



THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN

The Essex Society for Family History Magazine



www.esfh.org.uk

Edition No 183

December 2024

Essex Society for Family History

For full information about the Society, please visit our website - www.esfh.org.uk

All our meetings and workshops are a mixture of online only and online and in person events. Open to all members. You will be notified by email of all events and events are posted up on the Events section of our website.

We offer Research Services (see page 89). For one-to-one help with your "brick walls" to be held at our Research Centre at the Essex Record Office and booked in advance please contact Gill Peregrine on gpesfh@gmail.com.

Membership Rates

Annual membership of the Society runs from 1st April until 31st March. For rates see table below or our website. For membership payment details please see our website or page 89.

Membership Category	Fees Payable (Paper Magazine)	Fees Payable (Electronic Magazine)
Single member living in UK	£22.00	£10.00
Single Member living outside UK or Institutional Member	£35.00	£10.00

Benefits of membership include:-

- A Research Centre at Essex Record Office open on a regular basis with volunteers on duty. Bookable one-to-one meetings to help with family history.
- Access to the Members only area of the website where members can find valuable genealogical records.
- Addition of DNA (GEDmatch) kit numbers to our database allowing members to find out if other members have a connecting match.
- Receipt on a regular basis of THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN - the Society family history magazine, with the capability to download the latest issue and access an archive of back copies. Receipt of ESFH Newsletters.
- Access to a number of publications from other family history societies.
- Member Surname Interests - All members are able to update and advertise their own Surnames Interests online.
- Concessionary Subscription Rates for www.findmypast.co.uk
- Essex Gazetteer - members have access to a database which includes place names in "old Essex".
- Access, anytime, to recorded presentations.
- Access to Essex Poor Law Indexes.

The Essex Family Historian

Edition – December 2024 No. 183

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The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Committee and Officers of the Society.

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For Your Information

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

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CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

Contributors are requested to limit their articles to 2000 words, other than by prior agreement with the Editor. Contributions should be sent in Microsoft Word format or plain text files (Microsoft Notepad) Graphics/photos preferably as separate JPEG files.

Alternatively written or typed articles with photographs can be sent directly to the Editor at the address above. Photographs will be returned.

Contributors should make every effort to trace and acknowledge ownership of all copyright material and secure permissions. The Editor needs to be aware of any problems with contributors acquiring copyright.

Contributors should include their ESFH membership number. The use of material is at the discretion of the Editorial team and may be used in any print and electronic media relevant to ESFH.

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The Geographical Area covered by ESFH

The area covered by ESFH is that of the old Essex county with the exception of 'London Boroughs' which are considered to be in the area of East of London FHS and Waltham Forest which is in the area of Waltham Forest FHS.

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Bolding of email addresses in this issue is to ensure that they are easy to read; they are not hyperlinked, whereas web addresses are bolded so that electronic readers may click on the link and be taken directly to that web address.

From the Editor

"Time travels at different speeds for different people. I can tell you who time strolls for, who it trots for, who it gallops for, and who it stops cold for."

William Shakespeare, As You Like It

We are coming towards the end of our 50th Anniversary and for some reason I thought of the above quote as I sat down and started on this editorial. The year was 1974 and Harold Wilson's Labour Government had just returned to power, it was the first coal miner's strike since 1926, it was the year of Fawlty Towers, Bagpuss, The Towering Inferno and if you are a sports fan, Red Rum claimed his second Grand National and Muhammed Ali knocked out George Foreman in the 'Rumble in the Jungle' bout. Thinking about it, we are closer today to the Roman Empire than the Romans were to the construction of the Great Pyramids! Wow, now there's something to think about.

Our branch committees are continually doing a wonderful job of putting events together and you will find a list of forthcoming presentations (both in person and online) for your area from page 6. Some past events have been recorded and are available on the website so please have a look and see what's available as you may find something of interest.

We have some great articles in this edition and Graeme Dell's 'Dad and Camera go to War' on page 11 particularly struck a chord with me as I have an old photo album of my grandfather during WW II in North Africa and Italy. I really must do what Graeme did and research them.

We held our AGM on 19 October which was well attended both in person and online and you can find the reports from page 50 onwards. Our magazine cover shows some members of our Executive Committee with the 50th Anniversary cake: Tanya, Denise, Toni, Colleen and Andrea.

The Society held some wonderful events this year and I do hope that many of you who attended enjoyed them and for those that entered the prize draw, we have the results on page 57.

Colleen, Andrea and Tanya have some great updates on the St Mary's Church, Woodham Ferrers digital graveyard mapping project, see pages 66 and 71. This is such a worthwhile project and the Society is very proud to be part of it.

That's all from me now, so all I'm left to say is, have a great Christmas and Happy New Year everyone, and I look forward to hearing what discoveries you make in your research in the coming year.

Jean-Marc Bazzoni



JEAN-MARC BAZZONI

Forthcoming Presentations

Our talks and workshops may be subject to change so **please always check our website under the ESFH Events tab for the latest information.**

Look out for regular emails sent by ESFH to your inbox advertising upcoming events.

Tuesday 3 Dec 2024 2.30pm GMT	London's Frost Fairs - A talk by Mike Stringer A look back at how Londoners have made use of their river even during the harshest of Winters. Contrary to popular belief, the Thames has only frozen solid on a small number of occasions, but it has allowed people to use it as a base for hosting fairs.	Online
Saturday 7 Dec 2024 2.30 pm GMT	For Better, Far Worse- A talk by Toni Neobard and Kate Broad A "lighthearted" look at some of the joys and pitfalls of marriage!	Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7JX
Wednesday 11 Dec 2024 7.15 pm GMT	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 4: Part 2 - Clustering & Coloured Dot System	Online
Saturday 14 Dec 2024 2.30 pm GMT	Christmas Social with the Committee	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG
Saturday 4 January 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Exploring Nazareth House - A talk by Fred Feather Starting with the parish of Milton and the building of Milton Hall which became Nazareth House learn of a bishop interred in the burial ground there and his part in the final days of the French Napoleonic Empire	Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7JX
Wednesday 8 January 2025 7.15 pm GMT	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 5: Working A Case	Online

Saturday 11 January 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Missing From Home - A talk by David Eniffer This talk is about those ancestors who seemed to have disappeared from the face of the earth. Annoyingly the family may have never discussed them, leaving the imagination to run wild. This talk covers some alternative ways of tracking relatives that may be scattered all over the world.	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG
Saturday 1 February 2025 2.30 pm GMT	The Cart & Wagon shed project at Shoebury Garrison - a talk by David Hadjicostas Doors open at 1.30 pm. There will be help-desks for family history and DNA queries.	Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7JX
Saturday 1 February 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Mapping Rich and Poor: Charles Booth's Enquiry - A talk by Indy Bhullar An exploration of the work carried out by Charles Booth. Booth was a shipping magnate who organised one of the most famous and influential sociological investigations into the lives and labours of people living in London during the late-Victorian era.	St Johns Art & Recreation Centre, Market Street, Harlow CM17 0AJ
Saturday 8 February 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Flash, Bang, Wallop! - A talk by Toni Neobard A history of Photography.	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG
Wednesday 12 February 2025 7.15 pm GMT	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 6: How They Connect	Online
Saturday 15 February 2025 10.30 am GMT	Can You Spell That Please? - A talk by Angela Hillier A look at the variations in the way surnames are spelt and what variations to look for if you have "lost" an ancestor.	Galleywood Heritage Centre, Galleywood Common. Chelmsford CM2 8TR

Saturday 15 February 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Defending Chelmsford against Napoleon - A talk by Neil Wiffen During the late 1790s and early 1800 hundreds Napoleon Bonaparte threatened Great Britian with invasion. While Kent an Sussex would have most likely been the primary target for invasion, Essex came a very close second with the strategic port of Harwich close by the gently shelving beaches at Clacton. If the French has come, they would have advanced on London and at Chelmsford the main defense of the capital would have been undertaken. The entrenched camp extending from Wood Street to Galleywood Common were the most extensive fortifications built north of the Thames during this period. Join Neil to find out more about them and their importance to the defense of London	Galleywood Heritage Centre, Galleywood Common. Chelmsford CM2 8TR
Saturday 1 March 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Animal heroes of WWI and WWII - A talk by Paul Hounsell	Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7JX
Saturday 8 March 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Colchester at War: Life on the Home Front (1939-1945) - A talk by Patrick Denney A look back to see what life was like on the Home Front in Colchester during WW2. The talk will include contemporary wartime illustrations, memories and anecdotes from Colchester residents and be fully illustrated throughout.	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG
Wednesday 12 March 2025 7.15 pm GMT	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 7: Descendancy Research	Online

Friday 19 March 2025 7.30 pm GMT	Family Feuds: The Magic of Chancery - A talk by Susan Moore Chancery records can be some of the most valuable sources for any family history research. They illuminate the characters of our ancestors, we hear what they were saying and thinking, they distinguish between all those John Smiths, grandfather, father, uncle, son, nephew, and best of all many of them start by reciting the last 4 generations of a family. People featured range from gentlemen to servants, and include men, women, and children. The records run from late medieval times to the middle of the 20th century and are a must for any family historian.	Online
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Historical Association

Essex Branch Programme

2025

11 January 2025	Charles II's revenge on the men who killed his father – retribution or justice?	Don Jordan (Co-Author: The King's Revenge)
8 February 2025	The Zulu Show: Disasters after Rorkes Drift, Louis Napoleon's story, the weird tale of John Dunn & how the Zulus conquered London	Dave McCall, (Author: David Ebsworth: The Kraals of Ulundi)
22 March 2025	What have the Normans ever done for us?	Professor David Bates. University of East Anglia
26 April 2025	Alfred the Great and Late Anglo-Saxon England	Dr. Eric Boston. C.A.T.S. College, Cambridge
17 May 2025	The North Sea Floods of 1953	Cherry Boroughs (Author: The Farmer & the Fury)

Talks on Saturdays, 2.30pm, Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2XB.
<https://essexbranchha.com>

Visitors and prospective members warmly welcomed - £3, Associate Members fee £10.00 / £15.00 for 2 members at same address.

Branch Contact: Tony Tuckwell: tony@tuckwell.eclipse.co.uk



EAST SURREY

Family History Society

Virtual Family History Fair

Saturday, 25 January 2025

Sessions: 10.00 to 12.00 | 14.00 to 16.00

East Surrey FHS will again be hosting our fabulous Virtual Family History Fair in 2025.

Enjoy all the benefits of a family history show from your own armchair, **FREE of charge, using Zoom.**

Go to our website to register for either or both sessions.

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk and follow the **Events** link.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing details about joining the fair.

Bring your specific questions to get the best from the event.

Organisations already confirmed as attending

Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS | Berkshire FHS

East Surrey FHS | Essex Society for Family History

Family & Community Historical Research Group

The Guild of One-Name Studies | Hampshire Genealogical Society

London Westminster and Middlesex FHS | Romany and Travellers FHS

Sussex Family History Group | West Middlesex FHS

Keep checking our website for the latest information



EAST SURREY
Family History Society



www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Dad and Camera go to War (1940-1946)

by Graeme Dell (ESFH 8354)

For a very small minority of the people that delve into their family history, there may be painted portraits or even statues that provide some definition of what their ancestors may have looked like. I know this because I am married to someone in that group. The rest of us have to make do with what I would describe as the post camera period.

My own dad, born in 1916, bought his first camera in 1932. It was made by a firm called Houghton Butcher & MFG Co Ltd who were based in Walthamstow near to Hackney where he lived.

In 1940 Dad and camera went off to war. In effect the camera was probably absent from the first stage of Dad's involvement in the war when he was involved at Gravesend aerodrome on anti-aircraft gunnery but on the 5 October 1940 both Dad and camera did set sail for the Middle East.

After the war he and mum took me, on numerous occasions, to the Royal Tournament and the Woolwich Searchlight Tattoos, but like many of that stoic generation the war itself was rarely mentioned.

So when he died quite young in 1974, my knowledge of his war was very limited to what I perceived at the time to be, just more or less, jocular remarks. For example:

'He enjoyed his stint at Gravesend Aerodrome because the air raid shelters were so deep underground, he got a decent sleep away from the noise of the guns.'

I now realise this would have been true, certainly compared to North Africa and even in Dagenham where, after the war in 1947, the Borough published a book 'Danger Over Dagenham.' This in addition to highlighting the hard work and bravery of so many local civilians includes the impact that the noise the guns and bombing were having on the local population in general.

Secondly in answer to the question was he shot at, the answer was *'Only by my own side after curfew.'* I guess jocular.

Thirdly in response to what did he actually do during the war, he said *'He painted Montgomery's caravan'*. I suppose it was possible but I now know he did also quite a bit of clearing mines which never got a mention.

And finally when the war ended Dad had reached Hamburg. At some stage the authorities decided to run educational lessons to try and keep the troops occupied. Dad said *"at the introductory lesson the officer in charge asked 'What and who would you associate with Stoke Poges'. He replied Thomas Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard and the officer replied 'you are too intelligent for this class, go and do what you want'."* I am inclined to believe there is a strong element of truth in this one because during July and August in 1945 he had a 42 day pass and I now have photos that would appear to support this.

But the photo story really begins in 1940 in North Africa. I still have the leather photo album that he purchased in Egypt and to this day it contains a considerable number of his war time photos.

Fast forwarding to 2003, I took the decision, as the digital camera came to the fore, to store all our new photos on a hard disk and to digitise as many as possible of our old photos, both printed and slides collection. But when adding in the photos in the Egyptian Album I became somewhat intrigued with the what, where and who of the photos, which developed into an objective in that it would also provide meaningful headings, identifying the photos for future generations. Looking back now I would say that it took a lot more effort than anticipated, it was also certainly frustrating at times but it did also provide a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction when answers were found.

So generally identifying the location was always a good starting point. Many of the shots by definition could have been taken almost anywhere but even in those early years it was not too difficult to identify the more prominent sites of Jerusalem, Alexandria and of course the Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx. But what I could identify location wise was still a fairly small percentage of the overall, after all, a tent in the desert was always more about the people in the tent than the location.



CHURCH OF ST ANNE JERUSALEM MAY 1943

However, despite the effort involved, that initial stage itself didn't take that long and the project soon moved very much onto the backburner until about ten years ago when I discovered an old Oxo box in the garage, and which I confess, must have been put there by yours truly in the first place. This box contained approximately some hundred and eighty black and white negatives. Amazed and curious as to what many of them were, I set out to load and convert them onto a computer. Firstly I made a simple wooden frame into which I could slide a negative and with a cut out the



GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

size of the negative allowing light to shine through. By standing the frame against a diffused light, in my case a blank but well lit computer screen, it was a relatively easy task to photograph each negative. I then was able to load the photos onto the computer and then I loaded each photo into Picasa 3 where I reversed the images using the negative filter and hey presto I had some hundred and eighty photos. (Nowadays Photo Editor 10 has similar required functionality).

That was something of a wow moment. Of the hundred and eighty odd negatives the best part of eighty I had not seen before and whilst the quality of many had been affected by time itself, together with a number that had perhaps not been originally considered of sufficient quality to justify being processed, modern computer software now allowed me to often add a level of improvement.

The photos overall appeared to cover a period of time from the 1930s into the 1950s with a significant amount taken during the war period including seven that looked European as opposed to North African and the desert arena. This was certainly a surprising development as Dad and camera had arrived back in the UK in April 1944, and as far as I have always understood, he never took the camera with him when he went across to Normandy on the 21 August of that year.

In addition another aspect that had always seemed to support the assumption that in Europe the camera was not with him was that he bought a number of small photo packs of various cities and towns such as Bruges, Paris etc on the way up.

And so began another exercise of trying to identify the where, what and who of these new images.

One of the original photos in the album which I had never been able to identify was of Dad sitting on the wall around an ornamental pond, where written on the back was 'Alexandria, 9 July 1942'. However, I have had my doubts about this date for a long while because this would have been when the 1st battle of El Alamein was at its height with Field Marshall Rommel's troops just sixty-six miles from Alexandria. So I was always fairly convinced that lazing around in Alexandria would not have happened at that time. However some of the new images now contain similar images in that they tended to be almost holiday snaps of gardens and often had an ornamental focus. Unfortunately though, for a long while I still wasn't able to make much progress with any identification until I watched an Alice Roberts programme where she travelled



EL ANDALOS PARK CAIRO

from the north to the south of Egypt and it registered with me that the Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx were a lot closer to Cairo than Alexandria.

Online I soon discovered the El Andalos Park in Cairo and immediately linked Dad's photo from the gardens leading to the Ahmed Shawky Statue. The park was established in 1935 by Mohamad Bey Zulfikar. In some ways, fortunately for me, the park has since suffered from decades of neglect and consequently this meant many of the statues and monuments in Dad's photos remained much the same today as they were some eighty years ago.

There was one though that I struggled to identify. It was of a monument with a large entrance gate in the background. When, eventually I did identify where that was, the gate today was totally covered in foliage and all the photos I found online were taken



EL ANDALOS PARK. DAD WOULD HAVE BEEN STANDING ON STEPS TO TAKE PHOTO



PHOTO IS DATED 9TH JULY 1942 ALEXANDRIA
BUT IS EL ANDALOS PARK, CAIRO

from the entrance side. However, they showed me clearly the flight of steps that dad would have been standing on to take his photo.

Additionally, I also found the ornamental pond with Dad sitting on the low wall. Although the pond was now filled in, the very distinctive pattern of the wall was clearly identifiable as were the pillars in the background. So, despite the writing on the back of the original photo, it most certainly wasn't taken in Alexandria and I am certain still that it wasn't the 9 July 1942.

And now I was left with the seven images which appeared to be WWII related in Europe and of the seven there were four photos that I felt could possibly be identified.

One was of a V1 Rocket on a plinth and another was of a US P51 Mustang both being mulled over by civilians which hinted at a possible post war exhibition of some



GROENPLAATS ANTWERP V1 ROCKET CHURCHILL TANK IN BACKGROUND



P51 MUSTANG GROENPLAATS ANTWERP



HELMOND CASTLE A SQUARE MEDIEVAL MOATED CASTLE IN HELMOND IN THE DUTCH PROVINCE OF NORTH BRABANT

sort. The third was of a Castle and the fourth included a bridge over a canal with, in the background, a church with a very tall narrow spire.

So over a number of years, on intermittent occasions, I have probably looked at most online Church Towers, Town hall towers and Castles in North West Europe, but the breakthrough came in June 2024 when I found Kasteel (Castle) Helmond and eventually a photo taken from a similar angle to the one Dad had used. That photo in many ways showed how much modern cameras present a far greater definition in the

depth of field, because the Castle itself is actually surrounded by a reasonably sized moat, which in Dad's photo is visible but I had never realised that before.

So Helmond in the Netherlands became a focal search point and I next found the website 'Traces of War.'

Helmond was liberated on the 25 September 1944 and in October was transferred from occupied territory to a rest and recuperation area for allied troops. Also a considerable number of repair shops and engineers were placed in the city including part of 79th Armoured division, the famous Hobart's Funnies, kept busy no doubt repairing the flail tanks being used for mine clearing. However in late October the Germans began an offensive to try and retake the city and Helmond went on the defensive with *Operation Kent* being instigated. Although Helmond suffered some considerable damage, by 5 November that threat had been nullified, although the people of Helmond were to suffer from sporadic bombing for many more months.

It was while I was researching this that I discovered a couple of photos of the very same bridge in Dad's photo. The first showing the destruction of the bridge following the German counter attack and the other showing the bridge rebuilt at a later but unknown date. So using the contact email provided, I asked if they would be interested in the photos I had and soon I received a positive response from a Dutch gentleman, associated with the Traces of War organisation, whose specific area of interest was Helmond. So off went the four images and almost immediately I received a reply beginning with *'Thank you so much for getting back to me. I'm not sure what to say. That image of Helmond of the bridge is very very unique'*. Helmond was a rest stop after her liberation on the 25th September, many people went to Helmond and you could get some film rolls for your camera there.

An in-depth narrative of the WWII story of the bridge in Helmond (Veestraatbrug) can be found via the following link at **TracesOfWar.com**:

Restoring the Veestraatbrug in Helmond

<https://www.tracesofwar.com/articles/7677/Restoring-the-Veestraatbrug-in-Helmond.htm>

With reference to the V1 Rocket and the P51 Mustang he also confirmed the exhibition theory. *'The other two are definitely the 'Groenplaats' in Antwerp. There are a lot of photos to compare it with.'*

This was followed by an e-mail a couple of days later with *'Thank you for getting back to me, I've already started writing an article about this bridge. It's very interesting. This bridge was ready on the 1st of March 1945 and closed again sometime in the second half of 1946, to be replaced by the current bridge, which was opened on the 19th of July 1947.'*

The SHAEF expo was held in Antwerp between June 1st 1945 until the end of July 1945. It gives you a bit of a timeframe of the pictures.'

'What was the name and rank of your father during 1945 when he took these pictures? Would love to add his name to the article as well. I'm already tracing the construction

of this bridge. Apparently it was built by the 2nd Port Construction and Repair Group. I'll be getting their war diaries from the archives in Kew soon'.

So possibly Dad, being a Royal Engineer, may not, as I assumed, been photographing the church but the bridge. In effect the church is certainly not there today which does explain why I never found it.

The Dutch Historian also asked if I had any idea of the timeline in which the photos had been taken. Whilst unlikely I did say it may be possible to identify, because firstly the negatives had an unusual edging with some light damage and secondly they had all been cut by hand. Surprisingly a second review of all the negatives produced a total of eighteen similar negatives suggesting that at least three films had been acquired. However, including taking into account that light is inverted when travelling through a lens prism, no clear specific timeline between Antwerp and Helmond was identifiable. However, there was one final surprise. A photo of a BOAC DC-4M-4 Argonaut plane was taken immediately prior to the two photos taken in Antwerp. I had always assumed that this photo was taken with others I have of Heathrow before the access tunnels were built and cars and buses drove across the runway in between the planes landing and taking off.

However during WWII, BOAC basically operated as a Government operation and as 1944 progressed after D-Day, 110 Wing of RAF Transport Command was formed specifically for the purpose of flying services into European cities as they were liberated. Initially the flights were to be flown by military personnel with some BOAC secondments but with BOAC pilots taking over once the fighting had moved on.

Further research revealed that around October 1944, the Advanced Landing Ground B86 Helmond was built. I have absolutely no definitive proof that was where Dad took this photo but I did come across some film footage showing US fighter planes taking off from there. Both that film and Dad's photo are of very poor quality but ever the optimist, I did notice some similarity between the blobs (probably trees) on the horizon. Who knows?

Finally, in addition to the photos that I now have good proven information about, there are still many others such as: Dad riding a camel, swimming in the sea with his mates, a pint of beer in hand, desert rugby, tented camps in the desert and quite a few ships. Seen in isolation it would be quite easy to interpret the collection as six years of holiday snaps.

However he did say on one occasion that *'He was due to go across on D-Day but was pulled out and that many of his mates didn't make it home.'*

Additionally his youngest sister, who does seem to be the one person he confided in, told me that he was fine when he came back from North Africa but very subdued when he eventually arrived back from Europe in 1946.

She told me that he had once come across the body of an eighteen year old young soldier from near where he had lived in Hackney which affected him somewhat.

Additionally it is also a little known fact that there were some 850 sites where forced labour had been used by the Germans in WW II, including for example the La Coupole

V2 rocket site at Wizernes probably less than a hundred miles in a direct line from Southend. And therefore most allied soldiers whether they came up through Italy into Germany or via Normandy would have encountered images far beyond anything most of us will encounter today.

Also when the war finally ended Dad and camera had made it to Hamburg. However, in 1943 in what we now know of as the war of the Radio beams, the UK had developed Windows (thin strips of foil). Although initially the Government was reluctant to permit its use on the basis that anything we could do, it wouldn't take the Germans long to replicate, on 24 July 1943 protected by Windows, which totally nullified the German night fighters, together with the Pathfinder Force reporting winds they encountered, both strategies being used for the first time, Hamburg became the first of the Firestorm cities.

So even if he had film when he reached Hamburg at the end of the war in 1945 there certainly would not have been an El Andalos Gardens or even a Helmond to photograph but there would certainly have been unfortunately many horrific images.

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The Essex Fire Museum

Housing a collection featuring historic fire engines, firefighting equipment, uniforms and photographs. Visitors to the museum will see for themselves how firefighting has changed over the years as the technology has advanced.

Originally created by former Grays Firefighter Roger Pickett having collected a large personal collection, the Essex Fire Museum provides a fascinating look back in to the history of the fire service and the men and women who fought fires to keep the public safe.

The museum plays a key role in our educational work with schools in the area, where it is used not simply as a repository of artefacts but as a living, breathing historical experience.

Our museum volunteer team have carried out a considerable amount of research into the history of the fire service, particularly in Essex.

The creation of the Essex Fire Museum has required energy, dedication, true commitment and vision.

Opening Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am to 3.30pm

Location

Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays, Essex RM17 5QS

An Account of Daniel Quare, 1648-1724

by Patrick Streeter

Book review by Colleen Devenish (ESFH 6279)

I recently collected a mysterious package sent to the Galleywood Heritage Centre addressed to me. Inside the envelope was a lavishly produced A4 sized book of 92 pages, entitled 'An Account of Daniel Quare, 1648-1724, a Quaker and well-known clock and barometer maker.' Evidently these days his time pieces sell for a tidy sum at auction. Included with the publication was a brief note from the author, Patrick Streeter, donating the copy to the ESHF library.

Flicking through the attractively bound, blue coloured hardback, my eyes feasted on pages of large print on glossy paper with numerous black and white and colour photographs of all types of clocks, hand drawn maps, large houses and family tree schematics, encouraging me to read the book without delay.

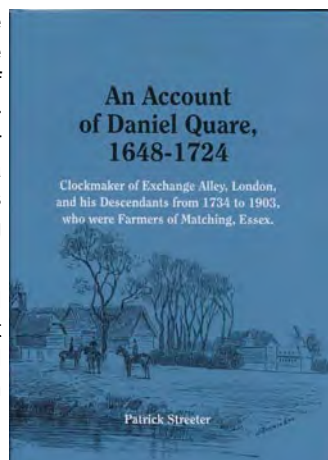
Daniel Quare had a prestigious customer base including the royal patronage of William III. I particularly liked reading the newspaper extracts where Quare pocket watches had been lost by wealthy gentlemen and rewards were offered for their return.

Patrick also details the life and times of Daniel's descendants, many of who lived and married around the Matching area of Essex. One of his sons Daniel, married Ann Braine, a wealthy woman who came from a prestigious family and whose brother was High Sheriff of Essex in 1724. Other Essex locations where the surname is recorded include Little Horkesley, North Weald and Radley Green, (which is in the parish of Willingale Doe).

As with many families the Quare family consistently used the same Christian name for their sons i.e. Daniel which makes tracking the various family lines complicated. Patrick has helped the reader by hand drawing eight family trees. In addition to the Quare family history Patrick has included facts and anecdotal tales of other characters who were landowners in the vicinity. These include William Selwin, silk merchant, who bought Down Hall estate for £4500 in 1741. His memorial can be found in Hatfield Broad Oak parish church.

One appendix details the elite of the day who participated in the Grand Matching Cricket match of 1898 and a second appendix tells the story of the misadventures of Robert Rothead, highwayman, pirate and watch thief, who made the mistake of stealing one of Quare's watches!

In addition to those interested in the Quare surname this book is an entertaining read for local historians and those interested in horology. The hardback costs £15 and there is a paperback version at £10. For further information email: Sptstreeter@aol.com



Chelmsford Subdivision of the Essex Militia 1803

by Angela Hillier (ESFH 28397)

The period of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars made our Government very nervous because of the threat posed by France and so ballots for men to join the Militia were strictly maintained, except for places where there were enough volunteers.

'Militia Lists and Musters 1757-1876' by Jeremy Gibson & Mervyn Medlycott published by the Federation of Family History Societies [copies of which can be found in Record Offices and Reference Libraries and for sale on the internet] gives a very good introduction to these records. During the time covered by Militia Ballots there were several changes to the ages of the men balloted, the number of their children, the length of time they served and where that was. Some people were exempt from the ballot, generally the better off, though apprentices, those in the armed forces, former Militia men, those with infirmities and those under height - usually 5 foot 4 inches - were also exempt. The place where people were balloted was where they were living at the time and not necessarily where they came from.

I have extracted the names of the men who were balloted to join and signed up, though a lot of them found substitutes to take their place, from the 1803 Muster Rolls or Enrolment Books of the Chelmsford Subdivision of Essex, one of the several years available.

Essex Record Office Ref L/DCM 2

The columns in the document are Name; Age; Children; Additions. I have put an X between the Christian and surname of those who made a mark rather than writing their name. I do not know what the letter B in the children column stands for but my guess is Bachelor and I have used 1 u 14 for 1 under 14 in the same column, Sub instead of "Substitute", "lab" for labourer and serv for servant in order to save space.

ESSEX MILITIA CHELMSFORD SUBDIVISION

Inrolment of Persons sworn at a Subdivision meeting held at Chelmsford on Thursday 24th day of March 1803 for the Hundred of Chelmsford.

Name	Age	Children	Additions
John X SMITH,	39,	B,	Kingston upon Thames SRY, shoemaker. Sub for Thos COWLAND, Chelmsford, shoemr
John X HARMAN,	39,	B,	Bocking, lab. Sub for George BOUCHER, Blackmore, carpenter
William X RUSH	21,	B,	Bocking, lab. Sub for John CHALK, Blackmore, butcher
William X SPURGIN,	22,	B,	Halsted, wheelwright. Sub for William HOLMES, Lt. Baddow, lab

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Samuel X TAYLOR,	19,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Timothy KING, Gt. Baddow, serv
Charles X MISSON,	25,	1 u 14,	Gt. Baddow, lab. Sub for John ROGERS, Gt. Baddow, serv
John X RAYNER,	18,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for John HARRIS junr, Bromfield, gardener
Thomas X HARMON,	18,	B,	Bocking, lab. Sub for John STONE, Blackmore, serv
John X WILLIAMS,	24,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for Samuel BRIGHT, Bicknacre Hamlet, lab
John X WATSON,	19,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for James MUMFORD, Buttsbury, collarmaker
James X GENTRY,	33,	1 u 14,	Bocking, weaver. Sub for Samuel Nathan SUMMERS, Chelmsford, limner
James X CABLE,	26 or 36,	1 u 14,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for Edward ELLIS, Danbury, farmer
John X EVANS,	22,	1 u 14,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for William KNIGHT, Chelmsford, serv
Thos EDWARDS,	30,	B,	Harlow, tailor. Sub for Richard ROWLAND, Gt. Baddow, serv
James X PORTER,	32,	none,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for Matthew POULTON, Fryerning, serv
Joseph X WALLER,	22,	B,	Paglesham, lab. Sub for James RUNNELS, Lt. Baddow, carpenter
John X DISSON?,	24,	B,	Ingatestone, lab. Sub for Michael BURNINGHAM, Fryerning, housekeeper
Charles NEWSON,	18,	B,	Chelmsford, leather dresser. Sub for Jno Oxley PARKER junr, Chelmsford, gentleman
Wm GATES,	26,	B,	Ingatestone, breeches maker. Sub for John KENT, Ingatestone, serv
Eward X TRUDGET,	26,	none,	Steeple Bumpsted, lab. Sub for James SKIFFIN, Ingatestone, gardener
John NEWTON,	29,	B,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for Daniel SHUTTLEWORTH, Ingatestone, farmer

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Jos NEWTON,	23,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for James ANDERSON, W. Hanningfield, lodger
Joseph X NEWTON,	26,	B,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for John WOOD, Ingatestone, farmer
Jeremiah X NEVILLE,	20,	B,	Rettendon, lab. Sub for Mattw NEVILL, E. Hanningfield, farmer
Joseph X WEAVER,	27,	1 u 14,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Thomas DAY, Margaretting, lab
Richard X BEESLEY,	22,	B,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for John STONE, Springfield, ostler
Samuel X HOLMES,	18,	B,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for William GARNISH, Mountnessing, farmer
John X GOODY,	17,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for William SCOTCHER, Moulsham Hamlet, lab
Joseph X BLOMFIELD,	17,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for John KEY, Rettenden, serv in husbandry
Shadrach X OSTLER,	17,	B,	Halsted, tanner. Sub for Charles STOKES, Moulsham Hamlet, carpenter
Edward X SMITH,	24,	B,	Grayes Thurrock, lab. Sub for Henry CLIFTON junr, Moulsham Hamlet, dyer
William X CURTIS,	24,	B	Halsted, lab. Sub for William NOTTIDGE, Roxwell, lab
John X BLACHWELL,	22,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for John BROWN, Roxwell, serv
Joanthan X WICHES,	37,	1 under 14,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Thomas WRIGHT, Runwell, serv
John X MARTIN,	18,	B,	Billericay, lab. Sub for Thomas PERRY, Stock, baker
Mr? WALFORD,	25,	B,	Rettendon, blacksmith. Sub for Thomas GLADWIN, Runwell, lodger
George X ADAMS,	26,	1 u 14,	Epping, brickmaker. Sub for Jeremh AYRE, Springfield, baker
John HORKLEY,	35,	none,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for Thomas BOARMAN, Springfield, coachmaker
John X BARKER,	20,	B,	Gt. Bardfield, lab. Sub for Joseph SEWELL junr, Sandon, farmer
William x SMITH,	21,	B,	Gt. Baddow, lab. Sub for Peter BRIGHT, W. Hanningfield, blacksmith

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Joseph X FRIENCH?,	24,	1 u 14,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for George DAVEY, Stock, lab
John X REED,	20,	B	Bocking, lab. Sub for John BALLS, Sandon, serv
David X ROBINSON,	29,	B,	Stock, shoemaker. Sub for John EMBERSON, Gt. Waltham, serv
James X FARREN,	18,	B,	Gt. Baddow, lab. Sub for John EMBERSON, Gt. Waltham, farmer
Richard X CLARK,	26,	1 u 14,	Rochford, lab. Sub for James OLIVER, Lt. Waltham, serv
James HORNSBY,	20,	B,	Feering, lab. Sub for William Matthews, Gt. Waltham, lab
Joseph HARDEN,	18,	B,	Braintree, shoemaker. Sub for John GIPSON, Gt. Waltham, lab
William ROWLAND,	33,	B,	Harlow, tailor. Sub for John ALETON, Gt. Waltham, lab
Abraham X PAUL,	22,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for Matthew COOPER, Woodham Ferris
Thomas X TYLER,	20,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for John WOOD, Writtle, lodger
John X FISH,	21,	none,	Braintree, sawyer. Sub for Henry EVE, Writtle, lodger
William X WINTERFLOOD,	25,	B,	Springfield, fisherman. Sub for Thomas CRAILEY, Writtle, serv
John X ALGER,	30,	none,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for Thomas SORRELL, Woodham Ferris, shoemaker
Thomas X WHITEHEAD,	43	1 u 14,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for Joseph WOOD, Writtle, bricklayer
John X COLLETT,	21,	B,	White Notley, lab. Sub for Hunter HORSNELL, Roxwell, lab
Samuel X SMITH,	21,	none,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for Thomas WRIGHT, Writtle, farmer
John X KENNEDY,	31,	1 u 14,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for John PALMER, Writtle, serv
William X ADGER,	27,	1 u 14,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for John WRIGHT, Writtle, farmer
William X FROST,	22,	B.	In person for Chelmsford

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Peter DODD,	23,	B,	Chelmsford, shoemaker. Sub for John HANES, Buttsbury, serv
Henry X CARDEN,	36,	none,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for James RICE, Boreham, lab
Robert X LUDGUTTER,	18,	B,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for John FRETTON, Boreham, lab
William X HARRIS,	25,	B.	In person of Moulsham Hamlet
William X WELLS,	27,	1 u 14.	In person for Moulsham Hamlet
John X DRAKE,	27,	B.	In person for Springfield
Jacob X SCOTCHE,	22,	B.	In person for Springfield
Thomas X PEWTER,	29,	1 u 14.	In person for Lt. Leighs
John X COLLARD,	17,	B,	Ingatestone, lab. Sub for Charles SAMUEL, Mountnessing, farmer
John X BARNARD,	25,	B,	Springfield, lab. Sub for Samuel ABREY, Springfield, farmer
James X TAYLOR,	21,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for William GLADWIN, Gt. Leighs, farmer
John X GREEN,	24,	B,	Shenfield, lab. Sub for Charles JAGGARD, Fryerning, brewer
Thomas X HARRISON,	29,	B,	All Saints Sudbury. Sub for Joseph WILKINSON, Widford, serv
William TURNER,	20,	B,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for Charles PHILLIBROWN, Lt. Waltham serv
Daniel X ROLFE,	20,	B,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for Edwd PLAYLE, Rettenden, lodger
Joseph X DIGBY,	31,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for Wm STEBBING junr, Chelmsford, grocer?

Inrolment of Persons Sworn at Subdn held at the Kings Head Inn in Maldon for the Hundred of Dengie on Monday 28th day of March 1803

James X CHAPMAN,	22,	B.	In person for Asheldham
Charles X GRAY,	24,	B.	In person for Althorne
Wm HAMOND,	31,	1 u 14,	Steeple, cordwainer. Sub for John COWLEN, Bradwell, wheelwright

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Abrm X POOLE,	16,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for John GOODAY, Bradwell, lab
James YOUNGS,	28,	B,	Colchester, lab. Sub for John JUDD, Bradwell, miller
Edward X CARDY,	18,	B.	In person for Burnham
James X FOLGER,	28,	B,	Bocking, lab. Sub for James MAYES, Burnham, lab
B. WIDLY?,	37,	B	Burnham, lab. Sub for Isaac SWEETING, Burnham, sail maker
Geoe URGENT?,	18,	B	Steeple Bumpsted, lab. Sub for William POPPER, Burnham, lab
William X GORSE,	31,	B.	In person for Burnham
William X WILSON,	19,	B.	In person for Mundon
Edm CLARK,	25,	B,	St. Peters Maldon, sawyer. Sub for Thos GREEN, Mundon, lab
George X HOWARD,	28,	1 u 14,	Gt Clackton, shoemaker. Sub for Francis BLAKLEY, Latchingdon, shoemaker
Edward X ANSON,	25,	none,	St. Mary Maldon, lab. Sub for John LAMPRELL, Cold Norton, farmer
Thomas X WARD,	23,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Thos JAY, Purleigh, miller
William X PAYNE,	21,	B,	St. Mary Maldon, lab. Sub for Robert MASON, Purleigh farmer
Mattw X BURST,	30,	1 u 14,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Benjn FLACK, Purleigh, serv
John VINCORT?,	30,	B,	Runsel Hamlet, lab. Sub for Joseph SIMPSON, Runsel Hamlet, lab
William X FINCH,	20,	B,	St. Marys Maldon, lab. Sub for Joseph NICHOLS, Stow Maries, lab
William X BIRD,	32,	B,	St Peters Maldon, chairmaker. Sub for Adam KOTCHER, Stow Maries, lab
Edward X KIBBLE,	18,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Joseph SKINNER, Steeple, lab
Thomas X STEVENS,	22,	B,	Steeple, lab. Sub for Gideon BEHAGG, Southminster, lab

Name	Age	Children	Additions
John X NEWTON,	30,	none,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for James WINTERBORN, Southminster, carpenter
John X SIMMON,	39,	none,	Bocking, shoemaker. Sub for John RICE, St Lawrence, lab
John X SIMMONS,	33,	none.	In person for Southminster
-? DAVEY,	21,	B,	Halsted, serv. Sub for William ANTHONY, Southminster, blacksmith
Ephraim X FINCH,	20,	B	Gt. Coggeshall. Sub for John KERNBALL, Southminster, lab
John X REYNOLDS,	34,	1 u 14,	Gosfield, lab. Sub for John DIVANE?, Southminster, lab
Alexander X BROMFIELD,	19,	B,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Robert MANNING, Tillingham, lab
Thomas BEADLE,	21,	none,	Halsted, weaver. Sub for Richard SPURGIN, Tillingham, lab
Thos X COLLIS,	36, 1	u 14,	Braintree, lab. Sub for Samuel BRIDGE, St. Mary Maldon, grocer
Joseph X MARSH,	25,	none,	Braintree, shoemaker. Sub for William PHILLIPS, All Saints Maldon, collarmaker
Daniel X COOPER,	18,	B	Halsted, lab. Sub for James Thos HAYWARD, All Saints Maldon, shopman
John X CAMPION,	28,	1 u 14,	Halsted, lab. Sub for Daniel DAVIS, Hazeleigh
John X WOOLLARD,	20,	none,	Halsted, lab. Sub for John GOVDEN, Woodham Walter, serv
Daniel X CROUCH,	32 or 22,	-?,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for Joseph PURKIS, All Saints Maldon, lab
Joseph COLLIS,	24,	B,	Braintree, weaver. Sub for John SADD, St. Peters Maldon, carpr
Isaac X COLLIS,	20,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for John BARBER, St. Marys Maldon, shipwright
John X MASON,	20,	B.	In person for Beleigh Hamlet in St Peters Maldon
Jonathan X SEWELL,	28,	1 u 14,	Bocking, weaver. Sub for John ELLISTON, St. Peters Maldon, lab

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Wm HARRISS,	22,	1 u 14,	Bocking, lath reaver. Sub for Daniel LAYTHORPE, St. Marys Maldon, lab
John X RICHARDSON,	19,	B,	St. Marys Maldon, lab. Sub for Peter HEARD, Beleigh Hamlet, lab
Thomas X MAYHEW,	36,	1 u 14,	Hazeleigh, lab. Sub for James WOODWARD, Tillingham, lab
John X WOOD,	36,	1 u 14,	Writtle, lab. Sub for Samuel HAZEL, Mayland, lab
James X ROSIER,	32,	B,	Beaumont, lab. Sub for Emanuel JEFFERSON, St Peters Maldon
Richard X CRICH,	31,	B,	Purleigh, shoemaker. Sub for William SHUTTLEWORTH, Woodham Walter, lab

Inrolment of Persons sworn at a Subdivision Meeting held at the Shire Hall Chelmsford for the Hundred of Chelmsford on Tuesday the fifth day of April 1803

Thomas X OWERS,	18,	B,	Bocking, lab. Sub for James CRISP, Chelmsford, shopman
George SAMS,	20,	B,	Sudbury, Sfk, lab. Sub for Luke CLARK, Chelmsford, innkeeper
William X KING,			Sudbury Sfk, weaver. Sub for John DURRANT, Chelmsford, collarmaker
Christopher X BONNY,	34,	1 u 14,	Sudbury Sfk, weaver. Sub for Robert THORNBAC, Chelmsford
Charles X MILLS,	19,	B,	Sudbury Sfk, lab. Sub for Edmund BECKET, Chelmsford, lab
Joseph X DIGBY,	19,	B,	Braintree, lab. Sub for William STEBBING, Chelmsford, grocer
Samuel X RAYNER,	27,	1 u 14,	Bocking, lab. Sub for Joseph BURRELL, Boreham, lab
Abraham X WINCHER or WINCKER,	18,	B,	Chelmsford, gardener. Sub for Mattw CARDEN, Danbury, farmer
Robert X RAYNER,	35,	1 u 14,	Bocking, lab. Sub for Thomas MANNEL, Moulsham Hamt, lodger
Joseph X STOKES,	36,	B,	Gt. Baddow, lab. Sub for Jas EMERY, Moulsham Hamt, lab

Name	Age	Children	Additions
John NUNN,	23,	B,	Bradfield, plumber& glazier. Sub for Charles CLARK, Fryerning, lab
Mattw HORNBUCKLE,	27,	B,	Rochford, lab. Sub for Abrm BROOKS, Gt. Baddow, w wright
Robert X BASS,	23,	B,	Bromfield, lab. Sub for John TURNER, Bromfield, serv
Robert X DURRANT,	20,	B,	Gt. Baddow, lab. Sub for John THOROGOOD, Gt. Baddow, lab
William X BOWTON,	21,	B,	Bocking, lab. Sub for William TAYLOR, Chelmsford, whitesmith
William X THOPSON,	26,	B,	Stratford, lab. Sub for Henry NICHOLS, E. Hanningfield, lab
Isaac X CRISP,	20,	B,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for John HORSNELL, Roxwell, lab
Samuel X BUSH,	19,	B,	Rettendon, lab. Sub for Edward KEY, Rettendon, tailor
Thomas X WISELY,	20,	B,	Rettendon, lab. Sub for Daniel BROOKS, Woodham Ferris, lab
Sam LANKESTER,	35,	B,	Latchingdon, well digger. Sub for William CHAPMAN, Woodham Ferris
James X GREEN,	28,	1 u 14,	Chinkford, breeches maker. Sub for Charles SKINNER, Lt. Waltham, shoemaker
John X FRENCH,	19,	1 u 14,	Weathersfield, lab. Sub for George STOCK, Gt. Waltham, lab
John CARTER,	23,	B,	Gt. Baddow, carpenter. Sub for William WEIGHT, Gt. Waltham, serv
John X ORFORD,	28,	B.	In person for Chelmsford
Stephen X MORGAN,	24,	1 u 14.	In person for Writtle
Thomas X KETTLE,	29,	none,	Gt. Leighs, lab. Sub for Thomas FRANCIS, Moulsham, housekeeper
William X WARD,	41,	none,	Waltham Abbey, bricklayer. Sub for Thomas HILL, Chelmsford, cabinet maker
John X FISHER,	31,	B,	Wivenhoe, lab. Sub for Henry KELHAM junr, Chelmsford, silversmith

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Thomas X COPPIN,	22,	B,	Woodham Mortimer, shoemaker. Sub for John STOWERS. Gt. Baddow, gardener
Richard X MORRELL,	26,	B,	E. Hanningfield, blacksmith. Sub for David DAVIS, Stock, gardener
William X ANNISON,	36,	none,	Chelmsford, lab. Sub for Lorkin RAND, Gt. Baddow, lab
James X WHITE,	33,	none,	Ingatestone, lab. Sub for Samuel PALLET, Buttsbury, serv
Thomas ADAMS,	21,	B.	In person for Stock
Thomas X JAGGS,	19,	B,	Gt. Baddow, lab. Sub for Richard WOOD, Margareting, lab
Thomas X STONE,	28,	B,	Rettendon, lab. Sub for Stephen STEBBING, Rettendon, lodger
John X RULE,	31,	B,	Stock, lab. Sub for George HART, Moulsham, lodger
James FRELLEMAN?,	23,	B,	St. Peters Maldon. Sub for John PURKESS, Burnham, serv
Robert HILLYARD,	22,	B.	In person for Woodham Ferris
William X CHAPMAN,	21,	B,	Writtle, lab. Sub for Robert MARRIAGE, Chelmsford, malster
Thomas X WILLIAMS,	30,	no child,	Chipping Ongar, lab. Sub for James TAYLOR, Lt. Baddow, farmer
Robert X Wilson,	23,	B,	St. Peters Maldon, lab. Sub for Isaac HODGES, Chelmsford
William BARNARD,	21,	B.	In person for Springfield
William X GALLEY,	25,	no child.	In person for Woodham Ferris
Willm X MARCH,	27,	no child,	Lt. Baddow, shoemaker. Sub for Thos GLADWIN, Lt. Waltham, serv
William X BASS,	18,	B,	Gt. Leighs, lab. Sub for James TOMLINSON, All Saints Maldon, surgeon
James X COE,	19,	B	Rivenhall, lab. Sub for Wm KETCHER, Southminster, farmer

23 Sep 1803

Name	Age	Children	Additions
Thomas X DRAINE,	24,	M.	In person for Danbury
Benjn X RAYNER,	17,	B,	Rawreth, lab. Sub for Jere BOUGHTWOOD, Mountnessing, serv

22 Oct 1803

John X DRAKE,	22,	B,	Latchingdon, lab. Sub for Edward HARRINGTON, Burnham, lab
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Essex Police Museum

About the Essex Police Museum

The museum tells the story of the history of the police in Essex from the Victorians to modern day. It was set up as a charity (charity No.1042055) in 1992 to provide a home for the historical items belonging to Essex Police. We now have over 25,000 items in the collection consisting of objects, photos and paper documents.

Our aim is to preserve the history of Essex Police and expand public knowledge and awareness of the history of our police force by collecting, preserving, and displaying material relevant to the history of Essex Police.

Things you must see:

- The shoes of Camille Holland, murdered for her money in 1898
- The death mask of Frederick Browne who murdered PC Gutteridge in 1927
- Our classic 1960s Noddy Bike

Things you must do:

- Step inside our Victorian cell
- Look through our charge book from 1914
- Try on real police uniform
- Take your fingerprints

The museum is open to the public on Saturdays from 10am-4pm and we usually have a children's event running.

Location

Essex Police Museum, Headquarters, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA

Milton, Chalkwell and the Crowstone

by Marion Pearce

Milton, Chalkwell and the Crowstone (2023) is a reprint of a book by Marion Pearce. Originally published over 20 years ago, by the same author, this new edition has been completely revised with new chapters, additional text and a range of brand-new illustrations.

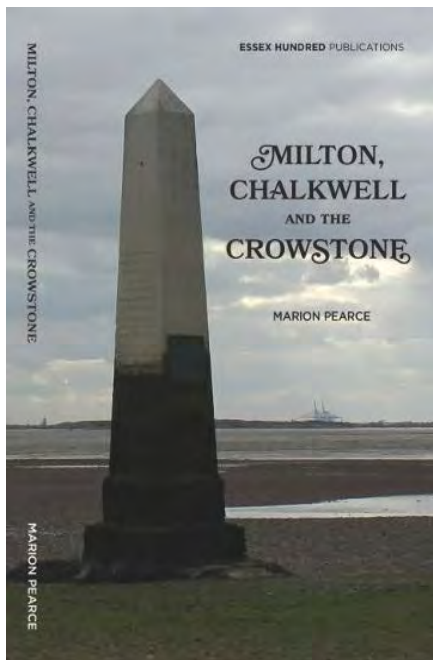
Over the years, the hamlet of Milton (or Middletun) has been lost in the mists of time. Yet traces of the 'middle town' can still be found between Leigh-on-Sea and Southchurch. The name Milton still survives in road names in Southend and the electoral ward of the same name. Chalkwell centres around Chalkwell Hall and its park. The present Chalkwell Hall, is the third house on the site.

Until the coming of the railways nearly all of Chalkwell was farmland.

When the railways were built in the 1850s an empowering act required two level crossings to be built along with a special siding to accommodate the farming community. Perhaps even stranger is the name Chalkwell, as there is no chalk in the soil. It is suggested that there may have been a well on the site, now long gone, that was lined with chalk.

The Crowstone has always sparked much interest. The stone that stands at the bottom of Chalkwell Avenue was sited there in 1838. It stood together with another shorter stone erected in 1755. This shorter stone in turn replaced a series of markers that denoted the eastern boundary of the City of London's jurisdiction on the Essex side of the River Thames. For over 100 years the two stones stood side by side until in 1950 the shorter stone was moved and it now stands in Priory Park opposite the museum. A great little book packed with a wealth of fascinating information.

Milton, Chalkwell and the Crowstone is published by Essex Hundred Publications and is available from them and Amazon for £12.99.



☆ ☆ ☆

Joan Rosaire – Lady of the Circus

by Ken Porter

Basildon Borough Heritage Society

On 9 July 2024 at 'The Fold' 72 Laindon Road, Billericay, Essex, (previously Quilters Junior School), Tom Roberts a circus friend of Joan's unveiled a blue plaque in her honour. In attendance was the Mayor of Basildon - Alan Davies and The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst plus many dignitaries from the circus world. The tenants of the building the Billericay Arts Associations provided excellent light refreshments after the speeches and unveiling.

JOAN ROSAIRE PLAQUE
9 JULY 2024



JOAN ROSAIRE PLAQUE
WITH LORD LIEUTENANT AND
MAYOR

Here is Joan's Story:-

Joan was born on the 15 April 1933, in a vehicle driven by her uncle while travelling with Rosaire Circus from Hay-on-Wye to their next venue at Tagarth. It was also around this time that the circus set up its winter quarters at Wilboughby Farm in Billericay, Essex.

Within a few hours Joan was placed upon the back of a pony by her proud grandfather. Her father and mother then led her around in the presence of the circus company. Undoubtedly this early contact with a pony accounts for Joan's lifelong love for horses.

Rosaire Circus was formed around 1904 by Joan's grandparents, Fred and Florence Ross both of whom were later to become known as 'Count and Countess'.



JOAN ROSAIRE (1933-2022)

There is no doubt Joan was a boisterous youngster and it was not long before she was helping out in the Circus or performing small routines such as bouncing around on a trampoline but, by the time she was eight, she was performing the 'High School Act' on her pony 'Tishy' which her grandfather had given her. Joan had been training her in secret, teaching her to do various tricks by using reflexes and giving a great deal of praise and reward.

Joan soon realised that horses and animals for that matter are more intelligent at picking up body language than humans and if you were not feeling too good yourself this would be passed on to the animal.

When the circus was not touring, Joan attended the local junior school known as 'Quilters' and one teacher there Joan remembers was Miss Gentry. Although only 6 years old she was allowed to go to school by herself as the caravans were parked on the field at the back of Archer Hall and there were only fields to cross. She remembers on one occasion when walking home on her own the air raid siren sounded, she put her gas mask on and threw herself into a nearby ditch. She didn't want the Germans to get her!

By the end of the second World War, Joan was twelve years old and had progressed to riding 'Voltige' and also presenting 'Betsy' who was billed as 'Betsy the Horse with the Human Brain'. However, the family were getting a little concerned about Joan's lack of schooling so they sent her off during a circus season to friends in a small village in Cheshire to catch up on her school education. Here she also learnt the art of show jumping and much about the rearing and training of racehorses. As you would expect Joan won a few junior show jumping events.

After a couple of years with the family Joan returned to the circus and a turn of events was going to dictate the rest of her circus life. She was driving her mother along a road in Wales near Llanberis at the foot of Mount Snowdon on their way to Hereford.

It was early in the morning when her mother suddenly shouted, 'Joan, look over there'. Joan who was being taught to drive, (although under age) replied 'if I do, we could well end up in the ditch'. They stopped and looking into the field saw a beautiful creamy coloured horse – a Palomino. On arriving at the circus Joan decided to return with one of her uncles who was a registered practicing vet to see if they could buy it.

The farmer agreed and sold it for £60.00. It was an unbroken four-year-old mare without a name, but Joan soon came up with 'Goldy'. 'Joan Rosaire and Goldy the Wonder horse' were born.

Joan carefully watched other performers to pick up various tips but it was not long before she produced her own program for Goldy and it went something like this:

They would enter into the centre of the ring, Goldy nods and Joan would say 'Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls this is my friend Goldy. Goldy say hallo to everyone.' Horse nods. 'Now I want you to show them how you do a nice waltz'. Horse pirouettes into the centre and nods.

'Show everyone how you stand like a Rocking Horse, that was a little!! now Rock a little more!! OK now let's have a nice march.'

'When I take this off (bridle) you won't go away will you?' Show everyone how you say Yes...by nodding your head. Ok... now how do you say NO... Good now show them how you move your lips and speak ... whisper in my ear...Oh you feel tired!! Would you like to lie down then?'

Horse nods yes. Lies down, sits up, gets up and behaves like a wild stallion!! Rears into the centre. Crosses legs.

'Have you finished your performance? Horse nods yes, 'then I have a little present for you but what do I get for it?' Kisses. 'Ok once around the ring and out you go.' Horse refuses to go.

'Come here to me, would you like to show everyone how you leave the ring backwards?' Horse does nothing, repeat last sentence, horse still does nothing... 'Have you suddenly gone deaf?' Horse nods yes!'

Joan walks to the front of ring with Goldy, he kisses her a couple of times, then backs halfway, she calls him Funny Face, he chases her, then backs out of the ring, nods as Joan walks forward to take a call. Goldy comes up behind her and pushes her out of the ring. They both return and take a final call before exiting.

If you would like to see Goldy's tricks and others such as removing Joan's Jacket and helping her put it back on suggest you link into the video where they performed on French TV in 1967 - www.circopedin.org – It's also interesting to note Joan's French considering she always said she had limited schooling.

In 1955 Joan, along with her cousin Dennis Rosaire, his daughter and Goldy found themselves in the film 'Women in Love', a British drama starring Diane Cilento, George Baker, Jimmy Karoubi and David Kossoff.

The following year Circus Rosaire closed down. It was a sad day for Joan even

though she had performed in other circuses and theatres her heart was with Circus Rosaire.

Over the next five decades Joan and Goldy were going to take the Circus World by storm. There were going to be another five Goldy's. The first, then followed by Goldy's Boy, then Silver, Trampas, Duke and finally Sunny, when performing they all performed under the name of Goldy. It was Goldy's Boy who appeared as the Unicorn. Goldy's Boy was obviously the first foal and the only one that Joan reared. The first Goldy was sired by another well-known local Billericay Palomino horse 'King' who used to parade in the local Billericay and Basildon Carnivals and as you would have gathered Goldy's Boy was the outcome.

It was in August 1965 whilst performing in Yarmouth, Joan and Goldy's Boy made their first television appearance. Joan was selected because, in her short career to date, she had been a trapeze walker, trampoline specialist and a presenter of animal acts, in particular horses.

Just before Goldy's Boy appeared as the Unicorn they appeared in the Rediffusion children's program 'Hullabaloo.'

However, it was Silver that she had the deepest bond with. He would curl his neck round Joan's and give her a long-toothed grin before asking for an advance payment in the form of mints. Although Trampus was the most talented he was not as trustworthy. In fact, Joan states he was a bit of a juvenile delinquent. When travelling they often slept in the same converted caravan, as Joan said they did not like being alone without her.

Joan with her various Goldys travelled not only in the United Kingdom but all over Europe with the odd visit to Florida. They met the Queen, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Princess Anne, and in 1942 as a young child met King Peter of Yugoslavia, King George of Greece and Princess Romanovsky-Pavlovsky of Russia.

In the entertainment world they met up and performed with Charlie Chaplin, Ken Dodd, Max Bygraves, and Paul Daniels to name a few. It was while they were performing in Switzerland for Circus Knie when she met Charlie Chaplin and following a request, she was invited along to the reception wagon where she had dinner with him.

Joan had become internationally well known as a great horsewoman, resulting in her and her horses being invited to perform in many of the world's well known circuses. This included being invited with her horses to take part at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in the musical spectacular 'Gone with the Wind', starring June Richie and Harve Presnell.

The producer's problem though was finding a horse to take Scarlett and Melanie out of the burning Atlanta home to the safety of Tara. This is what the programme said:

'The producers have entrusted this tricky problem to acknowledged equine expert, Joan Rosaire. Daughter, and granddaughter of circus folk, Miss Rosaire is famous throughout England and Europe as an animal trainer.'

Joan though always insisted that she was not an animal trainer but an animal teacher.

On this occasion Joan did not use Goldy, as Goldy was performing with Max Bygraves at Victoria Palace. There was one occasion when Joan was not there and a cousin was deputising for her. Max slapped Goldy with the reins on both side of the neck, he found himself on the floor. Max kept away from Joan for a few days. He did take her for a drink.

Another one of Joan's horses was performing in the pantomime Babes in the Woods at the London Palladium. The star of the panto was comedian Julian Orchard.

So, three shows, three theatres and sometimes matinees as well which meant six shows a day in different locations and as you would expect there were frantic journeys across London and often in the rush hour. This just shows how well known she and her horses, in particular Goldy, had become.

There was a short time during the 1960/70s that Joan ran a riding school back in Billericay and during this time she would be performing with Goldy in gymkhanas etc but the call of the circus was too great.

The World's Fair in December 1973 reported that 'Miss Joan Rosaire has no equal in the circus world today and is my idea of the mistress of the horse.'

Well, we could go on and on about Joan and her wonder horse Goldy but we must finally mention her performing with Goldy at the Royal Variety Performance at the London Palladium on 21 November 1988 in front of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. The overall show was hosted by Ronnie Corbett and Bruce Forsyth with many well-known guests. The closing finale hosted by Paul Daniels included Joan performing with Goldy.

In 1998, Joan went under the knife and had a knee joint replacement this followed with her retiring in September 2000 but Trampus, Duke and Sunny continued to live with her at her Billericay Farm. Then in February 2001 shortly after Joan had hung up her boots the World's Fair Newspaper held its third annual circus awards. Jeremy Beadle hosted the presentation and Paul Daniels and his wife Debbie were guests of honour at the Reunion.

There were various awards but the final and most prestigious award of the evening being the Lifetime Achievement Award went to none other than our Joan.

And this is what Don Stacey had to say about her: -

"The recipient this year I described in World's Fair earlier this year as one of the kindest, most charming and most loved British artistes and concluded that 'she is one of a kind' and most definitely 'One of our kind of people.' Soon after publication of that tribute, she was to retire after a lifetime in the circus world and a lifetime devoted to her precious animals. There is no more a staunch supporter of circuses than Joan Rosaire and she made a happy choice for our Lifetime Achievement Award this year and we were especially thrilled that, despite recent ill health, she was able to accept the award herself from Paul Daniels."

Joan has always maintained that it is her horse Goldy that has made her famous. As she says 'My horses went everywhere with me, come rain or shine. I looked after

them, they were as important to me as humans, they were part of my family, I loved them and I think they loved me.'

Joan passed away peacefully on the 21 June 2022. Her funeral took place on Tuesday 19 July 2022 and, rather than a sombre occasion, it was an upbeat celebration of a remarkable life. The simple coffin was covered in images of horses and, as poignant reminders of her circus career, her cowboy hat, highwayman's tricorne, a riding crop, a bridle and a rhinestone encrusted cowboy jacket were placed upon it. As expected, there was a gathering of representatives of contemporaries from leading circus families.

The following is the opening words of her obituary in the King Pole magazine by Don Stacey:

'One of the shining lights of the British circus world was extinguished on 21 June 2022 with the death of Joan Rosaire at the age of 89. She was regarded by all as one of the kindest, most charming, most gifted and erudite members of the profession, a great beauty in her time and a most talented horse trainer.'

Final words being:

She was at one time offered sponsorship to train at the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, the highest honour for anybody aspiring to be a dressage or high school rider. In her later years she gave many demonstrations of animal training for interested groups and her act with 'Goldy' was at one time one of the most-booked on the carnival and gala circuit.

☆ ☆ ☆

Future Events

In addition to our forthcoming presentations we also have advance notice of the following events taking place: -

Wednesday 18 December - 7pm Christmas social on Zoom. A fun evening which may include Family History Quiz, guess the object, funniest family history story, Ancestor you would like to invite to dinner and why and much more.

In response to comments in the evaluation forms from the Roadshows and AGM we are putting on three live events at Galleywood Heritage Centre next year:

Saturday 15 February 2025 10am-4pm Galleywood Heritage Centre. 2 speakers and DNA and general family history helpdesks.

Saturday 17 May 10am-4pm Open Day

- * DNA experts on hand to answer your questions
 - * Military history helpdesk
 - * new to family history helpdesk
 - * general family history helpdesk
- secondhand book stall and postcards for sale plus much more

Plus stands with friends from other local, social and military history societies.

Saturday 16 August Children and Families - Family History Day. More details to follow soon.

Methodism in Southend and Leigh

by Marion Pearce

John Wesley in Leigh-on-Sea



JOHN WESLEY, BY GEORGE ROMNEY,
PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA
COMMONS

John Wesley the founder of Methodism preached at Leigh in 1748. Here is a wonderful description of the event in the book, *The History of the Methodist Church in the Southend and Leigh Circuit* by George Thompson Brake:

'In 1748 two or three Leigh boats were forced by a Channel storm to take refuge in Shoreham Harbour, Sussex. Having slept aboard, they were awakened in the morning by singing. A group of local people on the harbour wall were engaged in an open-air service.

The Leigh fishermen were told that the preacher was John Wesley. After the service they begged him to visit Leigh, and this he promised to do later in the year.

They returned with an experience of conversion, to which they began to bear witness. One who was impressed by their testimony was Dr. Cook, the medical officer of Leigh, who wrote to Wesley offering him hospitality when he came to Leigh.'

Methodism had arrived in Leigh. His first visit to Leigh, which is recorded in his journal and in the Sermon Register, was the following month, on 21 November 1748.

Luckily John Wesley's journal describes his visits to the Leigh Church in detail. However, his description of Leigh is not flattering.

Wesley recorded in his journal on 12 November 1748, '*I set out for Leigh, in Essex. It had rained hard in the former part of the night, which was succeeded by a sharp frost, so that most of the road was like glass; and the north-east wind sat just in our face. However, we reached Leigh by four in the afternoon. Here was once a deep open harbour; but the sands have long since blocked it up, and reduced a once flourishing town to a small ruinous village. I preached to most of the inhabitants of the place in the evening, to many in the morning, and then rode back to London.*'

A year later on Monday 18 December 1749, he '*rode to Leigh, in Essex, and spoke in as awakening a manner as I could. On Wed., Dec. 20th, I left the little flock in peace and love, and cheerfully returned to London.*'

'*On Mon., Dec. 10th, 1750, I rode to Leigh, in Essex, when I found a little company seeking God, and endeavoured to encourage them in provoking one another to love and good works.*'

'On 12th November 1753, I set out in a chaise for Leigh, having delayed my journey as long as I could. I preached at 7, but was extremely cold all the time, the wind coming strong from a door behind, and another on one side; so that my feet felt just as if I had stood in cold water.'

'Tues., 13th, the chamber wherein I sat, though with a large fire, was much colder than the garden, so that I could not keep myself tolerably warm, even when I was close to the chimney.'

Wesley had been very unwell before coming to Leigh, and on his return to London on 14 November 1753 he suffered extremely from his feet getting chilled and riding in an open chaise, with a piercing cold wind in his face.

John Wesley continued his visits to Leigh. His next visit was on 27 October 1755 and gives us an idea of the state of the roads in the area.

'We set out for Leigh, in Essex, but being hindered a little in the morning, the night came on without either moon or stars, when we were about two miles short of Rayleigh. The ruts were so deep and uneven, that the horses could scarce stand, and the chaise was continually in danger of overturning; so that my companions thought it best to walk to town, though the road was both wet and dirty. Leaving them at Rayleigh, I took horse again. It was so thoroughly dark, that we could not see our horses' heads; however, by the help of Him to whom the night shineth as the day, we hit every turning, and without going a quarter of a mile out of our way, before nine we came to Leigh. Wed., 29th, I returned to London.'

On 11 October 1756, he came to Leigh, for the last recorded time, *'Where we dined, a poor woman came to the door with two little children; they seemed to be half starved, as well as the mother, who was also shivering with an ague. She was extremely thankful for a little food, and still more so for a few pills, which seldom fail to cure that disorder.'*

In his journal, which runs upward to 900 closely written pages, he records that he came to Leigh on six occasions, between 1748 and 1756. But his Sermon Register indicates three other visits, the 26 and 27 December 1751 and in January 1759, though the precise days are not recorded; these are to be reckoned with the reference to his visits in October 1748. It is thought that he preached from an upper room.

Wesley was also interested in healing and medicine and wrote and published his medical handbook, *Primitive Physic, or an Easy and Natural Method of Curing most Diseases* in 1747 because he wanted the less well-off to be able to treat themselves, rather than paying for physicians and apothecaries, but the book is infused with Wesley's belief in holistic salvation.

Wesley's primary ambition for *Primitive Physic* was to provide:

'a plain and easy way of curing most diseases, to set down cheap, safe, and easy medicines, easy to be known, easy to be procured, and easy to be applied by plain and unlettered men.'

The remedies and cures were not Wesley's (although he does indicate those that

he believes to be the most effective), but the way the book is laid out is his idea. He confidently re-wrote the work of reputable physicians of his time to create *Primitive Physic*, listing the ailments alphabetically, giving a brief description of symptoms, and suggests a range of treatment.

The book is widely believed to have been the most popular medical book of its time, going into 23 editions. Wesley encouraged his preachers to carry copies, recommend it and to enhance it with their own ideas.

What is interesting is that one of the physicians he quotes is a Dr Cook, who was a noted physician of the day and who lived in Leigh. Under a cure for whooping cough, he quotes Dr Cook as saying ... '*from three to five grains of gum gamboge. It vomits and purges: and Dr. Cook says, always cures.*'



GUMMI GUTTI, GARCINIA MORELLA (MAŠA
SINREIH IN VALENTINA VIVOD, CC BY-SA 3.0,
VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Editor: According to **britannica.com** ... gamboge, [is a] hard, brittle gum resin that is obtained from various Southeast Asian trees of the genus *Garcinia* and is used as a colour vehicle and in medicine. Gamboge is orange to brown in colour and when powdered turns bright yellow. Artists use it as a pigment and as a colouring matter for varnishes. In medicine and veterinary medicine it is a drastic cathartic. On the skin it has a severe irritant effect. Gamboge was probably brought into Europe from the East at the close of the 16th century.

Dr John Cook of Leigh-on-Sea

There is a tradition that John Wesley was a guest at the house of Dr. Cook, and the above account as regards the fireplace, tallies with several fireplaces in his home. But the garden alluded to was no longer in existence when the account was related in 1881. Dr. Cook was a physician, and a prolific contributor to the *Gentleman's Magazine*. His house was situated on the south side of the railway, and his garden was taken by the Railway Company on the construction of the line.

He was a well known physician, so it is likely that this would be where John Wesley stayed. If we look deeper into the man, we can see a picture of the era. He was a devout Christian, and so John Wesley would be welcomed.

The house where Dr. Cook resided in Leigh was one of the tallest in the village. It was a distinctive house. The ground floor was considerably below the level of the street. It possessed an ancient oak staircase, and large old-fashioned fireplaces. It was situated near the middle village pump on the south side of the railway, which later absorbed the garden thereto belonging. Although the family's home in Leigh High Street was later destroyed.

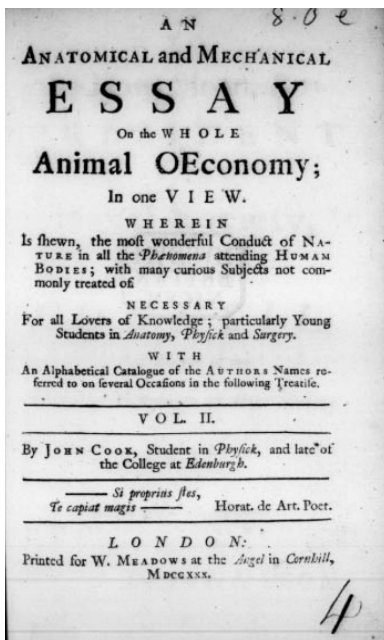
There is a quaint story regarding the house that a troubled spirit haunted its precincts, and that at one time it was closed owing to the state of public alarm.

Dr John Cook (1704-1777) was born in Leigh, the son of John Cook senior (who set up practice as an apothecary and chirurgion (archaic name for surgeon), in Leigh, and Elizabeth Tomson. When he was eight years old, he was sent to Latin School in Bathgate, Lothian, Scotland, and later to Edinburgh. He returned to London in 1724 and entered St. Thomas' Hospital the following year. Upon completion of his medical training, he gained a position in Burnham.

In 1727 he married Susannah Heber and they had one daughter Susannah, who was born in 1729. Unfortunately, both his wife Elizabeth and daughter died shortly after the birth.

In these early years at Leigh, he worked both as a medical practitioner and coal merchant.

He was a very diligent doctor, believing in the then popular saying: 'every poor patient's ready physician.' He believed in his 'principle design' of directing 'the poor and the next the apothecary to the best method of preserving health.'



JOHN COOK BOOK (ARCHIVE.ORG)

In 1730 his book *An Anatomical and Mechanical Essay on The whole Animal OEconomy* was published in two volumes and copies were presented to the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, and the Royal Society, London.

He subsequently became a prolific author with such books as: *Claveas Naturae, or the Mystery of Philosophy Unveilled* (1733); *The New Theory of Generation, according to the best and latest discoveries* (1762); *A Plain Account of the Diseases Incident to Children; With an Easy Method of Curing Them, Designed for the Use of Families; The Natural History of Lac, Amber, and Myrrh, with a plain account of the many excellent virtues these three medicinal substances are naturally possessed of, and well adapted for the care of various diseases incident to the human body: and a restorative balsamic tincture, which in many extraordinary cases gives speedy relief* (1770) and also *A Treatise of Poisons, Vegetable, Animal and Mineral, With Their Cure* (1770).

He also published several articles in a number of magazines and journals, including eighty-five in the London Magazine. His first articles appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine and The Scots Magazine in 1762. His last article appeared in The Town and Country in 1781.

He has been described as providing the 'most number, the most diverse, and the most widely printed' of popular medical works of the period.

In 1732 he was awarded the degree of M.D. at St Andrew's University.

As his fame spread, he was described in The Quarterly Journal of Foreign and British Medicine in Surgery, Volume IV, 1822, as:

'That eccentric man Dr John Cook of Leigh in Essex who may have been known to some of our readers was his cousin We were informed by the late Mr Benjamin Bell that Dr Cook was said to have frequently cured fistula-in-ano by means of a paste and an injection He was also successful in the cure of cancer principally we believe by the external and internal use of hemlock.'

Three years after the death of his first wife, he married Elizabeth Bradley who was the daughter of Lemuel Bradley (1681-1727) who owned Burnt Oak Farm in Leigh and was steward to the Archbishop of Canterbury. John and Elizabeth had 13 children with some sources suggesting that they may have had up to 15. However, as is often the case during this time, most of his children died young.

His eldest son was the Reverend John Cook, LL.B., Rector of Fenstanton cum Hinton, Cambridgeshire and Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Other sons included George and Lemuel who later became surgeons in Prittlewell and Leigh respectively. Lemuel Cook was described as 'stubborn' and one of his sister's, Margaret Cook as 'wicked.'

Although he was highly regarded, in a 1766 issue of the London Magazine, a rather strange piece, entitled 'Dr Cooks Intelligence Doubted,' where it was suggested that his concerns for his patients had so unbalanced him that he now relied on spectres of spirits.

He believed in supernatural visitations and friendly visits from spirits. His will shows how careful he was they should not be offended. He published a remarkable letter upon this subject in the Gentleman's Magazine. He believed in the existence of certain spiritual and benevolent beings intermediate to earth and heaven, who were able to and did convey certain intelligence to certain people of the human race, though all persons were not the subjects of such communications. But he was one of those who were, and he believed that the visitant to his house was a benevolent and beneficent spirit.

In his final years, the following extract from The Lady's Magazine (1770-1832) and *The Making of Literary History* by Jennie Batchelor, Edinburgh University Press Ltd (2022) reveals:

'Some of the most prominent of the magazine's named columnists were medical professionals. One of the most long-serving of these advisors was Dr John Cook (1704-77) of Leigh, Essex. Inspired to write for the magazine after seeing an advertisement for the periodical in the Ipswich Journal (1720-1902), Cook published his first essay on 'Convulsions in Children' in the September 1774 issue. Two months later, he was given a regular column entitled 'The Lady's Physician', which ran until November 1777. (Cook had died a few months earlier on 13 June, an event that the magazine marked in the July issue with a poem and 'tearful' editorial. The physician

was no newcomer to publication when he started writing for the Lady's Magazine. A prefatory letter accompanying his first column notes that he had authored several books, as well as dozens of magazine essays. Now in his seventies, incapacitated by gout and confined to a 'wheeled chair', Cook was looking for ways to exercise his active mind and fill his days. He recognised in the Lady's Magazine an opportunity to make himself 'useful to the last' by imparting his medical expertise to a wide, predominantly female audience.'

As stated above, Dr John Cook died on 13 June 1777 and was buried in St Clement's Churchyard, Leigh on 20 June. He was relatively wealthy bequeathing property in Leigh, including baker's and butcher's houses and shops with woodyard and dock adjacent, and property in Bradwell-juxta-Mare, Southminster, and Foulness. On his death, Lemuel took over as Leigh's doctor.

He had a fine library of books, including those on necromancy and astrology. He was also a committed Christian, and a member of the Church of England.

Strangely in his will he stated that: '*Testator to be buried as cheaply and privately as possible' ... 'none to be invited' ... and 'late at night, in an oak coffin, without a peal or toll of bells.'* His son Lemuel was appointed guardian of his 'weak sister Margaret.'



THE LADY'S MAGAZINE BOOK
(LIBRARY.OAPEN.ORG)



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH (USER:HASSOCKS 5489, CC0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

In Remembrance



Ray Poole

Ray was a loyal member of ESFH for many years, regularly coming to meetings in Harlow and in Galleywood. In recent years, he became a member of the Executive Committee.

He was a very private man with a wry sense of humour. He was good company always ready to do his bit for the Society at fairs and other events or for his many friends.

For ten years or so, he was the Society's Monumental Inscription Coordinator collating the transcriptions, putting the data into the Genealogical Database, and publishing them in 'Red Books'. At the same time, he did not give up contributing to the field work



John Young (ESFH 6399)

At one time there was a corner at Galleywood, close to the coffee and cake area, which was filled by regular groups for Saturday meetings of the Society. It soon became apparent that several of the regulars were retired police officers. There I got into conversation with Ray, who was an Inspector at Chingford and we joked about a slightly unusual colleague of mine at Rayleigh, who had transferred to Ray's command. There we were joined by Ian Pigney and Eric Jude from Essex Constabulary and police humour was noticeable.

I was intrigued by a photo of Ray, playing with a number of camels, which I think went back to the Essex Show, north of Chelmsford, where one year they featured 'Camel racing.' He was also very interested in sailing ships and kindly looked after some pictures donated to the Society. A quiet, friendly man, whose company was always a pleasure to share.

Fred Feather (ESFH 27366)



An extract from the Parish Register of Great Wigborough

by Angela Hillier (ESFH 28397)

The X between the christian and surname denotes that the man made a mark rather than signing his name.

Memorand yt Francis WALSALL Clerke & Rector of this Church of Much Wigborough did ye second day after his induction being on Sunday April 10th 1636 in this Church of Much Wigborough according to ye Canon in that case provided? publiquely read ye 39 Articles of ye Church of England wth ye Ratification in ye presence of

Tho COCKE Curate

Richard BURTON } Churchwardens

Richard WARNNER? }

John MOTT

Edward SMYTH

Joseph DANIELL

Thomas X CLERKE

William HEAFONE?

Henry X PLAN ---?

Joseph BULLOCKE

Edward X GREEN

Phillip CASBOLT

Joseph DANIEL

Peter X KENNINGTO[N]

Thom CLARKE

Roger VAUGHN

Henry MOTTE

John X NEWTON

William MOTT

The following list of men is taken from a book dated 1838 giving the names of those who were eligible for jury service for trials held at the County Court. The book covers the whole County and is listed alphabetically by hundred, then parish, then surname. At this time the age of eligibility was between 21 and 60 with various land, tax and rental payments also taken into account.

Generally speaking it was the better off in the Parish who qualified but what they did for a living did not matter, so you may find a Gentleman or a labourer in the lists.

Essex Record Office Ref: Ref Q/RJ 2/1

Essex Jurors Book for the year 1838

Columns :- Parish or Township: Christian & Surname: Title, Quality, Calling or Business: Nature of Qualification

WALTHAM HALF HUNDRED

EPPING

ABBATT Richard	schoolmaster	Poor Rate
ABREY John	corn factor	Copyhold
ADEANE Frederick	draper	Copyhold
BARHAM Thomas	innkeeper	Poor Rate
BENNET Joseph	blacksmith	Poor Rate
BROWN James	farmer	Poor Rate

BROWN John	gardener	Copyhold
CONYERS Henry John	Esquire	Freehold
CHAMPNESS Thomas	auctioneer	Freehold
CHAMPNESS Edmund	coal dealer	Copyhold
CHAMPNESS William	draper	Copyhold
CHAPLIN Thomas	millar	Poor Rate
COELL Thomas	malster	Freehold
CLARKE Henry	publican	Poor Rate
EDWARDS Samuel	farmer	Copyhold
ENGLISH James	gardener	Copyhold
FRANKLIN Joseph	breeches maker	Copyhold
FAIRCHILD Richard	publican	Poor Rate
FAIRCHILD William	pork butcher	Copyhold
GRIFFIN William	shoemaker	Copyhold
GRIFFITHS Frederick	stationer	Copyhold
HAMMOND James	publican	Poor Rate
HARVEY Robert	brickmaker	Copyhold
HASLAM William	linen draper	Poor Rate
HAWKES Abel	Gentleman	Copyhold
HILLS John	farmer	Poor Rate
HILLS Thomas	farmer	Poor Rate
KIRKBY Joseph	farmer	Poor Rate
LATHAM Samuel	Gentleman	Copyhold
LAWRENCE James	carpenter	Copyhold
MANTELL George	draper	Copyhold
MARRABLE Charles	bricklayer	Copyhold
PHIPPS William	harnessmaker	Copyhold
PAYNE Isaac	Gentleman	Copyhold
PALMER Joseph	publican	Copyhold
PALMER John	grocer	Copyhold
PARKER Thomas	butcher	Poor Rate
REID Daniel	Gentleman	Copyhold
ROBERTS Edward	farmer	Poor Rate
ROWLANDS Thomas	druggist	Poor Rate

SLATER Gabriel	Gentleman	Copyhold
STOKES Richard	innkeeper	Copyhold
THURLOW John	farmer	Poor Rate
TWEED George	innkeeper	Poor Rate
TUBMAN Joseph Lucas	butcher	Poor Rate
WOOLTON James	draper	Poor Rate

EPPING UPLAND

ADAMS George	farmer	Freehold
BROWN Thomas	shopkeeper	Copyhold
FARROW Richard	farmer	Poor Rate
FITCH James	farmer	Poor Rate
MOSELEY John	farmer	Poor Rate
MANSFIELD William	farmer	Freehold
PERRY William	farmer	Poor Rate
RUMBALL John	farmer	Poor Rate
SCRUBY James	farmer	Poor Rate

☆ ☆ ☆

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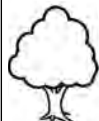
Interesting sources beyond the internet

Baxter Essex Marriage Index 1754-1851
Baxter Essex Burial Index 1813-1865

01245 346490

contactrita71@gmail.com

71 Vicarage Road, Old Moulsham
Chelmsford, Essex
CM2 9BT



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**[https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/
midlands/](https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/midlands/)**

Are you Researching Surnames in the Harwich and Manningtree Areas?

By Colleen Devenish (ESFH 6279)

Yet again The Eureka Partnership has come up with another superb little booklet to help people researching family surnames in Essex. This edition, volume 3, follows on from earlier volumes and indexes Baptism & Marriages 1866-1922 from the Harwich and Manningtree Wesleyan Methodist circuits.

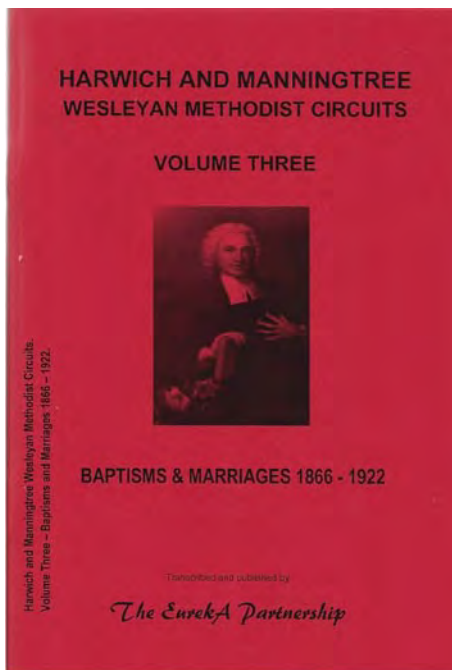
As with previous booklets there is an 'Index Nominum' at the back of the publication in alphabetical order. So, if your ancestors lived near Methodist Chapels in Beaumont, Harwich, Manningtree, Little Bentley, Great Oakley, Cattawade (Suffolk), Little Oakley, Dovercourt to name but a few places on the circuit, this would be a great publication of 68 pages to purchase for the sum of £6.00.

The Eureka Partnership over the years have published superb little booklets with transcriptions from a variety of records that helps Essex researchers.

Not just researching Essex? Take a look at the booklets they have produced to cover other counties.

Please visit www.eurekapartnership.com to view these keenly priced research aids.

☆ ☆ ☆



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Saturday 8 February 2025 - 10am-4pm

Tickets on the day are £10 or buy in advance for £7

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Conducted both online and at Galleywood Heritage Centre

On Saturday 19 October 2024 at 2pm

Present: Lord Petre (President), Ann Church, Yvonne Tunstill and Ann Turner (Vice Presidents), Andrea Hewitt (Chairman), Toni Neobard (Vice Chairman), Tanya Sewell (Treasurer), Jean-Marc Bazzoni (Secretary); Executive Committee members and members online (21) and at Galleywood Heritage Centre (29).

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all those present.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Eric Jude, Anne Langley, Gill Peregrine and Janice Sharpe.
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 21 October 2023: these were approved and signed by the President as a correct record.
4. Matters arising from those Minutes: Item 6, 2nd paragraph amended from 'Consequently, the Chairman agreed that an online Extraordinary General Meeting will need to be arranged, the likelihood this being held in January 2024. All members to be informed.' to 'Consequently, the Chairman agreed that an Extraordinary General Meeting will need to be arranged, to be held both in person and online, date and venue to be decided by the Executive Committee, but probably in January 2024. All members to be informed.'
5. President and Vice Presidents: The Chairman announced that it had been agreed by the Executive Committee as follows: President - Lord Petre; Vice Presidents - Ann Church, Yvonne Tunstill and Ann Turner.
6. Chairman's Annual Report on behalf of the Trustees: Andrea gave her report, a full copy of which appears in this issue of *THE HISTORIAN* and on the Society's website.
7. Financial report by the Treasurer: Tanya said that the Annual Accounts to 31 March 2024 had been approved by the Executive Committee and signed by the Chairman and our Examiner and these were available on the Society's website.

Tanya then formally proposed the adoption of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024 and this was approved by a vote in the hall and online.

Tanya then proposed that Peter Kittle of Chelmer Company Services Limited continue as our Examiner. This was approved by a vote in the hall and online.

The Chairman then handed over to Lord Petre to continue the meeting.
8. Election of Officers/Holding Trustees: Andrea Hewitt (Chairman), Toni Neobard (Vice Chairman), Tanya Sewell (Treasurer) and Jean-Marc Bazzoni (Secretary) have been nominated. These were the only nominations and therefore duly ratified.
9. Election of Executive Committee: The following have been nominated and were

elected en bloc - Pauline Adlem, Colleen Devenish, Jeff Porter, Meryl Rawlings, Denise Somers, Paul Stirland, Christine Stringer and John Young.

The following would serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee - Elizabeth Cox, Heather Feather and Gill Peregrine.

As no other business was raised, Lord Petre declared the meeting closed at 2.33pm.

Minutes taken by Jean-Marc Bazzoni (Secretary)



2024 AGM AUDIENCE



50TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE



ANDREA (CHAIRMAN) AND LORD PETRE
(PRESIDENT)



CHAIRMAN PRESENTING DAVID PERKINS
WITH HIS ESFH AWARD CERTIFICATE

Chairman's Report on behalf of the Trustees

Welcome all,

I would like to mention three members who have sadly have passed away this year: Ray Poole, Christine Jemmeson and Melody Hurst.

We also had to send our condolences to our President Lord Petre on the sad loss of his wife earlier in the year.

Following the issue that arose from the last AGM meeting, in that members had not been made aware of the proposed changes to our Constitution, as required, at an emergency AGM held at Colchester, these changes were voted in by the majority of members.

The Officers being myself, the Vice Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and our Treasurer agreed to meet each month to discuss key issues that may affect our Society, such as this, to ensure that we adhere to all legal and other requirements, which are often subject to change. We formed a rolling action plan to investigate all areas of our Society that might be vulnerable, or need to be changed or updated, to prevent as many as possible of these issues arising in future.

Our Vice Chairman Toni also set up a Risk Register to identify any areas where our Society may be vulnerable.

Our IT sub-committee began discussions about getting a new website or improving our current one.

Our provider John Lodge informed us that he could make significant improvements to our existing website, at a relatively low price. Our Webmaster Paul worked with John to make these changes and our new refreshed Website was launched in the Spring. It looked much more user friendly and seemed to work well.

Having asked members attending live meetings to make a donation of £3 towards venue costs etc., I met with our Branch representatives to discuss reconsidering this amount if they were prepared to try to reach out to more new members locally to justify these costs. It was agreed that they would try to use local libraries to meet more potential members and use the libraries to advertise ESFH events where possible.

Our North-East and West Essex branches were already providing 'Hybrid' meetings, which would be available for members who can't attend local meetings, however our South-East Essex branch didn't feel able to do this. We discussed recording those of their events that were suitable, and they agreed to try this. This worked well, so that these recordings can now be viewed on our website.

Having agreed on these conditions, the Executive Committee agreed to drop the £3 charge for 6 months to see if there was any increase in attendance at local meetings.



ANDREA HEWITT

I have to report that there has been no noticeable increase, and at a recent Executive Committee meeting this was discussed again, and the majority of the Committee voted that a reduced donation of £1 should be asked of our members that attend live meetings after today's date. The cost of hall hire, and any revenue brought in by donations will be kept under review.

We have not increased our subscriptions for members since 2017. Obviously inflation has risen considerably and in recent years the cost of producing the hard copy of our magazine has been running at a loss. We were aware of this and though many other Societies had already increased their subscriptions, we chose not to.

The Executive Committee discussed this issue recently and the majority agreed that we should increase our subscriptions from April 2025.

Basic Membership	UK & Worldwide	£10	+£2
Hard copy of magazine	UK only	£22	+£6
Hard Copy magazine	Worldwide	£35	+£10

The usual renewal notice will go out in the December edition of our magazine, and we ask those of you who pay by standing order to contact your bank to alter your payment.

Perhaps it would be easier for me to tell you all what we haven't done this year, as we have been very busy, especially with our celebration plans for our 50th Anniversary.

Having got to grips with editing our magazine, our editor Jean-Marc realised that as our magazine only comes out 3 times a year, we might want to remind members of events and family history matters, between editions, so he set up a monthly online Newsletter.

This has been very well received by members.

In April several volunteers visited a family history group at Chelmsford Library, and later that month nine volunteers were at the Family History Federation event at St. Ives, near Cambridge. At both events we were able to advise many visitors, and potential new members.

We had been approached by St Mary's Church at Woodham Ferrers to see if we could support their latest project. They had obtained funding to carry out a geophysical survey of their graveyard, photographic mapping, and making the parish records held by the ERO open to the public on their own website so that users can see gravestones and inscriptions. Future records can be added by the church, giving free access to more detailed and much more up to date information than has been available in the past. As they are the first church in Essex to take part we were happy to join them in their project. They have involved 100s of local school children to come to the church and many of us have visited these events and it was wonderful to see the excitement on so many faces as they tried to read 'old writing' and try it for themselves, and of course when the guy doing the geophysical survey, who looked a bit like an astronaut with his futuristic back-pack, was surveying the graveyard. I know I spotted many future historians at the many inspiring events!

The project, however needed some further funding to complete it, and having seen the interest that it was creating, we were happy to donate £3,217.44. We also liaised with the ERO who agreed to provide the relevant parish records to St Mary's free of charge. We look forward to seeing some of the results from the project soon, as Colleen and Tanya visited them yesterday for an update.

We held the first of our Branch Roadshows here at Galleywood in May, which was the first opportunity for members and visitors to enter our free draw for family history prizes such as DNA kits and subscriptions to various family history websites etc.

We launched our online family history 'Genealogical Trail' which proved very popular, and the winners of all prizes for this and all our other events will be drawn by Lord Petre at the close of this meeting.

Over the summer we took our 1970s Roadshow to our South-East, North-East and West Essex branches where it was great to meet other local societies, and members of the public.

As a result of the Officers examining the risks to our Society we decided to bring in some external professional assistance. Myself and Toni met with a recommended local cyber security company, and being impressed with their apparent knowledge and experience, we invited them to 'visit' our website. Even with a very cursory check they identified several issues. We discussed this with the Executive Committee and they agreed we should employ the company Thin Thread to prepare us a full report.

In the meantime our Events Team were present at the ERO for their Heritage Open Day at Hylands House, where again we met and advised many visitors and how we could help them with their family history research.

We held our final anniversary event with an interactive Murder Mystery Play at the Keene Hall Galleywood. This was written by our multi-talented Vice Chair, Toni and Kate, one of her friends.

It was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Sadly just before we received the cyber security report from Thin Thread we became aware that our website had been breached and that our members were receiving bogus messages, purporting to be from our Society. We followed Charity Commission advice and contacted the relevant authorities, and our Federation. We also let our members know in every way possible that these messages were not from us, and advised them accordingly.

The Officers in consultation with our IT group agreed that we needed to take the actions we had recently been advised to take by Thin Thread as a matter of urgency. The Executive Committee members voted to take this action.

We set up a Security Sub-Committee to commence this procedure, and I asked member Jeff Porter (who is standing as a potential member of the Executive Committee and seems to have the required knowledge) to Chair this group. He agreed with Thin Thread that a company known to us because of their links to our Federation seemed to be the best company to approach for further information. This

Company is called Beachshore.

We will be seeking the authority of the Executive Committee to engage the services of Beachshore as soon as possible. Whilst we have done everything we could to protect our members' data to date, it still remains vulnerable until Beachshore can take over and make our site as secure as possible.

Finally, Toni wearing yet another of her hat's launched a beginner's course for DNA using the Ancestry website, and this has proved to be extremely popular. Don't worry if you've missed it as you can catch up with the recordings (website permitting!!).

So we've had a busy but productive year with challenges and good times too. So many members have worked hard and given up so much of their own time to make all these things possible.

We all have times in our private lives when we can't give of our best and I'd particularly like to thank all those who always jump into the breach, when one of us is struggling. As long as we can keep supporting each other I know the future will be bright for the next 50 years of our great Society.

Treasurer's Report To AGM

Good afternoon, everyone.

The full accounts including notes have been available for you to see on the society website.

I am pleased to report that the financial accounts for the year 2023-2024 show a surplus of £3,690. This is shown in the accounts as Net Income/Expenditure before gains & losses on Investment. However, this surplus is down 22% on the previous year.

There was just over £62,000 cash in the banks at the end of the year with a further £40,000 in investment funds. The Society is required to show any change in the value of our investment since the previous year. The gain in value of this investment of £5,824 this year and the 'losses of £2,425 declared last year are purely paper gains and losses based on an investment of £40,000 which at 31 March 2024 was valued at £70,166. As of 30 September 2024, the value of our investment was £69,610 which is down by £556.

Our Financial Management Policy states that we will ring fence the equivalent of 2 years expenditure to help support the running costs of the Society. Based on 2023/2024 figures this is approximately £50,000. This will be reviewed regularly in accordance with our policies, processes and procedures.

Our subscriptions income for the period April 2023 – March 2024 was down by almost 10%. In 2022-23 we also saw a decrease in subscriptions of 8%. Our total membership for the year 2023-2024 was 1725 with 43% of those members paying a supplement to receive a paper copy of The Essex Family Historian magazine.

I am pleased to report that our bank interest and royalties income are up in the year

ended 31 March 2024 and we also received a sum of £1,000 from a benefactor's will. Our donations were also higher than the previous year showing an increase of 65%. The Executive Committee has investigated re-introducing Gift Aid but has decided not to pursue this further for the time being. We will continue to review this each year but because so much of our information and data is in the members' only area of our website, we do not comply with the requirements for Gift Aid.

Our Insurance and subscription to the Family History Federation is now separated on the accounts as requested by the Examiner. It appears for the first time at the top of the expenditure instead of being included in Society Payments. Areas of increased expenditure include donations. We supported St Mary's Church, Woodham Ferrers, Heritage Hub with a 'Donation to other Societies' of just over £3,200 to help them undertake the digital mapping of their graveyard.

The costs of printing and posting The Essex Family Historian has exceeded the supplement paid by those members who wish to receive a hard copy of the magazine since August 2022, and the supplementary cost has been rising with each further edition published due to increased printing and postage costs. This is reviewed annually but it was decided last year that despite these increases that the subscription rates would remain the same. Our subscription rates have not changed since 2017. However, at the Executive Meeting in July 2024 it was agreed that the rates will be increased across all memberships from April 2025 as stated in the Trustees' Report today.

We have seen a range of good and varied speakers (these are noted as Meetings in Essex on the accounts) over the past year and the costs for this are 35% higher than last year. Hall hire has decreased from £3,116 last year to £2,640 which is a drop of 18% despite the rising hall hire costs. Most of this is due to the reduction in meetings at our Galleywood HQ here at Galleywood Heritage Centre. Our Zoom charges were reduced due to renewing at the basic subscription rate.

The ESFH award of £1000 was awarded to David Perkins and we are pleased that he is here in person to receive his certificate. We continue to support the ESFH Award as it meets the aims and objectives of the Society and helps support the study of family and local history by the next generation.

Total expenditure was higher than last year by £2,732 at £27,054 which is just over 11%.

Plans for future expenditure are as follows:

- We shall continue with our plans to purchase new parish registers for those churches whose parish registers contain entries pre 1900 so that these can be deposited at ERO and transcribed by our transcription team – please email John Young if you would like to volunteer to be a parish register transcriber or to continue the Society's work on Monumental Inscriptions.
- We shall continue providing Research Services and volunteers to help others at the ERO every Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.
- We will aim to attend more fairs and events in and around the East of England.

I am delighted that Peter Kittle of Chelmer Company Services has confirmed that he is happy to continue to be the Society's independent examiner for the coming year and I ask that his appointment as such be approved. Please can I ask that members show their agreement that Chelmer Company Services will be the ESFH independent examiner for 2024-2025. The accounts were approved at the Executive Committee meeting on 17 July 2024 and I ask the members present to agree the adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Thank you everyone. I will ask Andrea, our Chair to sign all copies of the accounts after the meeting.

Tanya Sewell Treasurer

PRIZE WINNERS – 50TH ANNIVERSARY DRAWS

19 October 2024

During our 50th Anniversary year we held a prize draw at each of our roadshows. Names were drawn from a bag at the AGM with the following winners recorded below:

DRAW	No in Draw	NAME	PRIZE	Given
Roadshow NE Branch & Hylands	30	Christine Stringer	Legacy Software and Webinars	On day
Roadshow SE Branch	4	Doug McMahon	MyHeritage Complete Pro Membership – 1 Year	20/10/24
Roadshow WE Branch	44	David Royle	MyHeritage Complete Pro Membership – 1 Year	20/10/24
Roadshow HQ	86	Mary Rix	MyHeritage Complete Pro Membership – 1 Year	20/10/24
Articles In TEFH & Newsletter	18	Alan Jackson	Findmypast Pro Subscription – 12 Months	20/10/24
Genealogy Challenge Trail	55	Trevor Rix	Ancestry DNA Kit	20/10/24
Genealogy Challenge Trail	55	Peter Craggs *	Ancestry DNA Kit	20/10/24
Genealogy Challenge Trail	55	Derek Murphy	Ancestry DNA Kit	20/10/24

* Original winner was Anna Evans who asked for her prize of Ancestry DNA kit to be re-drawn as she had already done a DNA test and did not want it.

'Where There's A Will'

Comedy Murder Mystery Play

The Galleywood Theatre Group performed the comedy Murder Mystery play 'Where There's A Will' at the Keene Hall on Saturday 21 September. The play was written by our own Toni Neobard, and her friend Kate Broad.

We welcomed 83 people on 11 tables who took part in watching and then deciding who the murderer or murderers were.

At the forefront of the action were three sets of cousins from the eccentric Slaughter family. To help the audience understand the relationship between characters, they were given a family tree, and a small biography of each.

This included the Australian father and daughter members, Dicky and Jolene Demise who supposedly ran a wildlife sanctuary, the peculiar American Evangelical pastor, Sly Popoff who found that he could 'heal' whilst serving time in a Georgia State Penitentiary. plus his equally bizarre sister, Patti Popoff who appeared to be the brains behind the operation. Also joining them was French Claudette Morgue and her son Ollie. Claudette ran a Children's charity and her son was a hospice worker.

They had all been summoned to the country estate of the unseen Miss Lavinia Slaughter, who was on her last legs. Miss Slaughter was supported by her faithful Butler, Edward Brown.

We learned that Lavinia had employed Stephanie Thorogood, an investigative genealogist detective, to determine from her relatives who would be the person to name in her will who would do the best with the inheritance money.

During that first act, the cousins explored what had happened to each of them over the many years since they had seen each other. It soon became clear that not everything that they said about themselves was true. We also learned that Stephanie had a peanut allergy.

The show was in three acts and in between whilst the scenes were being changed the audience was given a question sheet after the first act to find out how much they had heard and learned so far.

Act 2 took place after dinner and we saw Stephanie in the library where she interviewed all the relatives individually and questioned their personal statements. She found a lot of discrepancies in these. This was because she had done prior research on each of them. It also provided lots of details for the audience to work through and determine



what might or might not be relevant. We also learned that Edward, the butler, had been formerly known as safe-cracker Eddy 'the 'ands.'

Act 3 was in the dining room at breakfast the following day and we saw Stephanie eat her special allergen-free breakfast oats, only to die from anaphylactic shock when her EpiPen was nowhere to be found. The curtains closed on this dramatic scene.



Detective Peter Probe introduced himself to the audience and explained that it was thought that someone had slipped crushed peanuts into Stephanie's breakfast oats and requested their help in deducing who could have done this, thereby committing murder. To help determine this they were asked to come up with questions as a table. Det. Peter Probe then went round the tables and each put their questions to those on stage, although you could describe that many of the answers given were somewhat on the evasive side!



Then the tables were asked to submit on paper who they thought was the murderer or murderers and why they had come to that conclusion. While Toni and Kate went through the answer sheets the raffle was drawn.

Det. Peter Probe went through all the answers with some very comical comments but finally the murderer was revealed. The winning table was presented with their prizes and Andrea (Chair) thanked the cast for their performance and everyone for coming to the event.

It was a really fun evening with many of those present experiencing their first audience participation in a murder mystery play. The superb one-liners and sometimes indistinguishable accents of the cast made for lots of laughter. There was a raffle which we have Colleen to thank for the support this received, Colleen being a retired salesperson! An excellent evening's entertainment.

Norway Campaign 1940 – HMS Curacao

by Graeme Dell (ESFH 8354)

I have always found it interesting, when researching Family History, the way that a simple initial single thread can develop into an absorbing rope-like aspect of history.

I lived for the most part of my childhood in Dagenham, back then still part of the County of Essex. I have a maternal family name of Curtis with a direct line from when my mum was born in 1916 back to a Henry Curtis born in 1583.



722 GREEN LINE BUS

When I was young, for many years and for a variety of reasons, I often travelled by the 722 Green Line bus, from Becontree Heath on the route which ran between Upminster (sometimes Hornchurch) to Aldgate and initially when travelling with my mum, there was very often a conductor who she obliviously knew and referred to as a relation.

[Editor: Route 722 ran from Aldgate via Mile End, Bow, Stratford, Forest Gate, Manor Park, Ilford, Becontree Heath, Romford, Hornchurch and Upminster to Corbets Tey.]

So fast forwarding to more recent times and with a now fairly serious interest in family history, who the conductor was and how he was connected to the family tree was a total mystery. The only bit

of recall that I had was that his surname contained something like 'Join' in it and I thought that his first name was something like Stan or Ted. As will soon be shown, where I got Ted from is anyone's guess.

However some fifteen or more years ago, through Ancestry, a cousin and myself re-established contact. Together we began working in collaboration and we were soon able to establish that our great-grandparents (John Curtis b.1826 and Eliza Parrott/Viles b.1829) had fifteen children between 1851 and 1872 (when our grandfather was born). For me an initial breakthrough came on discovering that the first of their children, Eliza Jane Curtis, had married a William James Joyner in 1874 and they in turn had seven children. These included a Francis George Joyner who married a Mary Elizabeth Seach and they were the parents of Stanley Harold Joyner, the Green line bus conductor and who lived in Romford.

However, further delving revealed that the first of Eliza Jane Curtis' children was a William James Joyner b.1876 who married a Harriet Ablett and they in turn had two children one of whom was a William Joseph Joyner 1900-1940 which is where the initial thread led to and this article is about.

William Joseph Joyner was born the 30 November 1900 and baptised on 6 January 1901 at St Gabriel's Church, Canning Town, a church which was damaged in the blitz and eventually demolished in 1955.

In the 1901 Census he is living aged four months with his parents and grandfather at 97 Hermit Road, Canning Town and in the 1911 Census, with his mum and brother Albert at 105 Hern Hill Road, Plaistow.

In 1918 he had signed on for a five year commission with the Royal Navy and on 29 December 1923 following a final posting on board *HMS Hecla* is discharged to Shore, with full disembodiment finally shown on his record as Pembroke in 1935.



HMS HECLA

On 27 December 1926 William married Beatrice Stone at St Andrew's church, Plaistow. This church also suffered severely from bombing during the Blitz but unlike St Gabriel's Church was eventually extensively repaired.

However in the 1939 Register only Beatrice is shown as living at 103 Hermit Road with her brother. This being so, because William, by the time

that the Register was compiled, was back with the Royal Navy where his record contains a first service date, at Pembroke on the 29 August 1939. William now being 38 years of age.

On 12 January 1940, Stoker 1st class William Joseph Joyner joined the Royal Navy ship *HMS Curacao* and unfortunately was killed in action on 24 April that same year. Unlike the Army and RAF, on demob the Navy generally gave departing service personnel their service record direct, so I didn't expect to and have never been able to find a full detailed service record. However I did find a single page from the UK Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services for William Joseph Joyner where, written against the 24 April 1940 date, was the Naval traditional DD code written in red, representing the words 'Discharged Dead'.

I therefore, given my interest in WWII, started to further investigate. A not so well known fact about the luxury transatlantic liner, the *Queen Mary*, is that in 1942 she cut in half and sank the



HMS CURACAO

HMS Curacao with the loss of some 330 lives. Google search results understandably have a tendency to concentrate on that incident. However, I eventually did find references to the involvement of *HMS Curacao*, after having been converted to an anti-aircraft cruiser in 1939, which related to its involvement in the 1940 Norwegian campaign.

Searching *HMS Curacao* on www.naval-history.net/ was a good starting point and under April 1940 I found the following:-

22nd Deployed at Andalsnes for AA Guardship duties.

24th After repelling heavy and sustained air attacks on the area since arrival, hit by bomb below the Bridge structure and sustained major damage. Withdrawn from Guardship duty and took passage to UK for repair under own steam, escorted by HM Sloop Flamingo. 30 of ship's company were killed and another 30 wounded. (For details see Naval Staff History (HMSO, 2001).

In the 'War Cabinet Weekly Resume document' for 6-13 June 1940, I found:-

24th April.

HMS Curacao was damaged by bombs at Andalsnes and reported 50 casualties. She returned to Scapa under escort.

And in a 'War Diary Naval 1940' report I found:-

Curacao reports repeated bombing took place on 23/4 on H.M. Ships and on the town of Andalsnes. Little damage appears to have been done, and no ships have been hit. Curacao probably brought down one German aircraft. (For the record it is now known that this was an unfortunate case of friendly fire as the aircraft was a Hudson flown by Pilot Officer Hector Garmen Webb who is now buried in a marked grave in Andalsnes Cemetery).

24th April

Curacao damaged.

At 2000/24 Curacao at Aandalsnes was hit by an enemy aircraft bomb and damaged. Flamingo escorted her towards UK at 18 knots. She reports about 50 casualties.

During the Norwegian Campaign, the *Curacao* had initially escorted a British troop convoy to Åndalsnes (Operation Sickle) in mid-April 1940. Together with the light cruiser *Arethusa*, she had landed a battalion of the Sherwood Foresters at Molde; the quay at Åndalsnes had proved to be too small to allow more than one cruiser at a time to disembark their troops before daylight.

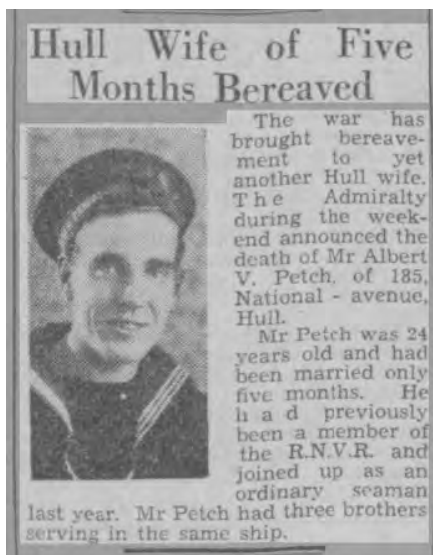
The *Curacao* had actually been returning home to the UK, when ordered back to Åndalsnes where she arrived on 22 April to protect the beachhead there from German aircraft. Repeatedly under attack over the next several days, the ship was eventually hit on the forecastle by a 250-kilogram (550 lb) bomb dropped by a bomber from the Third Group of the Demonstration Wing 1 (III./Lehrgeschwader 1) on the evening of the 24th. In the report of this action it was stated that the bomb killed eight crewmen, who were buried at Veblungsnes after which the ship returned home for repairs.

So as William Joseph Joyner died on 24 April I therefore considered the possibility that he could be buried in Norway.

Eventually I found a church in Grytten which is about a kilometre away from Andalsnes where the churchyard contains three Commonwealth burials. One being that of Ordinary Seaman Albert Verdun Petch, *HMS Curacao*, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, died 24 April 1940. Unfortunately the other two graves are both unknown.



ALBERT PETCH GRAVE AND GRYTTE CHURCH



NEWSPAPER IMAGE OF ALBERT PETCH

So I wrote to the Commonwealth War Grave Commission who replied:- 'According to our records, when the Graves Registration Unit visited the area in 1946 they were told that no one saw the Germans bury the three Commonwealth casualties in Grytten Churchyard because all the locals had already been evacuated from the area. Some locals believed they might be from *HMS Curacao*, because she was known to have sunk nearby, but nobody knows for certain and unfortunately as the graves were not exhumed for identification purposes in 1946, we have no further details.'

However *HMS Curacao* had not been sunk and by that stage I had established that at least forty-two others died in that attack. I then also received the following from the CWGC:-

As it was customary for the Royal Navy to bury their dead at sea, I suspect that sailors who were killed as result of the bombing of HMS Curacao in April 1940 were buried at sea, but a few later washed ashore. This would explain why the Germans rather than the locals found and buried Petch and the two unknowns. Clearly the Germans must have found something on Petch's body that led them to mark his grave accordingly, but presumably they found nothing on the other two. Unfortunately, as a result, as the Graves Registration Unit found in 1946, it is unlikely we will find any further details locally. Potentially, the German troops involved made a report, but

we have no information about where such things might be held today or if such things might even still exist.

Again I am not really sure why the CWGC thought that, as at that time, I understand from what I have read that the German offensive was further south beyond Molde and nowhere near Andalsnes and Veblungnes. In effect we were still landing troops in Andalsnes on the 24th.

Interestingly, I also came in contact with another person who had some time previously been contacted by a British citizen living in Veblungnes who felt strongly that all the men killed that day should be commemorated there. Apparently this person as a child in the 1970s was a boy scout and used to stand in the guard of honour beside the graves on Norway's Constitution day. His feeling was that there may have been some sort of error in that the sailors were not commemorated there.

However William Joseph Joyner is remembered on the UK Naval Memorial at Chatham, Kent where it states that he died on 24 April 1940 along with 38 others who also died that day plus four others who died on the 25th. Three others are remembered on a memorial in Kirkwall and a George Munday is remembered on a memorial in Portsmouth.

So at this stage I felt that there was not much more that could be ascertained. But when telling the story to a good friend of mine, he offered to contact a friend of his in Norway just in case.

Amazingly this friend of my friend did manage to track down a Norwegian journalist who had done quite a considerable amount of investigating of the incident and eventually I received a translation of the information he had gathered and, even more amazing, it included a photo image of the ship having been hit by the bomb or bombs.

Two salient points from what I received are:- firstly from the photo when enlarged, I would ascertain that any identification of those that died would have been very difficult if not totally impossible and I would agree with the CWGC that any remains that may have been recovered were probably buried at sea.

The second point was confirmation that the body of Albert Verdun Petch was found in the water after *Curacao* had returned (backward sailing) to England, and was identified by his tags, hence he is buried at the church in Grytten. However, it also did seem to confirm that it was the Norwegians who undertook that task and that they also couldn't identify the other two bodies that are also buried there.

R.I.P. – William Joseph Joyner.



Seventy Years At Hammonds Farm 1735-1804

By Duncan Robertson

Book review by Colleen Devenish (ESFH 6279)

This is a timely publication by Duncan Robertson who is a retired solicitor and who has lived in Little Baddow for a number of years. If Chelmsford City Council's development of 3,000 houses plus 43,000 sq mtrs of business space on the site of Hammond's Farm goes ahead, this farm in Little Baddow will cease to exist. To have a snapshot in time regarding the life of the farm and the people connected to it will serve perpetuity well.

The author calls his publication a 'report' and highlights official documents compiled for the most part from primary sources located in the Essex Record Office and the Little Baddow parish chest, based at the Little Baddow History Centre. He makes references to secondary sources in referring to commentary from other authors who have written about the history of Little Baddow. As one would expect from a 'report' the information in each chapter can be read in isolation.

Duncan relates the history of the farm from the early eighteenth century until the beginning of the nineteenth using a variety of documents including maps, wills, court orders, mortgages and deeds which brings to life the old farm and the people associated with it. Extracts from many of the documents have

been reproduced to a good standard and appear in the 82-page soft back book in colour and black and white. Consisting of 20 short but detailed chapters referring to each type of document Duncan has uncovered, he explains the purpose and legalities of each one and draws conclusions from his observations. The study takes us to other locations in the county including Burnham, Maldon, and Bradwell-on-Sea. Throughout the text social and economic facts are highlighted which make interesting reading and sheds light on the reality of life in Little Baddow during those times.

Family historians will love this publication and especially those with connections to the Barker, Barrington, Boulwood, Fowler, Glanvill, Gosling, Hart, Mildmay, Perkins, Pledger, and Wolvett surnames in and around Little Baddow. There is one particular chapter which details the history of the Tagell, Sadd and Keys families. The last few pages consist of a useful surname index.

This 'report' would be a good read for anyone interested in Essex local history and for those studying historical legal documents, who could learn much from Duncan's examples from Little Baddow. The publication is available online at £12.00 from Amazon, with copies available from the Little Baddow History Centre (<https://littlebaddowhistorycentre.org.uk>). There is a Kindle version available.

For enquiries, please contact d.t.robertson@btinternet.com





Four Blasts From the Past at the Graveyard Mapping Exhibition Launch



St. Mary's Church in Woodham Ferrers enjoyed another special afternoon launching the new Graveyard Mapping Exhibition. On 18 October the Heritage Hub team were joined by their partners on this part of the project, the Essex Society for Family History and brilliantly entertained and educated by the Company of Merrie Folke.

Visitors met four characters from the past who shone a light on the changing practices around death and burial over the centuries. Cecilie Sandys, whose prestigious Elizabethan monument still remains on the north wall of the chancel told us of her challenging life as a wife and mother during this turbulent time in British history. Cecilie lived out her remaining years at Edwins Hall and her scrivener Marjory read excerpts from her will setting out her various bequests to family, servants and the wider parish. When Cecilie died in 1611 she left a huge estate accumulated by her husband Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York which would be equivalent to approximately £10 million today.



The audience were then invited to join Charlie Hawkins, a Victorian gravedigger in the churchyard to find out about his work and the standard practices of the day. The pupils of St. Mary's Church of England Primary School in Woodham Ferrers were fascinated by the safety coffin Charlie was using.

Taphophobia or fear of being buried alive was a common Victorian phobia as a result of being incorrectly pronounced dead. This fear was not entirely irrational as before the era of modern medicine there were many incidences of people being accidentally buried alive! Charlie explained that for those who could afford it a safety coffin was constructed over the new grave. A rope was attached to a bell for unfortunates to signal their fate and people were set to watch on the 'grave yard shift' in case the bell rang! Charlie told us that is where the expressions 'saved by the bell' and 'dead ringer' come from.



CHARLIE HAWKINS A VICTORIAN GRAVEDIGGER



MILLIE OF 1924

Following an intense question and answer session with Charlie, the crowd moved on to meet Millie of 1924. Millie was there to recall a name on our war memorial Basil Plumtre. She talked about how the dead were honoured and what happened when Basil died. All the names on our war memorial are featured on our new website www.stmarysheritagehub.co.uk and this was another opportunity to know more of the person behind the name recorded.

Visitors were then invited to view the exhibition boards on our Graveyard Mapping project and take a look at the new digital interactive map of the churchyard enabling researchers to locate a grave by name or date and see the accompanying burial registers. At this point some visitors had brought additional facts about those buried in the churchyard which need adding to the records. The Heritage Hub are looking for



people who would be willing to assist with updating information as it comes in, adding photographs and possibly undertaking further research. It requires some computer skills and a couple of hours a week. Please email us via the website to find out more. St. Mary's is the first church in Essex to use digital mapping software allowing free access to the family histories contained within its churchyard. This

is an incredibly valuable resource where we can preserve our community history before it is forgotten.

Roy Bradnam was there to introduce his Recording Reminiscences project which will be available on our Heritage Hub website. Roy has been meeting long standing members of the local community to harvest their recollections over the decades. These anecdotes have been recorded and together with any relevant photographs and newspaper cuttings will be an oral history of our local community. You can currently listen to soundbites of the recordings.

Our joint project partners the Essex Society for Family History (ESFH) are currently celebrating their 50 Year Anniversary. Colleen Devenish and Tanya Sewell were on hand to meet lots of enthusiastic family historians. Andrea Hewitt of ESFH said of the project, 'We are delighted to join forces with St Mary's on this exciting opportunity

to engage the general public with family history in a fresh and accessible way. As St Mary's is the first church in Essex to make such information freely available, we hope that the project will pave the way for other churches across the county as they investigate their own burial sites and the many fascinating stories waiting to be discovered.' In the late 20th century ESFH generated maps and records for every church in Essex and without this original work many of the inscriptions would have since been lost forever.

What's happening next? During Remembrance week we have over 200 primary school children visiting our War Memorial Exhibition. The Heritage Lottery grant will fund their travel, a new teacher resource pack and further handling artefacts. This is a special legacy of our project as the exhibition will continue to be available to visit or loan ensuring the next generations fully understand the meaning of national Remembrance and the local cost.

We then have two amazing Christmas experiences planned by our team to raise more funds and engage further with the local community. The Wreath Making workshops and Father Christmas Audience and Craft sessions are incredible value. Go to our website for the booking link. There is no booking fee.

Find out more at www.stmarysheritagehub.co.uk

The Graveyard Mapping Exhibition will be available to visit free of charge on Tuesday mornings from 10am – 12 noon at the church until December. There are six free community parking spaces at the The Bell Pub car park opposite.



Summaries of a Selection of Presentations given between July and October 2024

July 2024

North-East Essex Branch Meeting

Summarised by Gill Peregrine (ESFH 5204)

ESFH 50th Anniversary Roadshow

Last Saturday was our Road Show. It was not as well attended as we had hoped despite Paul having advertised it widely. We all felt it had been a very positive afternoon. We had stands from Stanway U3A, this was run by Jackie Nesbitt, one of our members. She explained what they did at meetings and the many varied topics that they covered such as newspapers, workhouses and military records to name a few.

Victoria County History, this is an on-going project and has involved a great deal of research and hard work recording the history of all the areas of Essex. I had a very interesting chat to the ladies running the stall. There are some new recently produced sections ready to be included.

Wivenhoe History Group. The gentleman who brought this stall was actually working on Wivenhoe Wills from the 1700s. He has found some very interesting details of family life during his research. We also provided a help desk run by David Eniffer and a DNA help desk run by Mary Rix. Andrea, Tanya and Meryl supported us on the main sign up table. The visitors were involved and kept everyone busy. They also stayed all afternoon moving round from one stand to another. We had a tea table in the middle of the room which seemed to be the centre and a very sociable area. Everyone felt that they had enjoyed a very interesting afternoon.

October 2024

South-East Essex Branch Meeting

Summarised by Heather Feather (ESFH 366)

'How I got where I am' by Carole Mulroney

Carole is well known as a Leigh-on-Sea historian and local councillor. She said that she knows all about her father's family, back to the 1700s, so her talk concentrated on her mother's ancestors who were from most counties in the West of England. She illustrated her story with examples from her 'seven golden rules.'

- Golden rule number 1 – ABC - Assume nothing, Believe nothing and Check everything.
- Golden rule number 2 – family recollections may vary with huge gaps in them – never assume connections – get the documents.
- Golden Rule number 3 – never discount anything.
- Golden rule number 4 – follow all avenues but think about what information is the

most important that you want to know as it can be expensive to obtain.

- Golden rule number 5 - Keep good records of your references.
- Golden rule number 6 – be discerning about what you impart to others when you have worked so hard to find it.
- Golden rule no 7 – embrace surprises and never give up.

A very interesting talk with plenty for us to think about. Do we all follow these golden rules?

☆ ☆ ☆

Southend City Day 2025

A HUGE new event celebrating Southend's 'thriving cultural scene and heritage' has been announced to mark the anniversary of being granted city status. Businesses and residents are urged to get involved in the new 'City Day' celebrations on Saturday, 1 March 2025. The announcement comes after City Jam, the city's international street art festival, attracted more than 200 renowned artists from across the world.

Daniel Cowan, Labour leader of Southend Council, says: *'Building more pride and having more events in our city is a priority for this administration. Southend is a fantastic place, and City Day 2025 will be a real celebration packed with community events and civic pride taking place on the anniversary of being granted city status and across that weekend. We want the whole city to feel involved and get involved too.'*

While the council is still working on a detailed programme, Mr Cowan revealed plans for four main events across the city which aim to celebrate community and voluntary groups, the 'thriving' artistic and cultural scene and the city's heritage.

It is hoped this will be supported by smaller events run by residents, businesses and other groups.

'We are announcing this now so people can start to plan, have a think about what they might want to do on and around 1 March 2025, and help us build a programme of activity for the whole city to enjoy,' Mr Cowan adds.

'We will be sharing more details shortly about how people can contact us with their ideas and get involved in City Day 2025.'

It is hoped the 2025 event will mark the start of annual celebrations held around the date of the anniversary of our city status.

Tara Poore, chair of the Southend City Partnership, said: *'We live in a great city and have so much to be proud of, and so it is great news that March 2025 will see the community and organisations working together to celebrate all things Southend.'*

'I look forward to seeing more details released in the coming weeks and working with my colleagues on the city partnership and beyond to make it a series of events to remember.'

The event will mark three years since now King Charles III and Camilla, Queen Consort, bestowed the letters patent on Southend and officially turned the borough into a city. The decision to make Southend a city was made by the late Queen Elizabeth II, in memory of Sir David Amess, MP for Southend West who was tragically murdered while serving his community in October 2021.

St Mary's Church Woodham Ferrers

Digital Graveyard Project goes LIVE!

by Tanya Sewell (ESFH 30856)

As you are all aware the ESHF supported the St Mary's Church Woodham Ferrers Heritage Group with a donation of £3,217.44 to enable them to go ahead and complete the digital mapping of their graveyard. This was the first of its kind in Essex.

We were approached by Nia McIntosh, the Heritage Activity Officer, from St Mary's who gave a presentation on Graveyard Mapping and gave an overview of the company Atlantic Geomatics who would carry out the project. The Executive Committee were pleased to agree to their request for a donation to enable the works to be carried out.

There were lots of events including a Medieval Festival back in March 2024 where lots of children from local schools attended and were able to try their hand at old handwriting and also trying to read it. In the grounds of the church were tents with members of the Company of Merrie Folk dressed in medieval attire and offering freshly prepared foods eaten in the period and also medicinal remedies. There was also a puppet show which the children enjoyed.

Inside the church local Essex artist Steve Lawes had begun painting a reconstruction of the Doom painting which is partly visible on the Chancel Arch. He was using handmade pigments to get the true effect of what the Doom painting would have looked like using his extensive research. This copy of the Doom painting was unveiled during a beautiful candlelit concert in the church in April.

Atlantic Geomatics undertook the graveyard mapping over the summer and the Essex Record Office provided the burial registers to enable them to complete the project.

On Friday 18 October Colleen and I attended St Mary's Graveyard Mapping exhibition. The Company of Merrie Folk also attended together with children from local schools. The gravedigger's presentation, around a freshly dug grave, was very interesting and had the children totally engaged and participating.

The website **www.stmarysheritagehub.co.uk** has a variety of information about the church, its events and many projects including the Graveyard Mapping.

When I got home, after the event, I had a better look at the website and in particular the graveyard mapping. I knew my great grandparents (James and Mary Ann Parish) were buried there, along with a great uncle and his wife, but to my surprise there were more relatives I hadn't known about. I would really encourage members to check out their website if you have relatives in the area and view it for themselves as it is easy to navigate and search by name.

After entering your search, you are presented with location of grave on a graveyard map (if there is one) and are not only shown a photograph of their gravestone (again, if they had one) but also given details of those buried in the grave. On another tab you are taken directly to the burial register to view the entry.

Let's hope it is not long before Graveyard Mapping, which was agreed by the Church of England Diocese, is rolled out to all churches across England.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/nationwide-digital-churchyard-mapping-project-begins>

BURIAL GROUND
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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Persons

Mary A PARISH
James PARISH

Photos

Memorial Management



Person

Burial

Burial Record Image:



Register:

1857-1981

Burial No.:

1134

Date of Burial:

6 Mar 1947

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Persons

Mary A PARISH
James PARISH

Photos

Memorial Management

Person

Burial

Date of Burial:

6 Mar 1947

Name:

James PARISH

Age:

84 years

Memorials:



Gravestone



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Persons

Mary A PARISH
James PARISH

Photos

Memorial Management



Magazines from Other Societies

by the Editor

As a member of ESFH are you aware that we have made arrangements with some of the Family History Societies around the world, to exchange digital copies of the latest issues of our journals? The copies now received are available to our members on our website.

We will only make available on our website the latest copy received from our partner society. Members wishing to view earlier editions of magazines published by other societies are advised to take out full membership of the Society in which they have an interest.

All the magazines are still the copyright of the issuing Society. They are provided for personal use only. These digital copies are provided on the basis that they are made available only to current members of the Essex Society for Family History. The issuing Societies have not granted permission for further distribution, in digital or printed format. Copyright of the entire journal, layout and content remains with the Issuing Society.

Please go online and have a look at what's available as you may well find something of interest, especially if we have a magazine from an area where you are carrying out research. Also, we are always looking at increasing this repository so please let us know if there is another society magazine that you think may be a welcome addition for all our members.



The Deserter's Tale

A Morton Farrier Novella

(The Forensic Genealogist Series #10)

by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

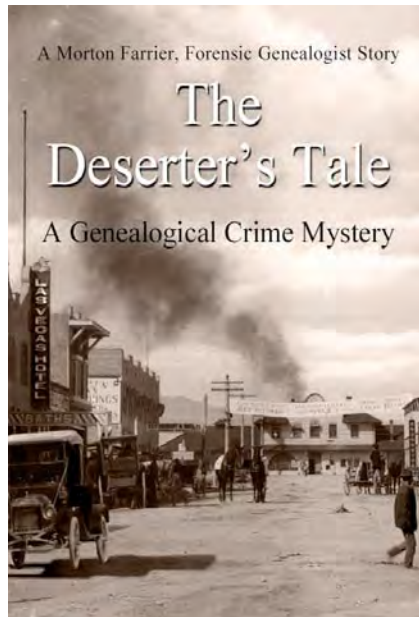
A review by Jean-Marc Bazzoni (3529)

When forensic genealogist Morton Farrier accepted an invitation to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah, to speak at the RootsTech genealogy conference, he had been unaware that one of his co-panellists was to be none other than his former girlfriend, Madison Scott-Barnhart. Whilst he prepares anxiously to meet her for what will be the first time in twenty-six years — and hopefully to discover the unresolved truth behind her abrupt ending of their relationship — he takes on the case of researching his wife's mysterious great-grandfather: a man who deserted his Sussex family shortly after the First World War. In the course of his investigations and time in the States, Morton uncovers some shocking truths, some of which are uncomfortably close to home...

The Deserter's Tale is the tenth novel in the Morton Farrier genealogical crime mystery series of books by Nathan Dylan Goodwin, all of which I have now read and enjoyed. All his books can be read as stand-alone stories however, there is a thread running through each of them that is continually unravelling the further we get to know Morton and his family. Consequently, just like any ongoing crime drama, there are always loose ends at the end of his novel ensuring that you have to read the next one to find out what happens next.

At 131 pages I read this book in no time at all as it is fast-paced, and a real page turner. What I didn't realise was that the story is loosely based on a real person in Nathan's family which made it all the more interesting. The majority of Nathan's books take place in the south of England but this latest mystery takes his character Morton from his home in East Sussex to the RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City and then on to Las Vegas. There are many plot twists along the way as Morton investigates and unravels this latest mystery. By the end of the book, you'll understand why Vegas became known as 'Sin City.'

The story begins in early 2023 with a note that his mother-in-law shows him from her grandfather, Charles Hughes that reads 'I'm going out in search of work and I may



be some time.' When I read this, and having a pretty good knowledge of history, I immediately thought of Captain Oates of the 1912 South Pole expedition when he said to 'Scott of the Antarctic' ... 'I am just going outside and may be some time' ... and never returned. The same applies here and from this note, Morton is off on the trail of this elusive ancestor who just upped and left his wife Alice, and two small children one day in 1919, never to be seen by them again.

Morton's research involves both documentation and DNA analysis. As a family historian myself I enjoy following his thought processes as he examines various documents to see what evidence there is for him to continue his research. The DNA aspect is not at all complicated as Nathan explains the step-by-step process of what information can be gleaned from a DNA sample and how the results can help in establishing relationships, and believe me, there are a few relationship surprises in this latest book.

At the same time as this is going on, Morton is meeting detectives about his grandfather's ongoing murder case; he has agreed to give a presentation at the 2023 RootsTech conference only to find one of the presenters is an old girlfriend; meeting the Venator team who are an elite investigative genetic genealogy company; and then to finally being able to have time to sit down and use the records at the FamilySearch Library. It is certainly a rollercoaster ride, and you are turning the pages quickly as you want to know what happens next. What more does an author want than to keep their reader engrossed and wanting to know more.

To summarise, I always enjoy Nathan's books and this latest one is no different. He continues to write good cracking stories which are interwoven and interesting, and they always end with me wanting to know what happens next. If you enjoy a good crime mystery with some family history thrown in then I whole heartedly recommend this book to anyone remotely interested in genealogy, mysteries or if not, then read it just for the fun and pleasure that you will get from having done so.

If this series is new to you and you would like to start from the beginning, then I have listed all the books below in order: -

- The Asylum - short prequel
- Hiding the Past
- The Lost Ancestor
- The Orange Lilies
- The America Ground
- The Spyglass File
- The Missing Man
- The Suffragette's Secret - short story
- The Wicked Trade
- The Sterling Affair
- The Foundlings

I was given the paperback version of this book ISBN 13: 979-8866987764 but it is also available in hardback, on Kindle and as an Audiobook. All the books can also be purchased from the author's website at <https://www.nathandylangoodwin.com>.

Recollections from Past Years

by George Lambert Grisdale (1914-2001)

Sent in by his niece Francis Salmon (ESFH 7055)

[Copy of a document typed out in foolscap by George Grisdale born 5 April 1914 West Ham and died 2001 in Taunton, Somerset. His original typed document dated November 1988.]

Whether the memories which we store in our minds will be of interest to anyone when they are finally switched off like a computer, I do not know. Only once did I start to write a diary, and that lasted only a day or two. It was in the second war, when the Germans invaded Russia, which I evidently considered to be a very special time in history, as it surely was. But many more able writers have written about those events, so maybe I should stick to the more personal things and the feelings about that time of my life.

My descendants will perhaps not be much interested in what we did, how life changed, what we were thinking, but at 74 I have more time to do things, particularly those which can be done sitting down, like writing.

Probably the main spur to this recording occurred in 1974 when I did some digging into Marconi's early work for the celebrations of the centenary of his birth. We were looking at the way some of the early experiments were done, and some questions could not be answered because everyone concerned had long died and the facts we wished to know had not been written down. So that is the excuse for starting this account of what I remember.

PART ONE

Family Background

A table of the Grisdale/Lambert/Pavitt family relationships has been typed out; this is significant only because some of these people influenced my early progress. It will at least give my granddaughter an idea of who her ancestors were *[at this time 2023, I do not know his granddaughter's whereabouts.]*

In the first years of this century both my grandparents lived in rather big houses in The Drive, Ilford, Essex. This road is the central route in a large residential area built in the late 1800s on original parkland, with long side roads of terraced houses on each side. About 100 metres past my grandparents' houses (54 and 59) the made up road ended and continued as a gravelled track between fields; this area has long been developed right through to Eastern Avenue, the main London to Southend road built in about 1922. At the end of The Drive was the Wesleyan church where my parents were married in 1909. My grandparents' houses were listed in the 1906 and 1908 Kelly's Street Directories.

My paternal grandfather Joseph Grisdale is said to have come from Whitehaven in Cumberland and indeed there are many people in that county called Grisdale; I met an engineer in the Bell Laboratories in America of the same name whose roots came from Cumberland. The house at 54 The Drive was named Whitehaven.

Joseph Grisdale died suddenly of a heart attack in 1922 [*I have his date of death as 8 April 1892, born 11 August 1857 in Liverpool*] he is said to have drunk too much, but this could have been malicious family gossip. He lived at that time at a smallholding called Holly Nook at Sarisbury Green in Hampshire, which he had bought as an occupation for his youngest son Willy. I have only vague memories of this house on the road to Warsash and we could not find the house when we returned in the 1960s. There was a sloping meadow covered with white narcissi which were cut for market, and a barn above which I found a train set and rails which I set out on the conservatory floor; that must have been before I was eight. They also had a pony and two-wheeled trap in which we travelled to Warsash to watch the liner Mauritania pass on her regular voyage from Southampton to New York. There is a photo of the Sarisbury house.

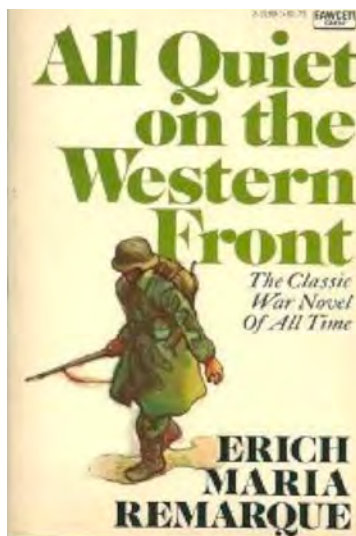
It was said by my parents that Joseph's first wife died giving birth to her eighth child Willy, which would have been about 1900, and was quite usual at that time. He married again, and his second wife survived him by more than 20 years. It is known that Joseph was in partnership with a man called Brown in a copper smithing business in East London, in which my father worked, later branching out with his own partner, Jack Barton in a similar business.

Two years after Joseph's death his widow moved to take over our house at 22 Mornington Avenue, Ilford. She was said to be of German descent, and had a relation called Lucke who was a dentist practicing in the Forest Gate district. I was taken to him only once, which was all the dental treatment apart from school inspections that I received until I left home at 22. My father, his brother Joe and brother-in-law Harvie Hicks were trustees for my grandfather's estate and had evening meetings from time to time at our house. I would visit my grandmother from time to time in the late 1920s at the house in Mornington Avenue, where she lived with another elderly lady companion. She died about 1945 and I received the only legacy of my life, £50 which I gave to the Liberal election fund at that time.

Both my grandparents' families were eight children, four male and four female. My father George McKenzie Grisdale was the eldest child, born 22 October 1881 and died 4 August 1959. More about him later. Except for Matthew who was killed in the trench warfare of the 1914 war, all the Grisdale children were married and lived around East London. The one I knew most was Mary, simply because she lived in Clarendon Gardens, Ilford, which I went along on one of my routes to Highlands School between the ages of five and nine. Later we lived in the next road, Ranelagh Gardens, and Mary's next door neighbour, Mr Baker, a retired Post Office telegraph operator, taught me the Morse Code with a key and buzzer, using Esperanto texts from World Radio as coded material. The rest of the Grisdale families we met very rarely. Willy evidently gave up the smallholding activity at Sarisbury Green and went in for insurance in which he was an assessor near Bournemouth. Kate I knew little; she was married to Walter Marsh in the 1930s they owned a large single storey café on the banks of the Thames at Old Windsor called The Corner Café. When I had my first car in 1936 we visited there. Wally was very proud of his fruit machine which collected £6 a week, half of which went to the owning company. He found that the most profitable job was

to put on a white coat and direct the cars into the car park; he left an old car there near to the road to suggest that they had at least one customer. We last visited Kate in 1961 with my mother, the last encounter with this side of the family.

My other grandfather, William Elias Lambert lived opposite the Grisdales at 59, The Drive, Ilford, a fairly large double fronted house, semi-detached from a neighbour, Alderman Dane who was chairman of the governors of the County High School, which he attended on speech days to make a speech in rather bad English. Grandfather was said to have been a sailor at some time, in windjammers, but this was gossip. When I knew him he was retired from Link's who dealt in bacon at Smithfield Market in London. He must have done well in the business to have such a house, and they kept a maid as many middle class families did in the 1920s. Also, their widowed daughter Nellie lived with them in a separate front room, even after she remarried in the late 1920s; her first husband had died of tuberculosis and she had a daughter Gladys. She had a second daughter Doreen by the second marriage to William O'Leary, an Irish Builder. The situation with Nellie caused some resentment amongst some of the other daughters, including my Mother, especially when she got married in a Catholic church; it was largely jealousy that Nellie was getting preferential treatment from the grandparents. William Lambert died about 1929 after a series of internal operations over some years. He was an independent man, known for making caustic comments on established society, the churches and the government. He was believed to vote Labour, and was said to have a Conservative car to collect him to do so; it did not do much good, because Ilford was solid Tory all the years I lived there. I would go for walks with him, through the country lanes between Beehive Lane and Wanstead near where we lived. He encouraged me in woodwork when I learned it at school, and took me to London to buy some tools at Ross and Alexander in Bishopsgate some of which



ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT
BOOK COVER

I still have. He let me use his bench in a long back room upstairs, which was his workshop. He also gave me the book *All Quiet on the Western Front* which was one of the protests about the slaughter of the first war. Although he died when I was about 15, he was a great influence on my thinking, and of all the relations I like him the best.

The eight Lambert children in approximate age order [dates of birth show different order] were William, Cissie (Hunt), Harold, Albert, Minnie (Gillies), Fred, Florence (Grisdale), Nellie (O'Leary). William the eldest died under an operation at the King George V Hospital in about 1930. He also worked in the meat trade at Link's in Smithfield, and was an ardent colour photographer, using large glass plate colour slides, specialising in flower pictures for which he would visit Kew Gardens, taking me with him on one occasion, travelling on the North London Railway from Broad Street. Also in the 1920s he made many wireless

sets for the family, buying parts from a wholesale dealer in Lisle Street, London with whom he had an account. Our first set in 1924 was an ST100, two valves and a crystal, which cost £30 [equivalent to £700 in 1988]. He married Dolly, who came from the Maynard family, sweet manufacturers and owners of a group of sweet shops, and rigid non-conformists; as a widow she made at home chocolates, with coatings of special block material which was bought from a London grocers. It had to be cooled in the saucepan before the centres were dipped into it and the small twirls were added with a fork.

As had been mentioned, the female side of the Lambert family was divided into two factions with petty resentments, largely based on money, between them. It would be interesting to look up WE Lambert's will and see how the funds were divided. Nasty remarks were heard in the Florence/Cissie group about Nellie's second husband Will O'Leary, a Catholic of Irish descent and a member of his family's building firm. Later they moved away from The Drive to Hatley Avenue in Barkingside, near to where we lived in the mid-1930s; William had a Ford 8 car in which he taught me to drive and in which I took my driving test in 1936, soon after these tests were introduced. They later moved to Eastern Avenue and finally to Southend, where we last saw them in 1974.

Another uncle Harold also died of illness in the 1920s, cancer in that case. They lived in Airlie Gardens near the Ilford County High School and I would call and see him briefly on my way home. His son Gordon was killed on a motor cycle near Fairlop in the blackout of the war, and the pretty daughter Kathleen was encountered at a dancing school in Kensington Gardens which we attended in the mid-1930s. She was praised in telephone conversations between my mother and aunt Cissie for associating with a very nice boy, a thrust at my lack of moral rectitude which I was meant to overhear, but the poor girl became obviously pregnant and the tune changed.

Albert was a rubber planter living in Malacca, and he died in the 1960s in Brighton. It was from him that came the bronze elephants in several households of the brothers and sisters; we have one pair, of which I have replaced the broken ivory tusks with wooden ones. Fred was working in London with an importing firm, but later became the landlord of the Griffin at Wimborne, Dorset. His wife Elsie was daughter of Mr Burt, a former postmaster of Bournemouth, who lived in Porchester Road, first house left.

Cissie was married to Charles Hunt who was manager of Teetgen's provision shops, first at High Street, Camden Town, opposite the underground station, and later in the more prosperous area of Tulse Hill in South London. They lived over the shops, and I remember gazing out of the front windows at the red and green buses passing by. At the back of the shop in Tulse Hill across Dalton Street there was a workshop above garages run by a man called Fountain who made radio power supplies and rectifiers; this concern later became Tannoy, a famous firm supplying public address systems to airfields in the war, and to railway stations. The Hunts were the closest associates of my parents; in the 1920s Charles owned a car in which they would visit us at Gidea Park and Ilford, and we would sometimes have joint outings to the coasts of Essex or Sussex. I remember going down to the locked up shops on Sunday morning so

that Charles could cut ham from the large gammon on the counter for the picnic sandwiches. The children might also be sent along the road to the Britannia Cinema in the afternoon, or round into Regents Park to look at the animals in the London Zoo.

An important link between the Hunts and my family was through the Freemasons of which Charles was a leading dignitary and into which he influenced my father. I was puzzled by the little apron, white trimmed with blue, housed in a leather case and kept in the bedroom wardrobe. There was also a little book of some masonic ritual which seemed to me a lot of nonsense; my father used to claim that the first requirement was to trust in God and not in yourself in any problems. My cousin Fred was also involved, and would visit my father in his last years, but after his death Fred visited us, but not my mother who lived close by, and tried without any response to interest me in the organisation, of which I did not approve because of its inequality of treatment.

The Hunts had two sons Will and Ernest (known as Nobby), the latter working as a clerk in a solicitor's office, but whose picture dressed in solicitor's gown was hung in a frame in the hall. There were two daughters, Elsie and Irene who were unmarried when I knew them; they used to go on Poly holidays abroad, mainly Switzerland, in the hopes of meeting suitable husbands. They were pleasant girls, last seen in about 1947 when my sister was married. Uncle Charles contributed most of my income in my early teens, handing me two shillings or half a crown each time they visited us; the most important influence to my life was the decision, after I had passed matriculation ('O' levels) at age 16, that I should stay at school for another year; this was the result of family discussions involving Hunts and Grisdales, and was a fortunate outcome based on intuition rather than any knowledge of the considerations.

1914 to 1938

Little is known about my first years from my birth on 5 April 1914 at 22 Cotswold Gardens, Plaistow, in East London. We found the street on one of our returns from London in the 1950s, but saw no particular reason for my parents to live there, except that it was within easy distance by bicycle or bus of the place in North Woolwich where he had set up in business. They must have moved to 22 Mornington Avenue, Ilford in 1914, before the Great War started. That was on the edge of London, with open country within walking distance. It was a terraced house of three bedrooms, probably newly built as an addition to the large development of roads up to Vaughan Avenue at the start of the century, when the Drive must have been developed. There were two living rooms front and back, a kitchen behind the stairs with a scullery as an extension on the back of the house. The garden had a back fence, beyond which the open ground was given over to allotments, on one of which my father grew vegetables. At the back of the allotments ran Beehive Lane, with a row of shops extending round into Cranbrook Road. At the back of the shops was Henderson's bakery, where I would sometimes be sent to buy hot rolls for breakfast, eight for sixpence (2½p). These houses had a cellar, with a shoot for tipping coal into the cellar; it was reached by a stair under the house stairs. The scullery had a copper in one corner. This was a brick cubic block with tile facings and a hole in the top in which the metal water pot was sunk; the water could be heated by a fire under the pot, fuel being shovelled

through a rectangular hole in the lower brickwork. There was also a boiler behind the kitchen fireplace for heating water for the house, with a hot water tank upstairs in a cupboard. In the scullery also was the sink, gas cooker and the clothes mangle, turned by hand.

It is well that little is remembered of the 1914 war, with its large scale slaughter. I recollect a hole just to the left of our house in the road, which may have been caused by a small bomb or a shell; the road was rough gravel between two granite curbstones where the missile fell, and it was only properly paved many years later. There were fences and gates in front of the houses, enclosing a small patch of grass or garden. Another vague memory is of taking shelter under the table in the morning room of my grandparent's home in the Drive, where we sometimes went for Sunday tea. The bombing was very thin compared with 1939-45, but it was said that there were nine bomb holes round the red brick water pumping station beside the river Roding at Wanstead, which was a favourite walk with my grandfather along Wanstead Lane, which in those days was a narrow country road between fields, running from Beehive Lane just north of Mornington Avenue to what is now Redbridge underground station. This must have been before 1923 when Eastern Avenue was built to Southend through this open countryside.

Two events in the Drive area caused big stirs in the newspapers. My grandmother Lambert would watch the passers-by from her front window and knew the people, their time of passing and sometimes their business. She would comment on the nice lady from the next road, Kensington Gardens, who looked such a pleasant person. One day she was tried and convicted with her man friend for the murder of her husband, whom she tried to kill with powdered glass in his food, and who was finally stabbed by Bywaters in Belgrave Road as they walked home late one night from Ilford Station. Mrs Thompson and Bywaters were both hanged for the murder [9 January 1923]. As children we diverted from our lunchtime return to Highlands School nearby to go



FREDERICK BYWATERS, EDITH THOMPSON AND PERCY THOMPSON (COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS PRESS, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

and look at the blood near the brick wall enclosing one of the red house gardens where it happened. I must have been impressed because it is one of the few occasions that I can remember from this period. I also remember the sweetshop in Belgrave Road where we would buy spherical gob stoppers and long black bootlaces of liquorice.

A few years later there was a big financial scandal involving a gang of

swindlers led by Hattry. One of the group named Harris lived in the Drive opposite my grandparents, very near to the house earlier occupied by the Grisdales.

In the early 1920s my mother had a maid to help her with housework, a girl who lived in the house and received a wage of fifteen shillings (75p) per week and her food. [£17 1988 equivalent]. She had two afternoons free on Wednesday and Sunday. She would not live with the family in the front living room but had the occupancy of the kitchen, which had its own fire and was reasonably comfortable. The washing and cooking was done in the scullery, and in later years we would have our meals in the kitchen. When my step-grandmother moved into 22 Mornington Avenue in the latter 1920s she had her small wireless set (which I used to care for) in the kitchen. But it was the separate existence of the maid, away from the family, that first made me think about social inequalities. It did not seem to trouble grandfather Lambert whose family also had a maid, despite his alleged left wing outlook. It was one of these girls who first taught me to cook toasted cheese, when my parents were out for the evening and she looked after the children.

There was a period when I was eight after my grandfather Grisdale died when my father would go to the Wesleyan Church on Sundays; it was said that earlier he had been a lay preacher, but there was no evidence of any capability in this line. I was taken sometimes to these church services. Apart from a period 10 years later when my parents were involved in spiritualist activities, this was our only connection with organised religious activities.

Our standard of living in the 1920s was quite high. There was no shortage of food in the family, and I would come home from school to a cooked lunch with second course. The main course could be fish, steak, chop, sausages, shepherd's pie, liver; this was followed by suet or sponge puddings, rice, tapioca, tinned fruit; too much fried food by modern standards, but it kept us overweight and was nourishing. Not all families had our standards by any means; the difference between the classes was greater than it is in 1988.

When my father came home at 5.30pm there would also be something hot for evening meal. He brought home the Sketch newspaper which he had bought in the morning, also the Evening News. I would read the children's; cartoon, The Great OOjah or Pip, Squeak and Wilfred. The shops were open on Fridays and Saturdays until 8 or 9 o'clock, and I would sometimes go late shopping with my father, for groceries mainly. Sometimes in the evening I would be sent to buy fish and chips for supper, a fourpenny fish and pennyworth of chips per



PIP AND SQUEAK ANNUAL (KITE13, CC BY-SA 4.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

person (2p) equivalent to 50p per person by present costs. The Sunday joint would be a piece of beef 3 to 4 pounds at about a shilling a pound, or a leg of lamb, or a shoulder, or a chicken. There was plenty of imported Argentine beef in those days, before they started eating it themselves. Breakfast was also cooked, egg and bacon, boiled eggs, fish (smoked), bread and marmalade; only butter was used. We lived well.

My father left home regularly at 7.15 am after getting a cup of tea for my mother; then I would hear him going down the road to the bus, smoking a cigarette and coughing into the distance. I thought what a stupid habit smoking was if it made you choke like that. The bus went down Cranbrook Road to Manor Park, where he changed to the 101 bus to the dock area at North Woolwich, alighting at the Police Station and walking to Fernhill Street where the works were. At times I would go with my father to the works. On the walk through the streets of North Woolwich we would stop at a small grocers shop to buy eggs and bacon, which my father would cook on the gas stove in the scullery of the house that was used as the office. This must have been in Woodman Street, which ran into Fernhill Street where the works were, and the end house backed onto the works building. The front room was the main office with a large table and cupboard; the smaller back room was the typist's office, with a long high desk with stools, and the typing desk. There was also the kitchen or scullery with cooker and sink. The main works building was about 40 by 100 feet as far as I remember, with large doors back and front. The yard at the rear had stores for the racks of metal used in the coppersmith business, and at the end of the yard was the foundry building, with pattern making equipment, sand bins and gas fired furnaces for melting metal in large pots. Mr Lawson and his helper presided in the foundry and there were perhaps half a dozen people in the main works.

The partner Jack Barton would turn up at about 8.30 am from his home at Manor Park, and they would both go to the works. The typist did the breakfast washing up; I would stay in the office and perhaps learn to type on the Oliver machine. At 11 o'clock the partners would come back to the office for a drink; lunch was in the main office, prepared I assume by the typist, after which Barton would have a snooze on the office chair. There would also be some phone calls to the bookmaker for horserace bets; my father was known as Coppernob and Barton had another nom-de-plume.



A No 9 MODEL OLIVER TYPEWRITER
(ROYALBROIL, CC BY-SA 3.0, VIA
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The business makes all kinds of special copper pipes with brass flanges brazed to the ends, with the smallest tube up to ten inches diameter or so. A main customer was the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery at Silvertown, (is this how Silver Spoon got its name?) which boiled the sugar in

immense vats fitted with twelve foot diameter copper steam pipes. Transmitter coils were made for Standard Telephone and Cables, as well as aluminium castings for loud speaker bases. The engines of the Woolwich Free Ferry were other pipes, and there was work on the ships in the nearby docks. I was taken to see a ship in the dry dock, propped up on large fixed wooden blocks under the keel, under which we would pass. Once we had a meal on a Japanese ship, which lay near the entrance to the Royal Albert and King George Docks. Nearby was the large Harland and Wolff works, newly built in the 1920s; when I had to return to Woolwich in the 1980s most of the houses and factories were being swept away and the docks were empty. Strangely the works building still stood in Fernhill Street, locked up and empty. The office house stood alone at the end of a street of demolished houses. The small houses on the other side of Fernhill Street survived, and I found an old lady who remembered the people who worked in the works years before.



HARLAND AND WOLFF, NORTH WOOLWICH

Sometimes my father would be called out at night to make some urgent repair to the pipework for one of the factories, and I would go with him to the works. Often it was a matter of fixing the flange to the end of the pipe, which was done by brazing over a coke fire with a blasting air or gas pump underneath; the pipe was suspended from a crane above the fire, flange end downwards. Brazing involved a blowtorch and borax flux. Sometimes the job needed a labourer to assist, and I remember going to the house where he lived in West Ham and being appalled by the contrast in living conditions between his house and ours; most of my better toys, Meccano, trains and stone bricks went to his children. It always surprised me later when I had some experience of engineering business that a chaotic affair like Grisdale and Barton could survive, but probably their strength was in the adaptability of a small personal concern. Jack Barton died and I believe that my father sold the business for £6,000 in 1946 when he retired at 65. The firm who took over were still operating under the same name in the docks areas in 1981, but they are no longer in the phone book.

Our immediate neighbour at 24 Mornington Avenue was Mr Beecroft, who had a son Taffy who was slightly older than me. All that I can remember of them was the erection of a long aerial wire in the garden, connected to a crystal receiver on which they could hear the transmissions from the new 2LO station on Selfridges roof. That must have been about 1923. In 1923 Beecroft moved to a new built house called Crossways in Severn Avenue, Gidea Park. My family followed them to another new house on the same Hare Park Estate in Wallenger Avenue, which they named Berrynarbor, after a place they must have visited on their honeymoon at Ilfracombe in 1909. This was a larger detached house with a 60 foot wide garden and a large oak tree at the bottom.

The two years 1923 to 1925 when we lived at Gidea Park were the first of which I have living memories. My first four years at school up to age nine were at Highlands School, Ilford, an ordinary council run elementary school, about three quarters of a mile from our home, which I would walk to four times each day. The headmaster was Mr Kemp and my teachers were Miss Perry and Mr Collier; the latter taught violin to some pupils and had a habit of rapping the boys over the knuckles with a ruler as he walked round the aisles. We sat at double desks with tip-up seats, sunken inkwells and boys' initials carved on the surfaces. In frosty or frozen mornings the boys would make slippery tracks or slides in the tarmacked playground which they would run along and slide.

At Gidea Park the new Royal Liberty School, a County High School, had just been opened in Hare Hall, a large grey country house near to the Hare Hall estate where our new house was. It was surrounded with large parkland and gardens and woodland,



ROYAL LIBERTY SCHOOL, GIDEA PARK (© STEPHEN RICHARDS / HARE HALL, UPPER BRENTWOOD ROAD, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

with a long-curved drive leading through the park from the main gate in the lane, now built up with houses. The headmaster was Mr Hartley, who was a freemason with rigid ideas about student conduct, which I found rather dated. In some mysterious way I gained admission to the school, although I was two years under the normal age. I did some kind of written test paper, not in a group but alone, in a science laboratory because there were scientific balances in glass cases, the first I had seen. Anyway, I stayed there two years, learning some French using a book with queer phonetic writing which I never understood, and compulsory football or cricket twice a week, also physical training and sports, mostly marching round the fields in columns under the command of an ex-army sergeant; I came to detest all kinds of sport, mainly because I was no good at it. In the 20s my father would sometimes take me to West Ham, where he had seats in the stand; grandfather Grisdale had apparently been Chairman of the Club in the early 1900s, when he was said to be concerned with the Stratford Co-op, but this last sounds unlikely. To get back to RLS Royal Liberty School we also had reading instruction; books remembered are Coral Island, White Company, Lambs Tales from Shakespeare, and lots about Ulysses and Greek Gods; the last one probably started my doubts about religion.

At age nine I had my first bicycle, with 24 inch wheels, which I would ride with other boys round the local roads. On one occasion we went nearly to Chelmsford, which was 16 miles away; I remember the long wall to Hylands House to the left of the road where we turned back. Some country roads were still gravel in those days. On Sundays the Hunts would sometimes come over from Camden Town in their motor car, first an aluminium bodied open Albert and later a Saloon. We never had a car, and my father would walk to Gidea Park station across a cinder path through the field and over the stiles, about 8 minutes walk. I spent a lot of time climbing trees, particularly pines in the local woods, and dangerously making rafts with planks in an old gravel pit.

Household appliances were rare in those days, but we may have had our first Hoover vacuum cleaner, made in Canada, in 1925. Cooking was at first with gas, later electricity. There were no washing machines, perhaps a gas boiler for clothes, and no refrigerators. Perhaps that was why the houses had cellars under the ground floor, for coal and keeping a few things cold in summer. At Gidea Park we had our first wireless set in about 1925, type ST100 made by Uncle Will, replaced rather rapidly by the Family Four (Modern Wireless, monthly magazine?). This had two tuning knobs on brass veined capacitors with single plate verniers, almost certainly quite unnecessary. I tried to receive distant stations, and had little idea about tuned circuits because I would try all possible combinations of the two condensers in 5 or 10 degree steps; I still have the oak coffin-shaped box of this receiver.

The move to Gidea Park must have strained my father's resources, because in two years we were back in the Cranbrook Road area, in a semi-detached house at 4 Tillotson Avenue, afterwards destroyed by a bomb. This meant a transfer to the Ilford County High School for me, a fortunate step. This cost my father about £4 each term, as I had no scholarship. The headmaster was Mr Diggins, who lived at the end of our road in Emerson Road, and if I met him we would walk across the park together,

about 20 minutes to the school in Melbourn Road. As far as I remember none of the teachers came to school in cars. Most of the teachers had been at the school more than 20 years since it started, and it was rare for any changes to take place, perhaps one in three years out of about fifteen. There was also no evidence of any clerical help in the school, the paperwork being done by the masters themselves. There was no provision for lunches or morning break at the Ilford School, although there were school lunches available at the Royal Liberty; beef on Monday and Wednesday, Stew on Thursday. Suet Pudding afterwards, with syrup or jam. No doubt there was variety, but those are the things I remember.

At ICHS I progressed well after the first two years in the B stream and not very far up it. At age 13 something changed my aims, and I went into the A form and started to absorb maths and science and geography; English Literature and particularly poetry were hard going. In the fourth and fifth year we had three hours homework every night and weekends; Monday maths, Tuesday History and geography, Wednesday Physics and Chemistry, Thursday French, Friday English. There were games one half afternoon each week, which I still disliked.

At Ilford County High School the A stream normally took Latin in the fourth and fifth years, but I opted to take Spanish with the lower class, not taking it very seriously because it was not an examination subject. Also I was no good at art so that was dropped to join a small group of pupils who studied Advanced Mathematics as a separate examination subject involving trigonometry and calculus; Mr Munro gave us excellent instruction in fundamentals, for which I was very grateful. In 1930 the General Schools Examination was held in the main hall, with about eighty desks spaced in rows; this was more or less like 'O'Level, and 50% in any subject gave a Matriculation pass, with 70% a distinction and three distinctions gave honours; I got eight matrices and distinction in Chemistry, Maths, and Geography, strangely not in physics. After that there was the family discussion already mentioned and a decision that I should stay at school for a year in sixth form; at that time I did not understand what the target was, but dutifully undertook the Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Applied Maths, ending with an examination called Inter B. Sc which gave entry to a University and a County Major Scholarship worth £40 per year. It was noticeable that there was a marked change in the intensity with which science had to be learned in the sixth form, with much more mathematics in the physics, a change which was also evident at college later. The scholarship would be equivalent of £1,000 in 1988, but out of the £40 we had to find £22.50 for fees, and the rest was swallowed in fares and lunches. Pupils who stayed two years in the sixth form took Higher Schools examination, which could give a State Scholarship worth £100 per year. Anyway, in 1931 I started on the Physics course at Queen Mary College (QMC - then East London College), to which I could travel each day whilst living at home.

After two years at college I took the degree examination and got a second; since it was necessary to spend three years at college to qualify for a degree, three of the physicists went over to the engineering department for selected lectures and laboratory work in electrical engineering in this third year. I was able to work on Thursdays on a radio research project with C.R. Stoner, a lecturer who had earlier

been at Marconi College in Chelmsford and had just published a book with Ladner on Short Wave communication. After the year was over I was offered a job to continue for one year a research project which had already been going for seven years, under the professor J.T. McGregor-Morris but paid for by the Electrical Research Association. This was renewed each year at salaries £150, £200 and £250 in the three years, and I had the foresight to register at the start for a Ph.D. I therefore spent six years at QMC between 1931 and 1937.

After two years at the Tillotson Road House we moved a short distance to 39 Ranelagh Gardens, an end house of a terraced row with a back entrance from Arlington Gardens through a brick wall. It had an iron rail enclosed veranda over the front door, with access doors in my bedroom; I do not remember any one ever using those verandas. We had a telephone at that house, the first I remember. There was a small back bedroom which my sister and I used for our homework; I had a wide desk and I made a smaller one for Beryl.

Much of my parent's newer furniture dated from the 1920s, perhaps at the time of the temporary prosperity which caused the move to Gidea Park. Some of the items we still have, the dining room chairs which have been re-covered with 'leather' ,the long oak table bought for the long wireless set and power unit , the book case bureau, the small bedroom oak furniture, less the wardrobe which was scrapped. I have also my small oak desk, from Gamages, which replaced the home-made one when I went to college.



GAMAGES IN THE EARLY DAYS (© ROBERT CUTTS FROM BRISTOL, ENGLAND, UK, CC BY 2.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

(To be continued in the March 2025 issue of the HISTORIAN)

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Webmaster/E-Commerce: Paul Stirland Email: webmanager@esfh.org.uk

Deputy Webmaster: Position vacant

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Branch Committee Members

North-East Branch

Chair: Gill Peregrine

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Paul Stirland

Registrar: Christine Chatfield

Committee Members:

Pauline Adlem, Roger Stirland

West Essex Branch

Chair: Elizabeth Cox

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Val Jones

Committee Members:

Ann Jones, Sue Spiller, Barbara Harpin

South-East Branch

Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Heather Feather

Treasurer: Maureen Angerstein

Committee Members:

Mandie Adams, Bill Bayford, Bob Dalgarno,
Jean de Tourtoulon, Eric Jude, Linda
Medcalf, Carole Mulroney, Reg Wells

President: The Lord Petre K.C.V.O.

Patron: Rt. Rev. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani

Vice Presidents:

Ann Turner Email: memsec@esfh.org.uk

Ann Church Email: ann.church32@gmail.com

Yvonne Tunstill Email: yt.monins@virgin.net

**The Trustees and Executive Officers of the Society
(who hold bi-monthly meetings) –**

Chair:

Andrea Hewitt, Blind Pond Cottage Castledon Road Downham Essex
CM11 1LH

Email: andiehewitt@hotmail.com Tel: 07808 254569

Vice Chair:

Toni Neobard, 18 Etheldore Avenue Hockley SS5 5PA

Email: tonineobard@gmail.com Tel: 07830282059

Secretary:

Jean-Marc Bazzoni, 43 Peake Avenue Kirby Cross Frinton on Sea Essex
CO13 0SQ

Email: honsec@esfh.org.uk Tel: 07989 620391

Treasurer:

Tanya Sewell, 24 Pym's Road Galleywood Chelmsford CM2 8PY

Email: hontreasurer@esfh.org.uk Tel: 07790 584906

**Executive Members – some members can be contacted via the Contact
Us section on our website.**

Pauline Adlem

Denise Somers

Colleen Devenish

Paul Stirland

Jeff Porter

Christine Stringer

Meryl Rawlings

John Young

The following Branch Chairs or their Representatives have been elected by their
branch members and serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee

Chair North-East Essex Branch (Colchester)

Gill Peregrine

Chair West Essex Branch (Harlow)

Elizabeth Cox

Representative South-East Essex Branch (Southend)

Heather Feather

HEADQUARTERS

The Galleywood Centre The Common (off Margaretting Road) Galleywood Chelmsford CM2 8TR

Chair: Andrea Hewitt

Email: andiehewitt@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jean-Marc Bazzoni

Email: honsec@esfh.org.uk

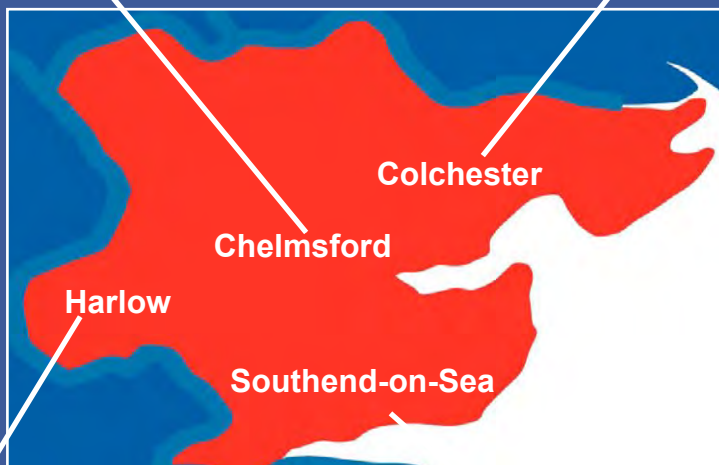
NORTH-EAST ESSEX BRANCH

Oyster Room Hythe Community Centre
1 Ventura Drive Colchester CO1 2FG

Chair: Gill Peregrine

Email: gpesfh@gmail.com

Secretary: Vacant



WEST ESSEX BRANCH

St. John's Arts and Recreation Centre
Market Street Old Harlow CM17 0AJ

Chair: Elizabeth Cox

Secretary: Vacant

Contact: Elizabeth Cox

Email: emt.cox2@btinternet.com

SOUTH-EAST ESSEX BRANCH

Avenue Baptist Church Hall Milton
Road Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7JX

Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Heather Feather

Email: hfeather2038@gmail.com



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