



# **East Surrey** Family History Society



## **Journal**

Volume 32 number 1  
March 2009

# East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977 — Registered Charity No.286659

*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



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*Cover photograph: a view from Box Hill, near Dorking*

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

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

# Chairman's Report

*Brenda Hawkins [785]*

One of the perks of living in the East Surrey area is that I can attend Catalogue Awareness Day, held towards the end of November each year at the National Archives. It is a chance for staff at TNA to explain their pet projects and a useful way to keep abreast of some of the developments. One aspect of their website that everyone can participate in is the Your Archives section. You can find this from the "Search the Archives" drop down menu on the home page. It is in effect a Wikipaedia for TNA's website. You can add transcriptions of documents – lots of wills are appearing – or describe a source in more detail. You can even provide biographies of individuals, but preferably you should provide sources for any statements that you make. It is a useful place to store transcriptions and to find out many abstruse areas of research that others are involved in.

If you can get to the National Archives, then note 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in your diary. The Federation of Family History Societies has organised a morning of lectures at Kew, given by TNA speakers. It was just such an event that encouraged me to attend my first Catalogue Awareness Day and should be well worth attending.

Since Christmas, work has been far too hectic to allow me to play properly with the 1911 census. I snapped up a few images while the Beta test was on. It's a sign of age that just three census pages covered nearly half of my ancestors then alive. I know that some people cannot find their ancestors – either through mistranscriptions or the counties not yet being available – but my ancestors possessed a clear, uniform hand (doubtless the result of a state education) and in general were living with family. Granny, in service, was harder to find, but proves to be my first ancestor in East Surrey! I had rather hoped she was still in London, with the family who owned a grey cockatoo. Her duties included the unenviable one of washing the poor bird, an experience which neither of them enjoyed.

While I may not have found many surprises, I know that mysteries are being solved for others. Sometimes not merely the occupation but the employer is noted, or details of children away from the house or even dead. Knowing when a couple married or how many children there were in a marriage has got to be of use. Once work is a little quieter, I shall be off to Kew.

As I write this, preparations are in full swing for *Who Do You Think You Are – Live!* We are lucky to have lots of volunteers to wear the cream polo shirts and help with sales or advice. This year it is being held 27<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March, so by the time you read this it will all be over for another year.

Events such as WDYTYA are an opportunity to see members who may not be able to make ordinary meetings. If you can't attend weekday meetings, I do hope you will consider attending the AGM on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April. We will have all sorts of workshops and helpdesks in the morning. In the afternoon, we are very lucky to have Paul Carter and Natalie Whistance of TNA on the workings of the New Poor Law. This is definitely a talk not to be missed. There will be displays, competitions, something for everyone, so do come along!



# Projects Report

*Rita Russell [7123]*

I have been re-reading my reports for the 2008 Journals. Ever the optimist, I hoped to issue some CDs where work was in progress but have ended up missing some of the deadlines I set; but we issued other CDs instead.

The updated publications list with this issue shows all the CDs we now have on sale. Several were completed during January and February, some are new and some replace out-of-stock fiche.

The data on the St Mary-at-Lambeth Marriages CDs is a full transcript of the register entry. The witnesses are shown where their signatures are legible. We have, however, used the Chapman codes for counties. Further transcribing is progressing and will be issued as soon as possible. Baptisms and more burials are also in the pipeline.

We have halved the price of our fiches as they are falling out of favour with members and the public. Anyone who has access to a fiche reader should take advantage of very good offers. The Berkeley Teetotal Society directory for 1898 [fiche number M51] is certainly interesting and gives names of many Mitcham residents.

Collection number 2 of Monumental Inscriptions is well under way and will be on CD this year.

The Super Name Index has been updated in time for 'Who do you think you are' at Olympia on 27th February – 1st March, so check the list on the website or contact me for details.

As you will see from the list of Group Meetings over the page, Lingfield Group will be holding a Projects session on 27th May. Anyone wishing to join in and help with the work will be more than welcome.



## 2009 Renewal Subscriptions

*Ann Turnor — Membership Secretary*

Firstly, thank you to all members who have altered their Standing Order mandates to the new subscription of £12.00 and also the members who, although they did not get the increase implemented for the renewal date of 1<sup>st</sup> January, sent a cheque to me to cover the difference.

Please could all members who have failed to alter their Standing Order contact their Bank and alter their payment from £8.00 to £12.00. This is a Standing Order, which needs to be altered by the bank account holder; it is not a Direct Debit.

If your payment has already left your Bank please send me have a cheque for the additional monies as soon as possible. It is necessary for me to have all payments up to date before the March Journal is sent out.

Very many thanks.

# Annual General Meeting

The Society AGM will be held on Saturday 18th April 2009 at the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon. The postcode is CR0 5LP, which may help those of you with satnav.

- 10.00 a.m. Doors Open
- 10.15 a.m. Workshops and Help Desk (subjects include *Help with Old Handwriting*)
- 10.45 a.m. Refreshment
- 11.30 a.m. Presentation – Finding your Ancestor on the census (with special reference to 1911)
- 12.30 p.m. break for lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Talk: “In the most destitute state next to starvation”  
by Paul Carter & Natalie Whistance
- 3.30 p.m. Refreshments and \*Competition Results

Paul Carter is the Project Director for The National Archives ‘Living the Poor Life’ project. His publication and research interests include the history of labour and working class movements, law and order and poverty/poor laws. Natalie Whistance is Records Coordinator and Cataloguing Officer for The National Archives ‘Living the Poor Life’ project. She has worked extensively on nineteenth century poverty and poor Law records at The National Archives and has carried out research into the role of volunteer editors in archives. Both speakers are currently working on a publication programme to publicise further the Victorian poor law records for family, local and other historians. 3.00 p.m. A.G.M.

\*There will be a prize for the best display featuring “My Favourite Ancestor” or “My Poor Ancestors” (with special reference to your use of Poor Law Records). Display size should be no larger than A3 (297mm x 420mm). Entries may be brought along on the day or delivered to a Committee Member prior to the meeting.

For further details about the AGM contact either the Chairman or Secretary, contact details for both of whom may be found inside the front cover. ❖

## History of Reigate

Rita Russell, the chairman of the Projects Group and the Lingfield Group Secretary, has sent me a fascinating document that relates the history of Reigate.

The history was typed during 2004 by Jeffrey Finlow, a member of the Lingfield Group. The information was obtained from pencil notes given to him by the Group Secretary inside an A4 envelope bearing an address label to Mr R Peters, 9 Hillside Avenue, Sutton on Sea, Mablethorpe LN12 2JH.

The history is supposed to have been written by a Doctor Ridgway c1814 and continued by another writer in 1827.

The first part of the history will appear in the June Journal. ❖

# Members' Interests

*Peter Grant (Members' Interests Coordinator)*

1. Do you know that a master list of members interests are kept on a database?
2. Do you know that as a member you have access to the database?
3. Do you know that you may update your own list of interests at any time?

As new members join our society, and some members update their lists, the master list of Members' Interests is constantly changing. If you would like to check the master list to see if other members are researching the same names as yourselves, all you have to do is to contact me, I will then search the database for you and send you the members' details for you to make direct contact. Please note that we have 145 "Smith's" on the database so to send out details of all the members researching that name is not practical.

Please also remember that you can update your own list of interests at any time. Your updated list will then appear in the next available Journal.

You can either contact me by email or by post; if by post then a stamped addressed envelope will be required. Contact details are on the inside of the front cover of the Journal.

If you think I can help, please ask.



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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)*





## July

- |    |   |                  |           |
|----|---|------------------|-----------|
| 11 | The happiest days . . . (Education and its records) | Ron Cox          | Richmond  |
| 15 | Charles Dickens and Southwark                       | Stephen Humphrey | Croydon   |
| 29 | The Great Exhibition of 1851                        | Ian Bevan        | Lingfield |
- Ian has a wealth of knowledge on the exhibition and uses some local (Lingfield) information to illustrate his talk.*

## August

- |   |  |              |        |
|---|--|--------------|--------|
| 6 | From South Wales to Sutton – the story of my Welsh Ancestors | Chris Pocock | Sutton |
|---|--|--------------|--------|
- Chris is Secretary of the East Surrey Family History Society and has been researching his family history for 13 years. He leads two groups in the Sutton branch of the University of the 3rd Age. His talk will cover the research he has carried out into his mother's family with names like Jones, Evans and Davies*

## September

- |   |            |            |        |
|---|------------|------------|--------|
| 3 | Emigration | Paul Blake | Sutton |
|---|------------|------------|--------|
- Paul is President of the East Surrey Family History Society. He is an author, professional genealogist and teaches family history. Paul will talk about how you can trace your ancestors who left Britain for other countries*
- |    |  |             |          |
|----|--|-------------|----------|
| 12 | The Gentleman's Magazine                 | Alan Ruston | Richmond |
| 15 | Members' evening with computers, laptops |             | Croydon  |

## November

- |    |  |              |          |
|----|--|--------------|----------|
| 14 | Naval Ancestors  | Paul Blake   | Richmond |
| 17 | Trades and occupations sources using bricklayers as an example | David Cufley | Croydon  |

## December

- |   |                         |                |        |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 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 with is a Christmas Social. Members are asked to bring contributions of food and drink*

Details of speakers at Lingfield for September – November will appear in the June Journal

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

# Hunting Frank Daniel

*Lesley Chaney [6549]*

It has often seemed to me that one of the fascinations of family history is that it is like a cross between a detective story and one's own personal soap opera and, as the saying goes, truth is stranger than fiction.

Sooner or later, just about every family historian comes across an illegitimate birth and the sometimes insurmountable obstacle of identification of the father, the dreaded brick wall. My maternal grandmother always knew she was illegitimate. She was told that her father was one Frank DANIEL, hammerman, and that he had died when she was 'about two', which would put it in 1878 or thereabouts. The story was he had taken a job on a barge, work he wasn't used to, and as a result he had drowned and been washed up at Gravesend. He was said to be Jewish.

My grandmother tried to find out more, sending for her birth certificate after her mother died. It revealed that her maiden name was actually MASTERS, her mother's name, and not DANIEL as she had always believed. Indeed, she married my grandfather as a DANIEL, giving her father's name and occupation. She got no further. My father tried and he was well used to research with good contacts, but he got nowhere with it either. So finally the challenge fell to me. By this time, the only grandchild of Frank still living was my father's youngest sister and she knew no more than I did.

The 1881 census transcript was available on fiche but I could find no sign of the family, so I turned to the death indexes and started looking from the period of my grandmother's conception in the autumn of 1875 up to about 1880. There was no sign of a Frank or Francis DANIEL anywhere, let alone in the Gravesend area. I went through the indexes several times, and I did find the death of a John William DANNIELS in 1879 in Gravesend and sent for the certificate as it seemed the only possibility.

John William DANNIELS was only 21 when he died and my great grandmother would have been 32, which seemed a little odd, but I have seen stranger pairings than that in my research. He died three days after my grandmother's third birthday and the cause given was 'Fracture of bones of leg and scalp wounds Leg caught in chains of hand power crane lived 16 days Lockjaw 7 days'. He died in Gravesend and Milton Infirmary. The word 'crane' leapt out at me as it implied the loading and unloading of vessels and the fatal accident occurred when my grandmother was indeed 'about two'.

A local researcher obtained press reports of the accident and inquest for me. John had recently left the Royal Navy, having lost two fingers, and was working as a labourer at Robins & Co's cement works at Northfleet. On the 20th July it was the day of the barge match and it was thought John was distracted by the shouts, stepped over the chain, was caught up by it and hurled against the drum. The injuries were horrific. So I had a man with a very similar name, doing work he wasn't used to, and dying at Gravesend. I had surely got my man.

The next step was John's service record: I asked a friend, who is a professional

researcher, if he would get it for me. He asked why I thought this young man was my great-grandfather. When he heard the story, he immediately turned to the 1881 census, which had just been issued on CDs. There, living in Greenwich, was my great grandmother, Louisa, using the surname DANIEL, along with my grandmother, also Louisa, and another daughter, Susan, a baby. Susan? Nobody ever knew of a Susan. The head of the family was 'J.' DANIEL, hammerman out of employ, age 37, born Wolverhampton [sic]. Susan's birth certificate shows she was born 21 May 1880 in Greenwich, father Francis DANIEL, hammerman, mother Louisa DANIEL formerly MASTER. There was no doubt about it. This baby is my great aunt. It implied the parents had married between the births of the two girls but a thorough search of the marriage indexes and the efforts of the staff at the likeliest Registry Office drew a complete blank. Without that information, particularly the name of Frank's father, I didn't see how I could trace him back. I couldn't see a likely birth in Wolverhampton either.

I had more puzzles than I had started with. I searched the death indexes up to 1890 and there were no entries for either a Francis or Susan DANIEL. Francis wasn't in the marriage indexes either. So where did they go? Why had Susan been airbrushed out of the family history? And why use a story so similar to young John's? My great grandmother married James PRINGLE in Camberwell in 1884 so obviously the drama, whatever it was, occurred between the census and that marriage. Frank must have taken Susan with him as she was his property, he being named as father on her birth certificate, which must have been agonising for my great-grandmother. My grandmother stayed with her mother because she was registered illegitimate and therefore not his property. My great grandmother must have been certain she would not see either Frank or Susan again and satisfied my grandmother's questions with a story of his death. That suggests to me they went abroad but the Empire was a huge place and I have no leads on that one.

There the matter rested for some years until my daughter bought me a subscription to Ancestry for my birthday, and one day it dawned on me that this was my best chance to at least find Frank's origins, if not his later whereabouts. By this time I knew there was a gaggle of DANIEL families in Stone, near Wolverhampton, and I conducted a systematic search for every Francis in the area born 1830s/1840s. There were none in Wolverhampton itself but I found three in Stone and pursued them all through each census until I narrowed it down to one.

The breakthrough was the 1871 census. Lodging in Rugby was Francis DANIELS, blacksmith, married, age 30, born Stafford Stone. There is not a world of difference between a hammerman and a blacksmith, the other two candidates did not compete in terms of occupation, and I ruled them out anyway on other grounds. In 1861 Francis DANIEL is in Southwark, married, age 26, and a machinist, again a related occupation, with a wife Susan(nah) and daughter Louisa. Going back to the 1871, Susan(nah) states she is married and living with her is Louisa (b.1862 Southwark) and two further children, Francis (b.1866 Greenwich) and Susan(nah) born Southwark 1869, but no husband is at home. Ho, ho, no wonder he didn't marry my great grandmother – he wasn't free – but the duplication of names was a bit spooky.

From the censuses and indexes, I pieced a story together. Francis was older than he later stated, born in Stone about 1836, one of four boys, the sons of Joseph (a shoemaker) and Agnes DANIEL. Agnes died in 1848 and Joseph turned up in 1851 as a Catholic priest. The oldest son was married and living in Coventry with his youngest brother, the other two were working as servants to Catholic priests, Frank being in Hendon and therefore not far from London. Was this was the 19th century equivalent of putting the children into care? Joseph probably had a more comfortable life than if he had remarried and got another brood of children to support on shoemaker's wages. As a priest he had servants and when he died in 1878 it must have been in relative ease. It was obviously a devoutly Catholic family, with the youngest brother leaving Coventry to go and work as a servant to Catholic priests too. Is there any Jewish blood in my Frank? It seems highly unlikely, and another story to throw us off the scent, but perhaps being Jewish was marginally more acceptable in those days that being Catholic and would explain a lack of marriage if ever anyone enquired on the grounds that he was unwilling to marry outside the faith. It may also be that lack of marriage that caused the break-up, as my great-grandmother's aunt was married to a prison chaplain.

So now I know. My Frank came from what we would now call a dysfunctional family, with a conscience that would not let him marry bigamously. FreeBMD has a marriage for a Francis Daniel in 1863, registered in St Saviours, but only one bride between two grooms and she is not a Susannah. I can only speculate on what his experience in early life must have been that made him so unsettled, but I do wonder if his conscience pricked him some more and he returned to his legitimate wife and children, none of whom I could find on any censuses or indexes after 1871. Had they already gone abroad, I wonder? I have the story and the prequel. Any information on the sequel would be more than welcome. ❖

## **Buckinghamshire Open Day**

Bucks FHS will be holding its Open Day on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury (south east of the town between A413 and A41). There will be many attractions for Bucks researchers including full Bucks FHS library and databases, guest societies and commercial suppliers. Free admission and free car parking at the school. ❖

# Unwanted Certificates

If you find a certificate 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
M c	BAILEY	Thomas	WAR Coventry	1850	6882
B O	BATEMAN	Elizabeth Ellen	MDX Marylebone	1846	4432
B O	BENNETT	Robert	MDX St Pancras	1847	4432
D c	BICKNELL	Mary	SOM Taunton	1856	6882
D c	BUCKNELL	Elizabeth	DEV Kingsbridge	1901	6882
D c	BUCKNELL	Elizabeth	DBY Burton on Trent	1881	6882
B c	CARTER	Henry Chas.	MDX Poplar	1851	6882
D c	CRUMP	Charles	MDX Islington	1861	6882
D c	CRUMP	Charles	MDX Hackney	1857	6882
D c	CRUMP	Sophia	MDX Holborn	1864	6882
M c	DAVENPORT	William	SRY Camberwell	1850	6882
D c	ELLIS	Harriet	MDX Brentford	1885	6882
M c	ELLIS	Augusta	SRY Lambeth	1888	6882
D c	LUTY	William	YKS Halifax	1845	6882
M c	McLAREN	Lucy Ann	SRY St Mary Newington	1838	6882
M c	PRICE	Ann	WAR Coventry	1850	6882
B O	REDFERN	Charles George	MDX Islington	1872	4432
D O	REDFERN	David William	SRY Lambeth	1871	4432
M c	WEAVER	Ellen	SRY Camberwell	1850	6882
D c	WELLER	William	SSX Horsham	1869	6882
M c	WELLER	William	SRY St Mary Newington	1838	6882
M c	WHITE	John Alfred	SRY Lambeth	1888	6882

## Tech Topic – Computer Connections

*Brian Hudson [7324]*

Serial\* port – a 9 or 25 pin connection# on a computer used to attach a modem, mouse, scanner or other serial device. Generally, but not completely, superseded by USB (Universal Serial Bus) ports on the latest computers.

\* serial refers to the fact that data is transmitted one bit after another over one wire as opposed to parallel working (see previous Journal).

# the two port sizes are also known as a DB-9 male or DB-25 male. The designations COM1 and COM2 are used in computer manuals and diagrams.



## Do you have military ancestors?

Described by Ancestors magazine as 'a very useful reference source', Victor Sutcliffe's *Regiments of the British Army* is now available on Parish Chest – see [www.pari chest.com](http://www.pari chest.com). The standard sourcebook and bibliography for the military historian, it is also an invaluable resource for the family historian in search of more information on their ancestors' service.

Each section contains a brief story of a regiment, with details of names, mottos, badges, dress distinctions, music, nicknames and major engagements. The comprehensive bibliography – covering sources as diverse as cigarette cards, betting books, regimental histories and contemporary newsheets – is a fascinating reference point for family historians. Those looking for more information on their ancestors' service will find a phenomenal catalogue of possible sources, a route through the confusing morass of regimental names and a clearer understanding of their ancestors' role in history.

Published in three volumes, *Regiments of the British Army* replaces A.S. White's work *Bibliography of the Regimental Histories of the British Army*. Volume 1, published in 2006, contains over 2,500 entries on infantry alone. Volume 2, published in 2008, covers Cavalry & Armour, including the many divisions raised solely for service in the two World Wars. Volume 3 is scheduled for publication in 2010.

Part handbook, part sourcebook, part history book, *Regiments of the British Army* provides a potted history of all the regiments of the British Army. For any family historian seeking help with their ancestors' military history or for anyone with a military buff in their life, these two volumes will make a perfect gift.

*Regiments of the British Army*. Volume 1 – Infantry.

Victor Sutcliffe; ISBN 978 0 9556 3640 0; 505 pages; £27 including UK p&p.

*Regiments of the British Army*. Volume 2 – Cavalry & Armour.

Victor Sutcliffe; ISBN 978 0 9556 3641 7; 293 pages; £23 including UK p&p. ❖

## Book reviews

*The Yarm Court Trojans* by David Wall [member ]

*reviewed by Chris Green [4030]*

At first sight the title of this short book gives no clue to the contents: indeed, as an invitation to review it reached me via email I was at first reluctant to read any further, since – as you might be aware – a Trojan is a particularly nasty form of computer virus.

I was glad that I did not consign it to the 'recycle' bin, as the book is an interesting and well-researched piece of work. The sub-title reveals more: '*The story of Yarm Court House and the sub sequent development of Yarm Court Road . . . by the Trojan (Chessington) Self Build Housing Association Limited.*'

As the author writes, the narrative of the 36pp book falls into two parts. The first researches the history of Yarm Court House (formerly Flint House south of Leatherhead, and that of its occupants, the abundantly-named Clement Tudway Swanston, a London QC, and later owners. The second part of the narrative is concerned with the design and building of a predominantly 1950s housing estate on the site of the former House.

Whilst the earlier part of the book will be of interest to local historians, the second part will have more limited appeal, except of course to anyone connected with the housing estate. The main interest here is that the estate was built, as the sub-title suggests, by those who were to be the first occupants of the houses.

The author has done considerable research into this aspect of the history, and includes anecdotes from some of the original 'Trojans'; there are, too, many photographs showing the estate and houses at various stages of construction. By profession a surveyor, he has also included facsimiles of various planning documents and extracts from the Working Conditions of the Self Build Housing Association.

The book is self-published and is attractively presented, with good use of colour panels to break up the text. Colour photographs are in the minority, although this no doubt reflects the availability of the material.

Whilst the book leans more towards Local History– and fairly recent Local History at that – than towards Family History anyone with an interest in the Leatherhead area or in the Swanston or Davis families will find it worth a look.

### *Family History on the Net* by Colin Waters

Countryside Books, 3 Catherine Road, Newbury, Berkshire; ISBN 978 1 84674 062 6; 125 pages

*reviewed by Karen Thatcher [ ]*

I have been searching for a good Web Guide to family history, and have found quite a few; but all they are all rather thick to carry around in ones handbag. That is, until my visit to the Hastings and Rother Family History Fair where I picked up this little gem. We know that using the websites is now the quickest route for searching for information on family history but I find it very frustrating knowing what to type in when searching.

Most of the books I found were in the same format with a large amount of background under each website address, but this book has the website name followed by a smaller amount of background, hence more information in a small book. The larger background information can be found under the title of each section and not under each website address which I feel makes it easier to search the web addresses. There is an Alphabetical Subject Guide at the front as well as the usual index at the back. I found it very easy to navigate around this book.

Having only started my research into family history four years ago I still see myself as a relative beginner and anything that will make life easier searching for websites is, in my opinion, a good thing. There are no pages where there is waste of space and no unnecessary illustrations, which I so often see in books, just address after address. As I flicked through this book I was amused to see the sections on

Outlaws and Highwaymen and Witch Trials and whilst we all hope that we have an outlaw or witch amongst our ancestors, to add a little excitement to our family tree, I thought I would leave that section and the section for Hangmen and Executioners, whilst probably very interesting, for another time! I went on to the section for Coastguards and Custom Officers in which I was particularly interested, as I have been searching the Customs Officers and Captains of the Cutters for the Isle of Wight for a while now, and the websites had the information that I was looking for. This section for occupations was very interesting and although I had no interest in some of the occupations I took a peek out of curiosity to see what information that those sites had to offer. I was not disappointed.

I thought I knew most of the Military websites but there are 16 pages of Military interest including all conflicts I can name and more, including Overseas Forces, Red Cross workers, Conscientious Objectors to the Military Service, and War Brides.

I was very impressed with this book and the £6.99 I handed over for it was money well spent. You will have no problem finding this on most Family History Society stands, but believe me when I say you will not want to put it back, you will just have to buy it. I cannot list every section as there is a lot to offer but I only wish I had found this book earlier!

### *Southwark Police Court Petty Sessions – Bastardy Cases 1844-1858*

Transcribed & published by the Eureka Partnership, 19a Station Road, Stoke Mandeville, Bucks HP22 5UL or available through [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk); price £3.50 plus p&p

*reviewed by Brenda Hawkins [785]*

The Eureka Partnership specialise in small, unusual data sets. These records are taken from petty sessions deposited within Surrey Quarter Sessions held at the Surrey History Centre. In 1844 an Act allowed the mothers of bastard children to apply to the Justices for a maintenance order against the children's fathers.

This book lists the name of the mother, the date of issue of the summons, the date of petty sessions, the result of the application and the name of the putative father in all cases in which orders are made. So, if the order was refused or the complaint was abandoned, then you only discover the mother's name. But imagine the joy of discovering that though the mother was a Mary Ann Smith, the putative father was Ezekiel Pedgriff! In a period where baptismal records are unlikely to record fathers and there is no guarantee that they will be named on a birth certificate, this book may well provide a lead to a new branch of the family!

Uniform volumes are:

Lambeth Police Court Petty Sessions - Bastardy Cases 1845-1858 £4.00 plus p&p

Wandsworth Division Petty Sessions - Bastardy Cases 1844-1857 £2.00 plus p&p



# Wills and Testaments in the 19th century

*Peter Thompson [3642]*

I have always wondered how my ancestors coped financially in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. My maternal grandfather William Rees's<sup>1</sup> family lived in abject poverty in Croydon in the late 1800s, but did other members on my family tree have a hard time?

A glimpse into the lives of four other family members came to light when I obtained their wills from the National Archive PCC Wills website. What emerged from analysing these wills was illuminating: although my ancestors' status in society was quite lowly, the amount of money and property they accrued by the time of their deaths was quite substantial. Three out of the four of them had money in Government Bank Consolidated Stock, and money to leave to their children and wives or family members. I wanted to know what Government Bank Consolidated Stock was – a definition was given in Collins English Dictionary:

Consols: Irredeemable British Securities carrying annual interest of 2½%, also called Bank Annuities.

The next question was why three of these people spanning the years 1802 to 1827 had money invested in such stock. The answer most probably lies in the fact that they owned property. Land Tax was levied each year from 1692 – 1949 (and was abolished in 1963). The Clerk of the Peace in each County kept copies of Land Tax Assessments, but from 1798 landowners were allowed to make a contract with the Land Tax Commissioners to pay a lump sum, or to buy Government Stock, freeing them from any further tax liability. It is amazing how much money my ancestors had built up. I have recalculated the monetary values of the time to the values of the present day, indicated as shown in [ ].

I have given a brief summary of the Wills of the four people concerned:

John Overton (1725 – 1802)

John lived in Upper Norwood<sup>2</sup> which was in the parish of St John the Baptist in Croydon (at that time in the County of Surrey, now a part of London). He left his property and stock of five sheep to his son James. His wife Sarah was to receive £9 per annum [1802: £397] from interest from £300 [1802: £13,241] invested in Consolidated Stock. Interest from Legacies (i.e. money inherited) totalling £25 [1802: £1104] to be paid to his four children.

James Overton (snr): (1760 – 1841)

James inherited his father's property. At the time of his death in 1841 he was living at the delightfully named "Lime Cottage", in Biggin Hill off Gibson Hill, Upper Norwood, most probably the house that he had inherited. This property had a sizable garden and outbuildings. James had a big family and in 1841 there were 11 surviving children, two having died in infancy. James was a gardener. His will states that the property and goods were to be sold and to be put into a trust, set up by either Bonds or Real Estate. This trust was to pay a total of £60 [1841: £2,842] to be split between all his children; the interest from this investment to be paid to his wife Sarah to live in the house and to rents entitled, for the rest of her life.

I was able to research the Parish Rate Books for St John the Baptist<sup>5</sup> for the period 1829 – 1831 to see whether James paid any rates. Property holders were required to pay a ‘poor rate’, that is, money to the parish which would help to relieve the poor and upkeep of the church. The Parish Rate Books showed that James paid the church rates regularly every quarter, as he had a cottage and garden. Another avenue of information was the Electoral Registers<sup>4</sup>. These registers, known as Poll Register Books, recorded the names of people entitled to vote and in 1832 started to be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace. I looked at the Poll Register Books for Upper Norwood for the period 1831 – 1841 and they showed that James was entitled to vote as the value of his property was equal or greater than £10 per annum; in 1831 this was equal to £472.

William Beams (1774 – 1818)

William Beams lived in Ewell, in the County of Surrey, where he had a market garden; he had been born in Cheam. Although he was a tenant farmer in the Gibraltar area of Ewell, he had property. His first wife was Rebecca and on her death, in 1802, he remarried Ann a widow with two children; they went on to have three more children.

When William died in 1818, in his will he left £5 [1818: £1,941] to his four surviving children from his first marriage, and to a grandson. Money was put aside in a trust fund for his young sons from his second wife. William also left money to his two step-children. All this was to be funded from interest from the remaining investment in 4% Bank Stock, the remaining interest from this Bank Stock was to go to his wife Ann for the rest of her life.

I was surprised to find that the Poll Register Books for Ewell (1831 – 1841) didn’t reveal any Beams entitled to vote, but the answer to this question was that Ann, William’s widow, was not entitled to vote as she was a woman, even though she inherited the properties.

Elizabeth Silverthorne (17?? – 1827)

Elizabeth was a spinster lady, living in Camberwell, Surrey, whose birth hasn’t been established as yet; her brother William was born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, where most of the Silverthornes resided.. She left £400 [1827: £19,249] to her brother William Oliver and his wife. Another £300 [1827: £14,437] was given to her three nephews and a further £584 5s 8d [1827: £24, 075] to her sister; £300 [1827: £14,437] was to be paid to her brother (but the surname in this case is different to Silverthorne; and it was common at that time to refer to a brother-in-law as your brother). All this was to come from 3% Consols, i.e. Bank Consolidate Stock. There was a lot of money in this family, as William owned a Brewery in Camberwell.

Looking at the evidence from these wills, I am amazed how these people managed to save and better themselves when a large percentage of the populace, I suspect, lived on the poverty line and lived ‘hand to mouth’ just to survive.

One point in question concerns the money that James Overton (snr) left that appeared to be dissipated throughout the family after his death. His gt-granddaughter, Harriet Overton (my gt-grandmother) certainly didn’t benefit in any way, living in poverty in the slums of Surrey Street in Croydon. It appears that the money her

father James Overton (jnr) inherited just 'slipped away'.

My future research is, firstly, to try and find any Land Registry Records which would establish what details were given at the time of the Assessment. If these property records exist for Ewell and Norwood, they would be held at the National Archives at Kew. Another recent avenue of research has just come to light; with Croydon Local Studies having available the collection from Styles Harold Williams (estate agents), of house sales records in Croydon<sup>v</sup> during the 18th century, hopefully I can find the sale of James' house in 1841.

Lastly, I would like to investigate the history of Banking during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and how banks operated for the ordinary folk.

1 *Bottom of the pile* published ESFHS Mar 2000 Vol 27 No 1

2 *The Overton family of Croydon and Norwood* published ESFHS Dec 2007 Vol 30 No 4

3 Parish Rate Books for St John the Baptist, Croydon, held at Croydon Local Studies Library

4 Poll Register Books for Ewell and Norwood (1831 – 1841), held at Royal Surrey Records Office, Woking

<sup>v</sup> Styles Harold Williams collection of house sale records (1830 to the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century)



## The miser's fire

*Jim Purdy [9794]*

My grandfather, Fredrick George Rogers Clarke, was born in 1859 and during his adult life was a member of the Croydon Retained Fire Brigade when the fire station was in Katherine Street opposite the present Town Hall. In those days the need for the fire brigade was signalled by a maroon fired from the fire brigade yard. On hearing the signal my grandfather's duty was to drop what he was doing, jump on his bicycle and find the Corporation dustcart, and requisition the horse, which he would then ride back to the fire station for the horse to be hitched to the fire engine and then away to the fire.

One day a call was received to attend a fire somewhere in Croydon, and on arrival they found a cottage well alight. They managed to extinguish the blaze but not before the property had become badly damaged. On entering the property to check that the fire was fully extinguished they found they were walking on golden sovereigns which had fallen from the slot in the picture rail where they had been hidden. This incident then became known as the miser's fire.

A few months later my grandfather took his wife and three children to the seaside for a week's holiday and they stayed in a boarding house. Today that would not be of interest to anyone, but in those days people of my grandfather's station in life did not go on holidays and stay in boarding houses. My mother told me that as she got older she began to wonder where her father had got the money for this luxury. She puzzled over this for a long time, until one day the penny dropped and she remembered the miser's fire!



# From birth to baptism

*reviewed by Chris Green [4030]*

If there is one year that has significance for every family historian, that year is probably 1837.

After this date, we have civil registration, whereby – in theory, at any rate – every birth, marriage and death has been recorded, although it took several decades before this became generally accomplished; and shortly afterwards we have the enormous benefit of the decennial census returns with recorded names and other information. Before 1837, we have parish registers.

To be sure, there are many other records – land tax, quarter sessions, wills; the list goes on. The problem with these, though, is that none of them records more than a small fraction of the population at any one time, and finding useful information from these sources is often a matter of luck. Not surprisingly, parish registers are generally the first resource to which researchers turn.

Of course, there are problems with using the registers as a source of information. Depending on the political and religious situation at the time, many ‘vital events’ went unrecorded. Generally, the registers are incomplete and many original registers have not survived, although for some parishes Bishops’ Transcripts may be of help. Nevertheless, for the century or so before civil registration began the registers remain probably the most useful resource we have.

It is important to remember that they record ‘vital events’ – baptism and burial, rather than birth and death. In a few cases (registers vary enormously) both dates may be recorded but as a rule the dates of birth or death can only be approximated.

With very few exceptions the interval between death and burial was short. This was partly for practical reasons, as two centuries ago there was no proper refrigeration. Cremation has been an option only for about 100 years and before that most people were buried in the graveyard belonging to the church in which they had worshipped during their lifetime. Moreover, there was no need to delay burial; family members rarely had to travel large distances as most lived in the same village or at least within a few miles. In an analysis of the Merstham Parish Registers covering 300 years there is no instance of burial following death by more than ten days, and four or five days was the norm.

Baptisms, however, are a different matter entirely. It was not uncommon for children to have been baptised at the age of 12 or even later, even within the established Anglican Church, although this was the exception rather than the rule. Many families appeared to make a habit of having two, three or more of their children baptised on the same day; there are several instances of this in my own family history. Unless the incumbent or the clerk who recorded the baptism in the register happened to note the dates of birth, this may never be known with any accuracy. I should point out here that early (16<sup>th</sup> century) baptism records often recorded the date as that of the birth (“John Smith, son of John and Mary, born 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April”) but in practically every case the date given was that of the baptism.

It is easy to criticise the standard of record-keeping of centuries past, but it is

important to remember that baptisms, marriages and burials weren't recorded with the object of providing material for future family historians. They were written down because the law required it. Often, as is sometimes clear from a study of the original registers, entries were entered into the register in batches, and had presumably been copied in from other scraps of paper – perhaps even from memory – when time permitted. No wonder some simply don't appear! Most family history researchers have had occasion to offer up a silent vote of thanks when they come across a register that contains material additional to that required by the law – predominantly the date of birth as well as that of baptism, but occasionally the mother's maiden name, the address, father's occupation and other helpful information.

Generally, though, finding dates of birth in baptism registers is the exception rather than the rule and often depended on the person who was writing in the register.

My study of the Merstham parish registers shows that over a period of 88 years, from 1752 to 1840, there were 1636 baptisms. Of these, only 311, or less than 1 in 5, also recorded the date of birth. The rest of this article considers these 311 baptisms and the intervals between birth and baptism. Incidentally, from the earliest entries in the registers (1538) to 1752 there were a total of 1714 baptisms; only 19 give a date of birth.

In all but 18 of the 311 instances the child was baptised within 10 weeks of birth and these are investigated more fully below. Of the 18, the interval varied from 79 days to 287 days, or over nine months; there are two baptisms after 93 days but every other interval is different. It is interesting to ask why. One reason may be that two or more siblings were baptised together, thus delaying the baptism of the older child(ren), although this doesn't seem to have been the case in the Merstham registers.

On 16 occasions the child was born and baptised on the same day. A common explanation for this is that the child was premature or sickly and not expected to survive; this was indeed the case in two instances, where children were buried three and seven days after baptism. Three others were buried anything up to seven weeks after baptism, but there is no burial record for the remaining 11 who presumably survived into adulthood (or moved to another parish).

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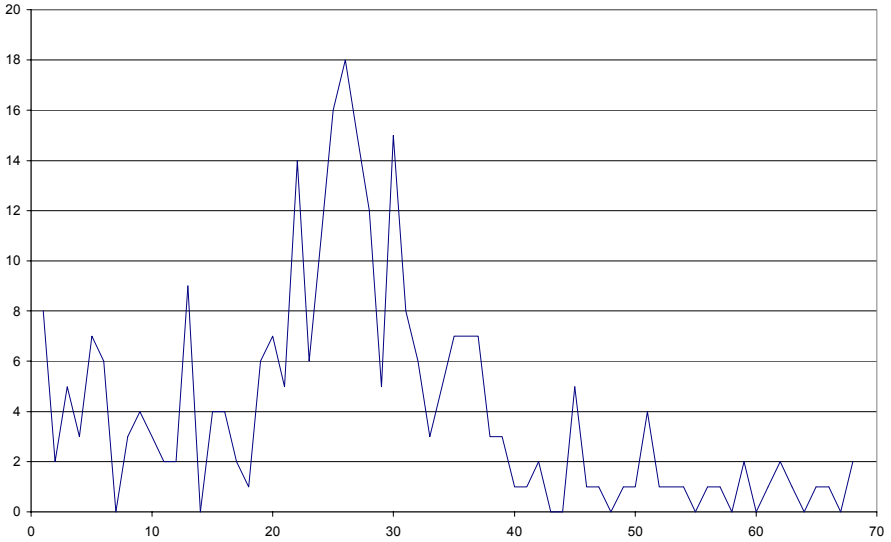
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Birth-baptism interval (less than 10 weeks)



In the chart above the interval between birth and baptism (in days) is along the horizontal axis; the number of instances where that interval is recorded is on the vertical axis.

The plot shows the distribution of the remaining 277 instances where both a birthdate and baptism date were recorded. This number is too small to draw any reliable conclusions, but it is clear that the most usual interval was between about three and four weeks.

According to Wrigley & Schofield the interval between birth and baptism was often fairly short in the sixteenth century, but increased with time, so that by the late eighteenth century the median figure had risen to about a month: the graph above, using figures from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, appears to confirm this. However, with the limited amount of data available from the Merstham registers I have not been able to confirm this further although most of the figures available around the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century show an interval of two weeks or less.

#### (Bibliography)

E A Wrigley & R S Schofield, *The Population History of England 1541-1871*, Cambridge University Press, 1989



# A grave discovery of triplets

*John W Brown*

For more than 30 years I have been involved in researching the lives of those buried in the graveyard of St Leonard's Church, Streatham. I have spent many happy hours in this surprisingly quiet and tranquil spot despite its location by the junction of the busy Streatham High Road, Mitcham Lane and Tooting Bec Gardens.

Thanks to the hard work of a small group of parishioners including Fay Whiting, Bob Emberson, Phil Heeley and Caroline Leveaux God's Acre in Streatham retains much of its rural charm despite its south London suburban setting.

Over the years Fay has been steadily winning her battle against the ivy and undergrowth and has recently discovered a couple of graves formerly hidden from view. Her current campaign revealed a concealed footstone which has enabled me to identify the grave as that belonging to one of the first recorded triplets mentioned in the ancient parish records. As I am one of the last recorded triplets living in Streatham this was obviously of interest.

The small brown footstone has the initials of the four people who now rest in this plot, with the year of their death alongside. Neatly carved in the ubiquitous Times Roman script are the following inscriptions:

R B 1829  
R B 1831  
S B 1831  
M B 1833



Unfortunately only the base of the headstone now survives, the above ground portion having broken off many years ago. Therefore with only the initials and dates to work with I set about trying to identify who these four people were whose grave Fay had revealed.

From my researches I discovered that it belonged to the Baker family, who resided in Streatham in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Fortunately, from an old listing of monumental inscriptions in the churchyard made by J Harvey Bloom and T C Dale, probably shortly after the First World War, I was able to discover the wording which once adorned the lost headstone which was:

ROBERT BAKER son of ROBERT & MARY BAKER of this parish  
died 3 May 1829 age 32  
He was one of three children at a birth the others yet survive  
ROBERT BAKER father of above died 20 Jan 1831 age 61  
STEPHEN son of above died 15 Sept 1831 age 31  
MARY wife of above died 23 July 1833 age 64

The parish registers reveal that Mary Baker gave birth to triplets, a boy and two girls, on 11th December 1796. It must have been with some pride that the Bakers

took their young babes to St Leonard's on 29th January 1797 when they were baptised Robert, Elizabeth and Sarah. No doubt the occasion was one of some celebration as the birth of triplets at that time was an unusual event.

The trio's father, Robert Baker, ran a carrier's business in Streatham and was also a local coal merchant. Between 1822 and 1828 he was appointed Ale Conner to the parish and was responsible for seeing that the beer sold in Streatham was of a satisfactory quality and served in the correct measure.

Robert and his family lived in a small wooden cottage in Baker's Lane, South Streatham. It may be that the lane was named after his family and it is fascinating to speculate that the lane may have adopted the name in celebration of the birth of his triplets.



Previously the lane had been known as Burton's Lane and Pasture Road as it led to the fields lying on the western side of the High Road opposite Streatham Common. These originally formed part of Burton's Farm which in the 1760s comprised around 95 acres.

In 1883 Baker's Lane was renamed Barrow Road in honour of Reuben Vincent Barrow, the then landowner. He was MP for Bermondsey during 1892-95, became the third Mayor of Croydon in 1885 and was a member of the large tanner and leather merchants called Samuel Barrow & Co of Bermondsey and Reigate (Samuel being his brother).

Robert Baker is first listed in the parish registers in 1795 when on 4th January his daughter Mary was baptised, having been born on the 8th December 1794 two years less a week before the triplets were born. One would have thought that after the triplets entered the Baker's lives they may have been reluctant to have further offspring. I know that such was the case for my own parents who were so overjoyed (!) at the birth of myself and my two brothers, Allen and Maurice, a year and a day after the birth of my sister, Pam, they obviously came to the conclusion that their family was now too richly blessed and no further children followed. However, the event did not deter the Bakers and further children joined the family with William being born in 1799, Stephen in 1800, Thomas (1802), Charlotte (1805) and Ann in 1807. It must have been quite a tight fit for the family in their small wooden cottage in Baker's lane with nine children to look after.

It would appear that all of their offspring survived into maturity, and Robert, the male triplet, was the first of their family to die in 1829 at the early age of 32, followed two years later in 1831 by his father, Robert Senior, aged 61. Later that year Stephen passed away and in 1833 Mary, mother of the triplets, completed the quartet of family members interred into the grave which 175 years later Fay discovered on a frosty February morning.





# A First World War Mystery

*Valerie Clasby [4453]*

Horace Leonard Jones was born June 1888 at the General Lying-In Hospital, York Road, Lambeth. He was the son of Horace John JONES and Elizabeth (née COURT) both born in Birmingham, but in 1888 of Stangate Street, Lambeth.

His siblings were:

1. Gertrude (Elizabeth) b. c1886, Paddington, m. Charles PAULING June 1912 (son Eric Charles in 1939 Electoral Rolls. b. Mar. 1916); the marriage and birth were registered at St George, Hanover Square; and

2. Dorothy b. c1890, Wolverhampton.

Horace married Jessie Elizabeth FENNYMORE, daughter of George Joseph & Elizabeth Matilda (née STILING) on 19 January 1907 at the Register Office, St George Hanover Square District. The address of both was Douglas Place, Vauxhall Bridge Road.

Horace & Jessie had five children: Charles, Horace, Dorothy, Bill and Sydney. Dorothy Elizabeth was born 4th November 1911 at Burnthwaite Road, Fulham. Horace Leonard joined up in 1914 — family stories say he was in Mesopotamia and possibly Africa. He never returned to his family and his children were told he was 'missing'. In 1922 Jessie 'married' Ernest Bush and a son Ernest George was born. However, recent research has uncovered his birth certificate, which shows his parents as Jessie Jones formerly Fennymore and Ernest Bush — so they weren't married. On 14 March 1931 Dorothy married my uncle Charles Edward MANDRY at St Gabriels, Pimlico. They lived at 93 Westmoreland Street, Westminster, where Jessie and Edward Bush also lived from 1922-1935.

On the marriage certificate Dorothy's father is listed as chauffeur (deceased); on her birth certificate he is a motorbus fitter.

Westmoreland Street is round the corner from Lupus Street where the Jones grandparents lived from at least 1905 to 1937.

In 1951 Dorothy and Charles and their three children emigrated to Australia. Just before she left a relative told her that her father had returned from the war, but not to his family, and had been living nearby.

In Australia Dorothy told her family the story over the years but no enquiries were made until the last few years, when, now 97, she said she would like to know what happened to her father. So we started to investigate.

The WW1 medals show a Horace L. Jones in the Royal Army Service Corps, who joined on 28 October 1914 and deserted 24 November 1916. He was awarded the Victory Medal, the British Medal and 14 Star — but it states these were returned in 1922. There is another Horace L. Jones with a different Service Number. Did he re-enlist? Who returned the Medals? A paid search at National Archives failed to discover any further documents, and a letter from my cousin to the MoD Army Medal Office at Droitwich was returned to Australia marked 'moved'!

In 1937 Horace Jones (senior) died at his home in Lupus Street. The Informant of his death was 'son Horace L. Jones of 81 Salehurst Road, Lewisham'. So he must

have been in regular contact with his parents, if not with his wife in the neighbouring street. Horace Leonard Jones appears on the Electoral Register for 81 Salehurst Road from 1937 until his death at this address on 4 March 1950. Also living at this address were Dora and Arthur Kemp and, in 1947, James F. Kemp. Dora was the Informant on the death certificate. Could Dora be Horace's sister Dorothy? GRO indices have been checked via freeBMD, but neither Dorothy nor any of the Kemps can be found. Recent enquiries were made by letter to Salehurst Road, but the sole reply was that although the current occupant made enquiries from a long-resident neighbour, nothing was known of the Kemps or of Horace Jones. Jessie Elizabeth Bush died 8 December 1942 age 56 of 11 Bessborough Street, Westminster, described as wife of Ernest Bush, a house decorator.

Presumably Jessie must have known her husband had returned, and kept the information from her children all her life; other relatives knew and they all lived near each other. But probably the children would not have recognised their father if they had seen him.

Where do we go from her? Where was Horace before 1936? What made him desert after two years? Was the Corps going to Mesopotamia?

Is anyone linked to any of these families? Does anyone have any more suggestions for solving the puzzle?



## Obsession

*Mary Gill []*

I've been doing Fam'ly Hist'ry  
And I've had my share of myst'ry;  
There are some who had no fathers  
And a few who never died.  
There are some – I cannot find them –  
For they left no trail behind them.  
And God knows where they came from  
Cos they cannot decide.

There are Howards, Wrights and Johnsons,  
Who make research a nonsense  
Cos there's far too many of them  
And I don't know which are mine.  
Would that Georges were much rarer  
And not all their wives were Sarah.  
Did they really need to have  
That many Janes in line?

There are days when I discover  
A weird name that's like no other.  
Those are times I start out hopeful  
But it won't mean I don't fail.  
For it's then there will be dozens

Of their uncles, sons and cousins  
Who've all been christened Felix  
To put me off the trail.

When I started my detections  
I had hopes of roy'l connections  
Or a hero who got knighted  
And was held in high esteem.  
But, since I can't have the jackpot,  
I would settle for some crackpot  
Who ended with his head off  
For dissing some old queen.

But there's nothing that blue-blooded  
Almost all their hands were muddied  
Cos they're Ag Labs in a hovel  
Or they're servants to some toff.  
Here and there I've found a baker  
Or a butcher or a Quaker  
But there is no one famous.  
Yet still I'm not put off.

Cos I'm hooked on my researches  
In the archives and the churches  
Amidst musty dusty records  
That will often make me itch.  
I have peered at faded pages,  
Surfed the World Wide Web for ages  
For that point when excitement  
Will rise to fever pitch.

When I find the missing granny  
Whose been tucked up in some cranny  
Since I started Fam'ly Hist'ry  
Nearly twenty years ago.  
Yet another twig is budding  
And emotions will come flooding.  
It's very satisfying  
When trees begin to grow.

So I'll keep on digging deeper  
Because I'm the fam'ly's keeper  
From the blossoms and the branches  
To the roots from which we stem.  
I will add the facts about 'em  
For they scarce exist without 'em  
Till I am hung from my branch  
With D plus B and M.



# The Story of the Family Photographic Index

*Anne Matanle*

I have been collecting named old photographs of people for nearly twenty years. I have indexed the surnames A – Z, and catalogued all the other information that I can find on the photograph. This index I call the Family Photographic Index and I have been advertising the Index for the past fifteen years doing individual surname searches for people (which I still can do). I was then asked to put the Index on a CD ROM and now as I am adding more surnames to the Index we are now providing an on-line Search which I hope will reach more people. If a family name is found a copy of the photograph can be purchased. The original photographs themselves will remain in my collection, as I have no wish to deplete this growing collection of potentially national importance as it gets larger. Copies of any photograph in various forms can be purchased (see [ancestral-routes.co.uk](http://ancestral-routes.co.uk) 'Description of the Family Photographic Index', or write to me at the address below).

The earliest photographs date from the time when photography first became popular, around the 1850s. The collection includes from the cartes-de-visites, (visiting cards), cabinet portraits, postcards and twentieth century black and white family photos. I have collected only photographs that have the names of the sitters written on them, and some come from not only all over Britain but the world. Those of our ancestors that travelled or emigrated often had their photographs taken and they then sent copies of these back home.

As my husband and I are members of the Photographic Collectors' Club of Great Britain (PCCGB) we have been going to photographic collectors' fairs for some years. At these fairs I saw that there was a trade in old photographs and images. Amongst these were photographs of people with their names and sometimes other details written on the photograph. I realised the importance of this genealogical material that might get buried in the collection of an image collector who might not have the knowledge of, or interest in, family history research. I have heard of so many sad stories of families that, by accident or bereavement, throw away photographs and old papers that later could have had vital information for others interested in their family history research. So I decided to try and save as many of these old photographs for fellow family history researchers as I could. It is not necessarily so, that if your treasured photos were lost, that these may have been the only copy. During the height of the popularity of early photography, the sitter would be offered several copies of photographs from one sitting, so these could be given out to family and friends.

I started buying these photographs from antique shops, fairs and selected and trusted dealers who would vouch for the authenticity of the photograph. I told all the image dealers that I met about the index and asked for their co-operation in saving for me any photos that had the sitter's name and other useful information on them. Most of the image collectors, some being members of the PCCGB and good friends, have been very supportive and the index has been built generally with their help, as they are able to keep the cost of the photographs down. There are many

sellers of photographs that I see in antique shops and at Family History fairs that have an inflated view of the value of old photographs, which, after all, are someone's family and not that valuable to most people. I do have a growing number of supporters from the general public who have used the index. They send me photographs of their own family and any that they have found at fairs or antique shops, to add to the collection. I am always ready to cover reasonable costs.

I will not buy albums unless they are guaranteed by the said trusted dealers. In general, image dealers do not realise the importance of a family collection to genealogical research. They will take out from the albums any photograph that they understand to be individually valuable, for example, pictures taken by famous photographers, or a photograph of a famous person or a sellable subject. Rather than sell an album with gaps in it, they will often insert a spare photograph that has nothing to do with the family, thus unknowingly corrupting the research. I use an Access database for the initial surname index and when I am cataloguing. With the collections I give each one a code so that I can identify all the surnames within any one collection. This could be such an advantage to the researcher as it may give connections of relatives and friends. If a surname is found, do ask if it came within a collection. If it does I can do a printout of all the surnames and other information in the collection.

For further details see the press release on page 28.



## **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.

## **Vouchers for sale**

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

**FamilyHistoryOnline**

**Findmypast (was 1837 Online)**

**1911 Census vouchers will soon be available**

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.

# Family Photographic Index

Sussex-based *Ancestral Routes* has just announced a new website facility enabling researchers to search the popular Family Photographic Index on-line. Thousands of surnames from a large collection of named photographs featuring people pictured between the 1850s and the 1930s, the majority during the nineteenth century, can now be searched on-line, on a pay-by view basis, at [www.ancestral-routes.co.uk](http://www.ancestral-routes.co.uk), with no charge if there is no result. For each successful search, costing just £2, the researcher will have emailed to them every instance of that surname catalogued in the Index.

All the thousands of photographs from which the index is derived have (at least) the name of the sitter written on them and many have a great deal more, and all this data is part of the index. Also included is information obtained from the photographs by observation, such as the probable date if no actual date is given. Although the photographs themselves are not on line, copies can be purchased if a match to the user's family is found.

Also new from Ancestral Routes are CD versions of the popular *What Date?* Pocket books, which enable researchers to identify exactly which records are available for the period that they are researching, and exactly where to find them. *What Date?* Book 1 shows the availability of a large range of archives from the present day back to 1800, while *What Date?* Book 2 shows the archives that can be accessed for the period from 1851 back to 1650.

Both *What Date?* books contain genealogical timeline charts that show the starting and ending dates of the archives. Now that the books are available as CDs, as well as in book form, researchers can have *What Date?* running on their computers while doing internet research, to clarify the period for which the archive being studied is actually available, and where the originals can be seen.

Also included in both *What Date?* books, whether in printed or CD form, is information on the background to each archive plus helpful hints to the researcher.

Each *What Date?* Book or CD costs £4.95 plus postage. Full information is at [www.ancestral-routes.co.uk](http://www.ancestral-routes.co.uk), by email from [anne@ancestral-routes.co.uk](mailto:anne@ancestral-routes.co.uk) or by mail from Anne Matanle, 13 Kingston Villas, Chiddingly Road, Heathfield, TN21 0JL. ❖

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# Website roundup

*Brian Hudson [7324]*

[www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk) The much anticipated 1911 census became available in January this year. The website is a joint venture between The National Archives (TNA) and Find My Past (FMP) who run the site. The basic results of a search are free but viewing a transcript or census page image requires payment of a fee which is only available on a pay-as-you-go basis, unless you happen to be visiting the TNA at Kew where there is free access but standard charges for printing still apply. Later on, access to the online 1911 census will be available as part of an FMP subscription.

The site went live just as this item was being written and appeared to work quickly and efficiently; the high quality colour images of the original documents were very clear to read and the colour made the enumerators' notes and amendments easy to make out. In due course the images will be available to view directly on the website but as this facility was not yet available the image files had to be downloaded. By the time you read this article the enumerators' summary books will also have been put online.

One noticeable feature of the census image is that the last column 'Infirmity' has been blanked out leaving a white space. The Information Commissioner has said that this information cannot be published until 2012 due to its sensitive nature.

The 1911 census shows the actual census return and it states that the information has been completed by the ' . . . Head of Family, or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.' You could be looking at the actual handwriting of your ancestor.

Unfortunately one family researcher has already found some careless transcription errors but hopefully this was an isolated occurrence. Unlike ancestry there is no alternative spelling offered which might help to find a name that has been transcribed incorrectly. Overall this is a useful resource, but not a cheap one.

[www.bbti.bham.ac.uk](http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk) A website hosted by the University of Birmingham; it has a database that includes brief biographical and trade details of people who worked in the English and Welsh booktrades up to 1851. The trades covered are wider than might be expected since related trades such as papermakers, auctioneers and sellers of medicines are also included. This site is really just an index to other sources of information but could prove useful if you happen to have an ancestor included. Setting some parameters for Hudson produced nine records with dates, location and the trade.

[www.deepnetexplorer.com](http://www.deepnetexplorer.com) The more adventurous computer user might be interested to look at this browser. As well as the usual modern browser features the write-up for deepnetexplorer promotes its ' . . . superior security, functionality and usability.' Anglers should note that security features include a phishing alarm. ❖

## Brook House / Mill House

(Mrs) Pat Cartmell (née Knott) [3818]

I am trying to find a property known as 'Brook House', although it may also have been known as 'Mill House'.

In 1957 it was a hotel trading by the former name, situated on the A24 between Dorking and Horsham, in the area of Holmwood Corner.

It had a thatched roof and also had some four-poster beds; the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1963. I should like to hear from anyone who has any information on it, or any photographs. Currently there are four detached houses built on this site, one of which is known as 'Brook House'.

Maureen Copping []

## Mystery watermen

(Mrs) Pat Cartmell (née Knott) [3818]

The wedding photograph below appears to have been taken around 1900.



There are two watermen in the photo, displaying their Coats and Badges. The one at the bottom of the picture might be a winner of a Putney Apprentices' race and his coat would have been purple. The man at the top right has a different coloured coat and his badge is not the same as the other one. The 'speckled' patch at the top left of the photo is perhaps water damage; or someone has been deliberately removed from the picture !

Can you help?



I don't know who the family is, but they could be of the Lake, Cuff or Futer families of the Wandsworth area: I am descended from the Lakes and Cuffs.

Any information about the people in the photo would be much appreciated!

## Hoskins / Burford

*John F. Hoskin [9740]*

I am searching for the family of John **Hoskins** (b. c1794 Wimbledon, Surrey); he was baptised 30<sup>th</sup> November 1794 at St Mary's church, Wimbledon.

The 1841 census return (ref. 474652 pp48-49) indicates that he was aged 56 and a gardener, living at 11 West Place, Lambeth, in the parish of St Mary.

In 1842 he married Sarah **Burford** (b. c1799) and they had nine children: Anne, Thomas, Maria, John, Sarah, Richard, Eliza, Edwin and Emma.

The 1851 census return (ref 17481) shows them living in Brixton.

My research is to find descendants of the children and to confirm dates, locations and occupations. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## Thompson / Silverthorne / Fry / Randell

*I do not have the sender's details of this request for help. If he or she would contact me I shall forward any responses that I receive (Editor)*

Recently I have found out that two of my grandfather's siblings emigrated to Canada, and I would like to have some guidance as to how I can obtain information about them, and their families.

My grandfather Walter Henry **Thompson** had a brother James Richard Thompson and a sister Alice Louisa Thompson; their father was James Richard Thompson and mother Rebecca (née **Silverthorne**).

James Richard Thompson (jnr) was born in Brixton, Lambeth, London on 27 Mar 1880. He served in the Scots Guard and fought in the Boer War and later re-enlisted to fight in WW1. He married Florence Elizabeth **Fry** on 7 September 1904 at Herne Bay, Kent. James travelled all across the globe first to Canada where his daughter was born, then to UK where four boys were born, off to New Zealand, Australia, and ending up in Vancouver, Canada, last information was 1939. James was later employed by the Vancouver Harbour Board as a policeman.

Florence Victoria Thompson, daughter of James, born 31 May 1906 in Bradford, Winnipeg, Canada eventually ended back in Canada with her father. She married Henry **Randell** about 1921 in Vancouver.

Alice Louisa Thompson married Henry Owen Elliott between January and March 1910 in Lambeth, London. After Henry came back from the front in WW1, he was a Traveller in Winnipeg, and the family later moved to Canada.

Any help in how to trace these families would be appreciated.

## Harland / Peck

*Shaun Bunce [9784]*

George **Peck** born 1842 in Brompton, Middlesex became a partner of William Harland and Son, varnish manufacturers of Phipps Bridge, Mitcham. His mother Mary was the daughter of William Harland, the founder of the business.

William Harland married an Elizabeth Mary **Buckett** at St Giles church, Cripple Gate, in 1770; their first son, also William, was born in 1774 and christened the following year at St Paul's, Covent Garden.

In 1841 the Harland family were residents in Mitcham living at Grove Cottage, Phipps Bridge (I think Grove Cottage was originally called the "White House"). William Harland died in 1847 aged 73 and was buried at the parish church beside his wife in the family plot.

Robert **Harland**, a gt-grandson of William Harland, became owner of the varnish business and at this time George Peck became Robert's partner.

Robert Harland and George Peck were cousins. Robert married George's sister Sarah Isabella Peck about 1860. George and Sarah are the children of Richard Peck and Mary née Harland.

Robert Harland had a house built called "Homefield" where he and his wife lived up to the death of Robert in 1892. There were no children of this marriage and this is when George Peck took over the business. George then changed his surname to Harland-Peck.

George ran the varnish business up to his death in 1920, then his wife Agnes took control with the help of Sir Francis Hercey.

She died in 1939 and Sir Francis Hercey became the owner of William Harland and son. In 1955 the business was sold to Ault and Wiborg Ltd. Several years later the business closed down and the land was sold for redevelopment to Greater London Council. The site of the varnish factory is now Brangwyn Crescent and the Harland Primary School. Homefield House, the home of Robert and Sarah Harland, complete with lodge and stables was built in the Gothic revival style which survived until the 1930s, then some time later it was also under development and is now Homefield Gardens Housing Estate. George and Agnes Harland-Peck lived most of their lives at 9 Belgrave Square, London. They are both buried at Putney Vale cemetery.

If anyone could share any information or photographs of the varnish factory or the Harland and Peck families it would help me a great deal.

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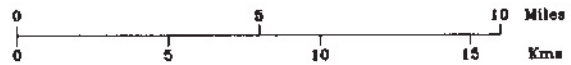
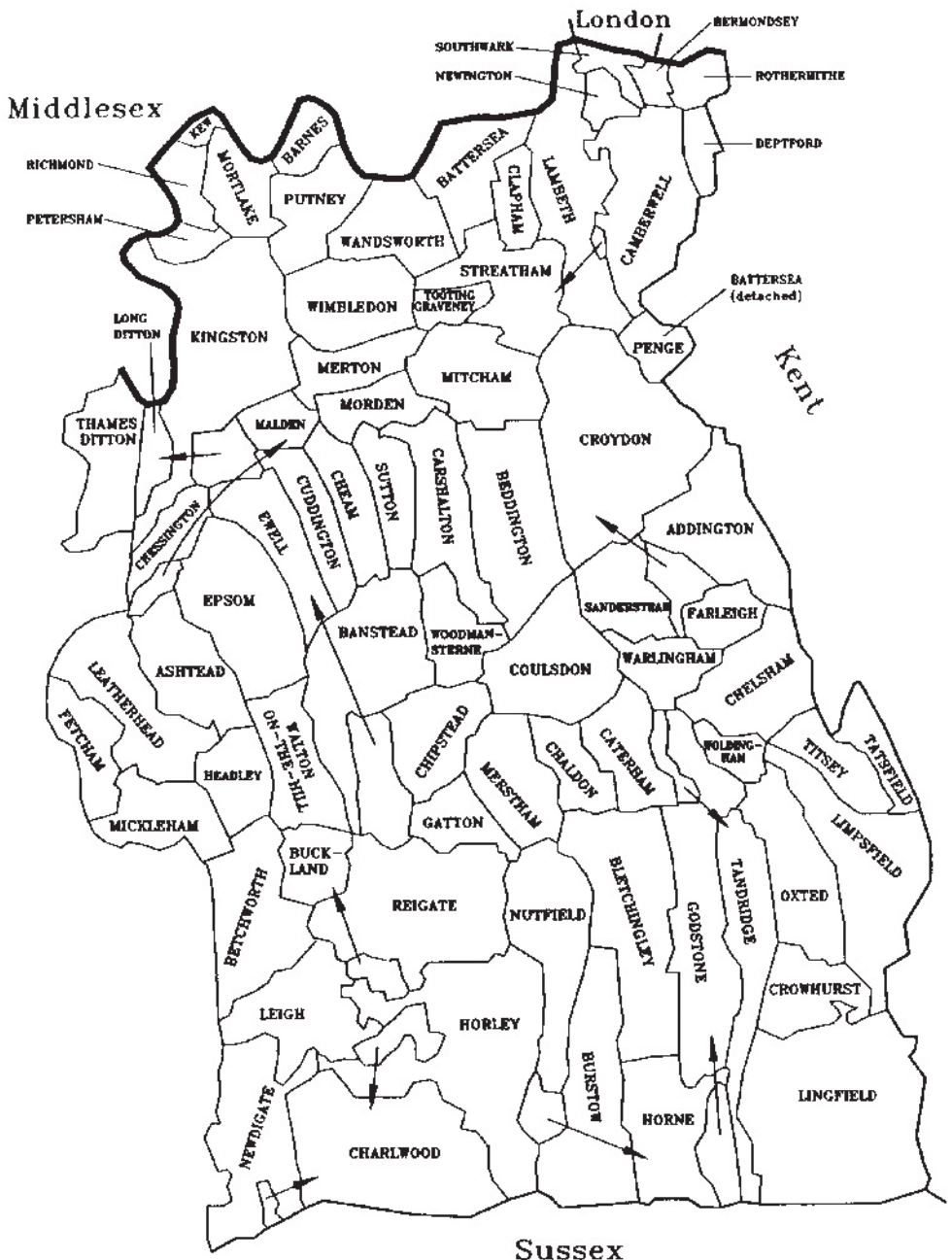
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