.

### **Sister Mary Martha**

Catherine Digby-Beste, born 1831 in Bath daughter of John and Harriet Digby-Beste. She entered the Bermondsey Convent in 1852 and was professed 24 September 1853.

Additional recruits for the Crimea were required by the Irish sisters of Mercy and Catherine was allowed to join them. They left on 2 December and arrived in Constantinople on 17 December. When she returned to England, she was sent to work in the new Foundation in Wigton, and she died there in April 1875.

### **Sister Mary Helen**

Amelia Ellis, born in Bermondsey in 1817. Entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1840. In 1851 she was elected Superior of Bermondsey, then to Brighton. She returned to Bermondsey shortly before the outbreak of war.

She went to the Crimea in January 1856 in response to the cry for more Catholic nurses. On return from the war she was sent to help found the new hospital in Great Ormond Street. She died there in 1897 shortly before it moved to its new location in St John's Wood.

### **Sister Mary Joseph**

Sarah Hawkins born in Bermondsey in 1819 daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Hawkins. She entered the Bermondsey Convent soon after it was opened.

She was one of three extra helpers sent to the Crimea in January 1856. Peace was declared in April but the nuns remained for several months until all the wounded were evacuated. She returned to Bermondsey. In her old age she was crippled with rheumatism, but she enjoyed working with the little orphans in Eltham. She died there in 1882.

## Another Anniversary

### The Irish Group

Sr Mary Magdalen	Ellen Alcock	Little Crosby
Sr Elizabeth	Ann Butler	Liverpool
Sr Mary Bernard	Julia Diana Dickson	Chelsea
Sr Winifred	Winifred Sprey	Liverpool

### The Norwood Group

Mother Mary ad Nibes	Eliza Isabella Leith	Aberdeen
Mother St George	Frances Jane Purcell	London
	Marie Therese MacClean	Ireland
	Eleanor O'Dwyer	Dublin
	Justine Gabrielle Chaprillae	France
	(died in Scutari)	

The Norwood nuns were recorded as 'lacking in competence in the care of the sick' and, sadly, were sent home

by Florence in December 1854. I have very little information about them and would be pleased to receive any.



# Thomas Buckmaster – from Convict to Constable

Rita Russell [7123]

Having created a **Buckmaster** Tree of some considerable size for my direct paternal line I thought I would delve into the lives of other Buckmasters who may or may not link into it.

I always like looking at **Oldbaileyonline** and this time I decided to have a closer look at Thomas who, in 1839, aged 28, was indicted for stealing a coat from Francis **Edwards**, tailor, of Newgate Street, London on 18 March that year. He was caught about 50 yards from the shop with the coat over his arm by Constable Henry **King**. His comment in the dock just before his sentence was both amusing and sad – “I have no friends – I should take it as a particular favour if you would send me out of the country.” Unfortunately for Thomas, he was just confined for six months.

However, shortly after his release he stole a watch from Mr William **Snossell**, a jeweller and watch-maker of Farringdon Street on 15 October 1839. A report in the *Sun* (London) on 22 October shows that he achieved his aim of leaving the country, for in the Central Criminal Court he was sentenced to be transported for 15 years. Prior to transportation he spent time on the prison hulk, *Leviathan* (not a great place to be) and then sailed on the

*Lord Lyndock* with 321 other convicts to Van Diemen’s Land on 7 September 1840, arriving on 5 February 1841.

I then entered his name into Google and found a wealth of information from Australian archives and personal genealogy records. A letter/email from Scott Monk has Thomas as a soldier before he was transported. During his probation, he gained a reputation as a man who could hunt down runaway convicts and was made a constable. It seems he was more successful finding other offenders than getting away with his own transgressions!

He moved to north-east Tasmania and records in the Tasmanian library service show that in 1848 he married Elizabeth **Lee**, who was also an ex-convict. They had three children, a boy and two girls.

Early in their married life, Thomas and Elizabeth went to the penal outpost on Norfolk Island, presumably for work. Here Thomas came across a hardened criminal, James **Dalton**, a nasty piece of work and a multiple felon. He and a fellow convict, Andrew **Kelly**, were sent back to Port Arthur in Tasmania, to complete their latest sentence but managed to escape. They were holding a wealthy family hostage on 6 January 1853 when Thomas and another couple of

## Thomas Buckmaster – from Convict to Constable

constables were sent to arrest them. The constables had one working gun between them and two that were just for show. Dalton had no such problem with his weapons and shot Thomas straight between the eyes. Death was instant. Thomas's inquest was held on 8 January with Dalton being mentioned in the documents with 'another'. Dalton and Kelly fled but were apprehended some time later in Melbourne and tried for murder in Launceston, Tasmania.

A report in the *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal* of 1 October 1853 gives full details of their crime and execution as recorded in the *Launceston Examiner* of 6 April 1853. There was a huge crowd of 2,000 watching the execution at 8.00 on that day. The final two sentences of the report read 'The two culprits then shook hands with the sheriff, Mr **Yaker**, and those on the platform, and

they were launched into eternity. The crowd, which was greater than ever witnessed on such an occasion before, then dispersed.'

Elizabeth married Richard **Plummer** and he was a good father to her three children, the boy taking his step-father's surname. I would now like to find out more about Elizabeth, Richard and the children. To do this, I need take out a 'worldwide' subscription with Findmypast or with the Australian archives. I have found other Buckmaster convicts and emigrants, so it might be worthwhile and interesting. Charles, transported in 1818 on *Ocean* and sent to Parramatta, down the river from Sydney, might be a good one to try.

I decided to go through my files and online data and checked out Thomas's birth records. He turns out to be my 5th cousin 3 times removed!



### References:

[www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/ConvictRecords.com.au](http://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/ConvictRecords.com.au)  
Tasmanian libraries service  
British newspapers via FMP  
Individual entries on Google

# News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley

When lockdown began, on 23 March, Surrey History Centre started a new approach to working, finding different ways to showcase Surrey's heritage but also record the difficult and challenging times we are living through. When I wrote my last contribution for this newsletters I was working at home, running the public enquiries service from my study but also working with colleagues and partners to transfer our activities and engagement work online to our *Exploring Surrey's Past* website. Now, four months later, I am back at Surrey History Centre where our skeleton staff has worked tirelessly over the past couple of weeks to prepare to reopen our searchroom to the public.

It will all look quite different at first. We have divided the staff into two 'bubbles' or teams to (hopefully) increase our resilience to the virus. This means that with fewer staff to draw on each day, we have changed our opening times and document delivery. The following is a summary of the main changes we have put in place for our reopening (planned for 21 July), but they are likely to have changed by the time this issue is published, so please check our website for full details, FAQs and any changes to these arrangements.

We shall be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only, 0945-1245 and 1345-1645

- All visits and document orders need to be **pre-booked** two days in advance.
- Readers can book a morning or afternoon session only (**not both**) and up to 10 original documents. Please email us at [shs@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:shs@surreycc.gov.uk) or phone 01483 518737
- We can only accept a maximum of 6 readers per session
- No additional orders for archive material can be placed during your visit
- Searchroom computers and microform readers are not yet available to use (we hope to start using them as soon as we can) but you can bring your own laptop or device
- The building will be closed to the public at lunchtime (12.45-13.45)
- Books and maps may be requested from duty staff during your visit.

## News from Surrey Heritage

All documents and local studies materials, books and catalogues touched by the public will need to be quarantined. We are following *The National Archives* and so will set items aside for 72 hours after handling.

### **Covid Journal Project**

People across the county have responded to our request, made via our websites and social media feeds at the start of lockdown, to keep a journal and record the impact that the pandemic and lockdown restrictions have had on their everyday lives. This will be a people's record, complementing the official records: we shall also be preserving how SCC and the boroughs and districts have responded. It has been a great success, with individuals, school classes, community groups all taking part. The results are already coming in and they are being accessioned for permanent preservation in the archive. They include narratives, blog posts and poetry and already make for fascinating and very moving reading. In ten, fifty or a hundred years' time these will be crucial and very personal accounts of these strange and anxious times.

### **Photographic Record**

We have also invited people across the county to send us their photos of

life in lockdown – queues, distancing notices, rainbows in windows, neighbours clapping on Thursdays: anything that is new or different that will be of interest to Surrey's future local and social historians. Again, photos have been sent by individual across Surrey but we've been delighted that two people in particular have agreed to let us archive their personal photographic projects recording lockdown:

### **Misan Harriman**

Earlier in lockdown I saw a report on the BBC's local evening news about a Woking resident, Misan Harriman, who has been photographing people and places around his neighbourhood during lockdown. He's a world-famous portrait photographer, usually flying all over the world to photograph royalty, film stars and a huge range of celebrities – but of course with no air travel and a global pandemic, he was locked in Woking and so set up his 'lost in Isolation' project to put his skills as a portrait photographer into recording Woking people. These include policemen, VE Day street parties, shop keepers, and neighbours. He works in black-and-white and his photos are stunning, and we were delighted that he so readily agreed to deposit them with us for safekeeping

## News from Surrey Heritage

and to help us plan a display of his work in our foyer next year.

### **Jo de Magneval**

Similarly, Jo de Magneval, professional photographer, has been conducting a project in Woking (#stayhomesuperheroes) documenting a number of families through their window to the world.

It all started when she was walking around her neighbourhood with her family. They passed a friend's house and their daughter was standing in the window, so she snapped a photo of her and it triggered the idea of capturing family stories through the window to the outside world. She realised that this idea really captured the peoples sense of 'staying home, staying safe', so she used her exercise hour to cycle around to people's homes and capture their lockdown window and ask questions to help gain an idea of their story behind their window. Her work has documented how people have been feeling during this period of isolation and will be a valuable addition to our archive.

### **Other online work**

Regular users of our online catalogue will notice an increase in the number of images now linked to document descriptions. This is because staff

working from home have added over 30,000 new images to the catalogue, and more are being added each day. We've also created new web pages on our *Exploring Surrey's Past* website, providing free online educational resources and links for all ages to a wide range of new activities. These include a number of new videos and presentations, including a letter written by Marjorie Kelsey of Redhill describing her joy and hopes for the future following VE Day in May 1945. We've also invited guest speakers to record descriptions and accounts of their favourite document chosen for our anniversary in 2018. We launched these to mark Mental Health Awareness Week and Refugee Week and they can now be seen on our ESP pages for Brookwood, Royal Earlswood, Holloway and The Manor Hospitals as well on themed pages relating to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in Surrey. We also took part in the online Urban Tree Festival posting a short presentation called 'Not Just a Family Tree' in which I tied in my own family history with the importance of trees in Surrey across the centuries. You can see this on our ESP website pages for Surrey's landscape and also at <https://urbantreefestival.org/not-just-a-family-tree>.

# News from Surrey Heritage

## Enquiries Service

Despite closing the building and running a remote service, we have been busier than ever with public enquiries. Since the start of lockdown we have received nearly 1,500 enquiries from members of the public wishing to access information in our care. Many are from family historians, using their spare time to research their ancestry, but a significant number have come from individuals seeking answers to difficult questions from their past. For some, lockdown has created a vacuum in their normally busy lives which has been filled by sad and unpleasant memories that they were previously able to ignore. Many of these relate to highly sensitive records we hold relating to coroners' inquests, mental health care, magistrates' courts and remand homes. It has been very rewarding to be able to help people bring some kind of closure to these very personal questions. Lockdown has highlighted the many ways in which heritage underpins our daily lives.

I normally close my report with a list of new accessions received that will

be of interest to family historians. Although we have continued to take archive in during lockdown, we have also put many kind offers on hold until we have more staff available to quarantine and process the new material. The list will resume in my next article and will be a bumper issue, well worth waiting for.

Finally, to end on some good news, I'm pleased to report that we are now able to offer some of the talks that we used to offer to groups across the county online. Zoom can never replace the fun of giving a presentation to an audience in the room with you, but it does work very well and our initial forays into this digital environment have been very successful. It's been great to see old friends again and meet new people from beyond Surrey who are able to join in this virtual way, so please get in touch with me at [shs@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:shs@surreycc.gov.uk) if you are seeking speakers for your family or local history group in the months ahead. A full list of the talks we currently offer is posted at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/visit/talks-and-tours>.



## New members

- 10618 Bronwyn Scadden – scaddenbronwyn@gmail.com
- 10619 Marie-Christine Mosey – mickyhelm@googlemail.com
- 10620 John Rosser – johnwrosser@gmail.com
- 10621 Kate Barron – katesfamily@btinternet.com
- 10622 Lynda Warren – lyndamwar@gmail.com
- 10623 Alison Bailey – ozambersand@hotmail.com
- 10624 Daryl Cogavin – daryl555@btinternet.com
- 10625 Arabella Hobson – bella.hobson@gmail.com
- 10626 Jim Humphrey – jimhumphrey@bigpond.com
- 10627 Dawne Tonks – tonks7@icloud.com

## Change of email address

- 10049 Janice Brown - thameslass@live.co.uk
- 10541 Peter Mauger – pmauger4491@gmail.com

## Does this belong to your family?

I have been sent details of a birth certificate that is being offered to anyone for whom it is relevant.

It is for the birth of Cecil Frank Brown, born 11 April 1882, son of Stedman Alfred Brown and Elizabeth

Brown. The Registration District is St Saviour Surrey.

If you believe that Cecil Brown is part of your family please contact the Editor (details inside the front cover).

# Members' Interests

## Surrey

<b>ALLSOPP</b>	ALL	M19-E20c	10548
<b>GATTY</b>	Southwark	1700-1850	10620
<b>HARPER</b>	Lambeth	1600-1830	10620
<b>HUNT</b>	Lambeth	1700-1830	10620
<b>RITCHIE</b>	Southwark	1700-1850	10620
<b>SPOONER</b>	Ockley	ALL	10548

## Other English counties

<b>ALLSOPP</b>	ALL	LON	M19-E20c	10548
<b>CHAPMAN</b>	Yapham	YKS	1600-1800	10620
<b>DUNHILL</b>	Pocklington	YKS	1700-1800	10620
<b>HEALEY</b>	Winslow	BKM	1700-1850	10620
<b>HORTH</b>	Norwich	NFK	1500-1700	10620
<b>PALMER</b>	ALL	SSX	ALL	10548
<b>ROSSER</b>	Westminster	MDX	1700-1830	10620
<b>SMITH</b>	St. Sepulche	LON	1700-1850	10620
<b>WRIGHT</b>	Rusper	SSX	PRE 1800	10548

## Other countries

<b>BUNNER</b>	Bulawayo	All	ZWE	1800-1900	10620
<b>HENDERSON</b>	Haddington	ELN	SCT	1400-1700	10620
<b>SHEEN</b>	Kinsale	CORK	IRL	1700-1830	10620

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**Members must quote their Membership Number in all correspondence**

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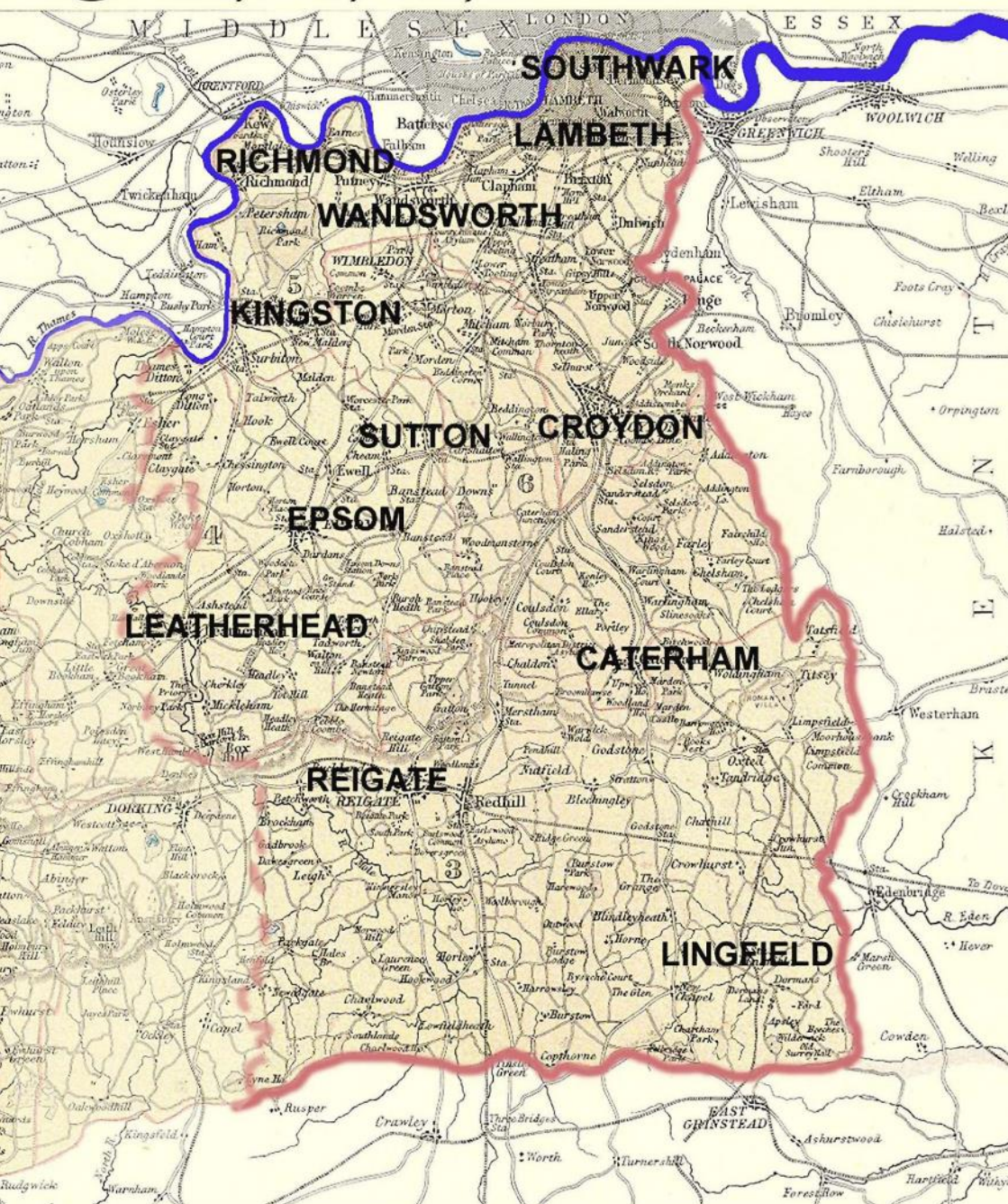
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# EAST SURREY

## Family History Society



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