



East Surrey

Family History Society



Journal

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East Surrey Family History Society

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All addresses are in Surrey unless otherwise stated

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

(continued on inside back cover)

Journal of the East Surrey Family History Society



www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk

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*Cover photograph: St Mary, Lambeth
(submitted by Rita Russell – see her article on page 24)*

The deadline for the March Journal is 1st February (10.00 a.m.)

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

From the Chairman

Brenda Hawkins [785]

This is my penultimate Chairman's Report. It doesn't seem possible that it is over four years since I came on to the committee. Now is the time of year to remind you of the next AGM. Chris Pocock and Joanna Grant have been working hard to ensure that the day, which will be held at Sutton on 17th April 2010, will be an enjoyable one, with top-class speakers. These will include Eric Probert on "British wills, administrations and death duties, 1858 and later" and Dr Geoff Swinfield on "DNA tests for family historians - what genetic tests are available and what they can tell you about your ancestors".

Unfortunately, for personal reasons, Chris has had to stand down as General Secretary, though he will be continuing as Secretary for Sutton. We are grateful for all the work he has done on behalf of the ESFHS.

There is an advertisement elsewhere for the position of General Secretary. Currently, correspondence and emails are being directed to me. But I will be retiring after my five-year stint, so we do **desperately** need new people to come forward and join the committee. The meetings are only bi-monthly, but it is your chance to shape the society the way you want it.

The bookstall is safely under cover for another year. Thank you to all the helpers who have taken it to various venues. Its first outing in 2010 will be to *Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE* at Olympia 26 – 28 February. There will be over 100 different workshops, and the usual mix of experts and celebrities. To find out more, visit their website: <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk/>.

This doesn't mean, however, that it is a time of rest for Sue Adams and Maureen Burton. The projects team have been steadily increasing our range of CDs for sale. The new Lambeth baptisms disk covers a period before the introduction of the printed "Rose's Registers" in 1812, so these haven't been indexed by Ancestry. A useful, last-minute stocking-filler!

All sorts of changes are going on in the Family History World. With luck, by the time you read this, Ancestry will have finished digitising the Soldiers' Burnt Records, WO 363, so that we will at last know (roughly!) what percentage of service records survive for WW1. Coincidentally, the National Archives will be phasing out open access for microform records during 2010. Ancestry has an excellent search engine, which balances out some of the more bizarre mistranscriptions, but December may be the time to compare film with image, to gain some idea of how many images have been lost in the digitisation process. ❖

Annual General Meeting

The AGM and Conference of the ESFHS will be on 17 April 2010 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Two speakers, Eric Probert and Geoff Swinfield have been booked.

Find My Past has finally opened the 1911 census up to subscribers. With easy access to Kew, I have never seen the need to subscribe to any commercial site, but I have finally succumbed. It is a pain, having to save all the images I look at if I wish to refer to them again, and remembering to save all the associated images too. This is unlike the actual 1911 site, where you can refer again and again to those images you have purchased, but it does at last bring the latest census within the pocket of the local as well as the family historian.

Finally, may I wish everybody a Happy Christmas and a New Year! Miracles happen, even in Family History. My best friend has, after years of searching, discovered who her Granny was. Not from a birth certificate or a census, but from some distant cousins who can tell her that Lilly may not have been the name that went on the birth certificate or the early censuses, but it was what the family always called her, and the name she used as an adult. May you all have a similar breakthrough in 2010!

Changes at TNA (The National Archives)

Brian Hudson [7324]

Earlier this year TNA proposed a number of changes and these aroused a lot of discussion and letters of protest in the national newspapers. There was a period of consultation and in September the finalised plans were announced (the announcement can be viewed in full at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/changes.htm where there is a link to a presentation given to the archives user forum).

Briefly the main changes are:

Moving to a five-day week (Tuesdays to Saturdays) from January 2010, with an extension of opening hours and document ordering times over these days

Charging for use of the visitors' car park, with an annual season ticket available for frequent visitors (based on vehicle emissions, in keeping with government guidelines)

Simplifying copying and microform services, with the aim of making the process easier for visitors

For another view of the proposals there are several items in the FFHS News Items section at www.ffhs.org.uk.

A campaigning group *Action For Archives* at <http://action4archives.com> has been active in raising awareness and challenging TNA cuts. The site has a section, not yet working, that will have links to campaigns related to regional archive issues. ❖

Parishes in 1851

You may find the utility at the following site (part of the Mormon familysearch site) interesting: <http://maps.familysearch.org/>; it shows individual parishes, adjoining Parishes, parishes within a specified radius, the associated Hundred, the relevant Civil Registration District and much more.

Some pages take a few seconds to load; do give them time. ❖

Projects Report

Rita Russell [7123]

I had a bad day when Ancestry announced it had put so many Parish records online. The Society has done so much transcribing and produced masses of data but we still have a huge way to go. For example, there are two drawers of Lambeth Poor Law to put out into the public domain. No matter how hard my small band of helpers works, we are still treading water. I have been convinced by several friends that all was not lost, our indexing may have the edge, and not everyone is subscribing to the commercial companies.

By the time you read this, I shall have contacted all my team to make sure we are progressing the transcribing and checking as fast as we can now the winter is with us – a better time for such work. If anyone feels they can help, please do get in touch. We do most of our work using a spreadsheet and Windows XP.

The Poor Law data is fascinating. It takes time to process it as we are interested in reading the information. For example, a settlement examination gives details of the family and their situation. The husband might be in the army or the navy, run away, been transported or in prison. I do wonder how they felt when their application was rejected. It must have been very hard for a woman with several children and no husband around to help. Some of the details in the Justice of the Peace Minutes can be hilarious or very sad.

We have produced a new combined CD for St Mary-at-Lambeth and Stockwell Chapel baptisms with over 34,000 names. It is fully searchable and is a full transcription with numerous affidavits. Stockwell was a chapel of ease for St Mary's until it was given its own parish.

I am aiming to have at least one more CD issued by the time this Journal lands on the mat.

Another thing we have been doing is to update and re-format the **Super Name Index**. Bob Burton has been re-designing it in an easier form to supply the records. I can still give the number of entries and a cost for providing the information, then it is sent as a spreadsheet either by email or post. We have removed the St Olave Southwark 1891 census but have added the witnesses of the marriages and the god-parents for baptisms where shown. This means we still have over 320,000 entries.

Do keep an eye on the website for publications updates. For those of you who are not on the internet, our postal sales manager, Maureen Burton, will gladly send you an updated list. Her address is inside the back cover.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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.

News from Sutton Local Studies & Archives Centre

Kath Shawcross (Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager, LB of Sutton)

November saw the Local Studies & Archives Centre participating in Archive Awareness Campaign Month with an exhibition about the Basque refugee children in Carshalton during the 1930s-40s. The theme of this year's Campaign month was "Take Flight" and although most people would immediately think of Croydon Airport I decided to take a different view. We had worked with a local High School as part of a Their Past Your Future 2 project in the Spring looking at the Basque refugees so this seemed a suitable subject to look at in more depth – the flight of the Basque children.

We borrowed an exhibition from the Basque Children of '37 Association and to it added our own boards telling the story of how the Basque children were received by the local population, and the story of the journey of their "Maestra" who was a refugee herself. Just like today there were those who were not in favour of "these foreigners coming to Carshalton". One SCC councillor suggested they should be put in "properly segregated areas". But the vast majority of the local population welcomed the children and despite their own difficulties donated money, food, clothing and even furniture. Thinking they were only coming for three months, 10 years later they were the last remaining Basque colony in the UK.

The children were originally billeted at The Oaks mansion in Oaks Park which brings me to our next piece of news. During the summer an archaeological dig was carried out on the foundations of the mansion to identify their exact location. Our Parks Department have since outlined the foundations in chalk and on the 22nd September the Earl of Derby visited The Oaks to see his family's former property, plant an oak tree and present the Borough with his racing colours – the present Earl

being as keen a racehorse owner as his ancestors who lived at The Oaks. A new book on the history of The Oaks is being written and should be out next year.

Lastly, many thanks to Bev and Tina, our volunteers, who have been working so hard on our various indexing projects this year and in particular on the history of the ownership of Honeywood Museum. Seasonal wishes to everyone and good luck with your family history hunting next year. ❖

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For more information


Sutton

Digital map of 1788 London

You may be interested in a new website which concerns a digital redrawing of William Faden's 1788 map of London. This includes the area covered by our Society.

The site is at www.fadensmapoflondon.co.uk. ❖

Group meetings

December

- Thu 3 Villages of East London Peter Lawrance Sutton
Peter is a local historian specialising in the historic county of Essex. This talk is about the development of the different parishes of East London with marvellous photographs.
After the talk is a Christmas Social. Members are asked to bring contributions of food and drink

January

- Sat 9 London Labyrinth Kathy Chater Richmond
Finding your way through the hundreds of national and local records in London
- Tue 19 Tithe maps and apportionments:
a history of the tithe and tithe commutation Paul Blake Croydon
- Wed 27 Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Julian Pooley Lingfield
Sources for the History of Surrey's Mental Hospitals 1770 - c.1990

February

- Sat 13 A Visit to The National Archives
Weather permitting, Brenda will be visiting the National Archives at Kew. She will be happy to give advice to anyone who is new to Kew would like some guidance on using the records. Make your own way there and meet in the Foyer at 9.30 a.m.
- Tue 16 10 Things To Do With Your Electronic Family Tree Steve Cordery Croydon
The talk explores the sorts of things that you might want to do with all the research information you have accumulated and stored on your computer. For those that don't use a computer, I hope to get them thinking about what they may be missing. For those that do use a computer, I may suggest something they have not thought of.
- Mon 22 An Introduction to Family History Sources
in Southwark Local History Library Stephen Humphrey Southwark
Stephen is the Borough Archivist and will show some original documents. We hope reference material, computers, etc. and archives will be back in place
Please note that this meeting will be held at Southwark Local History Library, 211 Borough High Street – please enter from Borough High Street via John Harvard Library
- Wed 24 Convict Transportation Ian Waller Lingfield
Law & Order, Justice, Courts & Overseas

March

- Sat 13 Adoption 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 there 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

- Mon 26 Southwark: 'Police' Prosecutions in the 1820s Peter Shilham Southwark
Peter is the compiler of the SELON [S East LONDON] Index and the latest on Workhouse transcriptions/indexes

May

- 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

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).

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, 7.45 p.m.
Secretary: Wendy Shuttleworth (020 8406 3814)

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)

A 175 Year Cold Case

Sylvia J. Dibbs [9486]

In the Journal of June 2007 (Vol. 30 #2, page 10-12, *It's a Small World*), I wrote about the three **Dibbs** families that migrated from Scotland and settled in the East Surrey Family History area, in Croydon, Deptford and Rotherhithe.

The Dibbs family is not one that stays put conveniently in one area, and further research has shown that three of the nephews of Thomas Dibbs, whose five younger sons were born in Deptford and Rotherhithe, went to New Zealand, Canada and the United States of America. However, by far the most exciting discovery concerns his uncle Captain John Dibbs, who sailed away to foreign parts. His children, first cousins of Thomas, were born in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

I first began researching the Dibbs family in the 1970s and at the same time a Dibbs cousin emigrated to Sydney, in New South Wales. My cousin was repeatedly asked if Sir George Dibbs, the first premiere of New South Wales, was a relative and though, on consulting the *Who was Who* for 1916-1923, we found that a Sir Thomas Dibbs' father was Captain John Dibbs of St Andrews, neither of us then knew of any connections with Scotland, nor with East Surrey, and especially not with Australia. The idea seemed far-fetched. So Sir Thomas Dibbs and Sir George Dibbs were forgotten until after many years the Dibbs were indeed traced back to Scotland in the 18th century.

The published biographies of Sir Thomas Allwright Dibbs and his even more celebrated younger brother Sir George Robert Dibbs confirm that their father Captain John Dibbs was born in 1790 in St Andrews, Scotland, but also suggest that he died in 1835, lost at sea, soon after the birth of his youngest son. For 175 years there seemed to be no reason for anyone in the family or amongst historians to question this version of events. (For one version see *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* on-line edition at <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au>.)

Family correspondence shows that in 1973 Arthur Henry Alexander Dibbs, CBE, of Croydon, was curious about a Dibbs dynasty with a 104-year continuous service in the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney in New South Wales. A. H. Alexander Dibbs was himself at this time, the Director and Chief Executive of the National Westminster Bank and wanted to know more about the Australian Dibbs family. The dynasty had started with Sir Thomas Allwright Dibbs, when he joined the bank as a junior clerk at the age of 14 years in 1844. Ten years later he became the General Manager, a post he held for 48 years. Incidentally Sir Thomas' wife, whom he married in 1857, was called Tryphena (see the Journals from December 2005 to June 2006 for a discussion on this name). Alex Dibbs was educated at the Whitgift Middle School, Croydon and Dover College, and started as a junior bank clerk at the age of 17 years in 1935. He too followed a highly successful career in banking and perhaps wondered at the possibility of some shared family trait. He may have known that he in Croydon and the bankers in Sydney shared a common ancestor in John Dibbs of St Andrews & St Leonards of Fife in Scotland. I have now established that Alex Dibbs of Croydon was a second cousin three times removed of the brothers Sir Thomas Dibbs and Sir George Dibbs in Sydney.

Once the censuses became available in a searchable format, new information was revealed. The Scottish census in 1841 showed me the folly of making assumptions based on age. A marriage entry found in the old parish registers of 1827 for a Scottish John Dibbs apparently to a woman of his own generation, was not after all for the John born in 1790. His aged father, born about 1766, also John, had married again. So that meant there was no record of the younger John Dibbs after his baptism on November 14th 1790 in St Andrews in Fife.

The English censuses should record people born in Scotland and indeed the 1841 census on a search for 'Dibbs' born 'Scotland' produced just one in the whole of England! John Dibbs was a naval officer, born about 1790, a patient living in Pembroke House in Hackney, London. The internet quickly came showed that Pembroke House, and its successor the Royal India Asylum in Ealing, were lunatic asylums run by the East India Company for its employees. The 1851 census revealed John's nephew Thomas Dibbs in England. He had moved to Deptford by 1856. Uncle and nephew lived within a few miles of each other for sixteen years, until the death of Captain John Dibbs, but apparently knew nothing of each other.

It seemed like the end of the story, until an idle internet search for Sir George Dibbs revealed the results described above and, as happens so often in family history, a new line of enquiry opened up. Was 'my' John Dibbs born in 1790 in St Andrews and who was almost certainly the John Dibbs of the same age and birthplace who died in an Ealing lunatic asylum and the Captain John Dibbs, father of two of New South Wales' most famous people the same John Dibbs?

The East India Company documents are kept at the British Library. Records for Pembroke House are in IOR/K/2. IOR/K/2/1 gives a useful index of patients. IOR/K/2/3 gives case histories for the named patients, the Case Books IOR/K/2/34-39 have nominal rolls and reports on patients' health. The Bengal Public Collection IOR/L/MIL/5/423 with correspondence about patients awaiting transfer from India to England was very interesting. The entries for John Dibbs provide compelling evidence that Captain John Dibbs of Sydney had not been lost at sea in 1835. It seems certain that a young John Dibbs left Scotland as a sailor for Australia and eventually died an old man in the care of the East India Company in London. John Dibbs died in the Royal India Asylum on 31st July 1872 at the age of 81 years and was buried on August 2nd 1872 in the graveyard of St Mary's Church, Ealing (London Metropolitan Archives).

Captain John Dibbs' nautical career can be tracked on-line from about 1820 to 1834 in records <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/> (<http://www.findingnz.co.nz/>). His final voyage from Sydney is noted in an entry under SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE from the *Sydney Gazette* <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2199789>. Both databases were at the time of looking free to access. None of his family in Australia saw him again. Until I found the British Library documents everyone assumed John had been lost on route to India, but the records show John Dibbs in the European Lunatic Asylum at Bhowanipur (various spellings) in Calcutta, in a letter dated 28th October 1835 from the Members of the Medical Board to the Governor of Bengal:

'My Lord, We have the honour to recommend that the following persons at present maintained by the Government in the Lunatic Asylum at Bhowaneepore may be provided with passages to Europe in the earliest ships of the season J. McCarthy, W.E.W Hawkins,

J. Dibbs. We Beg to annex the statements regarding the above insanes for the Honourable Court of Directors.

We have the honour to be the s. of J Langstaff 1st MMBd and Jno Swiney 2nd MMBd.

The Calcutta asylum, run by Isaac Beardsmore, was established in 1817 mainly for East India Company employees. Photographs can be seen for free online at <http://ogimages.bl.uk/images>. John Dibbs was diagnosed with '*mania furiosa*'. The superintendent claimed that he '*yielded to advise (sic)*' and '*gave such indications of improvement as led me to hope he would soon be restored to a sane state of mind.*'

A series of letters between the asylum authorities and the Bengal Governor's Office shows that there was '*very strong objection to the reception of these very unfortunate people on board a ship*' to London. Finally on 30th May 1837 Captain Rose of the *Catherine* offered to take '*the four insanes*' on payment of 600 rupees each but they had to be in separate cabins. No doubt he felt this would help in their containment and supervision. On 31st May 1837 the Governor of Bengal '*feels compelled to accede to the conditions imposed*'. On 5th June 1837 J. Dibbs and his fellow '*insanes*' embarked on the *Catherine* for London, sailing up the Thames where a few years later his nephew Thomas was to take up work at Deptford and Rotherhithe. The reports of the voyage state that Captain John Dibbs had to be put in a straight jacket

John Dibbs medical records say that, "*This gentleman states that he was born in Saint Andrews Scotland – his father was a grocer and alive in 1829 . . . His wife and children are in Sydney where he is said to have some property.*" So the fact that he was not shipped back to Sydney leads to speculation as to the reason. Further letters show that the East India Company agreed to accept the cost when John was officially admitted to Pembroke House, Hackney, on 25th November 1837 as a second class patient and he was looked after for the next 35 years in reasonable comfort on this typical diet described for a 2nd class patient:

For breakfast: 1 pint of milk with five ounces of thick round bread.

For dinner: half a pound of mutton, barley broth, rice pudding, one and a half pints of beer and five ounces of bread. Variants included salt beef, potatoes and batter pudding with carrots on Thursdays.

For tea: one pint of tea and a thick round of bread and butter.

For supper: bread and cheese and beer for those who liked it.

He was probably better fed than his nephew Thomas Dibbs, a blacksmith in Deptford and Rotherhithe. John's days were reportedly filled with reading and walking, so different from the adventurous sea life of his youth or the hard graft of his relations in St Andrews, Sydney or Deptford. As yet I have not found any record that either of his sons, Sir Thomas Dibbs and Sir George Dibbs in Sydney, or his nephew and large family in Deptford or his father, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces in St Andrews knew of his plight. Perhaps, as was sadly often the case in those less enlightened days, no one wanted to know. ❖

WANTED - GENERAL SECRETARY

The post of General Secretary is currently vacant.

The role involves answering general correspondence, communicating with other society members, attending committee meetings and taking the minutes.

None of these aspects is hugely onerous, as contact details on the website and in the Journal ensure that most communications go to the appropriate person in the first place.

Committee meetings are currently held every other month, at the East Croydon URC, close to East Croydon Station, but the date and location are always designed to suit the majority of the committee.

It is preferable that any applicant should have internet access, as the majority of communications are by email.

If you can help, please contact chairman01@eastsurreyfh.org.uk

Your help invited for Family History project

Award-winning author and fellow family historian Cherry Gilchrist is writing a new book *Growing Your Family Tree*. This will be about the personal experience of researching family history, and she would like to include your stories and thoughts on your own family research. The survey contains questions as guidelines, but you can write as little or as much as you wish. Your personal details will be kept confidential. **The deadline is 31st March 2010.** To see and respond to the survey, please either download it from her website www.cherrygilchrist.co.uk or write, enclosing an sae, via her literary agents: Cherry Gilchrist, c/o Rupert Crew Ltd, 1a King's Mews, London WC1N 2JA. She would love to hear from you!

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.

And the walls came tumbling down

Jill Wohlgemuth [6813]

When I decided to research my paternal family history I began with very little information, apart from the names of my grandparents and the story of my grandfather meeting up with his two brothers every Sunday morning to attend mass at St George's Roman Catholic cathedral and to go for a drink afterwards.

Without too much difficulty I found details of my grandfather and was able to trace the family back to 1840 Cork, where they were rope makers. I also very easily found the names of his brothers (Edward and Francis) on the 1881 census and obtained birth certificates. I later found them on the 1891 census but there was no trace on the 1901 census. By this time they were aged 24 and 20, so I searched the marriage indexes for likely candidates and took a chance and applied for certificates, but they were all for the wrong person. I wanted to know the answers to several questions, such as: What were their occupations? Where did they live? Were they married? Did they have children? St George's cathedral had already provided me with details of **Fitzgerald** baptisms and marriages going back to 1842, but were unable to help with Francis or Edward. I'd hit a brick wall.

Another puzzle I had was trying to identify a wedding photo in a family album. The names of the bridal couple were Leslie and Gertie and the wedding took place in 1928. There was a group photo including my mother and father, his parents and his sisters but was it the bride or the groom with family connections? And was the connection with my grandfather's family – the Fitzgeralds – or with my grandmother's – the **McDaniels**? I searched the marriage indexes for 1928 looking for a Leslie/ Gertrude combination and was pleased to find one. When the certificate arrived there was no evidence that either of the bridal pair were connected – maybe they were just family friends. Another brick wall.

Something else that I had always wondered about was the identity of one of my mother's bridesmaids. She had two little girls, one was her cousin Joyce but when I asked who the other one was, Mum said she was a relation on my late father's side and she could not recall the name. There was no-one else to ask, this was a real brick wall.

In 1954 I went on a school exchange visit to Paris and one of my father's sisters told me I had a cousin who lived there. Unfortunately she did not have the address and had lost touch with the girl's parents. I often wondered over the years who this cousin was – I didn't think at the time to ask my aunt how she was connected – and by the time I started family history my father's sisters had all died. Once again, was she a Fitzgerald or a McDaniel? Now there was no-one to ask: yet one more brick wall.

Another person I had been trying to identify was Harold **Trenter**, whose name appeared in my father's 1942 diary and in my aunt's address book. The address she had was in Marlow, Bucks., and I remembered that sometime in the early 1950s we had a letter from a lady in Marlow saying that her father would very much like to see us. He was too old and frail to travel and we couldn't afford the fare, my mother was a war widow and money was tight. So we never did meet and my mum was very

hazy about his connection. All these years later there seemed no chance of finding out: a brick wall again.

Five brick walls, just researching one family. I felt like giving up, but my luck changed when the First World War records became available. I searched various family names of men who were in the right age group and hit the jackpot when I typed in Francis Fitzgerald – 27 pages, no less!

Francis, shown as Frank, was a regular soldier and had served in the Boer War and WW1. He had done well and was twice mentioned in despatches, had received various medals and during the Mons campaign was awarded the MBE for bravery in the field and strict attention to duty. He left the army with the rank of Squadron Sergeant Major.

What was so useful for me were the personal details – his height, etc., his hair (fair) and eyes (blue) – the same as mine and my father's. Details of his wedding were shown, date and church, wife's name and address and also details of his four children and their dates and places of birth. Wonderful. The first wall had come down with a crash.

I next looked for the deaths of his children, hoping to find an informant who might still be alive. I hit lucky – the informant for one of his sons was a niece living in Devon. It was 1996 and I thought there was a good chance of her still living there, so I wrote to her. She replied saying that she was actually a niece of his wife but she gave me the name and address of one of his Fitzgerald nieces, to whom of course I immediately wrote.

What happened next was amazing. I had a phone call from the niece, Pat, during which there were bricks flying everywhere as three more walls came down.

Leslie and Gertie in the wedding photograph were her parents – Gertie was Frank's only daughter.

Her sister Renee was the other bridesmaid at my parent's wedding.

Renee has lived in Paris for many years – she was the cousin my aunt had mentioned.

I found that Harold Trentor had been a witness at Frank and Gertie's wedding and heard that Harold had married Eliza **Williamson**, whose sister Elizabeth was Gertie's mother. What's more, another sister Mary Ann Williamson had married James Fitzgerald and was Frank's mother! She was therefore great grandmother to Pat and Renee and was also my own great grandmother. One more wall down.

We corresponded for a while – I sent a family tree and Pat sent me photos and certificates and eventually we made a visit to her house. Renee was over from Paris so at last I was able to meet her. After a sumptuous lunch the men retreated and we three women took over the table to sort out boxes of photos and other memorabilia. We enjoyed ourselves enormously and it seemed somewhat surreal – here I was in this house with these people whom I had never met before and until recently never knew existed and they had all these photos of my own family, my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles – many of them identical to photos I had at home.

I liked my newfound cousins a lot and we intended to meet again. Sadly earlier this year Pat died very suddenly. However before she died she had arranged for a boat trip on the Thames for all the family. It was decided to go ahead with the trip

and I was invited. Unfortunately I was in Scotland at the time, but one of my daughters went in my place and met other members of the family. One cousin expressed an interest in meeting up and said her mother, well into her nineties but with all her faculties, also wanted to meet me – wonderful to meet a member of the previous generation. I've also been in touch with one of Pat's cousins on her father's side of the family: he is not related to the Fitzgeralds but he has a lot of photo's and memorabilia relating to them including Frank's war medals. So I have two interesting visits to look forward to.

I still have a few brick walls concerning the other brother Edward. The 1911 census has given me his wife's name and age and the dates of birth of two children. Did they have any more I wonder – I haven't been able to find any so far. I have Ted's death certificate and have been looking for his wife's, hoping that one of their children was the informant. So far no luck – perhaps I've already had my fair share. ❖

Additions to our Research Collection

We have recently been presented with a CD from a member, Mr William Yeoman [3734], of his STANFORD Family History. It is an incredible piece of work for which he had to delve far back into Manorial records and then through the very earliest parish records in order to produce a very professional family tree. There is much detailed information about the various branches of the family who were from the Edenbridge, Lingfield, Godstone and Crowhurst areas.

This will be a valuable item in our collection and a real eye-opener on how we should all attempt to compile our family histories.

Another item recently donated is from Mr Peter Wood of Ontario, Canada, about the "Wood Family in Wartime Croydon". This is a fascinating collection of one family's experiences during WWII in an area very near to most of us. There are histories of some of the houses lived in by members of the family, schools attended, evacuation of the children, family photographs, war records and much more. This is a really interesting and very readable history. ❖

Genealogical Record Research Services covering Surrey, Sussex and London

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News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley, Team Leader, Heritage Public Services

Another busy autumn schedule of talks and events began on 12 September when we opened our doors once again for Heritage Open Day. The tours behind the scenes to see our document rescue facilities and the work of the archive conservators proved very successful and we also welcomed many new visitors to the searchroom, eager to learn how to begin their family and local history research. A week later we held two popular training sessions on how to read early handwriting. My colleagues, Margaret Griffiths and Isabel Sullivan, selected a range of Tudor and Stuart documents from our archives for two groups, beginners and intermediate, to practice their palæographical skills. The sessions were a great success and we hope to repeat them, so please let us know if you if you like to be added to our mailing list so that you can book a place.

Regular readers of this column will know that much of my work at Surrey History Centre is concerned with the history of mental illness. Surrey had more mental hospitals than most counties and our collections of records relating to the care and treatment of the mentally ill are impressive in their scope and quantity. The number of enquiries we receive from people tracing ancestors in Surrey's asylums grows each month and, at the same time, we are continuing to explore new ways of using these records to bring the history of mental illness to a wider audience and engage with people who are experiencing mental distress today. 'Time out of Mind' was a one-day international conference at Surrey History Centre held on Friday 16th October that brought together a wide range of people working with the heritage of mental health. It covered the buildings, landscapes, archives, images and memories created in the identification, treatment and management of mental ill-health throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Speakers included Claudia Hammond from BBC Radio 4's *All in the Mind*; Hans Looijen, director of Het Dolhuys, the national museum for psychiatry in the Netherlands, Tim Edensor of Manchester Metropolitan University, Diana Walters of the University of Gothenberg and Rachel Gadsden, an artist who has worked closely with patients of former mental hospitals. The conference explored the many uses that can be made of mental health heritage, raising awareness of the innovative work now being done by the heritage sector in this field. It also discussed ways in which mental health heritage can inspire creative works and break down barriers of stigma that continue to affect those suffering from mental distress.

Throughout November we will be holding a display in our foyer to remember the nearly 800 people of Woking who lost their lives in the First World War. They are commemorated on small plaques and larger memorials throughout the area.

On Saturday 7 November Maeve Haran will be talking about her latest novel *The Lady and The Poet: John Donne and Anne More at Loseley Park* and signing copies in our foyer. The following Saturday we will be holding a film show, *Big Screen News – Surrey in film newsreels*, presented by Dr Frank Gray, Director of the Screen Archive South East. This will include films of the Derby, an historical pageant in Molesey, a ploughing match in Chertsey and special events in Walton and district as recorded

by the cinema manager Clifford Spain in the 1930s. On 21 November we will hold an afternoon of talks on Surrey during the Civil War and on Thursday 19th November we will be hosting a concert of piano duet music to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Dr Samuel Johnson. Penelope Cave will be performing on a Broadwood square piano of 1795 and Helena Brown will be reading comments on Johnson by those who knew him – including James Boswell, Fanny Burney and Hester Thrale. Our autumn events will conclude on Saturday 28th November with an afternoon of talks about Woking Palace. Rob Poulton, who led our team of archaeologists at the very successful community dig at Woking Palace this summer, will be reporting on their discoveries and then Dr Michael K Jones will give the Annual Surrey Heritage Lecture, exploring the history of Woking Palace and its significance for the birth of the Tudor dynasty. For details of all of these events and to buy tickets, please see the Events Page on our website or join our mailing list by emailing shs@surreycc.gov.uk.

New accessions have continued to arrive at a steady rate. We were delighted to receive further examples of the work of the prolific watercolour artist John Hassell who depicted landscapes and buildings across Surrey in the early 19th century. A watercolour of Ottershaw Park, Chertsey, dates from 1824 (ref 8597) and a series of paintings of St Mary's church, Horne, 1822-25, were taken in along with parish registers dating back to 1837 (ref 8596). We also received a large deposit of the papers and correspondence of the author Derek Hudson (1911-2003), who wrote biographies of Surrey luminaries Lewis Carroll and Martin Tupper, among many other works, and who maintained an extensive correspondence with people across the literary and artistic world (ref 8593). Testimony to the impact of an event still fresh in people's memory are the condolence books opened by Waverley Borough Council following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, on 31 August 1997 (ref 8595). Messages left by members of the public fill six books and capture the essence of the extraordinary phenomenon. We have also received a significant additional deposit of records of the Princess Alice Hospice, West End, Esher (ref 8283), charting the earliest days of the Hospice, including signed minutes of meetings of the Trustees, 1981-1984, Executive Committee, 1984-1985, and Council, 1985-1989. James Walker & Co Ltd, manufacturers of fluid sealing products, were until recently an extremely prominent Woking employer, and we were delighted to take in a file of correspondence and sale particulars relating to the purchase of the firm's Martinsyde site in Oriental Road, Woking, 1924-1928 (ref 8556). We also purchased a delightful photograph of Forest Lodge, Ashted, built by Augustus Meyers, who acquired the estate in 1901 and lived there for nearly fifty years. He rebuilt the large house and the photograph shows the workmen who completed it posing on and around it (ref 8566).

Also worth mentioning are a series of taped interviews produced by the Surrey Heathland Project, recording the experiences and reminiscences of people residing on Surrey's distinctive heathland landscape (ref C1174).

We have also, of course, taken in the archive of Surrey Archaeological Society itself, including minutes of its governing committees and project and excavation reports going back to the foundation of the Society. Cataloguing of this large and significant archive is being undertaken at the History Centre by Richard Christophers.

Users of the Centre may be aware that in recent weeks our online Collections

Catalogue, allowing detailed searching of our archive catalogue, has not been working. Sadly the system, which has served us well for several years, has reached the end of its operational life and we are now considering how best to replace it. In the mean time, most of the catalogues can be searched are available via the Exploring Surrey's Past website (<http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/>) and some of the larger catalogues which are not on Exploring Surrey's Past can be searched using the Access to Archives website (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a>).

We have now had all the tithe maps of parishes within the modern county digitally photographed, with financial assistance from Surrey Archaeological Society. The resulting photographs are of an extremely high quality and we have acquired Archangel software to allow navigation around the maps. We are now planning to have digital photographs made of the microfilmed tithe apportionments and to set up a volunteer project to transcribe the apportionments, which give information about ownership, occupation and land use. Initially the digitised maps will be viewable at the History Centre and will also be available for purchase on CD, with the ultimate intention that they should be available online.

Experts from Surrey Heritage will continue to hold monthly family history internet and general advice sessions throughout Surrey libraries in 2010, starting at Reigate Library on 19 January. There will also be *Ask the Archaeologist* sessions for anyone wanting to identify finds or get involved in local archaeology. Details will be issued on both our website and that of Surrey Libraries (www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries and select the 'Learning' link.)

February will see the first ever Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) History Month held in Surrey and we are delighted to be celebrating this by co-hosting a series of events with the charity *Gay Surrey*. Events will include a display featuring Surrey people, past and present, with LGBT connections. The display comprises research undertaken by volunteers which has uncovered famous and not-so-famous links, including Noel Coward, Dame Ethel Smythe and Edward Onslow, to name but a few.

Finally, you may be interested to know that we will be selling Christmas Cards this year. We have found five wonderfully seasonal images in our archives and will be selling them in packs of five for £2.00 in our foyer. All proceeds will go to Surrey History Trust, which supports our work by raising funds to secure the purchase and conservation of collections. For further details follow the link to the Trust's web pages from our website, www.surreycc.gov.uk. ❖

Research in Merton

Merton Heritage & Local Studies are now combined together on the 2nd floor of Morden Central Library at the Civic Offices, London Rd, Morden SM4 5DX (020 8545 3239).

Community of the Holy Cross, Haywards Heath

Compiled c1923 by Sister Elizabeth Cavill (she was born in 1860, entered the Community in 1893, professed in 1897, and died in 1945); it was submitted by Enid Locke [8931] and appears here with the permission of the Community of the Holy Cross at Rempstone and Costock". The Community would be very pleased to help anyone else who thinks they may have had relatives among their children; the relevant addresses are chc.rempstone@webleicester.co.uk or Holy Cross Convent, Rempstone Hall, Loughborough, LE12 6RG.

The Community of the Holy Cross was recently mentioned in a History as being one of the first six Communities that was started after the revival of the Religious Life. It was founded in 1857 by Miss Neale, Sister of the great Dr Neale, and began its work in the parish of St Peter's, London Docks under the well-known Fr Lowder. The first Sisters were pioneers in the East End of London. They started with a penitentiary arising out of their Mission Work, and later on an Orphanage was formed, while in 1866 they nursed through the first great Cholera Visitation in the part.

The Sisterhood having increased in numbers, it removed in 1870 to larger buildings in Kennington while leaving Sisters to continue the work at St Peter's. In Kennington, in addition to Mission Work, they opened schools and kindergarten for the lower middle classes. In 1887 the Convent was built and opened at Haywards Heath, the present beautiful Chapel being added in 1905.

Mission work has always been carried on by the Community in varying degrees, and, though we still work and have worked at the Docks for 66 years, our aim has generally been to start and organise work until it was firmly established and then to pass on to another parish.

Of late years the branch Houses have been reduced to meet the urgent needs of the present day: two retreat Houses, one at Limpsfield and one in our own Convent Grounds have been opened. St John's Home, a Convalescent Home for children and an industrial school, is also worked by our Sisters at Brighton.

In 1887 an Orphanage was opened and attached to the Motherhouse. Here 45 girls are received and taken entire charge of by the Sisters. They come from all parts, though mainly from our own Mission Parishes or at the recommendation of Associates. They are admitted at any age between 7 and 10 years and remain until they are 18.

The children are taught in our own school, which is under Local Inspection. Modern methods are in use; kindergarten for the little ones, singing, organised games and drill with dancing for the Seniors – nature study with long walks forms part of the school curriculum. The girls from 14 to 16 years continue their education in the afternoon and evening, manual work being done in the morning. They are trained in every branch of Domestic work, household and general management and accounts. They learn for themselves something of the value of money through what they earn by marks and good conduct. In their last year, they are allowed to specialise in the branch of Domestic work for which they seem best fitted in the future.

The children have the usual Elementary School Holidays but they are spent at the Convent – they never go to their own homes but parents and relatives may come

to see them on visiting days, the first Monday in each month. They are given an annual outing to Brighton, and many other simple amusements, which are provided by generous friends. The general liveliness and happiness of the children is frequently remarked upon.

On leaving, every girl receives a complete outfit, which she makes entirely herself, under supervision. A Guild has been formed which keeps the old girls in touch with the sisters.

The means to carry on our work is supplies in a small way by payments made by the parents of the children and by our Associates and other kind friends, who either adopt a child or pay something towards her maintenance. This, however, is wholly inadequate to provide for the food, clothing and education, which each child receives (often for a period of eleven years). In spite of many, generous gifts in kind – clothes, old and new, books and educational requisites (for which we are very thankful) the work is largely dependent on voluntary subscriptions or donations. These may either be sent direct to the Convent or can be given to the Sisters who collect in different districts. May we take this opportunity of recommending to your Prayers this work which is being carried out on catholic and modern lines for the children of today.❖

Community of the Holy Cross

Some further reminiscences of the earlier years of the Community (Kennington 3)

This interesting account was written by Sister Isabel Inman in 1923 (she was born in 1843, entered the Community in 1872, professed in 1876, and died in 1935); it was submitted by Enid Locke [8931]. It appears here with the permission of the Community of the Holy Cross at Rempstone and Costock". The Community would be very pleased to help anyone else who thinks they may have had relatives among their children; the relevant addresses are chc.rempstone@webleicester.co.uk or Holy Cross Convent, Rempstone Hall, Loughborough, LE12 6RG.

The Mother House of the Community had been two years at Kennington when I first came into it, in September 1872. The greater number of Sisters and Novices had moved there in 1870. Sister Elizabeth, Sr Adelaide and Sr Mary remained to carry on the work at St Peter's, London Docks, by that time created a separate Parish. At Kennington, we visited in the Parish of St Paul's, Walworth, by request of the Vicar, the Rev J Going; we also helped with the Guilds, etc; had a crèche for the benefit of the working mothers and their babies; began Schools for Girls and Infants in the embryo district of St Agnes, Kennington, which were afterwards handed over to the Vicar, the Rev J B Dover, on the formation of that Parish. The Middle Class Day School and Kindergarten, were also of great service, and a Boarding School for the daughters of the Professional Class.

The Community had been under the care of the Fathers of the Society of St John the Evangelist since 1868. Fr Page was our Confessor when I joined the Community; and as far as I can remember, it was not more than six months after that, to our great

regret, he was sent to India, where he remained until recalled to be made Superior of the Society of St John the Evangelist. I think it was about the year 1888, or 1890, that Father Benson, who was the first Superior of the Society of St John the Evangelist and the Founder, was also the Fr Superior of our Community, and remained so until his resignation as Superior of his own Society.

After Fr Page had left for India, Father Benson visited us for some months until he was able to spare another Father to undertake the duties of Confessor. We felt it to be a great honour that, for the time being, Fr Superior was our Confessor, and we greatly appreciated the address he gave us at each of his visits – he always took a great deal of interest in our Community – he visited our Mother Foundress in her last illness.

The Rev J P Kane was our first Chaplain, a faithful friend to the Community to the end of his life – he died on 10th June 1919.

Sister Ellen joined the Community very soon after my arrival. Sr Emily and Sr Margaret Agnes had been Novices about 8 months.

The Nichols' family lived in the house which was used as a Laundry; the ground attached to it formed our kitchen garden. The family at that time consisted of Mr & Mrs Nichols and Annie. William was born soon after and Ernest nine years later. Annie was found by her mother one day dressing her doll in the long clothes, laid by in readiness for the expected arrival. Mrs Nichols made a most efficient Matron of the Laundry; she was very particular as to the character of the women who worked there by the day, and was strict as to order and discipline. Her husband was our Gardener and was, besides, always ready to attend to any needed repairs in the house, etc. The garden belonging to the three houses was made into one; it was quite spacious and the envy of the neighbourhood.

My first work was to help with the teaching in the Middle Class Day School, which was held in a house in South Place, just across the road. After No 4 was taken (which completed the Terrace), a Boarding School for a higher class of girls was begun, but after a trial of some few years it was given up, on account of the unsuitability of the neighbourhood. Sister Anna was in charge of the Boarding School; she was greatly loved by her girls and took the keenest interest in them, which she kept up, even after the school had been closed. The Middle Class School was moved from the house in South Place to No 4 after the Boarding School was given up. A kindergarten was also begun; Sr Frances Katharine had charge of both these schools – her work was indeed incessant, she never spared herself, but it was a labour of love. She loved her children and they in return greatly appreciated her teaching. The children of the Kindergarten were the younger brothers and sisters of the Middle Class girls. We left a flourishing school when we came away from Kennington which was carried on for some time after by the Sisters of Bethany, who are still working in the Parish of St Agnes.

A little black curly dog with a white breast made his home with us. I think it was the June after my arrival, so we named him Juney – he used to walk out with the children, and occasionally with a Sister. The boys in the streets used to make remarks, which though unmannerly, were humorous. On meeting Juney with a Sister, they would call out "Dog of Mercy and Sister of Misery". At another time as Sr Anna was

passing by they called her “Alleluia on a broomstick” (she was very slight in those days) or they would call out “Sister Mary walks like this” and other like remarks. Another remark was when Sr Anna had shut the garden gate, a boy knocked on it and said “Please, does Mrs Jerusalem live here?” One morning as one of the priests from the Church was coming along in his cassock to say Mass for us, two men were passing by, when one of them said to the other, “here’s the devil a-coming” – the priest answered “then mind you keep out of his way.”

On September 9th 1880, Father Lowder was called suddenly to his rest, when out in the Austrian Tyrol, It came as a great shock, as well as a sorrow to us all especially to the people of St Peter’s and to the Sisters working there. Our first Assistant Superior died on 12th March 1885 after a very short illness – she had suffered from asthma for years past. Her death was a great sorrow to Mother Foundress. The following year, the lease of the four houses being up, we had to disperse for about a year as our newly-built Convent at Haywards Heath was not yet ready for us. Some of the children were sent into service and for the rest, a house was taken at Brighton, where I had the care of them for the greater part of the time, with old Nursie to help.

Miss Grindle most kindly placed her house at Devizes at Mother Foundress’s disposal, and several of the Sisters were with her – the rest of the Sisters were divided amongst our Branch Houses.

Our new Convent was solemnly blessed on 6th or 8th July 1887 by our Father Superior, the Rev Fr Benson. Two years later, the east wing was added to the Convent, which was used at first as a Convalescent Home, but which was afterwards moved to a house we were enabled to purchase and which adjoined our grounds. In 1902 the foundation stone of our longed-for Chapel was laid by Lord Halifax, on 2nd June, the day peace was declared after the Boer War, which seemed to us of happy augury. We chronicle it with deep thankfulness and gratitude for God’s goodness to us, and His answers to our prayers in obtaining the necessary funds. Also, we can never forget the warm sympathy and generosity of our Associates and Friends in this arduous undertaking, and shall never cease our intercessions on their behalf.



Directory of Members’ Interests (DMI)

Brian Hudson [7324]

As announced in the previous Journal, the 2009 DMI is now available on our website and has generated much interest. Recently added is a form for new additions and/or changes which can be emailed to the DMI co-ordinator. Please note that the mention of a DMI CD was erroneous: access is only through the website or by post to the co-ordinator.

Remember to quote your membership number in any correspondence.

For those of you without computer access, please see the September Journal for details of how to use the DMI and receive a list of name interests that match yours.

Wars scythe their way though the Millers

Sheila Miller [8438]

My husband's **Miller** ancestors originate from Sussex in the Ringmer district of Hove, Sussex. His father Sidney died at 53 in 1974 having been a guest of the Japanese in WW2 leaving 2 sisters, Peggy and Joan (now aged 90 and 85) who have always maintained that their father, Fred Harry Miller, was one of five boys born to Joseph Henry Miller 1868-1906 and Eliza **Hammond** 1870 - 1956 (married 22 May 1887 in Cliftonville) and that 3 of them had died within weeks of each other in WW1. I have tried for a long time to track them down, as I so wanted to know the names of all 5 boys.

I have also tried to find Joseph on 1901 & Eliza on the 1901 and 1911 census with no luck despite various spellings and possible options of Miller.

Then my mum-in-law (a hoarder to a high degree) died a few years ago and we had to sort out her effects; there was a banner for the Middlesex regiment with the name Holly on it. On the offchance I dived in to the GWGC website and searched H Miller, and eventually found Private Horace Philip Miller 10333 13th bn Middlesex regt died on 20.7.1918 aged 23. Fortunately I was lucky and it gave next of kin as Joseph Henry & Eliza Miller of 6 Reeves Place Hoxton, London. Horace was born in Hove in 1895 (I've grown to a great fondness for Holly!) but I still wanted to find his possible brothers. It was becoming an obsession!

The 1891 census had, until a month ago, yielded nothing until I put in less information and a longer period (which I am sure I had done before but no luck!) and there was the family! I am subscribed to Findmypast, Ancestry and Origins (what an expensive hobby this can be) and sometimes what I find on one site I can't on the other.

Anyway there they were in 1891 at 20 Byron Street. Hove, Sussex. Joseph H Miller a postman aged 23, wife Eliza aged 22, sons Joseph H aged 3, George W aged 1 and Edwin J aged 3 months.

There are 2 other younger sons that I know of Frederick Harry Miller (grandfather) 1892 and poor Horace Philip b1895.

Again I tackled the CWGC and found Gunner G W (George William) Miller L/30526 RFA "A" bty 50th Bde died 15.11.1917 husband of E E Miller 118, Wordsworth St, Hove. Now that was a surprise and I sent for the marriage cert of 1910 after finding him on FreeBMD. George is the only one I have, as yet, managed to find on the 1911 census, when he states "married under one year" his wife noted as Elizabeth who was born in Whitechapel 1892. Occupation Wood sawyer living in Halcomb Street, Canal Rd, Hoxton. No mother Eliza or siblings living with them.

I now have George's marriage certificate and his wife was Eliza Elizabeth **Gillmore** aged 19 on marriage on Aug 7th 1910. George is living at 106 Phillip Street, Shoreditch father deceased postman Joseph Henry Miller. I pounce on the 1911 census, but no again no mother Eliza or siblings. The bride's address 7 Byngs? Buildings her father George Alexandra Gillmore labourer. Witnesses Anne **Purley** and Katherine Frances **West**.

Next I tackled Edwin and found him, Private Edwin John Miller L 12132 Middlesex

regt killed 31 October 1914. No age or next of kin given. I then turned to Ancestry and had the luck of finding the Attestation papers for Edwin who it turns out had been in the army/ militia since March 1908 with the East Surrey regt then transferred to the Middlesex regt. He was 5ft 4in of dark complexion with a clasped hands tattoo on his forearm and a birthmark on his back. In March 1909 he was inoculated for service in India but I cannot find if he went there. He gives his mother Eliza as next of kin at Hobbs Place, Hoxton and his brothers except Horace are named as in the Middlesex regt. Again their mother is not at this address in the 1911 census.

Very interesting is the name of a young lady who would appear to mean very much to Edwin as he asks for any medals and personal effects to be sent to her, which they are, in 1916 & 1919 when she signs Jennie Auvache 19 Buckingham Road, Dalston N8 (looking at the census I think she was from Guernsey where he was stationed for a while).

Horrifically amongst Edwin's papers is a notification (dated August 1921) from the Infantry record Office, Hounslow, informing his mother that they have (in accordance with the agreement with French and Belgian governments) exhumed Edwin and reburied him in Armentieres. So poor Eliza (mother) has lost her husband in 1906 from tuberculosis, 3 of her sons during WW1; 2 other sons suffered as well with Fred being gassed 3 times and wounded once, he died aged 35 in 1928 leaving a young family of 3 and now just Joseph left who had been "lucky" and lost part of an elbow early in the war.

Joseph Henry Miller junior married Lizzie and lived in Brighton with approx 5 children he worked at the "Bus Garage" there (wrong marriage cert ordered so need to try again).

Fred Harry's 3 children by Louisa Maud **Thomas** lived with Eliza when Fred was dying (d 1928) and their memories were of a hard embittered woman who did midwifery, laid out the dead and was a money lender to stallholders in Hoxton High Street, probably from money raised by taking sheets from people (pawning) and keeping a shilling (which seems a lot) when they were redeemed. It would be no surprise to find her a hard woman. Imagine the war taking 3 of 5 children dead and one never to fully recover and die young then in 1921 hear that your youngest child has been dug up and reburied after 7 years, how the heart ache must have opened.

I rang (and posted) Eliza's grandchildren with the information I had found and Peggy (the 90 year old) just dropped into the conversation "well, Eliza left him, you know"! my "sorry say again" bought forth "Eliza left Joseph and went off with another man". Now where does that leave me? we did know that she lived (never married) and had 2 sons by a man called William **Bradshaw**; her death certificate gives H (Harry) Bradshaw, son, of 10 Crossbow House, Shoreditch as informant and this is also the address she died at in February 1956. Eliza was the informant (present at death) of the death of husband Joseph and the address then was 26 Coopers Road, Camberwell. No, Eliza was not living there in 1911! But she must have been when he died, mustn't she?

I am hoping to claim / adopt the 3 dead brothers on CWGC, especially Edwin who doesn't "belong" to anyone there. You do have to prove the connection. We will remember them and so will their nieces who have been very informative and accurate.

Even at 90 and 85 they go and help the “old people” run whist drives weekly. And enjoy G&T quite regularly, maybe they have been given the life that their relatives did not get.

But I still haven't found Eliza and Joseph in 1901 either in the Hove, Brighton area or in London not knowing which county they were in has not helped. And I've not found Eliza, Fred Harry, Horace, or Edwin (probably he was stationed away from home) in the 1911 census under various Miller options including changing the M for H, W etc. and I've looked under Bradshaw but again no luck. I suppose I'll have to wait for the 1911 census to be free or I'll be in the workhouse ! I'll try for Joseph Henry's marriage cert again but am almost giving up hope.

I would now love to find the descendants of George William (FreeBMD has him and Eliza having a boy named George William Miller in the June qtr 1914) and also of Joseph Henry who have always been known as the “Brighton Millers “ and the names I have for their children are Joe , Joan (d c1940), Elsie (born c1918), Philip and Grace.

Oh, how I love this obsession – sorry, hobby!

If anyone has any ideas on how to locate this elusive family I'd be happy to hear them!



The Museum of Garden History (alias St Mary-at-Lambeth)

Rita Russell [7123]

My husband Bob and I took a trip to the South Bank last winter so that I could take an up to date photo of St Mary-at-Lambeth for the CDs of the parish records.

Situated beside Lambeth Palace, the church was rescued from demolition in 1977 with the creation of the Museum of Garden History. The windows, the font and various artefacts are still *in situ* and the churchyard now has a 17th century style knot garden. The tombs of the Tradescant family and others are still there as is the memorial in the church for Captain Bligh of the *Bounty*. We have the Monumental Inscriptions for the church and churchyard in our research centre.

Apart from the gardening exhibition, which has just been updated, there is a small café in the church where we had a super piece of coffee cake and a much needed coffee. We were nicely set up for the walk to London Bridge.

The church is not very big and I do wonder how the clergy and staff coped with so many services over the years that we have transcribed. I assume that some of them were just a few minutes in length and the poor clerk had to spend many extra hours completing the registers and making the necessary copies. I have noticed that some of the witnesses signed up to weddings that were not completed – i.e. ‘the parties went away’ appears a few times but James Singleton had already signed as a witness!

If you get the chance, the church/museum is worth a visit.



Nanny's lost years

Christine Dunford [9749]

In discovering the whereabouts of my father's mother – Agnes Kate **Elliott**, known to me as Nanny – in the 1911 England census, we not only filled in a gap in our knowledge of her life before she married my grandfather but also found proof of a family rumour about a connection with the world of Wimbledon tennis. However, there are still so many unanswered questions – if only our family history research had started when she was still alive!

I remember Nanny as a quiet, kind old lady, sitting on one side of the kitchen range with Grandad on the other in their house in St Leonard's Road, Surbiton. Nanny had lost her sight through diabetes before I was born. As a child, that's all I knew of her and she died when I was only 10 years old. That's also pretty much all other members of the family knew of her too – she spoke very little about her childhood except to say that she grew up in a very rural area. We also knew that she had been employed as a "lady's companion" before she married and had learned to speak French and German. She also spoke of there being a Wimbledon tennis trophy in the house where she worked in Surbiton Hill. It wasn't until my cousin and I started researching our family history many years later that the details of her rather sad life came to light, details which I don't think even my father knew about, and a connection to that tennis trophy.

Agnes Kate Elliott, always known as Kate by the family, was born in the tiny village of Ebernoe in the Petworth area of Sussex in October 1887, the youngest of seven children of Frances (Fanny) and Benjamin Elliott, a carpenter. Benjamin sadly died from dysentery at the age of only 40, nearly six months before Nanny was born, perhaps giving a clue about the unsanitary conditions in which the family might have been living. Fanny and Benjamin had already lost their 14-year-old daughter Mary Jane to consumption in 1884; and in 1889, two years after Nanny's birth, another daughter Annie died from the same disease. After losing her husband and two daughters, the stress of trying to support her family must have proved too much and in 1894 Fanny was admitted to the Fisherton House Asylum in Salisbury suffering from delusions and hallucinations. She is described as a charwoman and 'pauper from West Sussex' in her admission papers. This asylum was a long way from her home in Ebernoe and her move there must have been very traumatic for the whole family. In 1897 the new West Sussex County Asylum was opened in Chichester and Fanny was transferred there where she was closer to the family. Fanny never recovered her mental health and died at the West Sussex County Asylum in 1900 at the age of only 52. It is worth mentioning here that Fanny's complete medical records from both asylums, including a photograph of her, were preserved in county archives and provide a fascinating insight into the treatment of mentally ill patients at that time. What happened to Nanny when her mother was first admitted to the asylum in Salisbury we do not know, but she was found in the 1901 census aged 13 living at the All Saints Orphanage in Marylebone and we can only assume that she must have been taken there at the age of seven. Little wonder she chose not to talk about her childhood later in life. Many enquiries made during our research about her time

at the orphanage proved fruitless as no records seem to have survived.

The next trace of Nanny's life was in her marriage certificate. At the age of 24 she married Frederick William **Dunford**, a Jobbing Gardener, at Kingston Register Office in 1912. No precise address was given for her, only that she lived in Ewell Road, Surbiton Hill. This was frustrating as we were curious to know what had happened to her after she left the orphanage. We could only wait until the 1911 census was made public to see where she had actually been living prior to her marriage. When the day of the release of the 'beta' version of the 1911 census arrived, we were ready and waiting! There she was, living at 206 (or was it 20b?) Ewell Road, the servant of 72 year-old widow Emma Percival **Sterry**, a name which meant nothing to us at the time. However, a little investigation into Mrs Sterry's background by my cousin proved fruitful; it turned out that she was the mother-in-law of one of the most famous female tennis players of the time – Charlotte Cooper Sterry. Charlotte won the Ladies Singles title at Wimbledon no less than five times in 1895, 1896, 1898, 1901 and again in 1908 at the age of 37. She still holds the record for the oldest woman ever to win the Wimbledon Ladies Singles Championship. In addition to her Wimbledon titles, she won two gold medals at the Paris Olympics in 1900. As she also lived in Surbiton I'm sure Nanny would have met her many times and this must explain Nanny's story of the Wimbledon tennis trophy in the house, although how Nanny learned to speak French and German remains a mystery.

I think we have now probably found out as much as we can about Nanny's missing years. What a pity we can't answer more questions about her life before she married. So to anyone just starting out on family history research, my advice is – talk to those older family members about their early lives now – don't wait until it's too late!



Tech Topic – File types: Part 1

Brian Hudson [7324]

This series of topics will look at the more commonly used file types, starting with text documents.

The file type is indicated by the file extension: that is, the characters, usually letters, that follow the filename and full stop e.g. 'filename.doc'. There are literally hundreds of different file types hence the need to restrict the scope of this topic and keep descriptions short.

.txt is the simplest most basic file type, sometimes called a flat file. It has very little formatting e.g. no bold or italics. It is considered a universal file since it can be opened by any program, such as Notepad or Word – there are many more – that reads text.

Incidentally, a text editor program such as Notepad, which comes with the Microsoft Operating System, can be very handy for looking at the contents of other files. An example of this is as a GEDcom file – this is particularly useful if there is no Family History program on the computer you are using.



History of Reigate (part 3)

(see page 4 of the March 2009 Journal for the background to this article)

Shall now mention the principal houses in the Town & Parish from the Church to Wood Hatch.

The first house by the Church was formerly the sign of the Five Bells, a Public house for many years. A M^r Sewen made a genteel house of it. It afterwards became the property of a M^r Barnes. After his decease a M^r Turner purchased it & has laid out a large sum of money upon it, & has made it a genteel commodious place. Opposite adjoining the Church yard is a house & a field, a M^r Yeoman's. Just by it is a little island surrounded by lanes & an old cottage nearly down. The next is a very neat genteel place called Little Doods or "All the world in an acre". It was so called from its formerly containing almost everything. A wilderness with meandering walks, a grotto, a park, lawn, gardens & a canal of water half round the house & fountains spouted up the water; the whole not more than five or six acres. The Earl of Shafesbury lived at it. He came to seclude himself to finish his "Characteristicks". After him came a family of the name of Owen, & after them a M^r Rapier. A M^r Bliss purchased it from M^r Rapier. A M^r Bird purchased it from M^r Bliss. A M^r Barnes gave nine hundred guineas for it. M^r Barnes sold it to M^r Cumberlatch. Now a M^r Burgess has it: he purchased it in the year 1814.

The house opposite is called Great Doods (*pulled down in 1908 – Ed*), which belongs to a M^r Fox's family: it has been a very ancient place: is now very much altered. It formerly was the property of Judge Thurland & family. Afterwards it became the property of two maiden ladies, sisters, by the name of Bows, who let it to Dame Christiana, Lady Fagg, the widow of Sir Robert Fagg. Robert Seawen Esq^r purchased it of Miss Bows: a Captain Nash resided at it after the decease of Lady Fagg. A M^r Elliot purchased it of M^r Seawen. After the decease of M^r Elliot, it was sold to a M^r Fox. The Turnpike road from Croydon goes close by it over the Ray Common, on which Common is a farm & house which belongs to a M^r Sanders & two cottages. The next house on the right hand near the Town, formerly belonged to the family of the Ellyots, who married into the Thurland's family whose monuments are in the Chancel by the Communion table. It formerly belonged to Sir Roger James, & Robert James Esq^r. It was the Rectory or great tythes of Reigate, which has been sold from it some years. It was purchased of the Crown at the Monastic dissolution. Afterwards it was let or sold to a M^r Dungate, & was purchased by a Robert Seawen Esq^r who resided at it many years. A Captain Nash purchased it of M^r Seawen. After his decease it was sold to a M^r Birkhead for £11,500. It was afterwards sold to a M^r Holms for a M^r Sanders. The whole estate was sold for nearly double the money M^r Birkhead gave for it.

Opposite to M^r Sanders is the Vicarage House which formerly belonged to the Rev M^r Bird in the year 1720. M^r Bird's widow married a M^r Filewood; it then became his property – Miss Filewood his daughter married the Rev. M^r Snelson. After his decease it became the property of his son the Rev. Richard Filewood Snelson who now holds it.

A little nearer the Town is three cottages & a genteel house built by a M^r Burgess,

inhabited by the Misses Sanders, & just by it is a good house built by Richard Devon Es^{qr} the property of Lord Sommers, inhabited by Francis Masseres Es^{qr}. Opposite to it is a small neat house, the residence of M^{rs}. Webster. The next is three small houses, & a M^r Holroyd's two houses. Next a M^r Lees, brewer; next a M^r Glovers, Attorney. Adjoining are two small houses & a M^r Burberry's, watchmaker; a M^r Budgen, grocer, a M^r Yerworth, distiller. The next is the Crown Inn, kept by a M^r Clements. It was formerly the residence of a M^r & M^{rs}. Martin; he was an attorney; she was sister to Alderman Parsons.

High Street: Next to the Crown is M^r Longhurst, watch maker, & M^r Westwood, cabinet maker, & two small houses – two new houses; the next is John Westwood's, linen draper, a small house, & a M^r Brewer, grocer. The next is M^r Eldridges, tallow chandler, & a M^r Agates, Butcher; a M^r Cosh, gardener, & a M^r Moores', carpenter, formerly the Greyhound Inn. The next a M^r Colyer's, the next a M^r Alworks', cooper, & a M^r Nichols, baker, - Joyce, tailor. The Rose & Crown public house; a M^r Dann's, druggist. The next is a large house, the Misses Knight, two sisters - & a M^r Ollaways', barber, & four or five small houses; a genteel house, a M^r Bryants' & a M^r Danns, hatter, & several small houses ; & a house & premises formerly a large Oatmeal Mill - & a small house. The next is the Red Cross Inn – which is very ancient, which has a large curious cavern behind it. A little above it, a M^r Turner's & a M^r Faulkeners. The next is the Sign of the Cricketers, kept by a M^r Mugridge. A little beyond is the turnpike gate & a genteel new house. A field westward of the turnpike is a new farm house used by a M^r Relf.

Return back to the Cricketers, nearly opposite is a house, a M^r Curtis, carpenter & turner, just below it is four or five small houses. At the bottom of those houses in the middle of the road is a large genteel house, a M^r Robinson's. Opposite to it is a back lane called Nettle Lane (*Nutley Lane? – Ed*) – an old road to London – a genteel house, a M^r Poolers, & up the lane is three or four cottages. In a lane fronting the Red Cross, is two or three small houses, & a M^r Paley's, malster, & a William Coulstock, carrier, a little below it is a M^r Coulstock's – his father.

Next is Heath Street. A little below it is M^r Barkers school for boys & a M^r Paget's, poulterer, & a M^r Richard Woods, oatmeal maker. Just below it is a genteel house a M^{rs}. Cornish, & a M^r Champion, a blacksmith. The next is the Charity school for girls & boys; joining to it is a small cottage & a M^r Mansells & a M^r Paleys' malthouse. A little below is a house where a M^{rs}. Joliff lived,- a very curious character. More of her hereafter.

Cross the road, & return to the Red Cross; - is 3 or 4 small houses, & a M^r Robinsons' gardens & lodge, & several small houses up to the Red Cross.

Turn down to the right hand: At the corner is M^r Holdsworth, butcher, & two small houses. Next is a Carpenters shop & a small house: a little below is another house & a new farm house belonging to Lord Sommers. Nearly opposite to it is a genteel house called More Place, the residence of M^r Larmer. Just below it is the Priory lodge & several houses; a M^r George Holdsworth's, carpenter. At the corner is a M^r Dewdney's, baker, & 4 or 5 small houses. The next is a genteel house, a M^r Gates; joining to it is a M^r Jackson's; the next is a small house, a M^r Gates, bricklayer, & the Sign of the Bull's Head by Heath, & 4 or 5 more small houses. Next is a neat

small house a M^{rs}. Allingham's; & 3 or 4 more small houses, a M^r Aldred's, linen draper, & 2 or 3 small houses, & M^r Steel, doctor, & M^r King's, doctor, & M^r Neale brewer & maltster. Next a M^r Danns, grocer, formerly the Crown Inn & a M^r Hansons, harness maker next a M^r Allingham's, stationer, printer & the library. The next is the Swan Inn kept by a M^r Coulstock & the Hotel. Next a M^r Bonny, confectioner; next Heaths', tailor, next to it is Doubles, carpenter, joining it is a M^r Silvers, butcher. The next is the Grapes Inn, kept by a M^r Crunden; next, a M^r Elger's linen draper. Next to it is a M^r Richard Elger's, grocer etc.; joining is a M^r Lanaway's, harness maker, formerly the Bell Inn; next a large new house, a M^{rs}. Russell's and a M^{rs}. Packman, Seminary for young ladies; next to it is a M^r Burts, an attorney, & two small houses, & one in a yard behind them; next a M^r Corlets' & a M^r Beale's, grocer. The next is the last house on this side of the street, a M^r Ridgeway's. The Priory is the next, the seat of Lord Viscount Eastnor, son of Lord Sommers.

Cross the road:- below on the left hand is a Miss Knights' seminary for young Ladies, & a M^{rs}. Jones, a M^r Charrington & a M^r Thornton, carpenter, & a M^r Briggs, gardener, a M^r Santerells, a M^r Bartlett, wheelwright, & a M^r Collins, glazier & plumber. The next is two new houses, a M^r William Mansolls & a M^r Martyr's, tailors.

There was an old house formerly where the last mentioned now stands, where a man by the name of Richard Rodes lived, a maker of oatmeal. He was a single man; he kept a woman who was housekeeper, who was pregnant by him. One night he murdered her & buried her in his garden. It was very soon discovered; he fled to Ireland & was a waiter at an Inn. He was advertised in the newspapers. A gentleman at the inn was reading the paper thought he answered to the advertisement, asked him to write his name. He wrote Richard Rodes. He was taken into custody & confessed the crime, brought to England & tried at Reigate: found guilty & hanged on a tree that grew before his house, & afterwards hanged in chains on the top Red Hill, but was taken away the same night. About the year 1789, M^r Burt at the Tan Yard as before-mentioned, dug up the bones of a man which was supposed to be the bones of Rodes, as the people that lived at the Tan Yard were acquainted with him.

The next are two small houses, & a M^r Rymer's, the same that sells the Cardiac Mixture or Tincture - & two small houses, & a M^r Mansell's, carrier, a M^r Turner, a M^r Knight & a M^r Crunden's brew house, & a M^r Mazdon, butcher. The next is a M^{rs}. Knowles, widow glazier, plumber & painter; the family have inhabited the house near two hundred years. The next is two new houses, a M^r Martin, surgeon & apothecary, & a M^r Hills, a M^r Keasley, baker, formerly an inn, the Britannia Man of War. The next is three small houses & a M^r Easton, bricklayer, & a M^r Apton, baker, a M^r Hodges, tailor, & a small house, a butcher's. The next is M^r Barber's, whitesmith & a M^r Bennett, glazier & plumber, & the sign of the Bell, a public house, & a small house, a shoemaker's; the next is M^r Hopkins', seed & mealman, it was formerly a Chapel dedicated to S^t Lawrence. The next is the White Hart Inn kept by a M^r Relf, formerly kept by a M^r Poor, who was related to a family at Reigate by the name of Budgen, white smith & clock smith, who was murdered by an officer belonging to a Regiment of Foot. Part of them was quartered at M^r Poor's: just before they marched off in the morning, the officer paid M^r Poor for what he had to eat & drink. M^r Poor on looking at the money saw a half crown he gave him was a bad one; he went out

to him & said: Sir, this half crown you gave me is a bad one. The officer said it was a good one & that he should not give him any other; to which M^r Poor reply'd: You are a poor pimping fellow. At this the officer drew his sword & ran after him, & just as he was entering the kitchen door, he thrust him through behind. He got in, sat down & said:- Hang the Rogue he has killed me – and expired. The Soldiers endeavoured to prevent his being taken, but were obliged at last to surrender him up to justice. He was tried, condemned, & hanged.

The next house is the banking house of Mess^{rs}. Dewdrey & Piper, from Dorking; the next house is the banking house of Mess^{rs}. Piper, Gate & C^o the Reigate Bank.

Return to the Priory, the Park & Cocksett hill. The Priory the seat of Lord Viscount Eastnor, the son of Earl Sommers. The house fronts the South, has a fine lawn in front with three or four ponds. The park joins the lawn; it consists of hills & valleys. On the highest hill is a fine view of Sussex nearly to Brighton, & some part of Kent & Hampshire. The highest hill is near half a mile long. The paintings of the Staircase in the house are very fine – was done by order of Alderman Parsons, & are called by the Artist as fine as those at Hampton Court. The name of the field adjoining the Park is Spittle (*Spital? – Ed*) Field, but known by the name of Lodge Field, there being formerly a house - a lodge & gate at the entrance of the Park. The hill joining the lodge was formerly a wood, it was cut down about the year 1644. At the aforesaid lodge gate was where 'Roly Poly' shot a M^r Coecock one Tuesday evening. This said man by the nickname of Roly Poly was hanged in chains about the year 1728 for the murder of the aforesaid M^r Coecock, a farmer at Ifield in Sussex about seven o'clock in the evening near the lodge gate. He laid in waiting for a M^r Charrington, who was a very steady, sober man – always rode very slow but that evening he had drunk more than common & herode very fast which saved his life. M^r Coecock coming soon after very slow, shot him, & rifled his pockets of his watch & money. This Roly Poly was taken at Epsom a few days after & tried & found guilty upon the evidence of a servant girl, & M^r Coecock's watch & money which he brought home & laid down not knowing the girl was in bed with his wife. His wife said:- Will I'm afraid you've been about no good. He was hanged in chains on Reigate Heath, on the brow of a hill near the hedge. The spars of the gallows were dug up about the year 1817, as they were going to plant trees on the place. ❖

The March 2010 Journal will contain the fourth, and final, installment of this History

Researching the Pickering family

Roger Sutton

My mother Eileen, who died in December 2008 aged 95, was a **Pickering**. The Pickering family has been traced back two hundred years to Pump Court, Long Lane, Bermondsey. It has been possible to piece together information about this family, and other related families, from a variety of sources, some of which you may not have considered using.

My gt-gt-grandfather was John Pickering (1808 – 1852). An advertisement he placed in *The Times* dated 20 May 1834 shows that he was educated at Whitford's Academy, Bermondsey, and that he was Secretary of the Old Boys' Association. Trade Directories reveal that by 1833 his brother Samuel had set up business as a drug broker in the City of London and that by 1834 John had joined him as a partner. Samuel was also educated at Whitford's Academy.

The Times showed that Samuel was married on 13 December 1835 at Folkestone, to Charlotte **Hart**, seventh daughter of the late Richard Hart of that town. The couple lived at 2 Upper Sussex Place, Old Kent Road. The same newspaper reported the death of John Pickering on 1 December 1852 aged 44, 'after a lingering illness'; and the death of Samuel on 23 JUL 1857, aged 55, to be followed by the death of his wife Charlotte on 25 November 1858. They had no children and so the business was inherited by John's children, although not all the sons chose to go into the family business. Telephone directories showed that as early as 1881 the business had a telephone and that the business continued until the early 1980s, about 150 years after it had started.

My great-grandfather was John Turney Pickering (1839 – 1906). He was born on 23 October 1839 at Newington and baptised on 23 November 1839 at Holy Trinity, Newington. The 1851 census shows that, aged 11, he was a boarder at Fairfield House, Addiscombe Road, Addiscombe. He spent the whole of his career as a banker. I wrote to HSBC Holdings to discover the details. He joined the London Joint Stock Bank on 19 October 1857 on a salary of £60. He worked at Head Office at 4 Princes Street, City of London, and lived at 5 Horatio Terrace, Osmond Road, Old Kent Road. By 1875 his salary was £275. He was promoted to Accountant in November 1883. At the time he retired, in May 1895, his salary was £400 and he had a life policy of £500. He left an estate worth £4,571. His brother Alexander Schlusser Pickering, who joined the family drug broking business, left an estate of £55,586.

HSBC told me that John Turney's son John was educated at West Kent Grammar School, Brockley. He joined the London Joint Stock Bank on 17 October 1895 aged 18 on a salary of £50. By 1913 this figure was £210. When he retired on 1 April 1927 he was working at the Princes Street Office (where his father was promoted to Accountant) and was earning £525.

John Turney Pickering married Annette **Rolls** (1843 – 1933) on 1 May 1866 at St George, Camberwell. Her father was Henry Rolls (1806 – 1871), one of 13 children of William Rolls (1772 – 1845) of 4 Marlborough Place, Old Kent Road, Camberwell. An early reference to William was in 1817 when *The Times* reported a case where Elizabeth Catherine **Dickinson** had stolen some oiled silk from William Rolls and had then tried to sell it back to him. She was sentenced to hard labour for 12 months.

Henry Rolls was born on 5 September 1805 at Grange Road, Bermondsey. The item in *The Times* of 20 May 1834 shows that he, too, had been educated at Whitford's Academy, and that he was a member of the Old Boys' Association. He was described variously as 'Artist, Figure Engraver, Varnish Manufacturer and Gentleman'. Art books in Worthing Reference Library provided details of his career as an Artist and Figure Engraver, and also details of the careers of his brothers Charles and Joseph. The British Museum told me that examples of the work of all three brothers are to be

seen at the Museum.

The wife of Henry Rolls was Anne **Criddle** (1808 – 1877). Her brother Henry married the well-known artist Mary Ann Rebecca Alabaster on 19 March 1836 at St George, Hanover Square. A notice in *The Times* of 20 March 1858 shows that included in his property portfolio was 10 Abbey Road, St John's Wood, which had seven bedrooms and three sitting rooms. Just over a century later Abbey Road became forever associated with the Beatles.

Property figured largely in the family. Anne Criddle's grandfather was Joseph **Ray** (1753 – 1837). He was a builder in the City of London and latterly of Newington Place, Newington. He left about £20,000, including freehold and leasehold estates. William Rolls had a portfolio of 16 properties. His bequests, mainly to the huge family, totalled £24,885. A family with money leaves wills, which are often a fascinating source of information. Sometimes a will specifically mentions the wills of earlier generations of the family.

Local History groups can also provide useful information. John Pickering's wife was Rebecca Elizabeth **Turney** (1806 – 1880) of Westerham, Kent. By obtaining her father's will I discovered that her grandfather was James **Marchant**, who was a water miller born at Hedgecoat Mill, Felbridge, Surrey. When I wrote to the Felbridge & District History Group about the Marchant family it so happened that they were preparing a paper about the family and the history of Hedgecourt Mill, enabling me to take the history of the family back to 1670.

The London Gazette can be a useful source of information. Anne Criddle's father was Henry Holman Criddle, a Hatter and Furrier of New Bond Street, Mayfair. Information about his business was contained in the editions of the *London Gazette* of 13 February 1810 and 9 March 1827. Henry was declared bankrupt. This meant that Joseph Ray had to frame his will in such a way as to ensure that his fortune was safeguarded from his son-in-law's bankruptcy. ❖

From the Editor

Chris Green [4030]

By the time you are reading this Christmas will be almost upon us and – if the weather is anything like it is on the day I am writing this – winter will be well and truly here. Gone, for a few months at any rate, are the long evenings when we could happily work in the garden for a few hours until it started to get dark. No, the next couple of months are destined for indoor activity.

And what better way to spend the time than to catch up with some Family History? I know I have neglected it during the summer and mild autumn, and it is high time that I got myself organised once again. Perhaps you will come across some information that you felt was forever out of sight; perhaps one of your own brick walls will be breached.

Please spare an hour or so to put it down on paper – other members of the Society would like to hear about your successes. This issue of the Journal contains several interesting stories of members' researches – let's hear about yours. ❖

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society

Lecture Programme 2009 - 2010

December 8th

Annual General Meeting & Presidential Lecture

Len Reilly - Archive Manager, Lambeth Council

From Minster to Morley.

Music, Musicians and Music Making in Southwark and Lambeth

January 12th (2010)

Chris Constable - Southwark Council Archaeologist

Recent Archaeological Work in Southwark

February 9th

Richard Norman - Historian

The Elephant Entertains

March 9th

Various speakers

Symposium

Recent Local Archaeological and Historical Work

April 13th

Sophie Jackson – Senior Consultant, Museum of London Archaeology

Recent Discoveries by the Museum of London Archaeology

May 11th

Brian Bloice – Vice chair, SLAS

A History of the London Postal Service

June 8th

Evening Walk - See SLAS News nearer the date

Lectures are on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.; Light refreshments are served at 7.00.

Visitors are welcome but are asked to make a £1 donation.

Enquiries should be made to 020 8764 8314.

All lectures are held at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut: the hall is almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre, a few minutes walking distance from Waterloo Station.

Further details of the Society from Richard Buchanan, 79 Ashridge Crescent, Shooters Hill, SE18 3EA.

A Single Street in Croydon

(and some readily available sources)

Brenda Hawkins [785]

In summer 2008 ESFHS was invited to provide a stall for an allotment society's open day. The Bensham Manor Allotment Society is based in West Croydon, reached from Lion Road off Pawson's Road, and was celebrating its 125th anniversary. Their website already had a good potted history of the allotments, but stated that no early records of the society itself survived. Resisting the temptation to mount a display called "Digging up Your Roots" another approach was to display readily accessible records for the area to show the possible allotment holders of a century ago.

Croydon's reputation as part of London's urban sprawl began with the coming of the railways in the 1840s. It had always been a market town, on one of the main arterial routes out of London, but its population only really started to increase with better communications and a decent water supply. By 1900, it was a well established town, proud of its Borough status, with all the accoutrements of a thriving settlement, including lots of stations, schools and rows of Victorian housing.

The next stage was to decide which records to consult, and there was a wealth of documents to choose from: Croydon is very lucky in several respects. There is an excellent run of street directories for virtually every year from well before 1900 up to WW1 and beyond. Not only are there electoral rolls, there are also annual Burgess Rolls for those entitled to vote in Borough elections and Parochial Registers too. The efforts of Dr Ron Cox have ensured that many school log books and admission registers are held by the Local Studies Library. In addition, besides the censuses, the National Archives held the records of the Valuation Act, in particular the field books, describing all the houses I was interested in.

There is a world of difference between tracing your own family through the records and finding an interesting family which appear in all the records. I started at TNA, using 1901censonline.com as that has the benefit of an address search, noting the households with young families who might be expected to have children at school. Moving upstairs to the Map Room, I ordered the Ordnance Survey Map with covered West Croydon. Pawson's Road is not your completely typical Victorian street, sitting on a couple of neat rectangular plots. It was bounded, in the map, by the allotments to the north of the back gardens. At its western end the Workhouse and some children's homes ominously faced Queen's Road Cemetery. Each plot was carefully marked up in red ink and these references equated to numbers in the field notebooks. I could use these to work out the house numbering. For the purposes of the display, I concentrated on buildings from Lion Road to those opposite the junction with Mayo Road nos 86 – 182 on the north side (TNA ref IR 58/24990) and from Mayo Road to the cemetery on the south, nos 71-85 (TNA ref IR 58/25060). Comparing the census with the map, you could see exactly the route the enumerator had followed: along the southern side from Whitehorse Road to no 85, then crossing over and working back eastwards from Lion Road.

The notebooks tell the same story as the map – of uniform Victorian housing built in the mid 1860s in terraces of four or six, with five rooms, scullery & WC, brick

with slate roof and garden front and rear. They actually state a great deal more, with four pages devoted to each property. The most useful items are:

Situation – i.e. address

Description – house, shop etc

Occupier

Owner – including their address

Interest of owner – i.e. term of lease

Occupier's tenancy – e.g. weekly

Actual rent

Who pays rates, taxes & insurance

Who is liable for repairs

Particular description & notes made on inspection – where you hopefully get a detailed description, though this may not be repeated for every property.

Valuation

An average property in the road cost between 6s and 8s a week to rent, and was due to be repaired. Shopkeepers had concreted over their front gardens (a detail visible on the map) and converted their front rooms into shops. Only one such shop is described as having a proper shopfront.

The next stage was to visit the Local Studies Library and consult Chris Bennett, the archivist. He could tell me all the local schools that the children might have attended, including Princess Road on the further side of the cemetery and St Saviour's, in St Saviour's Road, off Queen's Road. He could also say immediately that as the rents were so low, very few of the fathers would appear on any voting lists (something I really ought to have spotted for myself). This was a setback, but I was beginning to realise that I had more material than I could readily organise, especially when he was able to email me a wonderful aerial view of the area, taken a few years later, but showing the Workhouse, allotments, cemetery and St Saviour's church, its spire concealing St Saviour's school.

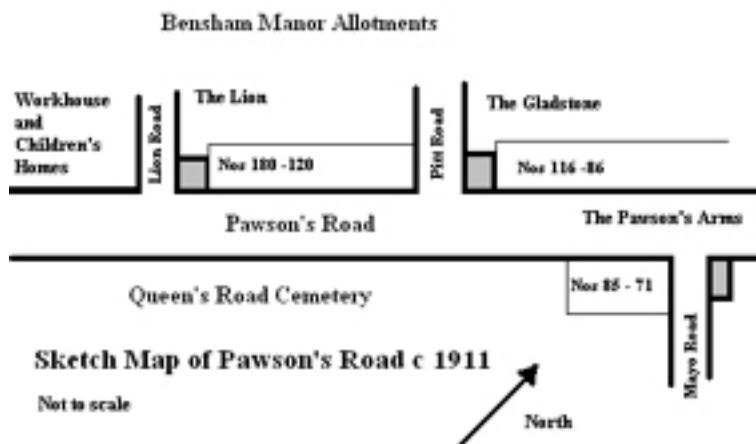
I was conscious as I pored over street directories & school admission registers that the best person to have advised me on the people was Brenda Lippett, who had sadly died a few months earlier. This was her stamping ground and she knew so much about the local families. I needed an unusual surname, to reduce chances of error and found it with the widowed Eliza Regulous. Eliza was 47, with a household full of boys. Her house, no 94, was the first not to overlook the cemetery. She and her late husband came from Essex, but this was a pattern typical amongst her neighbours in 1901: only the children were Croydon born.

Her son Ernest is in Ward's Directory in 1910 & 1911 at No 100 Pawson's Road. Grandson Ernest started school at Whitehorse Manor on 1 February 1910. The Admissions Register gives his date of birth, his father's name and address and shows that he left the school 7 February 1912 to go to Christchurch Infants. The field notebooks show Ernest living at no 71, on the corner with Mayo Road, running a shop. The building had two bedrooms, with the front room converted to a shop and two further rooms downstairs. The rent was 8s on a weekly tenancy and it was in poor repair.

Come the day, the exhibition went down well with visitors, though they were

curious about the properties I had highlighted on the map: the various laundries, boot repairers and small shops (some of them clearly on a very small scale, as they had appeared in the directories but not in the field books) and the pubs. They all knew the Lion and the Pawson's Arms, but nobody had heard of the Gladstone. When I went home, past Pitt Road, the reason became obvious: there was the unmistakable shape of a Victorian pub, long since converted to flats! The release of the 1911 census has brought the opportunity to sit at a terminal in the Map Room at Kew and compare that census with the field notebooks. Neither Eliza nor Ernest is in Pawson's Road anymore. The notebooks, alas, aren't dated, but a Kelly's Directory of 1911 showed Eliza at her new address where, the census reveals, she is living under the same roof as both Ernest and family and a married daughter with her family. Clearly, Kelly's collected their information in a more timely fashion than Ward's did, and this must mean that for Pawson's Road at least, the information for the field books was obtained before the 1911 census. Alfred Henry Lock, a stonemason, had been at No 136 for many years and he is shown as a tenant in the field books, but his death is recorded in the June quarter of 1910. It is impossible to say from this distance in time when exactly the information for the field books was collected: either before 1 February 1910, when Ernest gave his address as No 100, or any time between then and 2 April 1911, but looking at a single street in detail like this highlights all the tiny movements our ancestors were constantly making. The Gladstone had ten landlords in eleven years (and those were only the ones I found in directories and censuses) before that conversion to flats happened, before the outbreak of WW1.

Not every town has such a good local studies collection and the survival of the field books varies from place to place, but even the use of a good map can start to put our ancestors into context and help us flesh out the bones of their existence. ❖



Website round up

Brian Hudson [7324]

Bingle: Can't make up your mind whether to search on Google or Bing? Not a problem. Someone has already come up with the idea of producing a website that searches both. Go to <http://bingle.nu>, enter your search words in one box and the results from the two sites will be shown side by side.

Surman Index Online: Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies. This index of Congregational ministers, at <http://surman.english.qmul.ac.uk>, was given to Dr Williams's Library in 1960. The index includes the names of about 32,000 ministers and, where known, their dates, and many other details. The period covered is from mid 17C to 1972, and mainly covers England and Wales. It also covers 17C and 18C Presbyterians. The Dr William's Trust and Library website can be found at www.dwlib.co.uk.

The Canal Museum in London: www.canalmuseum.org.uk. The Museum is a fascinating place to visit particularly if you have ancestors who worked on canals. You might also consider taking a guided walk or a boat trip along the canal. There is also an easy towpath walk from the museum to Camden Locks and back that is covered in museum leaflet #5, a 12-page guide available from the museum shop for £1.50. See the Museum website.

The Foundling Museum: www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk. This tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, London's first home for abandoned children, and contains the Foundling Collection which relates mainly to the history of the hospital between its foundation in 1739 and closure in 1954. NB. The actual hospital records are held at the London Metropolitan Archives.

William Faden's 1788 map: www.fadensmapoflondon.co.uk. The map 'The Country Twenty Five miles round London' is available from this website. It is described as 'digitally redrawn', which seems to mean that features on the map have been coloured; six sample extracts are shown on the website which give a good idea of the end result. There are six sheets covering the London area; however, custom sheets for individual villages or groups of parishes are available on request.

Pilgrim ship lists: if you have an interest in Pilgrim ships then go to www.packratpro.com/ships/shiplist.htm where there are lists from the early 1600s containing details of over 200 ships and 7000+ families.

Belmont Local History: Their new website address is <http://belmonthistory.org.uk>.

Unwanted Certificates

If you find a certificate here that looks as though it may help with your research, contact the member who is offering it. Any transaction is then solely between you and the member concerned – the Society plays no further part.

Type	Surname	Forenames	Registered	Date	From
B	LOGAN	Frederick William	ESS West Ham	1910	9064
M	CAWLESS/LOGAN	Michael/Margaret	LAN Lancaster	1878	9064
M	LOGAN/SMITH	Ernest Cyril/Ethel	YKS Sheffield	1919	9064
D	LOGAN	Hugh	MDX St Geo Han Square	1863	9064

Caterham History Centre

Paul Sandford [5046]

Following recent discussions with the Secretary I have agreed to represent the ESFHS on the Management Committee of the Caterham & District Local History Centre, based at Caterham Valley Library. I feel the best way for ESFHS members to become aware of the facilities for family history we offer is through the pages of the Journal.

The Caterham & District Local history Centre is based in the Caterham Valley library. It was renamed from 'North Tandridge Local History Centre' in September 2009.

The centre aims to encourage interest in both local and family history in the parishes of Caterham, Chaldon, Chelsham, Farleigh, Godstone, Tatsfield, Titsey, Warlingham, Whyteleafe and Woldingham in Surrey.

The local history centre offers an extensive range of resources; including census records, parish registers, large scale maps, directories and photographs, microfilms of some local newspaper runs plus the Bourne Society collection of publications and various CD-ROM resources.

The centre provides microfilm and microfiche readers and there is access to the internet on the library computer terminals. Of particular interest in 2009 has been access to the Library Edition of Ancestry, the Times Digital Archive, etc. There are also volunteers on hand on the second and fourth Saturday mornings of the month and on a Tuesday to assist with enquiries. See the website for times.

If the centre is unable to answer your question, they can refer you to local experts or Surrey History Centre. When the centre is not staffed you can leave a written enquiry at the library or via email at Surrey Libraries central enquiry service: libraries@surreycc.gov.uk.

The centre has digitised over 1000 images, with the aid of 'Awards for All' Lottery funding, in order to use them as educational resources and to promote the history of the local area. The images cover Chaldon, Caterham Hill, Caterham Valley, Warlingham, Woldingham and Whyteleafe. They are available for browsing at the centre, and in early 2008, made available through the 'Exploring Surrey's Past' website. See <http://exploringsurreyspast.org.uk>.

The centre is a partnership between Surrey Libraries, Surrey History Centre, the Bourne Society, East Surrey Museum and East Surrey Family History Society, with support from Parish Councils.

For further information, contact Paul Sandford [apvsandford@aol.com] or visit the SCC site at <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/> and search via 'Local History Centre'. Here you will also find all the library-based Centres in Surrey who have similar facilities to assist with your research. ❖

Clapp / Fowles

Barbara Bunton [5931] wilbar@impulse.net.au

I am seeking information about the life of Sarah Ann Clapp née Fowles, my 4 x grandmother born in Croydon, Surrey. I have her marriage certificate of 1844 to Charles Clapp, and some census records of this couple and their family, e.g. 1851 Clapham and 1861 Lambeth with their six children. But then the 1871 census for Harrow has Sarah working as a cook, one of eight servants, at Lancaster House, with no mention of husband Charles. Where was he? And what is/was Lancaster House?

By the 1881 census Charles Clapp was an inmate of the Lambeth Workhouse, and Sarah was up in Horwich, Lancashire, working for William (Howarth?) of Wallsuches Bleach Works, as a nurse cum domestic, one of six servants.

By the 1891 census Charles Clapp, Sarah's husband, was still an inmate of the Lambeth Workhouse, Renfrew Road, but no trace of Sarah Ann. She possibly went back to the Lambeth area, but I have no idea when she or Charles died. Can anyone help?

Has there been a write-up of the history of the Lambeth Workhouse?

Lockhart / Marchant

June White [84]

Henry Lockhart and Elizabeth Mary Marchant had six children: Henry, b1837 West Ham; Alfred, b/d1840; Emily, b1842 Pimlico; Frederick, b1846 Camden Town; Myra, b1851 Worcestershire; and Rosa b1854 Clapham.

Henry worked for a railway company; he died in Clapham in 1866. His widow Elizabeth moved to Pool Valley, Brighton, to be with her three unmarried daughters who, in 1911, were listed as Corset Makers.

I have been unable to trace a marriage between Henry and Elizabeth. Can anyone help me to fill this gap?

Peck / Harland / Peake / Wharram

Shaun Bunce [9784]

I am seeking information on the following Peck family.

Richard Peck born 1798/99 Kensington London married Mary Harland 21st April 1827 at St Martins-in-the Field, Westminster. Mary was born 8th Jan 1805 at St Bartholomews the Great, London, the daughter of William Harland, varnish manufacturer of Phipps Bridge, Merton.

In 1841 Richard Peck was an Innkeeper at the Swan Tavern, Old Brompton, Kensington and in 1851 a licensed victualler living in Old Brompton, in 1861 he's a retired wine merchant living in Mitcham Road, Tooting.

On the 23rd Feb 1869 he died at his home, Sunnyside Lower Tooting, his wife Mary died 23 Jan 1880 aged 75 also at Sunnyside Tooting, she's buried in the Harland plot at St Peter & St Paul, Mitcham.

Richard and Mary had 8 children all born Brompton, Middlesex; (1) Richard born 1828, in 1867 he was the landlord of the Salisbury Arms, Weston-Place, Kingscross.

Child (2) Mary born 1833 , married James Wharram he was born 1827 The Strand, W.C. they had 3 children Maud born 1862 Hackney, Harry born 1863 Hackney and Frederick 1864 Hackney.

Child (3) Sarah Isabella born 1834 married Robert Harland in 1855 he's the Gt Grandson of William Harland of Phipps Bridge, Robert was born 1835 Mitcham.

Robert took over the varnish business of William Harland & Son from his father Samuel Robert Harland and continued to run it up to his death in 1892 aged 59. Robert and Sarah spent there married life living at Homefield, Phipps Bridge, Merton, there was no children to take over the varnish business. Sarah eventually moved to Kent and spent the rest of her life living at Greatbounds, Tunbridge Wells she died 29th May 1925 aged 91, she's buried at St Peter & St Paul Church Mitcham with her husband Robert.

Child (4) Harland born 1837, he died 25th Jul 1855 in a boating accident at Lake Michigan U.S.A aged 22. Child (5) Jane born 1838 (know nothing of this Child).

Child (6) George born 1842 married my Gt. Gt. Grandmother Agnes 29th Nov 1880 at St Margarets Parish Church ,Westminster she was born 21st Oct 1852. George took over the varnish business from Robert Harland when he died in 1892 and continued to run it until his death in 1920.

The business then passed to his wife Agnes, she ran it up to her death in 1939. When George took over the business he changed his surname from Peck to Harland-Peck, he and his wife Agnes spent there married life living at 9 Belgrave Square, George was known throughout the world for his art collection and he helped to purchase several paintings for the National Portrait Gallery. George and Agnes are both buried at Putney Vale Cemetery. Child (7) Robert born 1843, No information. The 8th Child Clara born 1847 married William H. Peake 1869 Wandsworth, William was born 1842 Middlesex, they had 3 Children Arthur born 1871 Tooting, Walter born 1872 Tooting and Ethel 1874 Tooting. William H . Peake was a goldsmith in London.

I do hope somebody can link to this information and get me over this brick wall.

Magazine donation

I have a number of *Family Tree* magazines from the first issue. I haven't counted them but the stack is about 10" high and they are probably a continuous run. I want to pass them on to a good home. Would the society or any member like them? They are heavy so would need to be collected from my home in Carshalton.

Robin Willis (rgwwgr@hotmail.com)

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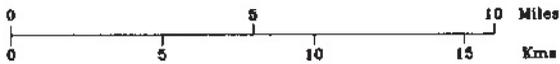
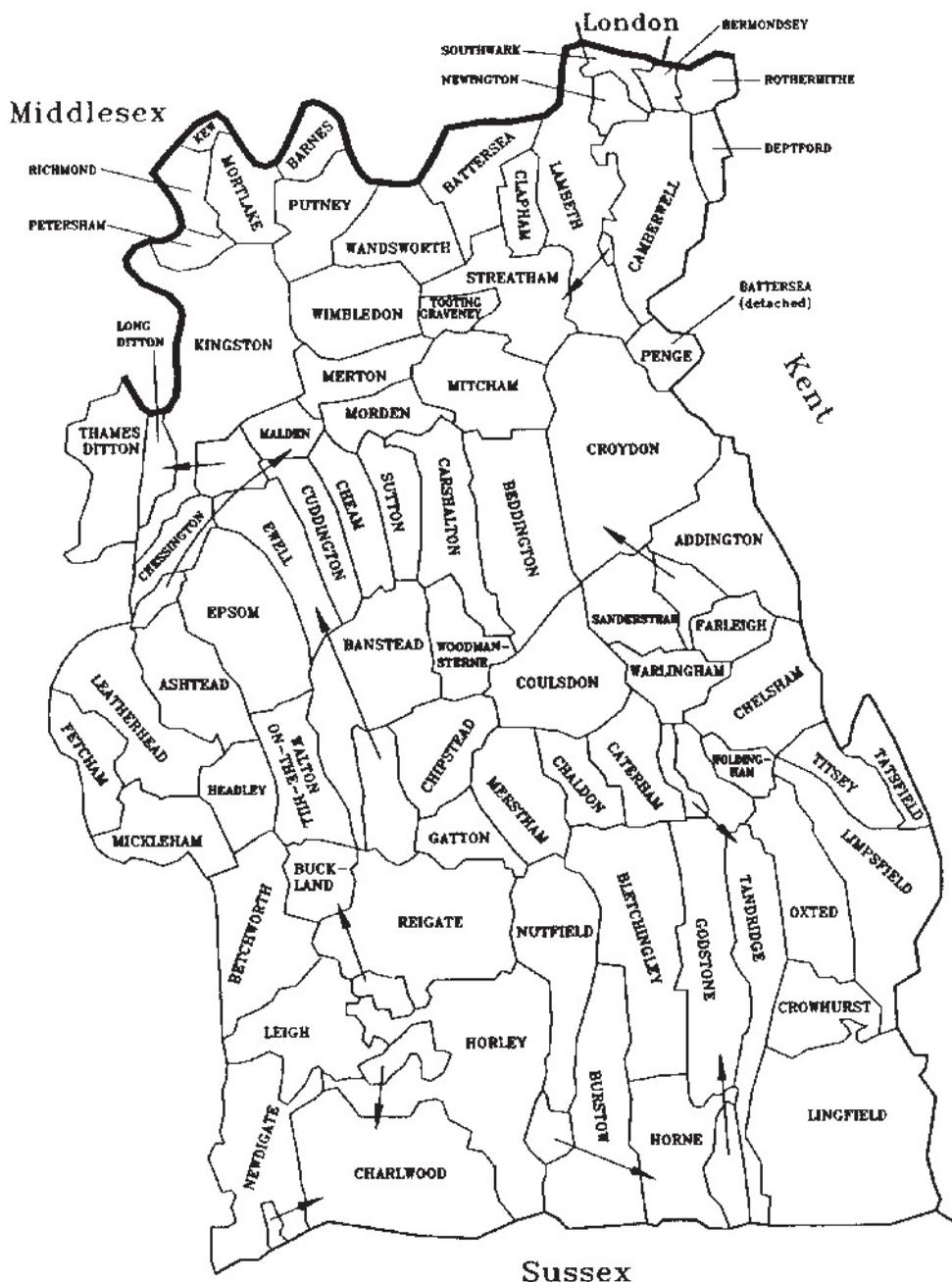
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The DEADLINE for the next Journal (March 2010) is 1st February

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