



# East Surrey

## Family History Society

### ESFHS Study Day and AGM

**1 April 2023 at Oxted Community Hall, 53 Church Lane, Oxted RH8 9NB**

#### Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor

10.30 a.m.	Tracing Surrey Gypsy-traveller ancestry	Alan Wright
12.00 p.m.	Finding and using unusual military records	Simon Fowler
2.00 p. m.	Royal Navy records	Ian Waller
3.45 p.m.	AGM	

Admission to the Study Day is free, although donations are welcome

The hall is adjacent to Oxted Railway Station and there is ample parking next to the hall.

## Journal

Volume 46  
number 1  
March 2023

# East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977

Registered Charity No. 286659

## **PRESIDENT**

Paul Blake FSG

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Maureen O'Sullivan, Rita Russell

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

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 3.00 p.m., and on the fourth Wednesday from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Journal of the

# East Surrey Family History Society

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

**Volume 46 no. 1 March 2023**



ISSN 0141-7312

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The deadline for the June 2023 Journal is 10.00 a.m. on 1 May

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

# From the chairman

*Hilary Blanford*

I am sitting here in my layers of warm winter woollies, wondering who is going to be on strike tomorrow, or the day after and I am just thankful that I don't live in Ukraine. It must be heart-breaking to see homes and public buildings destroyed, together with all the records that they contained. We are so lucky in this country not to have had frequent major conflicts that have destroyed our records in the same way, apart from some losses in WW2 and the English Civil War.

Unlike many in Ukraine, we were able to enjoy our Christmas meeting from the warmth of our own homes and were entertained by Simon Fowler and his wife talking about Christmas and food. After that we played 'Just a Family History Minute'. If you are familiar with the Radio 4 programme you will know that contestants have to try to speak on a given topic for a minute without hesitation, deviation or repetition. We changed the rules for the repetition and people had to 'hide' a word in their talk and repeat it at least four times and the rest of us had to guess the word. We swiftly abandoned the one-minute rule as well as we all wanted to hear the

stories and people enjoyed it so much they want to play it again next December, so if you want to join in next time, start on your script now!

Other prospective writers in the Society will soon be starting the online writing course led by Gill Blanchard. There may just be time to join the group so if you are interested email me using the chairman's email address.

The programme for the rest of the year is taking shape, helped by the 128 of you who replied to the topics questionnaire. Thank you for your help. As ever, we had to tweak the speakers a bit to suit their availability and as I mentioned in my last introduction, we are having another two joint live talks from Colin Chapman as it worked well with Richard Marks' railway talks. Again, we are sharing with Kent FHS but as it is very difficult to book Colin on a weekday morning, we have booked him for a Saturday morning so I hope as many of you as possible will join us in this unfamiliar time slot.

Thank you for renewing your membership subscription and I hope you enjoy the year ahead with us. You will see the notice about the

## From the chairman

next *Talk with Tea* on page 25 , and the report on our Virtual Family History Fair appears on page 38. Why not make a note of the next one? My fertile brain is already working on other ideas such as a joint online transcription session, held over Zoom, and the compilation of a wills index including everybody named in a will. If you have a will or a transcription of a will of a Surrey resident that you are willing to share then we might be able to produce a substantial index very easily.

And lastly, our AGM and study day is approaching. If you are full of

new ideas, have good IT skills or publicity experience and would like to help the Society, why not consider standing for the committee. We meet online on a Thursday evening, using Zoom, four times a year. Meetings never last more than two hours: the record is one hour! Nominations are due by 24 March for the AGM at Oxted on 1 April. Details are on the front cover. We have an excellent spread of speakers so it should be an enjoyable event. See you there.



## Society elections

If you would like to join the committee, please state whether you wish to stand as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or Committee member and send your name and the name of your proposer and seconder to the Secretary {[secretary@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)} by 24 March. You, your proposer and your seconder must all be current members of the Society.

# Zoom meetings

Links for live talks and recordings will be emailed to members.  
Links for live talks *only* will be found on the Society's website.

**March: Monday 13, 10.00 a.m.** (*recording played on Mon 13 at 8.00 p.m.*)

Spotted from a bus

Rob Kayne

*The speaker's daily journey to school from Chelsea Bridge to Clapham in the 1960s passed many points of historical and social interest and locations used in films. What was the Battersea Shield? Let's join Rob to attempt a virtual journey on that 137 bus.*

**April: Tuesday 11, 8.00 p.m.** (*recording played on Wed 12 at 10.00 a.m.*)

Maps for Family Historians

Jane Lewis

*This talk will not only show us maps from across the centuries but will also include some modern interactive websites and demonstrate how maps can be used to find the sites of your ancestors' homes.*

**May: Tuesday 9, 10.00 a.m.** (*recording played on Tue 9 at 8.00 p.m.*)

Life of the poor and assisted emigration at the beginning of the 19th C Judy Hill

*After the Swing Riots of 1830 -32 emigration was viewed favourably and many parishes in southern England saw it as a solution to remove surplus labour. Is this why you have DNA matches across the world?*

**June: Wednesday 7, 8.00 p.m.**

Genealogy in Early British Censuses – 1086 to 1841

Colin Chapman

**June: Saturday 17, 10.00 a.m.**

Genealogy in Early British Censuses – 1086 to 1841

Colin Chapman

*Where else can you look for your family before 1841? An illustrated account of copious censuses and lists of named individuals, many with addresses, ages and origins, with reasons for their enumeration.*

*The June talks will both be live talks, shared with Kent FHS. The Saturday talk will contain more examples of East Surrey data while the Wednesday talk will have a Kent emphasis but both talks will include more general examples.*

# Group meetings

## Lingfield Group

- Mar 22    Obsession, Enterprise and Death    Dr Frances Hurd  
*The life stories of three men who made fortunes in mills and mines are contrasted with those of their workers*
- Apr 26    Place Names    Tony Painter  
*How did our village or town name come about? What can the name tell us about the history of the place?*
- May 24    The British Army in India    Paul Nixon  
*How the British ruled in India and how the British Army was organised. The life of a British soldier from the formation of the Honourable East India Company to 1914. This talk will also look more generally at records within the British India Office collection at the British Library.*

## Southwark Group

- Apr 13    Guided walk in Bermondsey with Geoff Fairburn
- Jun 12    Visit to the Wellcome Library (tbc)
- Numbers will be limited for both events. Please book with the Southwark Secretary.

## Group details

Lingfield: Secretary: Rita Russell 01342 834648 {lingfield@eastsurreyfh.s.org.uk}  
Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB

Richmond: Secretary: Veronica McConnell 01372 363015 {richmond@eastsurreyfh.s.org.uk}  
*The Richmond group meets on the second Saturday of alternate months, so 14 January, 11 March, 13 May, 8 July, 9 September and 11 November. Our meetings in the ground floor cafe at National Archives Kew are informal.*

Southwark: Secretary: Hilary Blanford 01634 685219 {southwark@eastsurreyfh.s.org.uk}

*Please check the Society website [www.eastsurreyfh.s.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfh.s.org.uk) for future meetings and last-minute alterations.*

# Update on the Lambeth Archives move

Anne Ramon [4730]

Lambeth Archives, at the Minet Library, Lambeth, closed its doors on 31 December 2022. The Minet Lending Library remains open; it's the Archives that are relocating to a new home in Brixton.

I have volunteered to spend one day a week helping with the move and started in early December last year, with wrapping old newspaper collections, say a year's worth at a time of the *South London News* and similar, in custom-made four-flap wrappings. This wrapping helps support and shield collections where heavy use has crumpled or damaged the first and last pages, especially where the protective covers are absent or weakened. A manual task but complicated by the large size and weight of the newspapers when bound together in yearly collections.

My next task was to locate in the basement area the particular books or records that had been identified for storage in bespoke boxes, kindly manufactured by Lambeth Palace Library using their sophisticated folding machine. Alongside this I have retrieved catalogue cards from the Index for certain items that are being relocated separately.

And then I broke my wrist! Not at the Archives, I hasten to add, but slipping on a discarded vaping unit near London Bridge station. I have a few weeks in plaster but hope to be able to help again at Lambeth Archives soon.

If this kind of activity appeals to you get in touch with [lambeth@email.lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lambeth@email.lambeth.gov.uk)





# Richmond Group meeting

Veronica McConnell

The next three meetings of Richmond Group at The National Archives at Kew (in the ground-floor café) will be on Saturday 11 March, Saturday 13 May, and Saturday 8 July. Arrive from 2.00 p.m., finish by 5.00 p.m.

My contribution to our January meeting (on Saturday 14) was a family tree I had compiled a few years ago when researching my ancestor John King, who was a Printer and Bookseller in Andover (Hampshire) in the first half of the nineteenth century, along with a book entitled *A Second Andover Miscellany*, published in 2012 by Andover History & Archaeology Society.

In 1844 John's middle daughter Sarah Jane married Thomas Wheeler of Newbury, in the Independent Chapel in Andover. In the spring of 1846 their first child, a boy Frederick Wheeler, was born in Newbury (Berkshire). A daughter, my ancestor Alice Jane Wheeler, followed in December 1847, at 12 Elizabeth Road, Eaton Square, her birth registered in the district of St George Hanover Square, London, her father's occupation Auctioneer and Surveyor.

In the 1851 census Thomas's occupation is shown as Auctioneer and Land Agent. By 1871 Sarah Jane,

her husband Thomas Wheeler and their eight children had moved to Grove Crescent, Surbiton, Kingston (Surrey). Why did Thomas Wheeler bring his family from the quiet of Berkshire to the noise of busy London and suburbs? Probably there was more work available for him as London's suburbs were growing apace, fields being built on as the population increased.

On 30 April 1892 his wife Sarah Jane Wheeler, née King, died at 59 Chelverton Road, Putney, London SW. Thomas Wheeler died on 15 November 1900 at St Joseph's Home, Portobello Road, his residence shown on the death certificate as Oxbury Avenue, Fulham.

The attendee sitting next to me at the meeting also had brought a family tree. On comparing our trees, mine has the earliest entries at the top of the page, whereas her tree had the most recent at the top of her page. Two different ways, but each telling its story of a family.



# Lingfield Group Meeting

Rita Russell

Due to unfortunate and unexpected circumstances we were without a speaker for our November meeting. I persuaded seven of our regular members to come up with a short story about interesting ancestors and these are the results.

Richard told us about William Mead, who lived in the Elephant & Castle area of Southwark in the 1860s. His wife Sarah had died in 1866 but in July 1867 his inability to care for his four youngest children became apparent. They had been found living behind 8 York Street in what was described as *“the shed they inhabited was in such a filthy state as not to be fit to feed pigs in.”* They were taken into Mint Street Workhouse, and William Mead was taken to court.

He was sentenced to one month's hard labour, but died in the workhouse a few months later. All the children survived this disaster, including William Mead (junior) who married and had eleven children, one of whom was the grandmother of Jacqueline (Richard's wife).

Sue talked about her ancestor Solomon Nightingale, who was baptized on 21 May 1775 in Wotton, Surrey and lived most of his life around the Surrey/Sussex border where he was a farmer. He married

Phillis Groombridge in 1796 and they had four children.

She was very surprised to find him in the Surrey Criminal Registers, where he was sentenced to four months in prison for what she can just about read as “assault on an ind? for malg? wounding”. This was in 1846 when he was 73 years old (the maths is not correct but then when is it ever?).

The newspaper coverage from the *London Standard* gives more information. He was being annoyed and insulted by a group of youths over a period of time (sound familiar?). On the day in question he just happened to have a gun in his hand which he fired, slightly wounding one of the youths. The judge agreed that he had been provoked but that it did not justify him using a deadly weapon. So it was his duty to pass sentence of four months' imprisonment.

What happened to his farm and wife when he was in prison? He died on 10 February 1859 aged 85 years, of natural decay.

## Lingfield Group Meeting

Monica reported that her 2xgt-grandfather, John Durand, had disappeared from all records after the 1871 census. She found his wife and four youngest children in the Camberwell workhouse and Industrial School in 1874, so something dreadful must have happened, but she could find no evidence of John's death.

A visit to the London Metropolitan Archives to find the Settlement Record for his wife, Elizabeth, gave her a lot of detail about the family, but stated that Elizabeth believed John had gone to America! The unexpected findings were the newspaper clip and police memos stuck in the binding of her record, stating that John had been arrested in 1880 and tried for bigamy at the Old Bailey.

On searching the criminal records Monica discovered that his name had been wrongly transcribed (Dueant) and that he had changed his name to Davis Durand. He was acquitted, and continued to live with his second wife in West Bromwich until his death in 1916; Elizabeth lived with one of her sons, Monica's gt-grandfather, in Hackney, until her death in 1894.

It is unlikely this brick wall would have been broken without the meticulous Victorian record keeping. Always try to find the original records – you never know what may turn up!

Rita spoke about Norman Elliott who went to Ferryhill, Co. Durham in April 1928 and, allegedly, murdered the local bank manager for a few pounds.

The newspapers came up with conflicting reports – he didn't know the manager and then he was greeted by name. No-one knew him in the village but a passer-by said 'How-do, Norman'. He worked in the Sedgfield Asylum as an orderly, so money was tight, but he was supposedly driving a Rover car. He then 'escaped' by bus! His alibi wasn't water-tight and he was eventually charged with the murder.

A lot of the evidence from the papers certainly made me concerned about the verdict. He lost his appeal and he was hung in Durham Gaol by Albert Pierrepont, England's chief hangman. Apparently he faced the scaffold bravely. Norman left a wife and young baby.

## Lingfield Group Meeting

What surprised me was the fact the inquest was held immediately in the prison.

Peter described how he struggled to find his grandfather's army service record, until he realised that he had enlisted using an alias.

When joining in peacetime, men signed on for 12 years and couldn't leave early unless they bought themselves out. A solution used by many was to join under a false name in the hope they couldn't be traced if they deserted, or if they were trying to escape from justice in a previous life. Service records are a wonderful resource as they give an insight into a relative, not only their physical characteristics, but also their character, as Peter found when he discovered his grandfather had

been court-martialled for bringing the regiment into disrepute!

Geoff gave an impromptu talk about his Thames Waterman ancestor who, on promotion to captain managed to crash his boat, not once but twice.

His company forgave him the first time but when the second resulted in the death of a young man they weren't so generous. He left the Thames and headed to Liverpool where he spent the rest of his days.

Brenda was asked by a friend to help her find her family from whom she was separated as a young girl. Brenda's research was successful and her friend now has many family members she knew nothing about and they are making up for lost time. Well done, Brenda.



## Research & Advice Centre

A second list of books available to members, free of charge to collect from Lingfield or posted at cost to members, may be found in the

members' area of the Society's website – see <https://www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk/>

# 2023 Renewal Subscriptions

*Ann Turnor [Membership Secretary]*

This is a note of thanks to all members who have been very prompt in paying their 2023 renewals. I much appreciate this as it enables me to make sure our database is correct and up-to-date as early in the year as possible.

I am also grateful when members let me know of any changes to their address or email. We are currently hosting online Zoom presentations and unless I have your current email address I will be unable to send an invitation for you to join us.

I send another thank you to members who very kindly send a donation, for which we are extremely grateful, and for all the signed Gift Aid contributions.

If any member who has previously signed for Gift Aid is now no longer able to gift this would they please let me know? If you are

unsure as to whether you have subscribed to Gift Aid, please contact me.

**N.B. There is a standing order mandate form in the December journal for anyone who is eligible for Gift Aid but has not previously signed. These Gift Aid contributions are very helpful to the society.**

Any member who is not sure of their membership number should refer to the envelope in which their quarterly journal is sent. For those members who receive their journal via email and wish to be reminded of their number, please contact me. Thank you to all who have elected to receive their journals in this way as it helps greatly in reducing our postal charges.

**I urge those members who have not yet renewed their membership to do so, as no further journals will be sent.**

# Saint or Sinner – Daniel Feldon, 1769

*Marda Dixon*

This article was originally written for our Christmas social 2022, in which we were asked to prepare a short item to speak about for “Just A Minute”. I failed – as did the majority of those participating – to fit it within the time limit, despite having cut out much of the detail. So now I have expanded it and hope that you enjoy reading about my 4xgt-grandfather and the good and bad things he was involved in during his life. I shall leave you to judge whether he was a saint or a sinner.

Forty years ago, I gave birth to my first son and named him Daniel. Within a year I had taken up genealogy and worked my way back to an earlier Daniel, born in 1769 in Oxford – my 4x Great Grandfather.

The son of another Daniel and his wife Lydia, he was baptised at St Peter le Bailey church in Oxford on 9 August 1769. He was the only child of four to survive infancy.

In 1790, he was married to Mary Ockenden in the same church as his baptism and went on to have five children.

Daniel had been apprenticed to his father as a tailor and received his Freedom of the City of Oxford on account of this, but he never seemed to have practised this trade. On all records he was described as a musician.

From his early twenties, he played the bassoon in an

orchestra of 18 that played regularly in Oxford. The Biographical Dictionary of Actors says that Daniel was ‘engaged by the Stewards of the Musical Society of Oxford to play bassoon in the band at the Oxford Music Room from 1792 until at least 1808’. Doane’s Musical Directory notes that ‘Feldon also performed in London for the New Musical Fund and in the Handel concerts at Westminster Abbey’. He also taught music at a boarding school and is mentioned in various Dictionaries of Music where he is noted as being the teacher of John Bishop (1817-90) who became well-known as an organist and composer.

He was listed as the organist of St Mary Magdalene Church from 1815 – 1827 as well as for St Peter’s in the East [Jackson’s Oxford Journal]. At this time, the organist’s salary was £10 per annum. But in

## Saint or Sinner – Daniel Feldon, 1769

1827, Daniel was dismissed from this position 'for neglect of duty', no further explanation being available.

Between 1824 and 1827 there seems to have been an argument between Daniel and a neighbour Ed Pettifer, which played itself out in the courts. The Oxfordshire Quarter Sessions Roll implies that it began when Daniel sued Ed for stealing a spade. Ed was subsequently found Not Guilty. Then in 1826, Daniel was accused of assaulting Ed Pettifer's wife, Esther, for which he was fined £25, followed by Esther being

accused of assaulting Daniel. Interestingly, it was Daniel's son Charles who put up the money for him to appear in court.

In 1832 Daniel fell victim to the cholera that devastated the area. A book was written about this cholera outbreak, with Caroline Street, where he lived and died, and its neighbouring streets having a specific mention. [*Cholera In Oxford in 1832* by Revd Vaughn Thomas, Chairman of the Late Oxford Board of Health.]



## The National Archives Catalogue Week

Anne Ramon [4730]

It used to be 'Catalogue Day' and we packed into the presentation area to hear updates on the TNA archives and the Volunteer Projects. Now it's 'Catalogue Week' and a series of blogs we can read at home with the latest updates.

The link (see below) is also in a post in our io group. This is a private

group for East Surrey members and you can join by simply sending an empty email addressed to [eastsurreyfhso+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:eastsurreyfhso+subscribe@groups.io). The Moderators just check you are an East Surrey member, and then you can see the posts.

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue-week-2022/>

# Convicts Galore: The Allenders of Peckham

*Hilary Blanford*

Soon after I started researching my family's history, I came across the puzzle of the 1839 death registration for my 3xgt-grandmother, Harriet Rolfe. The informant, Eliza Allender, had described herself as 'daughter-in-law'. I was able to find her marriage quite easily and she was Eliza Martin, spinster, who had married Urias George Allender. So why was Eliza not Mrs Rolfe? When I was able to find Harriet's marriage to Robert Rolfe, I found that she had been Harriet Allender, also a spinster at the time of her marriage. Neither woman had remarried.

It took me years to solve this little problem. Urias St George had been baptised at St Giles Camberwell in 1801 as the son of George and Harriet Allender but I had never been able to find a marriage for his parents. One day, making a final search for this marriage I simply searched for 'Allender' in the registers for St Giles Camberwell and discovered that George Allender, the purported father of Urias George, had been buried many years earlier in 1781. So that was it. The Harriet in the baptism register had been a single mother, who was my 3 x GGM and not my 4 x GG Aunt, and who had

merely 'borrowed' the name of her late brother to pose as a married woman, which would have avoided the bother and embarrassment of enquiries and bastardy bonds!

However, when searching the Allender family to find out more about Eliza I found other Urias George Allenders in the old IGI, and an Uriah Allender in Australia who died in 1842 aged 90, so his birth date was calculated as 1752. Why Australia and was he from the same family? Much later I discovered him listed as a convict, sailing on the *Calcutta* in 1803. He had been tried with Matthew Power at Maidstone Assizes on 4 August 1802 for receiving stolen slop (ready to wear) clothing and the two men were sentenced to transportation for 14 years.

Next, I found a photograph of Uriah's gravestone where he is named as Youris Allender. He was one of the first licensed ferryman in Hobart, based at Kangaroo Point, now Bellerive, taking passengers across the River Derwent. Today one can find the details of his life online within a matter of minutes, but it took me the best part of 12 years to unpick this story. When Ancestry indexed the parish registers up to



## Convicts Galore: The Allenders of Peckham

1812, I was able to find the baptisms of George (1767), Uriah (1771), James (1773), Harriet my 3 x GGM (1775), and their siblings at St Giles Camberwell, all children of George and Elizabeth Allender.

The Cornwall Chronicle stated that Uriah had served as 'Captain of the Foretop of Lord Rodney's ship, the Formidable, in the splendid victory of the 12th of April, 1782'. This would not be an unreasonable rank for somebody born in 1752, but not for Uriah born in 1771 as he would only have been 11 years of age. So, I put Uriah to one side, still uncertain that he was 'mine', but the question always niggled me. I discovered that he had petitioned Nelson to be allowed to serve in the navy instead of being transported and he mentioned being wounded twice at Boulogne. A search for the Battle of Boulogne produced two dates: 1544 and 1940. Neither was much help! However, a more recent search produced 'The raid on Boulogne in 1801 was a failed attempt by elements of the Royal Navy led by Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson to destroy a flotilla of French vessels anchored in the port of Boulogne'.

So that explained what he was doing at Boulogne and why he had written to Lord Nelson. Perhaps his wound was too serious to allow him to return to active service, so he had fallen on hard times? I visited the National Archives to read the record of his trial, hoping to find definitive evidence of his age and to see if I could find the log or muster rolls for Lord Rodney's Formidable. I failed on all counts, but I found that the original theft took place in Rochester Harbour. Rochester is next to Chatham, which was home to a naval dockyard so Uriah may have been there as a serving sailor.

The judge at Uriah's trial was Baron Hotham who sentenced the thief, David Wakefield, to death. David was a local lad, and 19 Rochester residents signed a petition for his life to be spared. Hotham commuted this sentence to 7 years, and then realised that he had given the thief a shorter sentence than the receivers, so the Assizes roll includes a letter from Hotham asking for advice.

And then I tested my DNA using Ancestry. Suddenly, the whole picture changed. We were related! At the last count I had 13 matches with descendants of Uriah's three

## Convicts Galore: The Allenders of Peckham

daughters. Tasmanian records show that Uriah could not write and that he claimed to be 50 when he married in 1815 thereby giving yet another birth year. So perhaps the story of service with Lord Rodney may have started as, 'When I was a lad I was serving on the top deck and had to tell men what to do during the Battle of the Saintes'. To an audience that did not understand that the Navy was keen to recruit small boys because they were nimble and could move quickly and carry messages during a noisy battle a possible anecdote from Uriah could have been misinterpreted. Or perhaps he really was the captain of the top deck. Who knows now?

But Uriah's story is not done. The *Calcutta*, carrying the convicts and marines to guard them, sailed for Port Phillip in the bay of what we know today as Melbourne, accompanied by a smaller ship, the *Ocean* which was carrying stores for the voyage. The *Calcutta* anchored in an area called Sorrento where the leader of this new colony, David Collins, realised that the soil and water supply were inadequate and that the local rip tides made access unsafe. He was able to use the services of one William Collins, who

had sailed with the party, to take a request to the Governor of New South Wales seeking permission to move to a site next to the River Derwent in Tasmania – now Hobart. Six convicts, of whom Uriah was one, volunteered to crew a small 6-man cutter to Port Jackson (Sydney). They nearly lost their lives in rough seas and in recognition of their services William Collins wrote a testimonial to his crew, who were all given conditional pardons in September 1805. I think Baron Hotham would have been relieved.

In 2019 I flew to Australia and was able to visit a friend, who lives in Hobart, and she took me to Clarence Plains, now called Rokeby, where the convict gravestones have been re-erected together in a separate area of the churchyard. While we were there a young couple appeared, clutching some Roundup to eradicate the weeds around their convict ancestor's grave. They were interested in the story of Uriah's pardon and asked me if I had ever read 'Convicts Unbound', which is the story of the *Calcutta's* convicts who were hand-picked for having trades and skills required to build the new colony.

## Convicts Galore: The Allenders of Peckham

Leaving Hobart, I flew back to Melbourne and my second cousin (not an Allender) took me to see the site of the original settlement, which he knew well, and I asked him to take me to see the memorial to the Calcutta convicts, which he didn't know. And there, for the time being, we leave them. Except, when I returned home, I spent a pleasant afternoon in the British Library reading 'Convicts Unbound'. Uriah and other ex-Royal Navy men were selected because the British Government wanted to establish a local fleet to keep the French out of the whaling grounds. Nothing changes!

I continued to investigate the Allenders. I had previously found three more Allenders on the oldbaileyonline website but had dismissed them as 'not being mine'. How wrong I was. These were Ann (50) and Elizabeth (30) living in Willesden in 1826 and Harriet aged 16 in 1838 in Greenwich'. By now the Newgate Prison Registers were on Findmypast. Ann and Elizabeth and William Johnson had been found guilty of larceny, allegedly stealing property from Ann's landlady. The register gave the place of birth of both women as Peckham

and I quickly identified Ann as being the wife of James Richard Allender, brother to Uriah. Elizabeth was identified as Ann's daughter. All three were sentenced to death and there is a carefully written letter, headed 'Newgate Condemned Cells' from William Johnson to Mr Robert Peel. He explains that he and Elizabeth are man and wife and that she has 'a piece of paper to prove it' but that she is using her maiden name so she can 'care for the old lady'. He continues by saying that the evidence at the trial was hearsay, they had been accused on the circumstantial evidence that he and his wife had been visiting his mother-in-law, but the stolen goods had not been found on any of them and the person who could have cleared them could not be found until after the trial. His petition was partially successful in that the death sentence was commuted to transportation for life but Elizabeth's decision to use her maiden name did mean that the two women sailed together and were assigned to the same employer in Hobart.

One wonders how William managed to procure pen, ink and paper in such circumstances, but Elizabeth Fry was visiting Newgate in

## Convicts Galore: The Allenders of Peckham

that era so the Quakers may have helped him. She visited convict ships before they sailed and the Quakers provided every female convict with 2lb of fabric scraps, pins, needles and thread to make a quilt during the long journey.

Ann and Elizabeth sailed on the *Persian* on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1827 arriving in Hobart on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Both were placed in the service of a Mr Hobler but on 30<sup>th</sup> September they were reprimanded for being drunk and disorderly outside the police house. Elizabeth spent a lot of time in the House of Correction and the Convict Factory for various misdemeanours, sometimes living on bread and water in solitary confinement for weeks. On more than one occasion she was found near Kangaroo Point without a proper licence. I laughed when I read that because she was probably trying to visit Uncle Uriah and the cousins. As punishment she was sent as a servant in the interior but was twice given permission to marry; to Thomas Collins, and in 1840 to another free man, Samuel Bond but I have not found a record of either marriage although an Elizabeth Bond died in 1885, aged 86'. Elizabeth was granted a conditional pardon in 1842. Ann married George Hardy in

December 1829 and died in 1836 in Launceston Hospital'.

Another researcher told me that James Junior had been in the navy and I found a James on a muster roll for the *Calcutta*, enlisting as a volunteer ordinary seaman at Port Jackson in March 1804 and transferring as an Able Seaman to the *Swiftsure* off Portland in September. A swift calculation showed that James Junior would have been 8 years of age and far too young to be promoted to Able Seaman. Was I possibly looking at a record for his father?

If this James was brother to Uriah, I wondered whether they had sailed out together, for Uriah, being a sailor, served as a crew member and not in irons on the journey to Australia. But James had signed on at Port Jackson when the *Calcutta* was on the way back to England so he couldn't have been on the outward journey with Uriah. Then I found a record of James Allen alias Allender being tried for larceny at the Essex Summer Assizes in 1796. He was sentenced to 7 years transportation 'beyond the seas'. By March 1804 he would have served his time and could have returned to England. Was he the same James

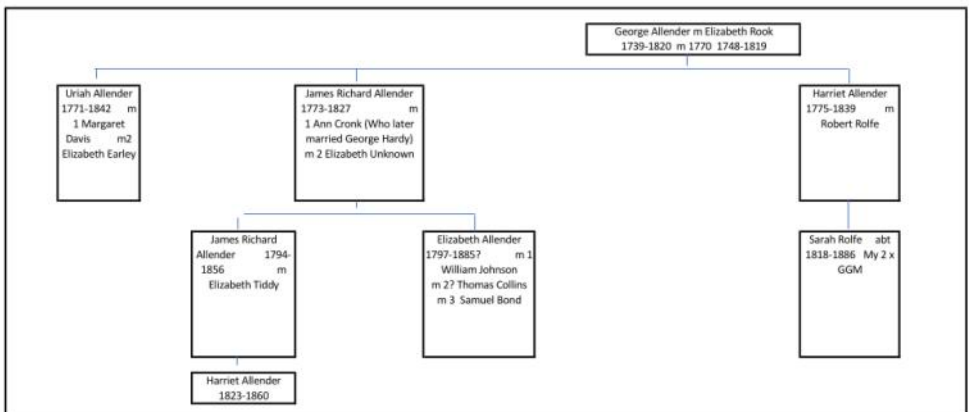
## Convicts Galore: The Allenders of Peckham

Allender who married Ann Crook? Their youngest child, Elizabeth, was baptised on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1797. James was tried on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1796, so it is possible. If so, did he try to find Ann again? He arrived back on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and transferred to the Swiftsure on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1804.

James Senior was injured on the Swiftsure and received a naval pension. His pension record shows that he died early in 1827 and there is a note that the balance was paid to his wife Elizabeth. James Richard Allender, aged 54, was buried on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1827 at St Giles

Camberwell where James Richard, son of George and Elizabeth was baptised in 1773 so it is almost certain that the convict James was the brother of Uriah and husband of Ann.

Having identified four convict Allenders; Uriah, his brother, sister-in-law and niece, what of the 16-year-old Charlotte who appeared at the Old Bailey? Well, she was the daughter of James Junior and the one who got away: not guilty. And my final discovery – Uriah was 33 when he was convicted. Arithmetic was not his forte.



# Meeting report – Britain's Railways for Family Historians

9 January 2023 *review by Christine Peel*

Richard Marks is an historian specialising in industrial, military and railway history as well as the history of science.

The talk was full of detailed material and Richard focussed on the vital points for searching available archives. He began by saying something quite startling: if you claim that one of your ancestors worked for British Railways, this is probably untrue – there was in fact no such employer. British Railways was formed in 1948 as the trading *brand* of the railway arm of the British Transport Commission. It was renamed British Railways Board in 1963 and traded as British Rail from 1965 until privatisation. The next caveat is that the place of abode or work of an ancestor might not define the company for whom they worked. Exeter had two stations and conversely Manchester Piccadilly served two companies. Staff were movable and might work far from where they lived on a temporary basis.

The British Rail Board (BRB) was answerable to the Department of Transport (bar a period in the 70s when transport came under the Department of the Environment), with headquarters at Marylebone, St

Pancras and Euston, until privatisation, between 1994 and 1997. BRB was responsible for operating trains and for front-line staff, but the railway system itself was divided for all purposes, including staff employment, initially into regions, later into sectors.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1948 the existing train companies were nationalised. There were initially six regions (Southern, Western, Midland, Eastern, North Eastern and Scottish), largely based on the big four companies formed in 1923, although there were some anomalies. Lines in Wales were split between Western and Southern Regions and trains in Ireland were always run as a separate joint venture. Nationalisation was followed in 1970 by segmentation of the company into BRB, which operated trains and was responsible for publicity and marketing, and subsidiaries which employed staff working for them. Subsequent records about business units relate to these subsidiaries, while the BRB governed how these businesses were run.

Not all subsidiaries run by BRB involved trains. The company also had its own airline, so pilots might be on the payroll. Hospitality

subsidiaries consisted of hotels belonging to GWR, LNER, LMS and SR and refreshment services run under the Travellers Fare logo. Until 1984 Sealink governed ferry services within the British Isles and through a subsidiary to France, Netherlands and Belgium. They had their own sea captains. Seaspeed hovercraft, under railway control from 1965-81, had pilots rather than captains.

Rail Express Systems (RES) ran mail and parcel trains from 1982 to 1996 for Royal Mail, whose employees worked on the trains. They were responsible for Travelling Post Offices as well as their own mail and parcel trains. Red Star Parcels, founded in 1963, offered a service for small express parcels between passenger stations, plus a door-to-door service. It was sold off in 1999. The Railfreight subsidiary was created in 1982 to handle heavy freight on container trains and in 1994 with privatisation, was split into regional sectors.

British Rail Research, established in 1964 under BRB, was based at the Railway Technical Centre, Derby. Research conducted included High Speed Freight Trains and the less successful tilting Advanced Passenger Trains, but also

the first hydrogen powered trains in 1976. It was sold off at privatisation in 1996.

Before 1970 there were 14 maintenance workshops, including Ashford (Kent), Crewe, Derby (Litchurch Lane and Locomotive), Doncaster, Eastleigh, Glasgow, Swindon, Wolverton and York. In that year, they were incorporated into the private company, British Rail Engineering Limited (BREL), based in Derby. In 1987 Doncaster, Eastleigh, Glasgow and Wolverton workshops were transferred to British Rail Maintenance and with privatisation in 1992 the only workshops left open or part open were Derby Litchurch Lane, Doncaster, Eastleigh, and Wolverton. Records for these workshops have information on engineer ancestors.

On 1 January 1923 the 120 existing companies were grouped into four large ones: Great Western, (GWR), which already existed as a company, and three new ones: London and North Eastern (LNER), London, Midland and Scottish (LMS) and Southern Railway (SR). Immediately before that many companies had failed because of WWI and there was no alternative to a reduction in numbers. Records for

employees prior to 1948 but after 1923, will refer to the big four companies and are mostly held at Kew.

From the first railways in the late 1830s and early 1840s, there were a large number of companies, 120 by 1923. Information for one ancestor might involve records for several companies. Employees changed companies without moving or changing role. A station might be served by several companies so records for all need to be searched. Not all information is at Kew and the many splits, amalgamations, take-overs and name changes complicate research. Welsh companies were amalgamated into GWR, for example. The complicated family trees of companies are shown in Richard's handout.

Companies paid well and there were excellent prospects for all workers. The railways attracted the best people up to the 1970s. In the 1870s train drivers' wages were three times that of a shop floor worker. They would probably get a house, pension and health care. For example, Joseph Wilkinson, born 1845 in Marlow, joined the railway in 1859 as a boy clerk and by 1896 was Permanent General Manager for

GWR, second only to the Company Chairman and Chief Engineer.

Amongst footplate crew there was a strict hierarchy with progression on the 'links' principle – a staff group of the same seniority and duties. One started as a cleaner and moved up on the basis of time served to 'passed cleaner', when one could be 'acting fireman' if the driver agreed. Final progression was to 'top link driver', driving named express trains. Older drivers were given less demanding work, but still retained employment. Employment records can thus trace the detailed career of an ancestor.

British Transport Police is the railway's police force, as railway land is private and one has no public right of access to railway property; local constabulary have access only by invitation. In 1826 the first 'Bobbies', often retired soldiers, started as signalmen on the Stockton to Darlington line. Holding up a flag meant 'stop' and the absence of a flag, 'go'. After five minutes a following train was sent on even if the previous train was out of sight. This clearly flawed system was succeeded by various safety measures culminating in a locking frame: if one signal is 'off danger',



points cannot be changed nor any other signal taken off danger.

Using clues in photographs to date an image can be enlightening, but care is needed, particularly in monochrome images where trains' livery colours are unclear. However, if a broad gauge track is visible, the image is pre-1892, when they were removed, and dual gauge tracks indicate a date post-1865.

Paperwork can aid research. An invoice from Robert Stephenson and Co. is for a locomotive, with an accompanying engineer to go to Bavaria. Engineers were supplied with new locomotives, so your ancestor might have had an extended trip abroad. Other documents include share or dividend certificates and loyalty cards – postage stamps being saved for journeys. Early timetables only showed times for one route passing through a station. A choice of routes involved consulting several timetables.

The clocking-in system used numbered brass plates. These were held on a board and given out at start of duty, to be handed in at end of duty. On payday they would be exchanged by the wages clerk for the numbered wage packet. Pay was

based on time worked – that is, between collecting a plate and handing it in. The system was called a 'pay cheque', and is the origin of our current term – it has nothing to do with modern cheques.

Locating records can be difficult. Records for the original companies were held at stations according to 'divisions' and some had records held at several stations. Brackley had two stations, one served by Midland and one by Great Central; Hull had a number. Stations with names 'Victoria' or Central' were probably served by Great Central Railway. Records for the Cambrian, Rhymney and Taff Vale Railways, all incorporated into GWR in 1922, are held at Kew. A source for GWR in general is Berkshire Family History Society. Records for LMS are held in part at Stoke, in part at Kew. Those for LNER are held variously at Kew, Newcastle and York and those for SR are held mostly at Kew. The NA series are mostly RAIL, AN (for building drawings), ZSPC (special collections) and AWC (for British Rail engineering). Timetables and work records are held at the National Railway Museum, York. STEAM is the code for the Museum of the Great Western Railway at Swindon.

# Meeting report

## Using a Research Methodology for Family History **Phil Isherwood**

13 December 2022      review by Lorna Thomas

In delivering this second talk, Phil Isherwood successfully built on his earlier most useful 'How to build a research plan', based very much on his professional methodology in IT.

His talk outlined a structured approach to analysing and solving those tricky 'brick wall' type problems that cause such frustration in family history research. Looking at sources, although extremely important, is only half of the problem. How we use that information is the other half of the story and is a question of method.

His method comprises six basic easy-to-follow steps that can be applied to a wide variety of problems.

- 1) Define the problem – identify the objective of your research
- 2) Create a timeline – re-examine existing evidence; collate that evidence; identify gaps and fill gaps
- 3) Analyse the timeline – draw up a list of questions; identify common factors, patterns; possible clues; search for possible additional evidence

- 4) Construct the case – are there other 'candidates' from the past? Analyse these candidates; eliminate all candidates bar one; tie up loose ends
- 5) Prove the case – identify others from the future (descendants); analyse the candidates; eliminate all bar one
- 6) Close the case / redefine the problem – analyse any conflicting evidence; resolve that conflicting evidence; identify new research objectives and write conclusions.

Applying such a formulaic strategy ensures three things: the research is repeatable; it will be consistent; and it maximises thorough practice and helps to mitigate missing vital proof.

Phil used one of his own case studies to give examples throughout his talk. Many of us are already doing many of the suggestions, however, the six steps aim to provide a consistency of approach which might just help demolish some of those frustrating brick walls!

# Talk with Tea – Maps

Hilary Blanford

We had another very enjoyable ‘Talk with Tea’ at Surrey History Centre on October 7. This time the speaker was Jane Lewis, whom many of us know best for her costume talks.

She started her talk by explaining about the history of the systematic mapping of England and Scotland, then moved on to valuation maps and the field books, tithe maps, enclosure maps, service plans, railway books prepared for each new railway line, manorial maps, estate plans and even 16<sup>th</sup> century post dissolution maps as well as sales catalogues that can include detailed maps of local areas.

Jane also explained how to use maps and landmarks in conjunction with other records to identify streets and sometimes buildings where our ancestors lived. After her talk we were able to see some original maps and plans, although the beautiful manorial map that we saw was

actually a copy because the original is too fragile to be handled.

The enclosure map we saw was especially interesting as it had an accompanying book that described each piece of land or property, use and names of owners or tenants – a very name-rich source.

Some of us thought that this talk would also work well on Zoom so I have booked Jane to give this talk on April 11.

The next Talk with Tea will be ‘Owen Manning, William Bray and the writing of Surrey's county history, 1760 to 1832’ on Wednesday 8 March with Julian Pooley. As well as being able to see original papers and diaries we will be able to see how family history was researched long before the indexes and online resources that we rely on today, which could be useful for those of us who are researching further back in time.

## **Talk with Tea on 8 March**

Owen Manning, William Bray and the writing of Surrey's county history, 1760 to 1832

*Places may be booked direct from the Surrey History Centre website (not through the Society) or via Surrey County Council - Surrey Heritage Events Bookings ([surreycc.gov.uk](http://surreycc.gov.uk)) or by telephone (01483 518737).*

# A mystery solved in Woking

Emma Cox

My grandfather Bennett Percy Cox was born in Woking, Surrey in December 1908. It's been a mystery where he lived despite knowing the name of the house ("Westward") and location (Pond Road). They moved to Sussex in 1929 and I have several photos including some showing them outside *Westward* waiting to drive away.



I've been along Pond Road twice and not managed to find the house, nor its location online, despite repeated searches over many years.

This changed after I attended the *Talk with Tea* organised by East Surrey FHS, when Jane Lewis talked about using maps for family history at Woking in October 2022. I found the talk most inspiring, with great tips on how to make the best use of maps when looking for family. After tea we were given a private tour of the Surrey Family History Centre and shown some of the maps mentioned

in the talk and, with help from one of the archivists, I found some local maps covering Pond Road.

The next step was to make an enquiry with all the information I had available. A lovely researcher came back to me and said "A search of our Collections Catalogue found a sale particular for *Westward*, dated May 1934 (our ref 6003/162). There is no picture of the house, or plan of the location, which would be helpful, but it is described as about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre and an 'attractive well-built residence overlooking and immediately adjoining the 18th Green of the Woking Golf course'. This does not pinpoint the property exactly but may be helpful in locating the property alongside the golf course. It was a substantial three floor-property including house servants' quarters, and a bedroom and bathroom for the chauffeur above the garage."

Using this information (the 18<sup>th</sup> hole location and plot size) and the maps, I found the property, right next to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole of the golf course! I had actually driven past it and it has changed name.

Another update from the researcher followed: "In 1968 the property you identified in the older

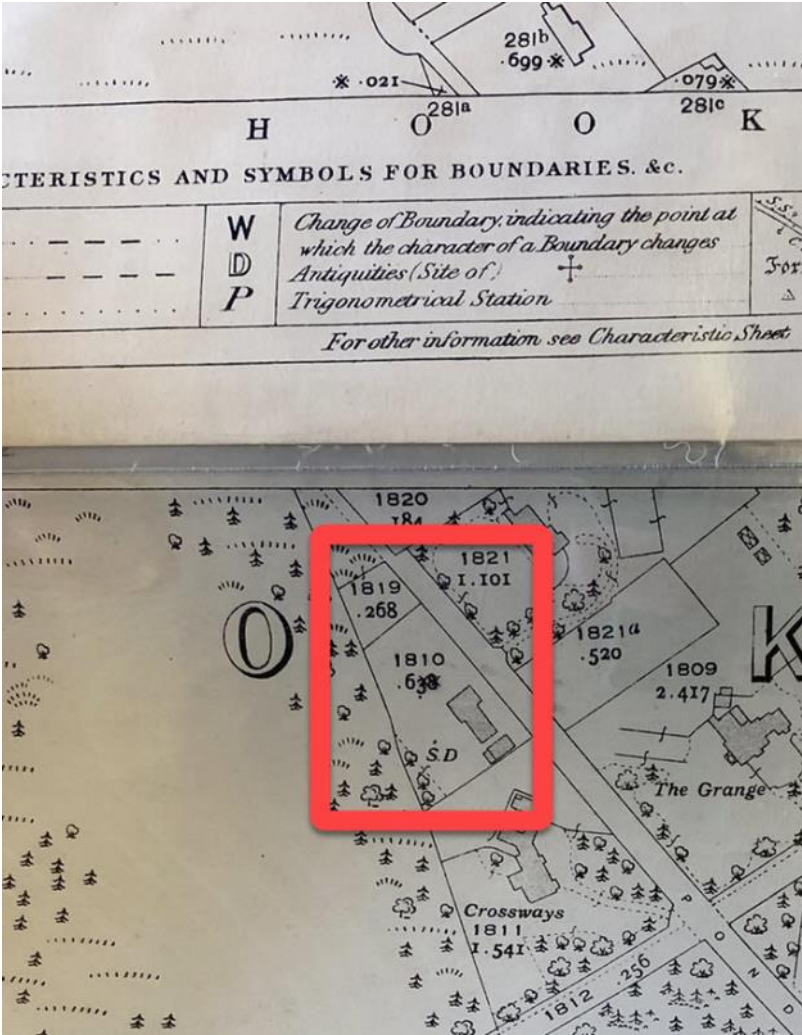
# A mystery solved in Woking

map was still there, the same shape and location as in 1934, so the same building though there are some additional outbuildings. The name of the property had changed to

Verlands and certainly at this point, as you suggested, the two plots 1810 and 1819 are shown as a single plot.”

A mystery solved!

OS Map of Woking, Sheet XVI.16 (1916), reproduced by permission of Surrey History Centre



# News from Surrey Heritage

*Julian Pooley (Public Services and Engagement Manager)*

In my last report I mentioned that we were nearing the conclusion of a review and restructure as part of SCC's Transformation Programme of Libraries and Cultural Services. Our new staffing structure went live on 1 November and has had an impact upon our service, bringing us closer into line with many other county record offices by reducing our opening hours to three days a week and one Saturday each month. Our new opening times are shown in the panel on the next page.

However, please note that on Saturday 11 March, when we will be holding an Open Day to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Surrey History Centre, the searchroom will not be available for research because table space will be given over to an exhibition of highlights from our holdings. For further information about this event, see below.

The revised opening hours will enable us to maintain and even expand our outreach and engagement work to ensure our wonderful collections are relevant and accessible to a wider audience. Since November we have been able

to develop our work with the Halow Project in Guildford and Linkable, two local charities that support young people with learning difficulties. We have held six very successful workshops with their members here at Surrey History Centre, exploring the history of food in Surrey, learning about World War Two and discovering the life of James Pullen, the 'Genius of Earlswood' who made models and artwork while at Earlswood Hospital in the nineteenth century.

Our new structure will also enable us to support and increase our tremendous team of volunteers, whose work to prepare indexes to the records of hospitals, boards of guardians, reform schools etc underpins the increasing range of finding aids we are able to publish on our website. But these are only finding aids, enabling information to be found. Nothing can replace the value and enjoyment of consulting the original document itself, of seeing your ancestor's signature witnessing a church ceremony, or coming face to face with them in an early photograph pinned to their notes in a hospital case book. Our

## News from Surrey Heritage

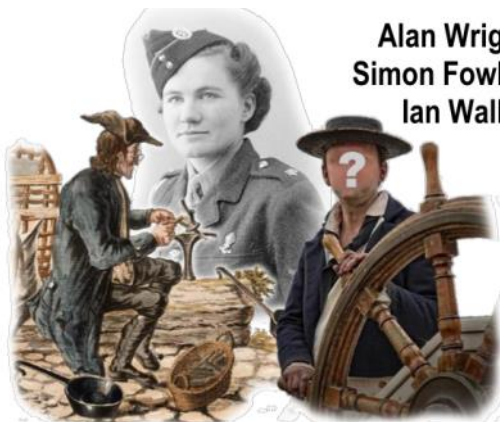
opening hours may have been reduced, but we very much hope that you will continue to visit us to encounter and use the unique collections in our care for research.

Regrettably, the changes to our service have led to the departure of some familiar faces. Helen Keen, who many of you will remember as one of our helpful team of Heritage Assistants in the search room, and Duncan Sutton, our foyer supervisor, have both decided that it is time to

move on. They will be greatly missed. Helen handled most of the enquiries we receive about patients at Surrey's former psychiatric and learning disability hospitals, while Duncan's expertise on military history was highly valued by visitors and colleagues alike. Phil Cooper, our Exploring Surrey's Past Officer, retired in December and I'm pleased to report that his position has been filled by Juliet Warren, formerly our Projects Officer.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	9.30 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. and 1.45 – 5.00 p.m.
Second Saturday of each month	9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. and 1.45 – 4.15 p.m.

## ESFHS Study Day and AGM



**Alan Wright:** Gypsy travellers  
**Simon Fowler:** Unusual Military Records  
**Ian Waller:** Royal Navy Records

See the front cover for more details of the day

Free but donations welcome

# Recent Accessions at Surrey History Centre

## **10200add**

St Peter's church, South Croydon: additional parish records, comprising Parochial Church Council signed minutes, 1986-1988 and 2004-2015; Annual Parochial Church Meeting minutes, 2005-2012; and Fabric, Finance and General Purposes minutes, 1980-2008 1980-2015

## **10435**

Christ the King, Salfords, Redhill: additional parish records, including service register, PCC minutes and parish magazines c.1946-2022

## **10436**

St John the Evangelist, Shirley: additional parish records including PCC and APCM minutes with annual reports and accounts, 1978-1980, 1987-2002, 2007-2010; parish magazines, 1947-1948; and papers relating to parish boundaries, 1983 1947-2010

## **10437**

Denis G Thompson of Brookwood: digital video of World War 2 reminiscences 1999

## **10440**

Ockley Parish Council: annual meeting minutes, 1894-1998; council minutes, 1986-2017; papers relating to Scotts Well charity, 1989-1992

## **10441**

Album of watercolours of Dorking, Isle of Wight and Peak District, some by H White, and prints and engravings c.1840s-1850s

## **10443**

Edna Winifred Adam (nee Bradford) (d.1992), employee of an Australian bank in London: photograph album recording four Australian banks' evacuation to emergency branch premises at Sandroyd School, Cobham, during the Second World War 1939-1944

## **10444**

Sgt Ernest Frederick George Watson, 1/6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: photograph album and papers relating to service in Greece during the Second World War 1940s



## Recent Accessions at Surrey History Centre

### **10446**

L/Cpl William John Pryor, 1/7th Battalion, Queen's Regiment: photographs, newspaper cuttings, magazines and other papers relating to his service in the Second World War, also including photograph and papers of Richard Blewett, journalist c.1940-1945

### **10447**

Busbridge and Hambledon united benefice: additional parish records, including Hambledon marriage register, 2006-2020, Busbridge marriage register, 2016-2020, and service register 2017-2021; Parochial Church Council minutes and papers, and files relating to the churches and property of both parishes 1969-c.2020

### **10448**

Norma Helen Campbell (nee Duncan): diary of practical work for her training as a child care officer, undertaken with Surrey County Council; with copies of course certificate, photograph and curriculum vitae 1957-1958

### **10449**

Great Tangle Manor, Wonersh: records, including estate plans and surveys, visitors' book, sale particulars and photographs 19th century-20th century

### **10450**

St Swithins, Upper Rose Hill, Dorking: plans, photographs and papers 1927-c.1950

### **10453**

St Christopher's, St John the Baptist's and Southwood churches, Cove: additional parish registers of burial, banns, confirmation and services 1940-2019

### **10454**

Dalkeith Cottage and land formerly part of Caterham Common, later the Caterham Cottage Estate: deeds 1868-1887

### **10455**

Chris Wait of Alton, sometime of Abinger: memoir of life as a farm boy on Hatch Farm in 1950, entitled 'Cuckoo Corn' 1985

## Recent Accessions at Surrey History Centre

### **10456**

St Peter's church, Walton on the Hill: additional parish records, including Walton Parochial Charities minute book, 1934-1997, files of correspondence and accounts, including details of recipients of charity; papers relating to St Peter's church, 1950s-1960s

### **10457**

Cliff Webb, local historian of Crondall, Farnham: collected papers and photographs relating to people, places and properties in Surrey 1671-21st cent

### **10458**

2nd Lieutenant Alfred Butt (d.1918) of Mortlake, 10th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, and Royal Flying Corps: letters to his family and campaign medals 1916-1918

### **PXadd6**

Drawings and paintings purchased by Surrey History Trust: 1) grey wash drawing 'Churchyard at Guildford' by John Monro, 1830s; 2) graphite sketch of 'The Old Rectory, Albury', by Alexander Monro, 6 Aug 1835; 3) watercolour of 'House 1824-1870s at Badshot Lea, Surrey', by C J Newcome, 1870s; 4) drawing entitled 'Guildford Surrey 1824' by A Baas; 5) drawing of St Mary Magdalene church, Reigate, 19 Jul 1842)

### **SGW/26**

Lance Sgt Percy Rymell of Addlestone: digital scans of records relating to service in the Army Ordnance Corps during the First World War, including Army papers, war diary, memorabilia, photographs and artefacts c.1915-1919



# Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2023

**ESFHS members: Tea and talk**

**Tickets £5**

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

*This event is for members of the East Surrey Family History Society only: please book a place online via the Heritage Events page on our website*

**Wednesday 8 March, 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. at Surrey History Centre**

Manning and Bray's History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey, 3 volumes, (1804 to 1814) took more than forty years to research and thirteen to publish.

Though acknowledged as one of the finest of the Georgian county histories, its production was fraught with difficulties. The papers of those involved testify to the support given

by a national network of antiquaries. In this talk, Julian Pooley draws on the rich archives of Manning and Bray, the antiquary Richard Gough and the printer, John Nichols, to chart the research and production of a county history which remains a basic tool for Surrey's family and local historians.

## **Music in Surrey**

A one-day symposium organised by Surrey Local History Committee at Surrey History Centre.

Speakers will include Dr Stephen Rose of Royal Holloway College on early manuscript music in local archives, Irene Shettle on Lucy Broadwood and English folk song in Surrey, Dr David Taylor on Sir Hubert Parry, Ges Ray of Leith Hill Music

## **Saturday 22 April**

Festival, Dr Catherine Fergusson on Hymn Writing in Surrey and Dr Chris Wiley of the University of Surrey on Dame Ethel Smyth. For full details, and to book a place, see the Heritage Events page on our website or the Events page on the Surrey Archaeological Society website ([surreyarchaeology.org.uk](http://surreyarchaeology.org.uk))

# Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2023

## **Surrey History Centre open day**

Saturday 11 March, 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at Surrey History Centre

Discover Surrey's rich and diverse heritage at Surrey History Centre's free open day to celebrate our 75th anniversary!

From maps to photographs, letters and archaeological finds,

there will be a whole array of Surrey gems from our fascinating collection on show, as well as talks, behind the scenes tours, ask the experts and free family activities.

## **Free family activities**

There will be free family activities to keep the kids entertained.

## **Free 30 minute talks during the day**

### **12.00 p.m. Making Archives Matter**

The ways in which people use archives are changing. Alongside our work to rescue, preserve and make accessible archives charting nine hundred years of Surrey's history, we are constantly exploring new ways to make archives and history relevant and accessible to people in new and imaginative ways.

This talk discusses the challenges of using mental health records for research and highlights our award-winning work with

mental health, disability and dementia groups to enrich lives through the materials of the past. It shows how we use HLF funding to blend traditional archive work with innovative outreach activities and how we work with different communities to ensure the county's diversity is reflected in the archive for present and future generations. It also highlights how we work with volunteers to enhance and improve access to our collections.

# Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2023

## 12.45pm - The Work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Surrey

Dr Simon Maslin, Finds Liaison Officer for Surrey will discuss the work and purpose of the Portable Antiquities Scheme as well as the type of archaeological finds made by members of the public in Surrey and examples of the best finds made over the years.

## Behind the scenes tours

Take a behind-the-scenes tour, where you'll explore how we rescue and preserve the past; and discover the six miles of shelving in our strongrooms, housing documents dating back to the 12th century! There are limited spaces available on

the tours which will last around 30 minutes and cost £2 per person. Pre-booking is essential.

Tours take place at 11.15 a.m., 1.30, 2.00, and 2.30 p.m. Please book a place via our Heritage Events page.



We are currently planning our next season of talks and events, both in-person and online, so please check the Heritage Events page on our website for details. The meantime, many of our talks are now available for purchase via our online shop and there is a list of them, with a link to the shop on the Heritage Events page.

# The Unwelcome Child

*Paul Blake BA DipGen FSG*

The 1662 Act of Settlement was effectively an Act of Removal. Those thought 'likely to be chargeable' to a parish could be removed, on the order of two justices of the peace, to their place of settlement, which in the case of an illegitimate child was where they were born. Five years after the Act was passed, the parish burial register of St Nicholas Weybridge (SHC: 2384/1/2) includes the following memorandum relating the misfortune of the unnamed bastard child of Joan Hud:

Memorand~, that on y<sup>e</sup> first day of March one thousand six hundred sixty seven, a Bastard child was born in Oatlands Park, in the house called the New Lodge: the name of y<sup>e</sup> mother of the child is Joan Hud servant to Mr Tilly, then and there inhabiting. The child som few days after it was born, was removed from y<sup>e</sup> fore said house scituated in Oatlands Park, into Walton parish, where it remained at nurse by y<sup>e</sup> space of two months: at the end of which time, the then Churchwardens, of and overseers of the poor of Walton parish (named Miles Hall, and John Laton then churchwardens, and Richard Wheatly and Richard Bell then overseers of y<sup>e</sup> poor of Walton parish) as disowning the child to be born within the parish of Walton, came to the towne of Waybridge which y<sup>e</sup> nurse (whose name is Joan Bayly) and the child: and brought with them a Warrant fro~ Mr Brend

Justise of Peace, to remove the child from y<sup>e</sup> parish of Walton into y<sup>e</sup> parish of Waybridg, in which they did acknowledge it to be born. The officers of the parish of Waybridge (namely John Brockwel and John Kidwell churchwardens, and Henry Fits and Thom: Pudsey overseers of y<sup>e</sup> Poor) not being at home, when y<sup>e</sup> child was brought to Waybridge, som women of Waybridge (namely Susan Harwood and Mary Brockwel) desired the nurse (Joan Bayly) to carry the child back again to Walton parish for a day or two, which the nurse did accordingly. After two days, the nurse brought y<sup>e</sup> bastard child again to Waybridge, and Miles Buckland (who had been one of y<sup>e</sup> overseers of the poor y<sup>e</sup> year before and not given up his accounts) agreed with y<sup>e</sup> nurse, y<sup>t</sup> she should carry y<sup>e</sup> child back again to Walton parish, promising to satisfie and pay her for keeping of y<sup>e</sup> child which y<sup>e</sup>

## The Unwelcome Child

nurse accepting of carried y<sup>e</sup> child back to Walton parish where it remained till it dyed. Being dead, it was brought fro~ Walton parish by y<sup>e</sup> nurse and som others of that parish, to be buried in y<sup>e</sup>

churchyard at Waybridge, and there it was buried and Miles Buckland and Henry Fits aforenamed payed the nurse for having of y<sup>e</sup> child till it dyed.

*In witness whereof, we have set our hands November 2<sup>d</sup> \_\_ 1668*

*John Kinde Rector*

*Miles Buckfield*

*Joshua Butler inhabitant of the parish of Waybridge*

*John Bond*

*John J Brockwell his mark Church warden*

*Henry H Fits his mark one of y<sup>e</sup> overseers of y<sup>e</sup> poor*

*Thomas Tunkes do*

Although there is no entry in the parish register for the burial of the child, the churchwardens' accounts for Weybridge, 'for the Year 1668', does include the following entry (SHC: 2384/3/1):

*Item for the charge of buringe the Bastard Child w<sup>ch</sup> was born at the Lodge in the parck being the present dwellinge house of Mr. John Tille \_\_ \_ 0 – 5 – 8*



# East Surrey's Virtual Family History Fair

*Hilary Blanford*

Saturday 28 January saw the Society's second virtual family history fair, which was attended by 27 other Societies. East Surrey fielded three breakout rooms and thanks are due to Alan, Anne, Brenda, Geoff, Marda, Nick, Tamsin and Sue who staffed our rooms as well as our virtual pub, and to Rob who was continually updating our webpage during the last few months. We had 105 attendees in the morning and 95 in the afternoon and while most came from the UK, we also had visitors from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the USA. The chairman of another family history society enthusiastically described our fair as being unique! At the end of the afternoon session, we also held a communal discussion (three screens in gallery view, so almost 75 people) and agreed to hold another virtual fair next year on 27 January. This date has already been placed on the GENEVA site (the events section on the GENUKI website).

Although we were visited by Zoom gremlins in the second half of each session, they only affected a few people who were prevented

from moving out of the main room. So at the end of the morning we simply handed the main room over to the Manchester and Lancashire FHS and enjoyed the masterly demonstration of their website.

Another attendee wrote to say, 'A physical fair is always fun, but on Zoom, you can screen-share to show your problem. And the stallholders can screen-share, to show some of the answers. The high point of my day was Geoff (Fairbairn, East Surrey) showing another attendee the house where her ancestor had lived, and the map demonstrating the changes that had taken place.'

We received lots of very nice comments in the chat boxes and in emails and a new member wrote to me afterwards to say, 'I joined the ESFHS a few weeks back not only because I kept attending Zoom talks and wanted to support the Society, but also because I thought it was impressive that you were bringing together so many organisations from around the country for the Fair!'

Next year – the world! Do join us in 2024, as we had a lot of fun in 2023.





# Meeting report

## **Southwark A-Z – Southwark Archives Map Collection    Patricia Dark**

*Report by Geoff Fairbairn*

Dr Patricia Dark is the Borough Archivist for Southwark. In her comprehensive Zoom talk, she first explained that the maps held by Southwark Archives include plans of buildings and infrastructure. Maps held by the archive are mostly of Southwark, but other bodies such as the London Metropolitan Archive and The National Archives also hold maps that cover the borough. The borough's collections are not comprehensive and are not necessarily original documents.

What is in London maps? They show the built-up area of the metropolis and, by comparing them, important changes over time can be seen, including those in human geography, as well as changes in the purposes for creating maps. For example, by the end of the seventeenth century maps included St George's Fields and the Elephant & Castle districts, whereas most earlier maps did not extend that far because those areas were rural. By the beginning of the nineteenth century maps were showing changes

that included roads, Thames bridges, and railways.

Early printed maps were usually made by engravers and surveyors in teams. Revised editions were issued under the original publisher's name even if he had died. Some of the earliest London maps were in the form of panoramas and included parts of Southwark because they were on the south side of the Thames and the views were looking from the south. Patricia showed some examples of early maps.

In 1712 the production of maps in this country was spurred by the levy of a 30% tax on imported maps. A detailed map of London surveyed by John Rocque was published in 1746. In 1799 Richard Horwood published a map covering the Cities of London and Westminster, Southwark, and adjoining parts, which showed every building and – in most streets – house numbers. Horwood died in 1803 but updated editions were produced by his associate William Faden in 1807, 1813, and 1819.

Maps were often made or modified by parish authorities, for pageantry and administration. The electoral reform Act of Parliament in 1832 required maps of electoral boundaries to be produced. Patricia showed us examples of early parish maps including some produced later in the nineteenth century to show burials and disease for various administrative boards that had sprung up.

The first maps produced by the Ordnance Survey were 1 inch to 1 mile, followed by 6 inches to 1 mile, then 25 inches to 1 mile (which show individual buildings). In the 1930s large scale revised maps were produced for the London County Council, and these were used during the second world war as the basis for bomb damage maps.

Patricia then shared her browser screen to demonstrate online resources for old maps, including the National Library of Scotland website where OS 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition maps are accessible in several scales. The colour-coded Charles Booth's Descriptive Map of London Poverty 1898/9 edition is available to view on the London School of Economics website. The bombsight website shows where bombs fell during the blitz and is based on the LCC's bomb damage maps. The Layers of London website has a choice of overlays for various purposes to which you may add your own.

The meeting concluded with a helpful question-and-answer session.



# Thanks to ESFHS, I took action . .

*Monica Polley [9928]*

Many years ago, my father gave me two photographs, on glass and in tatty frames, telling me they were his great-grandparents on his mother's side – he knew the surname was Boorer and he thought the man was called George. The photos were in a bit of a state, and I tucked them away.

Wind on several years, and I started my research – it wasn't too hard to discover that they were Edwin and Georgina Boorer, my father's great-grandparents, born in 1846 and 1841 respectively.

Just after I joined ESFHS, Southwark group advertised a talk given by a member of the Royal Photographic Society, so I took my two photos along and they were duly dated to the 1860s, confirming that the photos were most likely taken on the 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays of each person. I was told that they needed restoring to preserve the images. Again, I put them away, family life was busy.

Early last year, while our movements were still restricted by Covid precautions, ESFHS held a zoom meeting with a photograph historian and restorer and, after listening to all he had to say, I decided that I had to do something

to preserve my old photos for the future – they were dull, very speckled and the deterioration around Georgina had almost reached her head. There was no time like the present.

I did some local searches (Sussex/Surrey) for restorers, but no-one inspired confidence. I checked the website of the Royal Society of Photographers for local restorers – and discovered that the speaker from that January meeting was a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society – but he lived in Lancashire.

His talk had inspired me to act, so I decided to contact him, and after several emails and a conversation, my concerns about entrusting my glass photos to anyone, and especially the postal service, were allayed. We decided that cleaning and stabilising the images was the best course of action, not to try to replace the lost areas, and to just clean the frames – they are 'of their time'.

I am delighted with the outcome – the cleaning has revealed details in the clothing that was not seen before; the gold, used to highlight the lady's brooch and the man's watchchain, gleams, and the images are now bright. Also, I have

Thanks to ESFHS, I took action . .

several prints of the photos for the family to display and the Ambrotypes are now stable and safely tucked away in a box, preserved for the next generations.

So, thank you ESFHS, for giving me the prompt I needed to act and

preserve part of our family history that would have been so easily lost. I should have written this article last spring . . . but then restrictions were lifted and life got busy!



Before . . .



. . . and after!



## New members

10727	Tim Pardoe – tdp@timpardoe.co.uk
10728	Leanne Bailey – leanne_bailey1@hotmail.com
10729	Anne Jordan – annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk
10730	Judy Rogers – judyrogers65@gmail.com
10731	Christine Bennett – christinebennett290@gmail.com
10732	Pam Scott – pamscott4747@gmail.com
10733	Gail White – info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au
10734	Cathy Wollweber – cathywollweber@yahoo.co.uk
10735	Philip Bennett – phbennett171@gmail.com
10736	Ian Waite – ian@thewaites.me.uk
10737	Beryl Offley – bjoffley@cooptel.net
10738	Rosalind Bond – roboshine@gmail.com
10739	Brenda Gomersall – brendag@wenthill.plus.com
10740	David Lewing – dave.lewing@yahoo.com
10741	Bill Munro – bill.munro99@btinternet.com

## Changes to email addresses

8949	Susan Brissenden – suebriss2@btinternet.com
9871	Peter Spooner – pgs6955@yahoo.com
5291	Anne Corden – acorden88@gmail.com
6152	Vivien Beazley – vjbexbaker@btinternet.com
7506	Peter Grant – peterkbullen@gmail.com
10661	Lionel Wright –lionelwright2021@gmail.com
10094	Barry Hilling - barryhilling@gmail.com

## Deaths

We have just been made aware of the death of Ronald Hull [4764]. We extend our sympathies to his family.

# Members' interests ...

... in Surrey

CASBAN	Croydon	19-20c	10695
CASBEN	Farnham	19-20c	10695
CASBON	Croydon	19-20c	10695
MOON	Croydon	19-20c	10695
OREL(L)	Croydon	19c	10695
OREL(L)	Horley	18-19c	10695
OVAL	Croydon	19c	10695
OVEL(L)	Croydon	19c	10695
OVEL(L)	Horley	18-19c	10695
OVIL	Horley	18-19c	10695
RICHES	Croydon	19-20c	10695
ROGERS	Bletchingley	1700	10730
ROGERS	Croydon	17-18c	10730
ROGERS	Southwark	17-18c	10730
SMITH	Croydon	19c	10695

... in other English counties

BISHOP	Shoreham	SSX	19c	10695
MOON	Shoreham	SSX	18-19c	10695
RICHES	Fressingfield	SFK	18-19c	10695
ROGERS	Lewisham	KEN	18-19c	10730

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# EAST SURREY

## Family History Society

