

Journal of the East Surrey Family History Society



www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk

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Cover photograph:

The deadline for the June Journal is 1st May (10.00 a.m.)

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

From the Chairman

Brenda Hawkins [785]

Natalie Ceeney CBE (Chief Executive of The National Archives) shakes up TNA, collects her gong and moves on. Those staff made redundant, and researchers who could only visit on a Monday, will be justifiably cynical. However, anyone who remembers the Public Record Office, split between three sites, may reflect on the good old days.

At Portugal Street, you queued for microfilm readers for the census, only to discover that the film you wanted was out. In Chancery Lane, you battled to master paper indexes, while at Kew the ordering system was baffling and arcane, with fancy beepers that either did not work, or you discovered it still in your pocket when on the way home! Whichever building you were in, it was ages before the records were produced and the dragons of staff were terrifying to the amateur. Today, a researcher in Aberdeen or Australia has access not only to the census but to a wide array of other digitised images, made accessible via the vastly improved Catalogue and Documents Online. I try always to attend Catalogue Awareness Day, held in November, as this showcases records I may not have previously considered. Now there is access even to that, via TNA's website.

The range of documents held by TNA is so vast that there are still many that can only be identified using on-site finding aids. Hopefully, my talk at the AGM will demonstrate that there is such a variety of records at Kew that everyone can find something of use. Only one Society visit has been planned so far, but if that proves successful, further meetings will be advertised. If you fancy coming, please check the website or contact me.

This is my last chairman's report for the journal as committee members are only allowed by our constitution to stand for five years, so I will be standing down at the AGM. I am very grateful for all the hard work put into the Society by so many different members, which helps it keep going. The five-year rule offers the opportunity for new blood and new ideas on the committee, while ensuring that nobody is shackled to a job for life. We are lucky to have so many different people who help ensure that no role is too onerous. Several committee members are serving second terms, while ex-committee members are often helping ESFHS in other ways. Very few disappear into the sunset, never to be seen again – an indication that those who do get involved find the experience worthwhile and rewarding. Please do consider joining their number: all our volunteers are welcome. Just contact me or any other committee member.



2010 Directory of Members' Interests (DMI)

Brian Hudson [7324]

If you wish to have your interests included in the 2010 DMI, or if you want to update your existing entries, then you must send details to the DMI co-ordinator by 31st March.

Please see the ESFHS website or the September 2009 Journal for information on how to add or amend your interests. ❖

Southwark Group & Local History Library

Sheila Gallagher [Southwark Group representative]

Members may be aware that our meetings have been affected by the re-ordering of the John Harvard & Southwark Local History Libraries since September 2008, resulting in withdrawal of all archives for the local area and relocation of the L.H. Library and our meetings to Peckham.

Completion dates have come and gone so that announcements about meetings have had to be changed very near to the published dates.

Unfortunately, misunderstandings resulted in several members, non-members and the speaker arriving for the advertised meeting on 9th November 2009 (already postponed from October), only to find the premises occupied by builders. The Hall was finished but 'Health & Safety' decreed that we could not negotiate equipment, cables etc to get to it.

At the time of writing, the work on the Local History Library reading room & archive area is still not completed but it is hoped that everything will be back in place in time for the April meeting. Our speaker Marina Stack has been very patient (considering she was first booked for October 2008), so we hope that many members and visitors will come to hear of her research into Poor Law Union records and the very interesting conclusions she reached about how the regulations affected the lives of the poor and the old in late Victorian London.

Our thanks go to Southwark Local History Library Staff, who have been their usual kind and helpful selves during this difficult period to those searching for information and documents about Southwark, despite not been able to produce original material.

Finally, my apologies to everyone who has been disappointed by recent Southwark meetings and sincere hopes that our normal informative and friendly events will return soon. ❖

EAST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

From TNA to DNA

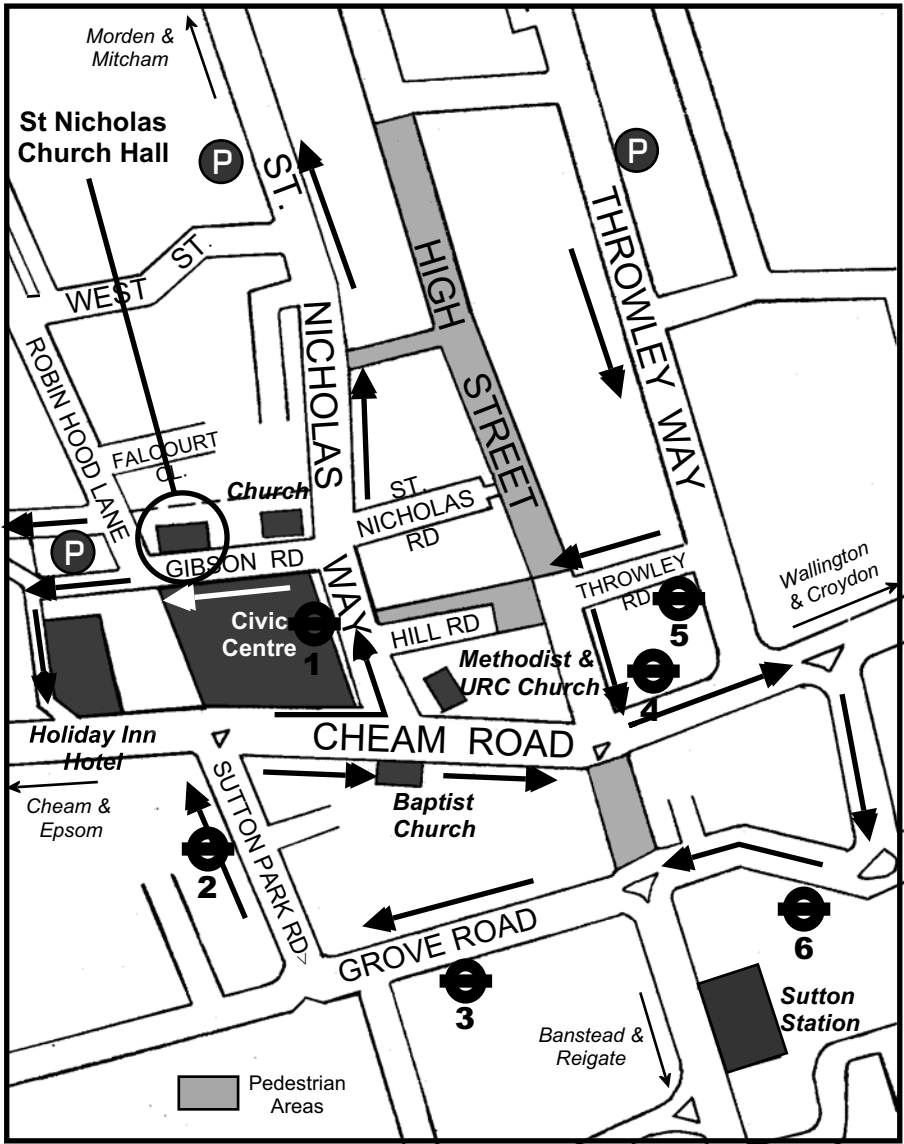
Free event on 17 April 2010

10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

St Nicholas Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton
SPEAKERS, HELP DESK, DISPLAYS

- 1000 Doors open
1030 Welcome
- 1035 **Brenda Hawkins:** 10 things to do at The National Archives
- 1130 Break
- 1145 **Eric Probert:** British Wills, Administrations and Death Duties
1858 and later
- 1245 Lunch and help desk
- 1415 **Dr Geoff Swinfield:** DNA tests for family historians: what
genetic tests are available and what they can tell you about
your ancestry
- 1530 **AGM of East Surrey Family History Society**
- 1600 Doors close

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk



BUSES

Stop	Routes
1	80, 280 (from Belmont) 151 (from Worcester Park)
2	151 (from Wallington)
3	726 (from Bromley)
4	726 (from Heathrow)
5	S1 (from Hackbridge) S3 (from Worcester Park) S4 (from Morden)
6	164 (from Wimbledon)

Group meetings

March

Sat 13 Adoption and fostering 1850 - 1930 Louise Taylor Richmond

Tue 16 Pre 16th century records (before parish registers) Ian Waller Croydon
Pre 1600 research is an entirely different 'ball game' with many records existing that can be useful although the familiar ones had not even commenced. Many of the early records are underused and many family historians consider their research can go no further when parish registers stop. This talk helps family historians see what is available

Wed 24 Surrey's War Hospitals Laurence Spring Lingfield
following a casualty from the front line to one of the 150 hospitals set up to cater for 2 million men wounded in WW1

April

Sat 17 Society AGM and Open day
See details on the previous two pages

Mon 26 Family life & the aged poor in [east] London during the 1890s Marina Stack Southwark
Please note that this talk replaces the one shown in the December Journal. It will be held at Southwark Local History Library, 211 Borough High St. Please use the John Harvard Library entrance

Wed 28 Adoption and fostering c1850 – 1930 Louise Taylor Lingfield

May

Thu 6 Charles Dickens and Southwark Stephen Humphrey Sutton
Stephen is the Archivist at Southwark Local History Library. He has written many books about Southwark and he leads walks in the local area

Sat 8 Members' Meeting Richmond
Non-members are very welcome. Come along and share your successes and failures; seek assistance or help others; or just have a chat over a cup of tea

Wed 25 Where did they live? Else Churchill Lingfield
Records relating to residence and land ownership before 1840 - looking at directories, poll books, land and tax records. Else is a member of the SoG

June

- Thu 3 "Upstairs, Downstairs" Ian Waller Sutton
A talk about domestic service. Ian is an Author and a Family Historian
- Wed 23 Members meeting Lingfield
Were there any surprises in the 1911 census? have you any new and interesting family research to share?
- Mon 28 mapping your ancestors: John Hanson Southwark
maps, migration, mobility, demography

July

- Thu 1 Tracing a Merchant Seaman Dr Chris Watts
Chris is an author and a Fellow of the SoG

Ensure you check the day of the week carefully as not all Groups meet on the same evening or at the same time (see below for times of meetings).

Please also see page 3 for a short explanation of changes relevant to Southwark Group.

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, 7.45 p.m.
Secretary: Mary Gill (020 8405 0598)

Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield, 2.30 p.m.
Secretary: Rita Russell (01342 834648)

Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond, 2.30 p.m.
Secretary: David Carter (020 8642 6437)

Southwark: Southwark Local History Library, behind John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street, London, SE1, 12 noon
Secretary: Sheila Gallagher (020 8337 8580)

Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, 8.00 p.m.
Secretary: Chris Pocock (020 8642 6789)

Doors usually open 30 minutes before the start of the meeting (Croydon 15 minutes)

Starting out . . .

Caroline Wimble

My introduction to family history, on my own account, was from a box of photographs that my mother left me, along with another box of papers that my grandfather had collected in the 1950s and 60s. All this information required sorting and some sense made of it all. Grandpa obviously had very grand ideas, as there were all sorts of old wills and house details of places vaguely alluding to his family name. Included were scraps of family tree that, as far as I can tell, have no bearing on our family at all but, of course, one day they might fit in.

Fortunately I had some knowledge of the photographs from my mother, but much of the information that my grandfather had gleaned was on odd bits of exercise book pages and although he had comprehensively noted down all births and deaths, I had no idea where any of the people came from!

After a few false starts I managed to put together a lot of the information, matched up many of the pictures and at last generally had an idea of what I was trying to achieve.

The branch of the family, the **Wortleys**, who established themselves in Merstham (these were my grandmother's relatives) were the ones I had most pictures of, but they were a bit of a mystery. I was bemoaning the fact that I had very little information on this branch of the family to my father one day (he is a very experienced family historian, having researched his German family back to 1772) and he amazingly produced all the then known information for our Wortleys. This was all the more surprising as my parents had been divorced since I was very small although they had always remained on friendly terms. Lesson: ask everyone even if they seem to be unlikely sources of information.

I was presented with a family who had, I believe, arrived in Merstham around the 1790s: they were Jonathan Wortley and Fanny **Bullis** — unmarried, as their first daughter, Elizabeth, was 'base born'. They proceeded to have eleven more children that I now know of, all baptised with no further intimation that they were not legitimate; however there is also no proof that Jonathan and Fanny ever married.

From my father's information, which apparently had come from my grandfather (it was in his writing) I have managed, with much help, to 'flesh out' this family. There are only two daughters that I cannot find any information on, but who knows, that may come in time.

The very first information came from ESFHS from an inscription on a transcribed gravestone. There is a headstone for Charlotte **Fletcher** in Merstham churchyard; she is buried together with Eleanor Wortley and Thomas Fletcher. I was very new to family history and this mystified me! But after studying the e-mail from Rita Russell with the information, it suddenly dawned —Charlotte Fletcher was Eleanor Wortley's sister. Eleanor died a spinster. Lesson; think laterally!

Jonathan's son, also Jonathan, although he confusingly called himself John, took some time to unravel. One of his children, Mary Jane a spinster, lived with her aunt Charlotte Fletcher in Merstham in their later days.

Although at first I didn't know Jonathan was her father, I did know that she was born in Beckenham in 1836 from the 1901 census. Luckily she had a sister Charlotte born in 1838, just after the records began, so I could find a birth certificate and from that the two girls' parents.

Mary Jane has yielded much information. In the 1901 and 1911 census returns she was 'living on own means' although she seems to have been a barmaid at the Bricklayers Arms in Lewisham for at least 10 years (1861 and 1871 census). She died in 1917 in Thornton Heath, at her sister Emma's house in Heath Road, leaving a Will that listed several nieces and nephews (who received £10 each). This gave me several new leads to her sister's husband's names and children I had not yet found.

The most intriguing son of the original Jonathan seems to be Marshall, although I know very little about him other than he was born in Merstham about 1787, was a cordwainer (shoemaker), purported to be a bachelor, and died in Merstham in January 1875. What I have found (and I know one must not assume) is another Marshall Wortley born about 1823 in Brighton who was transported to Tasmania for 15 years for housebreaking. Could this be a son of the Merstham Marshall? So far I have been unable to tie the two up. I am ever hopeful!

The Wortleys were a very ordinary family: three of the boys remained in Merstham as shoemakers (taking on a nephew in their work, who is described as 'imbecile since birth' in the 1871 census) and two of the sons were gardeners in Norwood and south London. Their lives have been very interesting to trace and so far most of my research has been done on the internet, as I live rather remotely from Surrey on the Welsh border.

I must say a big 'thank you' to Rita Russell at ESFHS and the very helpful staff at the Surrey History Centre & at Beckenham Library, as they have all helped me along the way. ❖

Family Historians beware!

Rod Freeman [9424]

Over recent years I have collected much information on my direct line of ancestors. In the early 18th century, the **Freeman** families appeared in Merstham and gradually moved further afield to Coulsdon, Addington, Croydon and beyond. It wasn't until church and statutory records began to note such details as 'occupation' in the 19th century that I came to notice some interesting similarities which would, eventually, lead to a surprising twist in my own life.

Of course, many of us can trace lines of trade and business going back generations in our families and it is not unusual to hear some present-day person declare, "Yes, I'm proud to say I'm the fourth generation of Buggins" in this family-run business. My father and grandfather and great-grandfather and' Now I can't claim this in my case, but let me first fill in a few historical details.

Great-great grandfather, John Freeman (Addington, 1819-1844), was a coachman at his marriage and later on a postilion and fly-driver in Croydon. His elder brother, James, (Merstham, 1812-1869) ended his days as an ostler at the Swan Inn Stables, Croydon, while Alfred, (Chelsham, 1822-1875), worked with horses all his life and at his death was noted as 'Gentleman's Coachman, of 6, Bird in Hand Cottages, Forest Hill'. Another of John's brothers, Henry, (Warlingham, 1824-69), went off to Scotland in the 1860s via Liverpool, to work as, yes, a coachman.

Now to the next generation: John Freeman's eldest son, Henry, (Croydon, 1847), moved to London to work as a groom for a well-to-do family in Kensington before marrying then disappearing in Lincolnshire. Next son, George (Croydon, 1849), my great-grandfather, was also attracted to the bustle and big money of the metropolis and was employed as a stableman and groom for most of his working life.

Now the thread unravels a little as my grandfather, George Alfred (Kensington, 1874), a very practical man by all accounts, took up the trade of stage carpenter and moved around the country with theatrical productions, whilst my father, Ernest, (Glasgow, 1904), also good with his hands, worked as an electrician, with theatrical leanings, for many years. In my own case, ever since I was a small child, I was fascinated by music, and eventually took it up as a profession and worked in quite a few theatres too, which is where my youngest daughter seems destined in the near future.

But the theatre connection is a bit of a red herring. For a year or two I thought about my early ancestor's jobs with horses, and considered how different their lives were from my own. Then, an idea started to form in my mind that I would take some riding lessons. I mentioned this to one or two friends, who gave me sideways looks and suggested maybe I was crazy, but, following my instinct, I found a local riding school here in Central London and, at the age of 65, booked myself a series of lessons. After a couple of sessions with a very patient instructor I began to think my dream had been a bit fanciful, especially since older bones and muscles would not do what they were supposed to do, and I feared ending up walking around like John Wayne in the cowboy movies.

But, perseverance is another family trait and I'm happy to report that the horse I most often ride, a New Forest pony called Rosie, has stopped being irritated by my clumsy manoeuvres and, as a consequence, I've relaxed too and can now enjoy a rising trot around the paddock with her. So, family historians beware: we certainly live longer, healthier lives than our ancestors did and imagination is a funny old business; goodness knows where it might lead us. Maybe, just maybe . . . ❖

Tech Topics

Brian Hudson [7324]

File types (part 2)

.doc This is probably one of the most widely recognised file extensions and it is produced by older versions of the popular word processor* program, Microsoft Word. However, starting with Word 2007 a new default file format was introduced and the extension is now **.docx**, although documents can still be saved as **.doc** to maintain compatibility with older versions of Word.

There are many word processing programs available, some of which are free and many which come as part of an 'Office' package that includes other programs such as spreadsheets and graphics. Examples include OpenOffice.org (free), the web-based Google Docs (free) and Word Perfect by Corel. All of these can produce and read Word compatible files.

*The main difference between a word processor file and a text file is in the use of formatting and features like headers and footers. In recent years word processing programs have become ever more complex and they incorporate extra functions such as drawing, graphics and basic picture editing which would previously have required a separate program.

Website round up

Brian Hudson [7324]

Google Chrome www.google.co.uk/chrome

This is a new web browser aiming to grab a big slice of the browser market with a number of features that sets it apart from others. It starts up very quickly and web pages load almost instantly. Searching and navigating are done from the same box; just type your search word(s) directly into the address bar. Favourite websites are easily selected by clicking on a thumbnail created from your most visited sites. I could go on but, better still, visit the Chrome website and click on the *Learn about Google Chrome* link.

Census of Ireland 1911 www.census.nationalarchives.ie

Amazing! – this is absolutely free including the viewing of images. Apart from the Household Return other documents are also available including ‘Enumerators Extract’, ‘House and Building Return’ and ‘Out-offices and Farmsteadings Return’ any of which may have more than one page. Unlike the 1911 census for England and Wales no information has been blanked out of the Household Return.

Tatler and Spectator <http://tabula.rutgers.edu/tatler/>

Now for something a little different – it has become possible to research complete copies of *The Tatler* (1709-1711) and *The Spectator* (1711-14) which can be viewed with the same browser plugin used to view documents on the Find My Past website.

National Fairground Archive www.nfa.dept.shef.ac.uk

Anyone with connections to fairgrounds should find this archive very rewarding. There is some information online and details of other material kept at the University of Sheffield Library.

Joomla! www.joomla.org

If you have considered setting up a family history website but been put off by the complexity then Joomla! offers a possible solution. One of our members brought it to my attention with her website www.edwina.org.uk, which was produced using Joomla! ❖

Civil Registration Indexes

to Births, Marriages and Deaths

The full range of the General Register Office Indexes for England and Wales was made available at London Metropolitan Archives in early December 2009. The indexes, which are held on microfiche, include the following event types: Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1837 to 2008, Overseas Events from 1761 to 2008, Adoptions from 1927 to 2008, Civil Partnerships from 2005 to 2008 and the most recent indexes for Births and Deaths up to September quarter 2009. LMA will receive indexes for more recent events as and when they become available. ❖

Bucks. Open Day

Bucks FHS will be holding its Open Day on Saturday 24th July 2010, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., at the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7NH (south east of town between A413 and A41).

There will be many attractions for researchers including full Bucks FHS library and databases, talks, guest societies and commercial suppliers.

Free admission and free car parking at the school.

Further information can be found at www.bucksfhs.org.uk. ❖

New CD now available

A new CD for Westminster/General Lying-in Hospital – Settlement Examinations is now available. Details are shown on the publications list enclosed with this Journal.

It is full of interesting and useful information on the women, their children, family and employers. ❖

Journal back issues

Back issues may be obtained, subject to availability, from Gill Hyder at 41 Bardsley Close, Park Hill, Croydon, CR0 5PT. Please send 50p per copy to cover the cost of postage.

East Surrey Local History Centres

Tony Goring [4499]

Within that part of the present administrative County of Surrey that is in this Society's catchment area there are currently six Local History Centres that are linked to Surrey Libraries – and are located in Surrey branch libraries. These are:

- Banstead Local History Centre at Banstead Library
- Caterham & District Local History Centre at Caterham Valley Library
- Epsom & Ewell Local & Family History Centre at Ewell Library
- Hayward Memorial Local History Centre at Lingfield Library
- Horley Local History Centre at Horley Library
- Redhill Centre for Local & Family History at Redhill Library

Each of these centres provides not only a collection of research materials relating to the surrounding area, but also much that is of interest and value to family historians. The following notes give details of the centres' addresses and opening times – and, of equal importance, their catchment areas. Whilst many of the resources can be used at any time the libraries are open, it is best to visit at the times listed, as volunteers are then available to assist enquirers with both the records and the equipment. In each centre there is available an extensive range of material, including census records, parish registers, large scale maps, directories, local newspapers, illustrations and photographs. In each centre a microfilm and microfiche reader-printer is provided, and there is access to the internet on the library computer terminals.

Banstead Local History Centre is in the Library at The Horseshoe, Bolters Lane, Banstead.

Volunteers: 1st and 3rd Tuesday 1430 – 1630, Saturday 1000 – 1200.

Area covered: Banstead, Burgh Heath, Chipstead, Hooley, Kingswood, Lower Kingswood, Netherne-on-the-Hill, Preston, Tadworth, Tattenhams, Walton-on-the-Hill and Woodmansterne.

Website: www.surrey.gov.uk/bansteadlocalhistory.

Caterham and District Local History Centre is in the Library at Stafford Road.

Volunteers: 1st Tuesday 1400 – 1600, 2nd + 4th Saturdays 1000 – 1200.

Area covered: Caterham, Chaldon, Chelsham, Farleigh, Godstone, Tatsfield, Titsey, Warlingham, Whyteleafe and Woldingham.

Website: www.surrey.gov.uk/northtandridgelocalhistory.

Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre is in the Library at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell.

Volunteers: Tuesdays 1000 – 1200 + 1730 – 1900, Thursdays 1400 – 1600, Fridays 1400 – 1600, Saturdays by appointment only.

The area covered includes Epsom, Ewell, Langley Vale, Stamford Green, Stoneleigh, and Woodcote. The website is www.surrey.gov.uk/epsomandewelllocalhistory.

Hayward Memorial Local History Centre is in the Library at The Guest House, Vicarage Road, Lingfield (next to St Peter & St Paul Church).

Volunteers: 1st Saturday 1000 – 1230, 3rd Thursday 1430 – 1630.

Area covered: Blindley Heath, Crowhurst, Dormansland, Felbridge, Felcourt, Haxted, Horne, Lingfield and South Godstone.

Website: www.surrey.gov.uk/haywardmemoriallocalhistory.

Horley Local History Centre is in the Library at Victoria Road, Horley.

Volunteers: Tuesdays 1500 – 1700, Saturdays 1100 – 1300.

Area covered: Horley, Burstow, Charlwood, Horne, Salfords and Smallfields.

Website: www.surrey.gov.uk/horleylocalhistory.

Redhill Centre for Local & Family History is in the Library at Warwick Quadrant, Redhill (opposite the Harlequin Theatre).

Volunteers: 1st and 3rd Saturday 1400 – 1600.

Area covered: Redhill, Reigate, Bletchingley, Buckland, Earlswood, Gatton, Leigh, Merstham, Nutfield, Salfords and Sidlow.

Website: www.surrey.gov.uk/redhilllocalhistory.

For enquiries there is a common phone number for all of these Local History Centres: 0300 200 1001. Alternatively one can contact the Surrey Libraries online enquiry service – there is a specific online form for local or family history enquiries. From www.surrey.gov.uk follow the links Home>People and Community>Libraries>Ask us a question>Enquiries direct>family history form.

Written enquiries can also be left at each Local History Centre.

From my own experience as a volunteer I can confirm that much useful material for family historians is held at these centres. Their resources should not be overlooked. ❖

Searching for an elusive Surrey ancestor...?

A new name index to the Chertsey Board of Guardians admission and discharge registers, 1894-1932, might help.

Compiled from 14 registers held at the Surrey History Centre with over 25,000 entries, details recorded generally include

For admissions:

date of admission

surname

forenames

occupation

marital status

year or date of birth

parish from whence admitted

any relevant notes or comments e.g. religion other than C of E, children born in house, inmates transferred from other institutions, magistrates' orders

and for discharges:

date of discharge

surname

forenames

parish to which the inmate is discharged

reason for discharge (mainly at own request)

who the children were in the care of

deaths (with time where shown)

transfers to other institutions or into service or foster care

A PDF of this name index is now available on the Surrey History Centre's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre.

CD-Roms of this index can also be purchased from the foyer at Surrey History Centre £5.00 each.

For further details regarding the original registers, please contact the Surrey History Centre at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND. Telephone 01483 518737 or email shs@surreycc.gov.uk. ❖

A rabble-rouser of an ancestor

Mary Gill

George Henry **French**, my husband's great-great grandfather, seems to have been a bit of a reactionary whose opinions were as strong as the drink he loved and which probably killed him.

He started out as a carpenter and printer, but by 1867 he had become a newspaper publisher. Witness the following entry from Kelly's Post Office Directory of Essex, Herts, Middlesex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex, 1867.

PUBLIC OFFICERS

Registrar of Births & Deaths for the Broadwater District, William Patching,
High street

Registrar of Marriages, Charles Hide, 5 High Street

Superintendent Registrar of the Worthing District (comprising Arundel,
Broadwater & Littlehampton districts), R. Edmunds, 8 Bedford row

Surveyor of Taxes, Robert Kirkpatrick, Chapel Street

Distributor of Stamps, Geo. Henry French, 15 South St

Vestry Clerk & Assistant Overseer, William Verrall, High street

Clerks to Magistrates, Clerks to Deputy Lieutenants of the Rape of Bramber,
& Clerks to Worthing & Lancing Turnpike Roads, Tribe & Green, solicitors,
Chapel road

Collector of Town Rates, William J. Verrall, Town hall

NEWSPAPERS.

Worthing Express (published every Tuesday) (George Henry French,
publisher), 15 South street

Worthing Intelligencer (published every Saturday) (Knight & Marden,
publishers), 1 South street

Later, George and his business partner, William Frederick **Churcher** (the local Conservative Agent) founded the Worthing Gazette, whose first edition was published in July 1883. After three years, George and William dissolved their partnership by mutual consent, and George took no further interest in that particular venture. However, while he was joint proprietor of the paper George French wrote a regular column under the pseudonym "The Chiel". His nom de plume refers to a line from a poem by Robert Burns – "A chiel's amang ye takin' notes."

A frequent target for George's vitriolic pen was the Temperance movement, with especial venom reserved for the Salvation Army. He is actually mentioned

in a publication called “Historic Worthing, The Untold Story” by Chris Hare (Windrush Press – 1991].

THE ANTI-SALVATION ARMY RIOTS 1883-87

The opposition to the Salvation Army at Worthing was of a very violent character and extended over a four-year period. During a frenzied weekend in August 1884, the rioting became so serious and sustained that a detachment of Royal Dragoons had to be drafted into the town. The Riot Act was read, and the police in particular were alleged to have cleared the streets with ‘great brutality’. A pastry-cook by the name of Semadeni died from multiple head injuries caused by a succession of blows he had received from police truncheons. The following month a lad of thirteen, named Frederick Thompson was allegedly ‘beaten in a savage manner’ by police constables when he disrupted a Salvation Army meeting.

The anti-Salvation Army mob styled itself the “Worthing Excelsior Skeleton Army” and was in fact the Bonfire Club under a different guise. The ‘Skeletons’, as they were known, frequently attacked the Salvationists, and as the conflict dragged on they also attacked the police, whose protection made it possible for the Salvation Army to operate in Worthing. The Home Secretary himself gave orders that the violent opposition to law and order in Worthing had to be stamped out once and for all.

The Skeletons had influential supporters. In particular the Worthing Gazette, established in 1883, was vehement in its hostility to the Salvation Army, and rarely condemned the behaviour of its opponents; it was also hostile towards the police and Captain Drummond, the Chief constable of West Sussex. For his part, Drummond complained to the Home Secretary that senior figures in the Worthing community were actively encouraging the Skeleton Army. Men such as James Baker and George French were what one could call town elders, and their endorsement of the Skeleton Army did much to encourage its violent campaign.

His (James Baker’s) support for the Skeletons was steadfast, but he began to waver after the riots of August and the reading of the Riot Act. He was concerned that large numbers of Worthing men were going to end up in prison. Late in October 1884 he addressed the Skeletons, and pleaded with them to ‘disperse and let Parliament come to your aid’ – a reference to attempts by the town’s MP to get a bill introduced into the House of Commons banning Salvation Army marches. Although he was cheered by the crowd, his advice was ignored.

George French, co-founder of the Worthing Gazette, was unimpressed by James Baker’s appeal, and sarcastically referred to his intervention in his

weekly column: ‘It was pleasant on Sunday to hear Mr Baker harangue the troublesome “skeletons”, who have grown and groaned under the irritating influence of the Boothites. It was time somebody did proffer good advice, and as Mr Baker never did encourage demonstrations either of force or feeling, he was the man of all men for the job.’”

French’s weekly column, which he signed ‘the Chiel’, lambasted and ridiculed the police and the Salvationists (or Boothites) without mercy. ‘The Salvationists and the Chief Constable have entered into a compact to smite sinners’, he declared wryly. After a young lad, Frederick Thompson, was viciously beaten by the police, he allowed his powers of sarcasm full rein: “The good and ill is so well compensated that if a cloud passes over, sunshine soon seems to follow. The poor boy, Thompson, no doubt thought a cloud was passing over him, when his head was split open by a savage constable, and he himself was taken into custody for the offence. But he must see a gleam of sunshine now he finds the magistrates have refused to convict him, but suffered him to be at liberty, with the full privilege of having his head split open a second time.’

Again, concerning the evangelical claims of the Salvation Army, his poisoned pen proved deadly: “The article in Saturday’s “War Cry”, written by Captain Margetts, speaking of the inhabitants of Worthing, says: “unless we get at and shoot them with the Gospel shot they will ultimately die of the disease and be lost.” Setting aside the unsoundness of the allegory which alludes to shooting a man to save his life, I should like to ask if the shot used by the local Salvation leader was “ Gospel Shot”? If so, perhaps that might account for the doctors not being able to find it. There is no doubt the “Gospel shot” which the Salvationists use is intended but for babes and fools: if so, it wouldn’t be likely to embed itself in Olliver’s flesh.”

This clear reference to George Head’s use of real ammunition was one of many such instances of French ridiculing the Salvation Army’s religious pretensions.



to be continued

Vouchers for sale

The Society keeps the following vouchers for sale (all £5 each):

Findmypast (was 1837 Online) and 1911 Census

If you would like to purchase any of the above, please send a cheque (payable to “East Surrey FHS”) and an SAE to Sue Adams, 10 Cobham Close, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9DS.

Money Lost in Chancery

Brenda Hawkins [785]

Once upon a time, no genealogist worth his salt had not a story of 'money lost in Chancery'. It was a way, after all, to link a family to the rich and famous. My grandfather and great-aunts had been reared on such a story, but it hardly matched the image of their grandfather Adams Edwards, a country chemist who died in a two-room cottage in 1906. I read books on Chancery records and consulted the Bernau Index, but as Edwards is a very common name and I had no idea of the date of the case, I admitted defeat.

A holiday in Devon provided me with the opportunity to research Adam's ancestors. Never one to be contented with the male line alone, I looked at his mother Susan Helmer's family. Her mother Agnes was the daughter of Solomon and Mary Hele. In those days, the Devon Record Office was housed in the same building as the Westcountry Studies Library. The RO closed at five, but the WSL had longer hours, so on the last day of my holiday, I went to both. There was open access material on the Hele family, but I felt there must be more, so I asked at the desk. Yes, there were a couple of boxes, and providentially they were actually in the research room. I opened one and found a Hele pedigree which spiralled away from C18th certainties to mediaeval fantasy. Gazing at it in disbelief, I was accosted by a couple who demanded to know why I was looking at their family. Their family? He was descended from another of Solomon and Mary Hele's daughters who married Nicholas Weekes. We were cousins! We frantically traded information and a thought suddenly struck me. "Did you have a story of money lost in Chancery?" Better than this, his story was of money won! (This was obviously why he, an Australian, could afford to travel to England to pursue the story!) Moreover, he had spent a month at the then Public Record Office, following up the case. He gave me the references, we swapped addresses and I raced off to the station, to discover that I'd misread the train timetable, a mistake I can only be grateful for as otherwise we would never have met. Travelling home far later than I'd planned, I realised that the court case had taken place some twenty years before my grandfather was born, and clearly had been mourned over many times.

The reference I was given did not make a lot of sense to me: Ind 15113 1881 Vol 2 Jun – Dec Bowden v Weekes Petition 1673 1872 B 152. I did not have time to spend a month chasing references, so let the matter rest.

A couple of months ago, I was asked to do some research at TNA for a friend. The documents she wanted were held offsite and so had to be ordered

at least three days in advance. (You need to have a valid reader's ticket in order to request advance orders, so you cannot look at them on a very first visit.) When they arrived, I realised that what she had wanted sight of, having seen an entry in the Catalogue, were Chancery proceedings from the 1870s. Belatedly, it struck me that perhaps 'my' Chancery case might be indexed. From 1715 to 1875, you can search online for at least the first plaintiff and one defendant. The pleadings are in C11-C16 with some additional pleadings in C18.

I checked the catalogue and found:

C 16/771/B152: Cause number: 1872 B152. Short title: Bartlett v Weekes. Documents: Bill only. Plaintiffs: John Adams Bartlett and another. Defendants: Nicholas Weekes the younger, Frederick Weekes, Henry William Weekes infants and Catherine Weekes widow. Provincial solicitor employed in Cornwall.

The name of the plaintiff was different, but the cause number was correct, so I ordered it. The documents were printed, with perhaps a hundred individual files in a box, and could be photocopied very cheaply. I got value for money. The executors of a will were uncertain how to act, so appealed to Chancery. Over ten pages, they set out their reasons, including the text of the relevant part of the will. Then there were affidavits from both sides of the case.

"Ind 15113" turned out to be Ind 1/15113: a contemporary index of Court Orders for 1881 on open shelves in the Map Room. These are listed chronologically under the initial letter of the plaintiff. So you have to plough through every entry until you come to the names you want. Jeffery Michelmore Bowden was the second executor of the disputed will. Even armed with the original pleadings and the cause number, I might not have recognised that Bowden v Weekes and Bartlett v Weekes were one and the same. The entry in Ind 1/15113 converted to an ordering reference of J15/1517. This was an extremely heavy volume that left my hands dusty red from crumbling calf. I took a photocopy of page 1673, which gave the final ruling where the Weekes family gained under the will, and realised that it was peppered with dates. It referred to the affidavits I had already seen, and other significant documents. I now had the beginning of the case, its end, and clues to the bits in between.

Life would be a great deal simpler if all documents relating to a case were filed together, but the Victorian clerks had a reasonable filing system, listing in separate index ledgers all the affidavits, decrees etc, in chronological order by plaintiff, and usually noting the cause number, to be certain it is the right case. The various indexes are in Ind 1. Those for court orders and decrees are on the open shelves, while those for affidavits have to be ordered. The research guide, although it does explain clearly what you might find in a chancery

case, does not really help you find the appropriate finding aids. The staff, however, are brilliant and soon had me checking all sorts of references. Potentially most useful is C32, which summarises the case, with details of plaintiffs, solicitors, parties names, appearances and defendants' solicitors' names, etc. Sadly, in this case there were no interrogatories, answers, exceptions, replications or depositions.

As it stands, I have a case, started in 1872, where the boys set to inherit had to be brought up in England, as farmers. This was confirmed by a decree dated 19th November 1873. The place in this volume was marked by a slip of paper with notes on it made by my cousin. Nothing much seemed to happen until July 1881, when an affidavit was made by an executor and the resulting court order, issued a few days later, reversed the previous decision. My cousin had explained that the family were in Sydney and the mother felt it unreasonable to send her children on a long, dangerous sea voyage. He also told me how the legacies would have otherwise been divided.

Progress on researching a chancery case is slow when so many of the documents are held off-site. It will be interesting to see how much of the story is borne out by the documents. Had the Weekes family lost the case and had the money been split between Adams Edwards and all his second cousins, he would scarcely have been twenty pounds the richer, but that doesn't detract from the glamour of "money lost in Chancery"! ❖

The Priest and the Playwright

Margaret Brown, the authoress of a book with the above title, has sent the editor a synopsis, which appears below. The book is set in Kennington during the Edwardian period, and concerns the building of St Anne's school, then the church.

The book is available from the publishers, Pen Press (www.penpress.co.uk). The cover price is £7.99. The ISBN is 978-1-906710-63-7.

"A Catholic priest wrote to the author of a recent novel to express his admiration. This led to an intense friendship between a reserved Scot who lived and worked in a slum and an American socialite and writer who moved in the highest circles of Edwardian society.

"Fr William Brown needed funds to build a church for his desperately poor flock. His friend, who was divorced with a small son, helped financially with building and furnishing the church. His steadfast, sympathetic friendship sustained Pearl Craigie – her divorce had resulted in deep depression, which was eased by the support of the one person she felt understood her.

“They wrote to each other almost every day for eight years. Pearl Craigie lived just long enough to see St Anne’s, Kennington Lane, in daily use. She died suddenly aged 38. Her friend continued for a further 40 years the work in which she had taken such a close interest, culminating in the establishment of St Anne’s Settlement.

“Kennington around 1900 was a grim, unhealthy area where little had changed since Dickens’ time. Life was a relentless struggle against dirt, illness and debt. This brief but rewarding friendship was played out against such a background.” ❖

Volunteers needed

for the Surrey Tithe Records Project

Surrey History Centre is coordinating a cooperative project to digitise Surrey’s tithe records. This will protect the originals and make their content more readily available. Volunteers are needed to transcribe the tithe apportionments for each parish on to spreadsheets.

Tithe maps and apportionment schedules produced under the Tithe Act of 1836 are a unique national resource, possibly only surpassed in value by the Domesday Book. They provide accurate data on the geography, ownership, occupation, use and economic productivity of the land. Researchers of local and regional history, archaeology, economic history and genealogy will all find them invaluable.

Very high resolution, coloured digital images of the tithe maps have recently been created, funded by the Surrey Wildlife Trust, the Surrey Archaeological Society, the Surrey History Trust and Surrey Heritage. Now, the second phase of the project, to transcribe the apportionments, is getting under way. The apportionments record the ownership and occupation of each parcel of land, what it was used for and the tithe rent-charge due.

If you would like to volunteer to help to transcribe the apportionments then please contact Sally Jenkinson at the Surrey History Centre (sally.jenkinson@surreycc.gov.uk or 01483 518760). You will be able to work at home using digital images of the apportionments; and at the end of the project you will receive a CD containing the tithe map and apportionment of the parish you transcribe. Sally would also be very interested to hear from you if you have already transcribed the tithe apportionments for your parish.

If you would like to know more about the project, please contact either Sally Jenkinson at Surrey History Centre or David Young of Surrey Archaeological Society (david.young@skylark.me.uk or 020 8940 7360). ❖

News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley, Team Leader, Heritage Public Services

Each year Surrey History Centre closes its doors to the public in early December for a two-week period of stock-taking. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to use the large searchroom tables to sort and catalogue large accessions of records. This year we also managed to add over 300 postcards to our illustrations database, catalogue 27 maps, package a further 87 maps, add another 400 photographs of Dennis vehicles to the catalogue and index a further 705 Netherne mental hospital case files – bringing the total number indexed so far to a staggering 17,024. Our volunteers, Mike Couper and Christine Redshaw, are also making excellent progress indexing the Brookwood hospital case-books. The first fourteen volumes (4 male and 10 female) are now completed, allowing much easier access to the case papers of the first 4000 patients at the hospital.

New accessions continue to arrive. Recent deposits have included the burial registers and indexes of Reigate and Redstone cemeteries 1857 – 1995 (8605/-), transcripts of the parish registers of St James, Elstead, 1538 – 1758 (8608/-), Ashford County School magazines 1939 – 1940 (8481 additional), the service papers of Lance-Corporal Richard Brown of the East Surrey regiment 1902 – 1921 (ESR/25/add 14), a photograph of Albury Infant's School c1908 (8612/-), glass plate negatives of Brooklands Race Track, Weybridge, taken c1930 by Frederick Charles Gordon-Lennox (1904 – 1989), 9th Duke Of Richmond, engineer, racing driver and motor racing promoter (8617/-), deeds of West Mount in Guildford 1767 – 1968 (8624/-), scrapbooks compiled by Lieutenant Bertram Gillham of the 6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, 1914 – 1919 (ESR25/add 16), and Epsom District Hospital maternity registers 1941 – 1992.

On a cold and dank Monday morning in early December I was lucky enough to gain access to the site of West Park mental hospital in Epsom, where I was interviewed by Claudia Hammond, presenter of BBC Radio 4's *All in the Mind*, for a short feature on the closure of the hospitals. I rescued many of the records when the hospital closed in the late 1990s. We were shown round by Janet Searle, who worked at the hospital for nearly thirty years and vividly remembers daily life there – the staff, patients, formal gardens and the former use of buildings now collapsing after nearly fifteen years of neglect and vandalism. We were also joined by Rachel Gadsden, an artist whose work has been inspired by abandoned hospitals and the memories of former patients and staff. The programme was broadcast on 15th December and can still be

heard on the *All in the Mind* website, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9>.

What do Noël Coward, Ethel Smyth, Dirk Bogarde and Quentin Crisp have in common? They are just some of the personalities with Surrey connections that feature in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans History Month being held at Surrey History Centre in February. LGBT History Month takes place every year in February and celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community. This is an opportunity to learn more about the histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the UK and 2010 is the first time LGBT History Month will officially have been marked in Surrey. In celebration, Surrey History Centre will uncover the hidden stories of some of Surrey's LGBT sons and daughters, including some famous 'Gay Icons' with surprising Surrey connections. The stories unearthed touch on tragedy and heroism, art and literature, crime and punishment and inspiration and success, and reveal how LGBT lives have helped shape the county's culture. The display will be open to all in the foyer at the History Centre, from 2-27 February 2010 (during normal opening times). Admission is free.

Finally, please keep an eye on our website for news of planned improvements to our foyer area. As I write this (late January) the plans have not yet been finalised but there is a strong chance that we may need to close to the public when they get underway. Full details of any closures will be posted on our website www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre. ❖

Brightling's 'History of Carshalton'

Sheila Jelley [5644] sheila@sheilajelley.co.uk

Whilst browsing bookshops in Norfolk – as one does – I picked up a facsimile reprint of the 1882 illustrated edition, printed in 1978.

It has information on the church, burials in the graveyard, a full list of Rectors from 1301, as well as a potted history of Carshalton and its geology, houses, inns etc. Quite a lot of very old information.

I have contacted Sutton Local Studies but they already have several copies and I wondered if there was any group or person that could make use of it.

News from Sutton Local Studies & Archives Centre

Kath Shawcross, Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager, London Borough of Sutton: 020 8770 4747 / local.studies@sutton.gov.uk

Two issues ago I mentioned the Belmont Wedding film, in which (thanks to ESFHS member Barbara Bransgrove) we were able to locate the descendants. The film is now available for all to see on YouTube, thanks to London's Screen Archives, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpuhkL6lqFE. I hope you all enjoy it – and please leave comments.

For those of you who live locally to Sutton, the new Circle Library (Green Wrythe Lane, Carshalton) has its official opening on the 19th March. The new library boasts an expanded local history section plus dedicated computers for family and local historians. There will be meeting rooms that groups can use out of hours plus dedicated space for the Memory Bank Project – an HLF-funded oral history project about the St Helier Estate that includes the setting up of an online community archive. Additionally the library has acquired a licence to British Pathé films which will be screened in the meeting room or on the state of the art video wall – so watch that space.

And finally I am pleased to say that we have acquired the records of the Sutton Amateur Dramatic Club – one of the oldest Am Dram clubs in the country which is still active. It is not yet catalogued, but we hope that members of the club will be able to help us identify individuals in the photographs.



<p>ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION</p> <p>AVAILABLE FREE IN ALL SUTTON LIBRARIES</p> <p>Telephone 020 8770 4747 Email local.studies@sutton.gov.uk For more information</p> 

St Mary-at-Lambeth baptism

Rita Russell [7123]

The following entry is recorded in the St Mary baptism register for 30 March 1831:

“Mary Ann Bailey Ball, a foundling picked up 12th March near Montpelier Row, South Lambeth and adopted by George & Mary Ann Ball, Barrett Street, Coach maker.”

I cannot find any of the family in the 1841 census but found George and his wife in 1851 living in Sussex Place. Mary Ann was a Governess from Islington and George came from Hastings, Sussex. I wonder what happened to young Mary Ann?



History of Reigate (part 4)

This is the fourth, and final, installment of the History of Reigate. For the background and source of this article please see page 4 of the March 2009 Journal

The next is Cocksett Hill, a pleasant place. The house has a fine view to the South & South West. Upon top of the hill, a little past the house is two mills & a fine view around the country. Salmon mentions that one of the Earls of Surrey had two mills near the Church fields. We may suppose those mills he mentions to stand where they now are. It has been a very ancient place for mills, which may be traced back for a number of years; they formerly belonged to a family by the name of Arthur. After them it became the property of a M^r Dewdney of Dorking. The house is inhabited by a M^r Dunkley.

Just by M^r Dunkler/s is a cottage where the man lived who looked after the Mills. The next house is a M^r Fauskets, a little below it is a good house and land – a M^r Charington's. A M^r Goose built it who sold it to a M^r Dawson. M^r Dawson sold it to M^r Charington who now holds it. Opposite to it is a large new house built by a M^r Carter – just taken by a gentleman. The next is a good house - a M^r Carter's – and close by it is a good house, a M^r Price's; it was formerly a very ancient house, the residence of the Poyntz family. Fronting it is a small house M^r Thatcher's shop. Joining it is sign of the Angel Public House, kept by a M^r Holiday. Close by it is a turnpike gate where the Hatch gate formerly was, at the entrance of the wood, which gave it the name of Woodhatch, which belonged to the Earl of Surrey. It is now a common called Earlswood Common. At the entrance of it is a M^r White's – blacksmith, next is a new house, a M^r James White's: just by it is a Farm House and farm used by a M^r Nash.

A little below the turnpike gate is the entrance of a lane called Simon's Cross, and a genteel house built by a M^r Leeming, now inhabited by a M^r Bennett. By the roadside is two small cottages and a house belonging to a M^r Broughton inhabited by a Col. Nuthall. Opposite to it is a M^r Bartlett's, wheelwright. On the green a little beyond is two houses built by M^r Carter, and an old cottage, a M^{rs}. Woodman's. The next is a house and farm which belongs to a M^{rs}. Buckner, widow of Admiral Buckner – before she was the widow of a M^r Frewen. It is now rented by a M^r John Dyer. In the year 1660 it belonged to Lord Wm Monson with the Castle and Manor. It had 3 or 4 ponds in train to the river, one above the other up near to the house. It had been a farm house from that time.

About 4 or 5 fields below it is the South River. There was a mill formerly called Sidlunt Mill which comes not nearer to Reigate town than two miles –

contrary to its false situation on all the maps. It is the same river that is called the River Mole it sinking underground about two miles from Dorking, and rising again at a distance of a mile or something more in a place called Mickleham.

Return back to Cockshott Hill: facing it is a lane which turns of (*off*) to the right, adjoining to the park is a genteel house built by M^r Carter now the residence of a M^r Deacon, called Bell View – and a cottage close by it. The next below it is a house and farm called Gander's Hole – a M^r Abraham Stannings.

A few fields below it is a house and farm called Clay Hall, rented by M^r Nash. A few fields south of Clay Hall is an ancient house and farm called Hartswood a M^r Clutton's; it is fronting Dovers which they say is in the Buckland parish. It pays taxes and tithes to Buckland parish. Reigate and Leigh parishes join over the river in the middle of Flanchford bridge, the one half belongs to Leigh parish and the other half to Reigate. The river runs through part of Flanchford grounds and part of Hartswood grounds. Flanchford is in Reigate parish, which parts Buckland and Hartswood. There are four or five farms between Hartswood and Buckland, so that it cannot be in Bucklands parish. But it has been known formerly that where the owners of the farms lived, and by exchanging of lands – agreed that such a farm should pay to that parish where the owners lived. As for the instance Reigate is in two separate parishes, the Town and Foreign. Each had separate officers of every kind and each parish maintains their separate poor, but there are four or five farms in the Foreign which pay taxes to the Town – the owner of the land lived in the town. The Bristow's family; the Nodes family, Hills family and some others who were all owners of land in the Foreign and all paid to the Town. Hartswood cannot be in Buckland parish only by agreement formerly probably in t6he Earl of Surrey's time or Henry VIII's time it might be so settled.

Flanchford: the next ancient seat. In the year 1618 it belonged to Sir Thomas Bludder – afterwards to the Countess Dowager of Plymouth, and Lord Windsor who left it about the year 1720 or 1721 and went to live at Betchworth.

It was the largest house in this part of the country and was in the possession of Sir Cyril Knight (? Sir Cyril Wych, Kt), one of the six clerks in Chancery. It was adorned with a spacious garden and park well stocked with deer, wherein were four ponds in train that drove a mill. The Mill pond had an island in the middle of it, with a pleasure house and a shrubbery around it. Sir Cyril Wych was Secretary of State in Ireland. He was born at

Constantinople during his father's embassy at the Ottoman Porte, and had for his godfather at his baptism the famous Patriarch Cyrill, who was basely murdered by the Jesuits. He married Mary, one of the daughters of George Evelyn Esq. of Wotton, near Dorking in Surrey.

A River runs below the Park on the South side where was Sidlunt Mill. This estate belonged to a M^r William Poroion, deceased who left it to his two grand daughters. It is now in the occupation of M^r Joseph Nash. Between Flanchford & Buckland are four farms; the first is Santon which belongs to Miss Knight & another farm belongs to M^r Thomas Knight, & just by it is a small farm & house called Battle House. A little beyond is a farm & mill called Trumpets Hill. Down a lane just by it are two farms, the furthest is called Rice Bridge, the other is in the occupation of M^r Edwards. The lane at Trumpets leads out to Reigate Heath, so called. It is a dry sandy soil, with heath, & contains about 150 acres. There is a Windmill on it which belongs to M^r Bowyer, two small farms near it, & a cottage or two. One farm is called Skimmington Castle, which is on the brow of a hill, which belongs to a M^r John Heaver. Fronting it on the North side of the common is a genteel house a M^r Salisbury Cotton's; just by it is where Roly Poly was hanged - & just beyond it is a cottage. A little on the side of M^r Cotton's is a small farm & house belonging to him. Just by it is the sign of the Black Horse kept by a M^r Edwards. Three or four fields North of it is a farm & house called Colley, belonging Webb Weston Esq., rented by a M^r Pym. ❖

Pawsons Road remembered

David Conroy [9464] Bridport, Dorset

What a super article from Brenda Hawkins in the current Journal (*A Single Street in Croydon*, vol 32 #4) and what a good case of lateral thinking to help the lucky allotment society.

Pawsons Road has double significance to me as a Thornton Heathen.

As a sixth-former at Selhurst Grammar School in the early sixties a group of naughty boys (including me) often found ourselves enjoying a half of Red Barrel and a game of darts in the Pawsons Arms at lunchtime – behind the bar was the formidable Mrs Latliff.

More relevant to family history, Pawsons Road was where my maternal great grandparents lived – at No 47 on the 1881 census and at No 176 on the 1891. Great-grandmother, Mary Ann Light (née Fowles) died at No 176

on 19th February 1894. Great-grandfather George Light survived until 1902 and died at a house he owned but let to daughter Harriett and son-in-law David Gibson just around the corner in Northbrook Road.

George and Mary Ann both came from Dorset. Mary Ann was the daughter of soldier William Fowles and was actually born in the Tower of London in 1843, although I'm unable to find her birth certificate. William was discharged from the Army with epilepsy in 1851 and died in a Dorset asylum a few months later. Mary Ann's mother remarried not two years later and moved to Aldershot, which is where Mary Ann and George were married in 1863. Their first child was born in Aldershot in 1864 but died in Croydon the next year which gives a clue for their move to Croydon – presumably for George's work as a carpenter. There's a story that he walked to central London and back every day carrying his tools.

Last year I went on a fairly fruitless trip to Queens Road Cemetery in search of family graves. Five of the eleven children died young and it was very moving when I realised that No 176 overlooked the cemetery and their children's graves. It would be very interesting to see if the Light family features in those notebooks.

My interest in family history came after my move to Dorset – strange that I was returning to my roots without realising it. Thanks again for an excellent article and, indeed, an excellent Journal. ❖

Anderson / Bown

Susan Anderson [9955] susan.anderson43@ntlworld.com

On my family tree is my gt-grandfather's brother Daniel Thomas Anderson, born to Frederick Ephraim Anderson and Eliza Annie Anderson née Bown.

I think I found him in 1911 with wife Grace and sons Arthur (b1902 Brixton) and Alfred (b1906 Brixton). No sign of Daniel's marriage on the GRO indices; in the 1911 census it says they had been married nine years. Also, on Daniel's death certificate son H S Anderson of 8 Burgoyne Road, Stockwell, was the informant.

Can anyone help?

Drewery / Grant

Peter Grant [7505]

My father's brother, George, has gone missing, has anyone any ideas as where he may have gone? He was George William Grant DREWERY, born 1st May 1900 at 2 Stalisfield Terrace, 18 Dominion Road, Croydon. His father was Arthur DREWERY and mother Lucy née HOSKINS. He had two sisters, Dorothy Maude born 1898 in Portsmouth, Bertha Grace, born 1902 in Croydon; and a brother, John Edgar born 1904 in Croydon, who was my father.

Through research done we know that the family broke up when their mother, Lucy died in 1911. The two sisters then went with relatives and used the name DREWERY, and we know what happened to them. The two brothers were taken into the Croydon Union Workhouse, using the name GRANT, but George has disappeared.

The following was taken from the school registers for Ecclesbourne Boys School 1912-1931. The last entry for George reads as follows: George GRANT admitted 9/6/1913, born 1/5/1900, parent/guardian, board of guardians, address 2 Pawson Home, last school, High Laver, date of leaving 2/7/1914.

We now know that his father Arthur deserted from the navy, and changed his name from DREWERY to GRANT. We can find no marriage or death certificates for George, it's possible he was adopted and we may never find him. Any suggestions will be gratefully appreciated.

Spencer / Pratt

In November 1837 William Alger Spencer, at just 17½, wanted to marry Caroline Angelina Pratt, a widow some ten years older than he, at St Mary's Church, Lambeth. The banns were published.

His father, Charles Spencer, forbade the wedding. Charles died in 1840 and although William would soon be 21 it seems he did not marry Caroline, although they were possibly together.

William ran into trouble and was imprisoned for a year (for embezzlement) in 1847.

One year later he was before the courts again for stealing a coat worth 14/- from a Mr Bird in Lambeth Walk. As he was a previously-convicted felon he was given a sentence of seven years transportation to Van Diemens Land (Tasmania), where he arrived in 1850.

The prison records are uncertain about Williams' marital status and show that his wife, if she existed, might be dead. He absconded twice from prison and on one recapture was put in chains for 18 months hard labour.

Does anyone know more about him?

Fuller / Allam

Mario Fuller [5050]

I'm trying to find any descendants of Cecil Allam & his wife Dorothy (née Fuller). They had two daughters Daphne (1933) & Barbara (1938), and lived in the Cheam / Worcester Park area during the 1930s.

Any information would be gratefully received.

Willmott / Brider

Enid Locke [8931]

Charles Emmanuel Willmott and Olivia née Brider, who were married in 1860 at St Mary Newington, had seven children including Eliza Ann born 1865 and Rosetta Maud born 1874.

At the start of her service in the ATS during the 1939/45 war my cousin Joan Woodhams (born 1922, and grand-daughter of Rosetta Maud Willmott) spent a short time in London where she worked alongside a civilian whose surname was Drury. The two young women suspected that they were cousins but were separated by Joan's next posting before they could sort out the precise details of their relationship. Something must have aroused the girls' suspicions to start with and my guess is that it was the name Rosetta and that "Miss Drury" was the Ida Rosetta Drury whose birth was registered 1922/JUN.

Eliza Ann Willmott married Victor Bevans in 1885 at Christchurch, Southwark and in the June quarter of 1891 the birth of Ida Rosetta Bevans was registered. Bevans is a fairly uncommon name to find in the Lambeth/Southwark area so it seems highly likely that Ida Rosetta was the daughter of Eliza Ann and Victor and equally likely that she was the Ida Bevans who married Sidney Drury in the June quarter of 1918 – and therefore was the mother of Ida Rosetta Drury.

From this basic detective work it seems that Joan Woodhams and "Miss Drury" had great-grandparents in common, their grandmothers having been the Willmott sisters.

Can anyone tell me what happened to Ida Rosetta Drury in later years? Did she marry and have children; or, even better, is there perhaps a possibility that we could renew the Woodhams/Drury relationship after 70 years? ❖