



THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN

The Essex Society for Family History Magazine



www.esfh.org.uk

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 71). 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 71.

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

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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

Copy deadline **31st May 2025** for material to consider in future copies of the magazine.

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Advertisers offering professional or commercial services to members are accepted. Advertising costs for Black and White insertions are whole page £45, half page £35, quarter page £25. Colour costs available on request. All advertising subject to availability of space. The Society undertakes no responsibility for quality of services offered and members respond to these advertisements at their own risk.

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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

Welcome everyone to the latest Essex Historian and the first of 2025. I am writing this in the last week of January and I cannot believe how quickly the time is passing. We have already had three branch meetings and I was fortunate to be able to make my first one when I attended David Eniffer's talk at Colchester on 'Missing from Home'. A good turn out with both people attending in person and online.



JEAN-MARC BAZZONI

Our branches have been working hard and there a number of forthcoming presentations booked throughout the year in an area near you. Please have a look on page 6 as well as details on our website. If you would like to give a talk yourself then please contact us via the website - contact details can be found at the bottom of the Home Page.

On page 13 we have the second and final part of George Lambert Grisdale's 'Recollections from Past Years', which I hope you will enjoy. He covers a lot of ground and you never know, you may come across something that reminds you of something from your own past.

Both the Essex Branch of the Western Front Association and Essex Historical Association have another great series of talks planned for the coming year and I do hope that you are able to support them as well as our own monthly branch meetings. On 10 December Martin Passande will be talking about Talbot House. It was ten years ago when I stayed here so that I could lay a wreath at the Menin Gate, Ypres at 8pm on 11 November 2014. If you have never attended the Last Post then please look it up, it's an experience you will never forget.

Each year The Essex Society for Family History offer an annual award of £1000 to one postgraduate student working on an Essex related subject in the field of Local or Family History. In early 2024 this was awarded to David Perkins and he was presented with his certificate at our October 2024 AGM by Andrea, our Chairman (cover photo). His research 'Poor relief and the settlement papers of Rayleigh' can be found on page 41. His essay provides a great overview of settlement papers in general and will assist anyone in using them in other parishes as to what they can offer in providing information for those sometimes elusive ancestors. Well done David.

On page 59, Fred Feather writes about Napoleon III and his link to the Metropolitan Police and Essex and Elizabeth Cheffins article 'My ancestors and the Herberts of Wilton' shows the benefit of visiting the home of where an ancestor worked and the local archives. A chance conversation and the end result, a photograph! See page 67.

Happy researching!

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.

Saturday 1 March 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Animal heroes of WW1 and WW2 - A talk by Paul Hounsell	Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7JX
Saturday 1 March 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Commonwealth War Graves - CWG Archives - A talk by Alan Murdey	St Johns Art & Recreation Centre, Market Street, Harlow CM17 0AJ
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

Saturday 5th April 2025 2.15 pm GMT	Apprentice Records - A talk by Richard Holt These records can be really beneficial for family history research. Learn about the history of apprenticeship and the various records available.	St Johns Art & Recreation Centre, Market Street, Harlow CM17 0AJ
Wednesday 9 April 2025 7.15 pm GMT	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 8: Proving Your Tree	Online
Saturday 12 April 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Wills for Family History - A talk by Jackie Depelle From ancient to modern, Local to House, rich and poor, Wills are an all-embracing resource not restricted just to Family History. A detailed probate record can be full of names, personal information and interests as well as who, did or didn't get what. They can provide many clues and signposts to additional source material to build up a family tree and extend any research project. True not everyone did make a Will and if they did you'll often need some reading handwriting skills, but why not check available indexes just in case - you might be surprised at what you find.	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG
Saturday 3 May 2025 2.30 pm GMT	Winston Churchill - a talk by Tony Harris Doors Open at 1:30pm GMT for Research & Friendship. There will be help-desks for family history and DNA queries	Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7JX
Saturday 10 May 2025 2.30 pm BST	Wills - Practical Research Session Following Jackie's talk last month this session is an opportunity for people to look for their Ancestors Wills. Bring a laptop/ tablet if you have one. If you don't have one there will be a few available to borrow for the afternoon. Doors Open at 1:45pm BST	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG

Wednesday 14 May 2025 7.15 pm BST	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 9: Difficult Cases	Online
Wednesday 11 June 2025 7.15 pm BST	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 10: Ancestry Tools	Online
Wednesday 9 July 2025 7.15 pm BST	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 11: Other Tools	Online
Saturday 12 July 2025 2.30 pm BST	Family History Open Afternoon If you want to start tracing your family tree but don't know how to begin or are already tracing it but need advice our Experts will be available to answer you Genealogy Questions	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG
Wednesday 13 August 2025 7.15 pm BST	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 12: Case Study	Online
Wednesday 10th Sept 2025 7.15 pm BST	Genetic Genealogy for Beginners Course by Toni Neobard Month 13: Member Queries	Online
Saturday 13 Sept 2025 2.30 pm BST	Branch A.G.M. followed by Costume Cavalcade On 13th Sep 1985 Members of the Society performed a living Family Tree entitled "Costume Cavalcade" on the opening night of a Family History Weekend Conference, hosted by the Society, at Writtle Agricultural College. The performance was recorded on VHS tape which has since been digitised. We are showing this recording to mark the 40th Anniversary of the original performance.	Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester CO1 2FG

Summaries of a Selection of Presentations given between November 2024 and January 2025

November 2024

South-East Essex Branch Meeting

Summarised by Heather Feather (ESFH 366)

Southend Past and Present with Simon Deacon

Simon inherited his love of the history of Southend from his late father, Norman Deacon, and also a vast collection of photographs and old postcards of the town. These have been the basis of many of Simon's talks but today we saw a selection of vintage and up-to-date scenes.

Swan Hall, one of the oldest buildings in Southend, opposite St.Mary's Church, Prittlewell, could be considered the first 'civic centre' of Southend. A fire in more recent years revealed an older building behind the original façade. The first floor had been a corn exchange and the ground floor and basement had housed shops. As a surveyor Simon was privileged to visit the building during the renovation and we saw photos of large, well preserved, ancient beams in the roof which were probably originally trees from the local forest which would have been close then.



SWAN HALL PRITTLEWELL

The town spread towards the river and was known as the 'South End' of Prittlewell, the original parish. Here we saw Nelson Street with the entrance to its elegant buildings raised above the street with steps. The bowling green, close by, was given over to allotments during the war, so fresh vegetables would have been available.

On the sea front we saw fishermen's cottages and the 'Hope Hotel' which was an early meeting place for the town council. Then up to the cliff top with a terrace of elegant houses where royalty and Lady Hamilton used to stay. The High Street has had many changes but memories were jogged! The names of some shops still remain, reminding locals of their youth. Then at the top of the street there was 'Cobweb Corner' where the overhead tram wires made an intricate pattern.

An interesting and thought provoking afternoon - has 'progress' destroyed some of our history?

December 2024**South-East Essex Branch Meeting**

Summarised by Carole Mulroney (ESFH 33571)

For Better or Far Worse

At our festive meeting in December we were treated to a really interesting talk by Kate Broad and Toni Neobard entitled 'For Better or Far Worse, a light hearted jaunt through Victorian matrimony.'

We had bigamy, jiltings, avoidance, wife sales and all the other ups and downs during what we think of as a very virtuous and righteous period of our history.

It turned out to be anything but. We explored the underbelly of scandal, dodgy goings on and the lengths men and women will go to either to get to or get away from the altar.

Pulling on various sources including local and foreign press Toni and Kate were adept in not just telling the story, a great double act, but performing it with audience participation. Making it relevant to research, thinking outside the box and the blind alleys we all get led down looking for those elusive nuptials which may or may not have taken place.

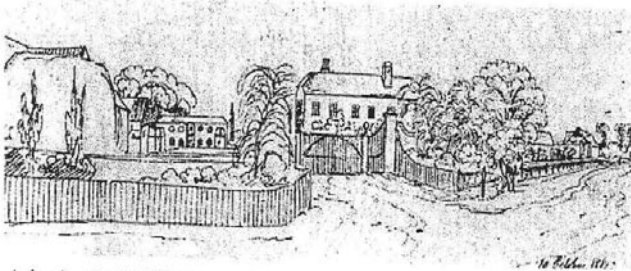
Victorian values - Bah Humbug!

January 2025**South-East Essex Branch Meeting**

Summarised by Carole Mulroney (ESFH 33571)

The Nazareth House Project

Once again the South East Branch was treated to an interesting talk by Fred Feather on the extensive research which has been carried out into the burial ground at Nazareth House in Southend after the building was demolished in 2024. In his inimitable style of humour Fred first took 55 members and 19 visitors through a brief history of the building in Milton and how notebooks left by the resident nuns have shown fascinating links to the Napoleons of the Bonaparte family. After the Emperor



A DRAWING OF MILTON HALL DATED 1817



NAZARETH HOUSE 1930



BISHOP BELLORD

Napoleon III was deposed following the war with Bismarck and the Prussians, he and his wife, the Empress Eugenie, and his 15 year old son, The Prince Imperial, came to England, where the latter became an Artillery Cadet at Shoeburyness. The Empress would visit him by boat and the pier. He was killed aged 23 whilst serving in the 1879 Zulu War under Major General Lord Chelmsford. The Prince's body was strapped to a cannon barrel, to be returned to England after the Army's Catholic Chaplain Father James Bellord had administered the "last rites" on the battlefield. Bellord later became the Catholic Bishop of Gibraltar, finally retiring to Nazareth House. He died there in 1905. The Victorian author and Daily Telegraph theatre critic, Clement Scott, is buried nearby.

Another interesting burial was that of Count Antonio de La Rosa. Born in 1811 he served Pope Pius IX and the then King of Naples against Garibaldi and the Italians. In the 1860s the Emperor Napoleon was very powerful in Europe and after the Kingdom of Naples was done away with was responsible for appointing Austrian Archduke Ferdinand to the vacant throne of Mexico as the Emperor Maximilian with Count De La Rosa as a close subordinate.

After a rebellion in 1867, Maximilian was captured and executed by insurgents. De La Rosa later died in 1898 whilst living in Nazareth House. His grave has been found in the nearby North Road Cemetery.

Fred made it clear that there was still a lot of research to be done on these residents, the burial ground and its inhabitants, but this was a great taster for anyone who puzzles how some quite famous people came to be buried in quite humble and disconnected places.

Essex Society for Family History

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 2pm on **Saturday 18th October 2025**. It will be a hybrid meeting with members able to attend the meeting in person at The Galleywood Heritage Centre, The Common, Galleywood, Chelmsford CM2 8TR or online via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RmVd4Wz-SayjQ7J5qsKPLQ>

For confirmation of the arrangements please check our website before the event or contact the Secretary at honsec@esfh.org.uk

Nominations for the Honorary Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, signed by two paid-up members of the Society, should be sent in writing (or via email) to the Secretary, to be received not less than 28 days before the date of the meeting.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary or can be downloaded from the Society website www.esfh.org.uk.

Hon. Secretary

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— *Rita Harris* —
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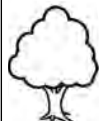
Interesting sources beyond the internet

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

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



The Family History Show

Join us and discover more about your ancestors at The Family History Show. With exhibitors from all over the UK and Ireland, this is one of the largest family history shows in England.

Saturday 15 March 2025 - 10am-4pm

Severn Hall, Three Counties
Showground, Malvern,
Worcestershire, WR13 6NW

Early Bird Ticket Offer - Two Tickets
for £14

Buy your tickets in advance and save
- Get two tickets for £14. You will also
get a FREE goody bag on entry worth
£15!

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/midlands/>

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.]

PART TWO

Continuation of the article from the DECEMBER 2024 issue of the HISTORIAN

Family Relationships

There are likely to be frictions between generations in all families, and mine was no exception. In my teens I developed some rather non-conventional views, and was not wise enough to keep them to myself which of course raised disapproval from my parents, in particular from my mother. The basic question concerned morality, which to my parents meant sexual behaviour alone, but which I believed should include all behaviour, including business dealings and inheritance. The frequent remarks about alleged inequalities in financial treatment of sons and daughters in both the Grisdale and Lambert families, mainly the latter, did not fit in with my youthful views of justice, although as a child I was dependent on my parents for all my needs even into the college period.

Until about 1935, when I was 21, I did not get involved in any social activities, the amateur radio involvement and a few college societies occupied what spare time was left from study. Girls were looked at but not touched. A collection of Scottish women schoolteachers was encountered during a month's course in French at Strasbourg University; attended with Reg Faraday, another physicist and radio transmitter from the college; we visited Glasgow by coach the following spring, but the girls were somewhat older than us and no permanent friendships developed.

In the summer of 1933 six students made a walking and camping trip to the west, starting by train to Reading, walking the first day to camp at Aldermaston, and continuing along the Kennet and Avon canal through Newbury, Hungerford, Calne, Box Hill to Bristol, where one of the campers had relatives. It was hard going, carrying the tents and camping equipment. Two of us took the boat down to Barry, Weston and Ilfracombe, from where we walked back through Lynton to Weston. This expedition almost cured us from camping.

In 1934 through a college friend, whose parents had a weekend shack at Laindon, I met Helen Christison, who had been head girl at Brentwood County School and had rather free thinking ideas, which did not go down well with my parents when they met. We associated for about a year, then did not meet again until we were both married and living in Chelmsford. Her husband, Jack Sparrow was an active parachute jumping type, but he died suddenly at home at Brentwood of a heart attack in 1961.

In 1935, the fourth year of my college period and the first of the E.R.A research project, the social activities at QMC became more interesting; there were coach trips and rambling in Epping Forest, and the debating society which gave visits to other colleges, including the Indian students union in Bloomsbury, where we were given fine Indian meals. I needed to learn to dance and went to a dancing school at the bottom of Kensington Gardens off the Drive, which had been going since the Lamberts lived in the district. They ran practice dances four evenings each week, with class instruction at a cost of a shilling (5p) and private lessons for five shillings (25p) of which I had half a dozen. At Kensington Hall, run by an elderly Jehovah's Witness religious fanatic, but a very good dancer, named Wells, I met Kate at the beginning of



AUSTIN SEVEN SALOON 1931 (LARS-GÖRAN LINDGREN SWEDEN, CC BY-SA 3.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

1936, and we soon became firmly attached. I passed my driving test in Uncle William's Ford 8 at this time and in April bought my first car from a garage in Leyton run by a connection of my father, a four-year-old Austin Seven saloon which cost £45. I went to Rugby to the B.T.H factory in this, up the A5, but the car bounced about in a startling way above 40 miles per hour; it would not go much faster than this anyway. After six weeks it was changed for a new Ford 8 costing £110, £65 being borrowed from my parents; I would take them on a journey each alternate

weekend and use the car myself on the other days. In the 12 months we had the car it travelled 14,000 miles, but the car contributed to deteriorating relations with my mother, who was determined to prevent any involvement with females. In the summer Kate came with me on holiday in Devon stopping at Ilfracombe and Paignton, and this produced some caustic remarks on the telephone to my mother's sister Cissie Hunt, and a lot of insinuations about our sexual behaviour. Finally in Autumn 1936 I resented the probing questions so much that I left home and went to live in Kate's parents home, which was in Hainault about two miles from Beattyville Gardens.

Kate worked as a secretary for seven years [handwritten note says nine years] with Wiggins Teape in Aldgate; she got £3 per week then. For six months we travelled to work in the Ford which could be parked in the front courtyard of the college. Finally my parents invited us both back to the house, and the friction was somewhat attenuated, but my mother's resentment lasted the rest of her life, and always regarded me as her possession, which at 22 years old I would not permit. We were married at Romford Register Office on 19 March 1938 without telling anyone in either family until it was all finished; Kate was 22 and I was 23. There was a burst of resentment from both sets of parents, but it passed off and we soon moved to Chelmsford.

The three years research period 1934-37 passed reasonably well and in July 1937 I

applied for a job as engineer at Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company. After an interview at Electra House on the Embankment with H.M. Dowsett and L.E.Q. Walker on 20 July 1937, the day that Guglielmo Marconi died in Italy, I was offered a job at £186 per year, £26 more than most Graduate recruits got 'because of my research experience'. Dowsett was one of the original Marconi engineers from the beginning of the 20th century, and was a stiff formal man who looked rather like Marconi himself; he was then Principal of Marconi College, to which I went for nearly six months from September 1937.

[Editor: Harry Melville Dowsett (1879-1964) was one of Guglielmo Marconi's most significant engineers, having assisted him in the pioneering days of wireless as early as 1899.]



GUGLIELMO MARCONI (PACH
BROTHERS, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

In 1935 my parents had moved to a new semi-detached house at 71 Beattyville Gardens, Barkingside, the Lambert parents who lived in the Drive having died by that time. They stayed there through the war until my father retired in 1946, when they moved to Leigh on Sea, and finally to a newly built bungalow at Little Holland, Clacton in about 1953. My father had an operation to his hand in 1959 at Colchester, and lost a finger; my mother became unwell with a stomach pain and was also taken to Colchester, where she had two operations for colostomy, an unpleasant procedure which her doctor later considered to be unnecessary. Whilst they were both at the hospital my father died with a heart attack soon after we had visited them, and she promptly discharged herself from hospital to return to the bungalow at Clacton. The bungalow was sold and she bought another one in Newport Close, about two miles from our home in Great Baddow. She therefore had nine houses in my lifetime, none of the moves being necessary for employment reasons, but essentially because she was never content with what she had. She stayed with us for a time, and when the new bungalow was ready she moved there; we visited every day for fourteen years except for a few days holiday break; but she died in 1974 at age 86. She quarrelled not only with her children, but with all her neighbours and we were alone in attending the funeral. She was an unhappy person, unable to prevent her tongue from making hurtful remarks to all and sundry.

My sister Beryl was six years younger than me. During the war she joined the forces, and after the war she left home to live alone as I had done. She married Ronald Henderson [*my uncle*] a Ford worker, in about 1946, a church wedding with both families, and settled in Romford. My father lent her £1,400 to buy a house, and in 1952 he insisted that we would have the same when we built our house at Baddow; after his death we repaid our loan to my mother, with a small continuing allowance until she died. In about 1937 the Hendersons moved to Australia [*incorrect Ron and Beryl emigrated in 1958*]; they had one son Kevin, and three grandchildren [*also*

incorrect two grandchildren and one step-grandchild as Kevin's wife had a son by a previous relationship], one girl being blind [also incorrect - Shona had defective eyesight also passed onto her son but she is not blind although her son is predicted to go blind in his early 20s (2023)]. My mother visited them for six months in 1961, travelling by sea, first class.

Contacts have been maintained with Kate's surviving brothers and sisters, Ruth, Ben and Olive, who mainly live in the Barkingside area.

Radio Hobby

From about ten years old I was interested in playing with wireless sets; the frequent replacement of my parent's early sets left the abandoned equipment available for experimentation and converting to other devices. In the latter years at high school I made receivers for broadcasting and finally short-wave. Components were bought at a small shop in Ilford Lane and a cut price shop with a large turnover in Stratford called Wireless Supplies Unlimited, run by a family called Kosky, mother, son and daughter. Years later on a business trip to Bournemouth I saw the son Kosky locking up a radio shop in a main street near the Square.

These interests led in my last year at school to an interest in amateur radio transmitting. A lad named Cawley at the school had similar interests, and we co-operated. I learnt the Morse Code from a retired Post Office telegraphist named Baker who lived next to my aunt Mary in Clarendon Gardens, the next road to ours; he gave me half an hour practice every day, using Esperanto texts from World Radio BBC Magazine, and after six months I passed the 12 words per minute test needed for a transmitting licence; the test was done in the evening at the Ilford Post Office. The call sign was allocated about 1931 and I engaged the radio construction and transmitting from Ranelagh Gardens during my first years at University. There were many local contacts on the lower frequencies and long distance Morse on the higher bands; it seems to be much the same now, except that the equipment is all purchased. I even made microphones, and earned some pocket money by writing articles which were published in Practical Wireless in 1933; I attended radio exhibitions in Olympia London and Kelvin Hall Glasgow to answer the readers' technical questions.

The amateur radio transmissions activity was never resumed after joining Marconi's largely because the work took all my interest, and the war closed down all the amateur stations. Some broadcast receivers and television sets were made and maintained after the war; this homework was a useful supplement to college training, and we recruited several engineers from the amateur transmitters in later years.

We made a last long journey in the Ford 8 (DNO 862), to spend Easter 1937 in Paignton, with much walking to Brixham and on the moors. Soon afterwards the car was sold back to the garage which supplied it for £65 which now seems to be a heavy drop in 12 months. A year later we were married.

1938 to 1952

These were the years when Kate and I lived at Baddow House, the second war 1939-45, and finally building our bungalow in Galleywood Road.

For the first six months from September 1937, I was on a training course for new Marconi graduates at Marconi College in Arbour Lane. Travelling from Hainault took three hours each day by steam trains, first on the loop line from Hainault to Ilford, which had not been electrified and connected to the central London line at that time, then by a train to Chelmsford which stopped at all stations; twice in six months this train stopped on the Brentwood hill for lack of steam. At Chelmsford I would walk up the hill to Arbour Lane. For a few weeks in March when I began work at Writtle, I kept an old bicycle at the station.



FORD 8 (CHARLES01, CC BY-SA 3.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

A few weeks after we were married in April 1938, we moved from Kate's parents' house a 44 Clinton Crescent, Hainault to Flat 4, Baddow House, Great Baddow. We spent a spring Sunday looking at houses and flats in Chelmsford but L.E.Q. Walker, who was a lecturer in Mathematics at Marconi College, very helpfully suggested that we should look at a large house in Baddow that was being divided up into flats. We took the top floor immediately at a rent of twenty six shillings and sixpence a week (£1-32). This included the hire of an electric cooker. The house was about two hundred years old, with two large cedar trees to each side of the front, and grounds of six acres (3 hectares) to Vicarage Lane at the back. At that time the grounds were surrounded by a high brick wall, and were tended by a gardener who lived in a cottage in Vicarage Lane; we would buy vegetables from him in the kitchen garden, through which a stream ran. Our flat was large, forty feet square outside the walls, but the ceilings were only 7 feet above the floors. There were three fireplaces, and two water radiators which did not come on often, heated from a boiler in the basement. Being on the second floor, it had a long servant's staircase through one of the ground floor flats. The floors had several layers of old linoleum, which we patched up after the wiring had been renewed under the floorboards. There were five other flats in the building. The other tenants were friendly; on the ground floor at the bottom of our narrow stairway lived Albert and Bee (Helen) Hoare, of our ages, who after the war moved to a caravan in Galleywood Road and later a house halfway up. They retired to Spain and we saw them once or twice when they returned to Chelmsford.

In June 1939 we went to Austria, Italy and Switzerland, my first journey abroad since 1932. Travel was by train, receiving substantial reduction in fares provided we visited an exhibition in Venice. A day was spent with an Indian College friend in Paris; and we took the night train from the Gare de l'Est to Basle, and though Switzerland to Bludenz in Vorarlberg, Austria. We reached Brand by Post bus up a mountain road; this was near to the border with Switzerland over the mountains so that hopefully we could

escape if the political trouble boiled up. Austria had been taken over by Germany and the Nazi flags and supporters were everywhere. After a week in the mountains we took the train on to Innsbruck and over the Brenner Pass into Italy and Venice, where we did not stay long. Back through north Italy to Lugano, where my parents were staying on a Polytechnic packaged holiday.



CR100 RECEIVER (eBay)

Two months after our return the war started. At Marconi the head of the Receiver Development Group, R.B. Armstrong decided that a British made communication receiver with component parts to our design bought in from outside suppliers, should be produced to replace the American sets that the Navy were using and I started on my only first complete receiver design, the CR100 of which 20,000 were made during the war. To spread the risk to supplies and assembly from bombing all the components and the assembly were done in four separate places; in fact only the assembly plant at Broomfield was destroyed by a bomb in the Chelmsford raid in 1943.

Amongst the engineers at Baddow there was a strong pacifist feeling again the war, but only a few persisted in their conviction and became farm workers or schoolteachers. There was a general transfer of qualified engineers to the Services research establishments at Farnborough, Malvern, Portsmouth, Haslemere, and some others went into the forces. The highest losses from Marconi staff were to the Air Force.

Looking back on life during the war it is surprising how many activities we found time for. The Marconi Laboratories settled down to a six day week, with alternate Saturdays or Sundays free and the working day was 8.30 to 18.00 with extra overtime as required; for a month when the first receivers came in from the Yorkshire factory for vetting, we worked every day until 20.00. We had our flat, and started an allotment in a nearby field. As an air raid warden I slept one night a week in the cellar under the Corona fruit drink bottling works, turning out when there was an air raid alert. Apart from stray bombs, one of which wiped out the mayor's family in their house in London Road, there were only two concentrated night raids on Chelmsford in May/June 1943; only when the bombing came near would we go downstairs to a hallway away from glass windows. The V1 and V2 attacks at the end of the war caused severe damage in East London, but not so many deaths as the earlier sustained bombing; a V2 rocket hit Hoffmann's ball bearing factory in Chelmsford, killing about 50 people on the night shift. The paint shop at Marconi's was also destroyed by a bomb dropped from a lone aircraft and 20 died. The first concentrated attack on Chelmsford in 1943 killed about 50 people, but the second raid a month later killed nobody. There were thirty barrage balloons tethered over Chelmsford, and after one of the night raids about five

of these were struck by lightning and burned down through the clouds, trailing their cables over the town.

Kate first worked as a volunteer serving meals at the British Restaurants in Chelmsford, but as that was not considered to be employment she took a secretarial job at the Red Cross depot, which was largely concerned with prisoners of war. We sometimes helped in the evening at the Service canteens which supplied meals to the forces people in the town. I would also sleep on camp beds once a week as a fire watcher at Marconi's going on the roof if there was a raid alert. We also went on the roof during the day when there was an alert, giving six blasts on the klaxons if we saw any aircraft threat or were warned by telephone from the observer Corps at Colchester. There was some excitement in 1944 when the V1 flying bombs came over, one of them landing in the old open-air swimming bath in Chelmsford; the V2 rockets arrived before their sound, so if you heard it coming then it had missed you.



V2 (AELFWINE, CC BY-SA 3.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

Both my parents were in Ilford through the war and we heard little from them about the bombing, although Ilford was particularly damaged by the V2 rockets, the Drive area also being damaged, and both the Super cinema and the Hippodrome near the station were destroyed. Once or twice we rode to Ilford on our bicycles; Chelmsford was in a restricted coastal zone after 1940 so people from the outside could not travel there without permits. The buses ran to London, Bow, fare 3/6 return (18p) but passes were examined by the soldiery at Harold Wood.

There was limited television from 1936 from one transmitter at Alexandra Palace in North London, but not many people had receivers and the station closed down in 1939 as it could be used to navigate bombers to London. Radio programmes were available, with National and Regional channels available on medium wavelengths throughout most of the country since 1930; foreign stations like Normandy and Luxembourg transmitted advertisement backed programmes in English. There were no tape recorders at that time, and recorded programmes on the radio had to be cut on aluminium or plastic discs. (There was the large Marconi Stille wire recorder from the early 1930s). Except for the morning service at 10.15 there were no transmissions before mid-afternoon until the war started. Radio programmes were the mainstay of home entertainment and news throughout the war; in 1940 author J.B. Priestley started giving weekly talks after the 9pm news on Sundays which became famous as war commentaries; he had a pleasant slow Yorkshire voice and a sensible liberal attitude that went down well at that time.

We use our bicycles to get about; lamps had shutters on the front and there was no street or house lighting, so travel was hazardous after dark, even on foot; fortunately there were few cars about, petrol being strictly rationed. We would attend WEA and other classes in Chelmsford at the Technical College, in social subjects and German, and for six months in 1941 we struggled with Russian. In 1939 there was enthusiasm for Federal Union, an organisation urging amalgamation of western countries, the Commonwealth and USA. We were both involved in a youth club which started during the war at the Parish Hall in Baddow, and later in some huts in Molrams Lane. I maintained a gramophone, and we taught dancing without much success. The committee work continued until the mid-1950s, when the county education organisation took it over.

During the 1939-45 war the Baddow Marconi Laboratories became a mainly Services establishment, partly run for the Navy and partly for the Air Ministry; we could tell which was which by the colour of the 'Access Restricted' notices on the doors. Our receiver laboratory had no notice on the door, except when some humourist put up 'Welcome'. The Inter Services Ionospheric Bureau was located at Baddow, its purpose being to predict radio conditions so that active units could maintain radio communications with

Service personnel, from WRNS, Navy, United States and other allied countries. They frequently came to spend evenings at our flat. There were several marriages between Marconi engineers and WRNS girls, and between RAF chaps and local girls.

Food was a problem during the war, but rationing ensured that what was available was evenly distributed and we were never really hungry. Economy campaigns were sometimes strange; one month we should eat more potatoes to save bread, the next we would be urged to save spuds. Where things like fish were not rationed, we would queue for a long time to get a piece of frozen cod, or perhaps whalemeat which tasted rather like liver. Most foods like sugar, tea, butter, fat, eggs, tinned food, meat and clothes were on rations, some by a points system. One egg and two ounces of cheese each week was a normal ration, and imported fruit was unobtainable. Some rationing lasted ten years after the end of the war. The Utility standard manufactured goods were a great help.

At the beginning of 1944 the outcome of the war looked more favourable and we began to consider our future lives. Birth control measures were readily available in



WRNS POSTER (UNKNOWN (ARTIST), J WEINER LTD, 71/5 NEW OXFORD STREET, LONDON WC1 (PRINTER), HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE (PUBLISHER/SPONSOR), PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)



CIVILIAN RATIONING: A SHOPKEEPER CANCELS THE COUPONS IN A BRITISH HOUSEWIFE'S RATION BOOK IN 1943 (UNITED STATES OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION, OVERSEAS PICTURE DIVISION, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

the 1930s, but there was widespread ignorance about them; for us they were satisfactory, but as we approached 30 years old we had to decide whether to have children. We knew older couples who had no children for unknown reasons, and for me the decision was a matter of observing who appeared to have the most contented lives; for a woman perhaps natural instincts are a more compelling factor. In any case we decided that Spring was the best time for childbirth, and guessed that there might be a six-month delay in pregnancy, but the estimate was wrong and there was no delay at all, so Peter was born in

November 1944 at Danbury Park, a large country house about four miles from Baddow which was used during the war as a council maternity home. Mr Jackson's village taxi, a large 1920s Austin car, took Kate there one morning and he was born that night, in darkness because the power lines had been damaged by a German rocket. I would cycle up to Danbury in the evenings, and got to work making a wood and fabric cot for the child.

One Sunday in September 1944 at about midday when I was digging on the allotment, a large fleet of aircraft and gliders passed to the north on their way to the ill-fated invasion of Arnhem (Book - A Bridge too Far). Boreham near Chelmsford was one of



WAVES OF PARATROOPERS LAND IN HOLLAND (PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

the assembly points. For several days of foggy weather there was a procession of the supply planes for that mission.

For six years after the war ended, we continued at Baddow House, with living conditions becoming a little better than during the war. Barbara was born in 1948, and we began to look for a more permanent home. Land was still available for purchase in 1948 and we looked at several plots near Baddow before settling on one at the top of Galleywood Road, in a field that had been occupied by an anti-aircraft battery in the war. It was 200 feet deep and 60 feet wide, and it cost us £300. There was some difficulty about a new land value tax, but in the end, we did not have to pay the £280 improvement value that the district valuer put on it. Then we got down to designing a bungalow, getting approval from the council for the plans, and then applying for a building licence which was required at that time. In 1951 we had built a garage on the site under the £100 per year free of licence, and we got fed up with the refusals to give a permit to build the house. We gave notice that we were going to start at £100 per year, even if it took us ten years, and after that they gave us the permit to build. Four estimates were obtained from local builders, but the costs were so nearly equal that there must have been collusion, and we decided to build ourselves at weekends with direct labour. In 12 months the house was complete, a shorter time than a builder took on a similar bungalow opposite. The building cost £1770, two thirds being material and sub contracting (laying roof tiles £20, plastering ceilings and walls £65 and floor tiles about £1600).

At Marconi's my work in receiver development group continued until 1950 with the design of larger rack receivers for the post-war commercial services run mainly by Cable and Wireless. In 1950 the group transferred to the new Street Works in Chelmsford, where I stayed for three months before arranging a transfer back to the Research Division at Baddow. I felt a little sad at leaving R.B. Armstrong after twelve years, when he gave me opportunities and a lot of freedom, and we wrote engineering papers and gave lectures together in different parts of the country; however, he too changed occupation to be the chief of the new standardisation division.

Barbara was born in 1948 at Lionmede, a private maternity home in Chelmsford, backing onto the large grass area on Sandford Road near the County Police Headquarters. Whilst Kate was away some painting was done in the house, with assistance from Manfred Rudolf, a German prisoner whom we had met when he was working in the garden of Baddow House. He was from Potsdam, but moved to Osnabruck in West Germany in the 1950s, when he married Christa; we visited them there in 1964, on the way back from Graz. I was able to get permission from the camp commandant in Chelmsford to take him for a day's sightseeing in London; he returned to Germany before we started the house building.

Between 1948 and 1951 we fenced and cultivated the plot in Galleywood Road, planting fruit trees. Plans for the bungalow were drawn and passed by the Council and we waited for a licence to build, with costs rising all the time. In 1950 we decided to build a garage on the plot under the free building allowance of £100 per year; the work was done with Tom Holland, a foreman bricklayer who lived opposite our plot. This garage proved very useful for storing materials when we built the house, with

Tom Holland as foreman and recruiting four other workers for Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The house was started in March 1951 and took just 12 months to complete.

For the first three years of schooling both the children attended the village school; then from 8 to 11 they went to St Cedds, a private school near Rainsford Road on the west side of Chelmsford. This school had classes of less than 20 and obtained much better results than the county schools in the 11+ examinations for entry to the grammar and high schools. At that time about one in five children went to the high schools and the rest to secondary modern schools; St Cedds had a success rate of over 90% in the admission examinations; it was an unfair system but we took advantage of it whilst it existed.

During the first six years after the war ended Chelmsford did not change greatly. The shops still had people handing goods over the counter to customers; Sainsbury's and International Stores still had their original shops in the High Street, and the market stall and the cattle market still flourished where the new shopping centre has now been built. In Great Baddow the Carters shops still sold provisions and baked bread, and for a time there was a restaurant in the room over the shop on the hill. Marconi's built several roads of new houses for their employees in the Dorset Avenue region of Baddow, but apart from this it was still much of a large village.

1952-1979

There were some changes to our daily lives in 1951 to 1952; there was the house building activity at [word illegible damage to page starts with w and ends ds] and I had transferred to the Research Division of Marconi's after thirty [illegible] years of designing communication receivers. At Baddow I joined Mervin Morgan whom I had known since joining the company when we worked together in Receiver Group through the war years. At Baddow he was in charge of a large development of an aircraft navigation aid known as Green Satin, which was first used on RAF aircraft.

Mervyn had returned after a spell at Cinema Television, who had laboratories at the Crystal Palace in south London. He managed the experimental doppler project and we shared an office in Room 3 at Baddow; at one period in 1951 we were doing 20 hours a week overtime, and this had to be worked in with the house building activity. We were not paid for overtime from about 1947 up to retirement, and the bonuses were infrequent and small. The Research Director at that time was R.J. Kemp, for whom I worked until 1961; we had



a very good understanding and went on many trips together in this country UK, CC BY-SA 2.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS) in his Humber Hawk car. In 1954 Dr

Eric Eastwood took over the Research Division, and I started the communications research activities.

Occupational Activities

1953 I had my first contact with the international communications organisations run by the United Nations when there was a final meeting of the Consultative Committee for Telegraphy in Arnhem, Netherlands, before this body was combined with the parallel telephony organisation. Earlier meetings had been attended by R.B. Armstrong on behalf of the Marconi Marine Company, and he suggested that I should go to this meeting. This gave me an opportunity to work with the Post Office engineers and people from other industrial companies which made telegraphic equipment and represented the UK internationally, and to meet foreign engineers, including Van Duuren and Van der Pol, two Netherlands radio scientists whose work was famous. The town of Arnhem had at the time many ruined areas from the great battle of 1944. A large area around the bridge was still completely flattened, but was afterwards rebuilt so as not to be recognised. The Dutch authorities took us on several coach trips, including one to Amsterdam and a car trip with the chief engineer to the Netherlands radio communication stations. I also met the Veeren family in Nijmegen whom Ben Pavitt had known during the war when he was in Netherlands.

In 1954 Eric Eastwood took over the Baddow Labs from R.J. Kemp who moved to New Street Works as one of three Directors of Engineering. The new boss found that he had to deal with more than 30 established section leaders, and he promptly set up seven main laboratory groups by combination of the earlier sections. I looked after the communications research area, which had about thirty engineers; one of the sections dealing with long-range communications had been run by Christopher Cockerall, who had just left Marconi's to start a boat building activity on the Norfolk Broads, and there developed his hovercraft ideas; he used to call in at Baddow to see Mervyn Morgan and me when we still shared the Room 3 office, and he was always sore about the difficulty of getting government support for the hovercraft development.

One of the sections worked on radio direction finding equipment, which had been an important part of Marconi equipment from the days of the First World War; this was located at an out station at Bedalls End, a large flat farm area two miles north of Chelmsford. It was also used for radar tests and was finally closed down in the late 1960s.

In 1955 I went on a six-week trip to America, visiting US government establishments and industrial firms right over to California. That led to several new areas of work, the most important being the tropospheric scatter communications scheme which led to high powered installations for inter-island and desert communications, and later to the network between the North Sea oil platforms. We set up the first experimental link between Start Point in Devon and Galleywood, Chelmsford, in 1978-9; the transmitter was made at the New Street works by O'Donovan and Bill Crick, who managed the Start Point site, and the receivers for Galleywood were housed in a hut on the racecourse and run by Douglas Paynter. The meetings with Chelmsford Council and the Devon County Council in their council chambers at Chelmsford and Exeter were to get permission to erect the 30 foot dish aerials required for the link, which

was run every day for 12 months. The Start Point end was in a field next to the BBC transmitting station on top of the 400 foot hill above the sea. At that place we were not only high up with a clear line across the bay to Purbeck Hills, but also had access to the large power supply needed for the big transmitter.

Between 1957 and 1961 we came again directly under Kemp and moved to Guys Farm, Writtle, a building which had been a milk experimental station and offices, with a barn and outbuildings where we made our workshop. In 1961 there was a financial crisis and once more we were moved back to the main research laboratories at Baddow, where we have remained until the present time. To save company money many of the research projects were discontinued and the staff transferred to government funded projects connected with radar. In the early 1960s there was also a large study contract to manage, which dealt with the future radar communications for the UK defence network. There was another re-organisation in 1965 when the large groups became laboratories under a manager; at that time the microwave communications also combined with the main communications laboratory, almost doubling the size to about 70 engineers.

In the final ten years after 1970 I was much involved with the technical committees run by the Post Office and Home Office for representing this country on the international organisations under the UN. We had direct company representations of these organisations through the International Marine Company as an operating company on ships, and their chief engineer George Macdonald had done much of the previous work; he now lives at Bicknoller near Watchet. This was interesting work mostly connected with producing satellite systems for communicating with ships and aircraft, and involved meetings for several weeks almost every year in Geneva; we stayed at first in hotels, then found that it was as cheap to hire an apartment with a small kitchen where we could prepare meals. Kate came with me in 1978 and 79 when we had a large apartment at Mon Repos which cost about £20 per day, and we had a good time on these trips. In 1979 we took the old Hillman car and spent a week coming back through Germany and France at the time of the grape gathering.

Also in the 1970s I gave several post-graduate lectures each year at Birmingham and Manchester Universities, and occasionally at other places. These were never really satisfactory because of the difficulty of co-ordinating with other lectures in the courses. There were several opportunities during the 40 years to change from the work at Marconi's; many engineers took teaching posts at technical colleges or Universities or in government organisations, which were better paid by 20 to 50% but the research work in industry satisfied me and I did not wish to move; there were also family ties with children and parents.

In 1979 after retiring at Marconi's I continued for 18 months as a part time consultant. In 1985 there was another connection with the firm when I acted as a technical consultant to the Marconi Archives, by that time housed in a specially adapted building at Baddow; the main work was looking after the heritage equipment, documents and photographs. There was great activity in 1985 when Professor Eric Ash gave a lecture on Marconi's work at the Royal Institution in London, and we arranged many of the demonstrations for the lecture, which was attended by many scientists and

Marconi's two daughters from USA and Italy. We were put up for the night in luxury at Brown's Hotel. In 1936 I had done demonstrations for a Television lecture in the same lecture theatre, which dates from the early 1800s in Faraday's time, and is still used for the Christmas lectures for children which he started in the 1820s and which are now televised each year.

Domestic Life

We are fortunate never to have been in debt, except in 1936 when my parents lent me £65 to buy the Ford car which we kept for a year; after that we went without a car until 1956 when we bought the small Austin. When we were first married nothing was bought until we had the cash to pay for it, and even after building the house we were just about solvent without any mortgage. A loan of £1400 was at my father's insistence, largely because my sister had had the same amount to buy her house at Romford and later at Rayleigh before they moved to Australia in the 1950s [1958]. There was some idea that the interest might save them some tax, but after my father's death in 1959 the debt was gradually repaid to give my mother some extra income.

When we were first married in 1938 we had some assets in the Post Office Savings Accounts with which to set up home; Kate had about £100 and I had about the same. My income from Marconi had increased to about £210 per year, and Kate had her secretary's job at Wiggins Teape in Aldgate at £150. As they would not employ married women, we had to arrange with the Income Tax Office that she would pay the same tax as if she were single, which they seemed quite happy to do. There is a small stiff-covered red notebook which was used for our annual records of expenditure and savings; in the back of this notebook are some interesting records of our first purchases in 1938 when we were buying things for our first home in Great Baddow. On the left page is an estimate of the cost of the item and on the right the prices we actually paid. Some of our first pieces of furniture came from Phyllis Blackie when she was moving from her home at Edgware to a flat in London. She was a friend of Hans Tropper [Editor: Hans Tropper (1905–1978) was an Austrian Professor of Electrical Engineering with research interest in breakdown strength of liquid insulation] and we knew her until her death at Frome in about 1984. We paid about £25 and this included the walnut bedroom suite from Maples, single divan bed, oak bureau desk, curtains, mirrors, a dining table given to Kate's mother, and two small chairs. Many of these items still remain 50 years later. The main furniture for the flat came from Harrison Gibson, the best furniture shop in Ilford, who were having a sale. The accounts show that we did not have much money left after moving to Baddow, but that did not concern us. We got married at Romford Register Office without telling anyone until afterwards, which caused some resentment at first; some of the Pavitt relatives gave us things for the flat, including £20 from Kate's mother. The rent of the flat was £1. 6s. 6d per week (£1.32) including the electric cooker and some hot water and two radiators which got hot on occasions. We were able to buy vegetables from the gardener who kept up the walled kitchen garden and the large back garden. The second floor flat was 40 feet square outside the walls, had seven foot high ceilings, and bumpy old floors, with old lino which we re-laid. It was a long way down the back stairs to the coal shed, dustbin and clothes line in the field towards the stream which ran through the garden.

From 1937 until 1956 we had no car or bicycles, trains and buses supplying most of our needs. Until July 1939 Kate continued at her job in London, taking the 7.45 bus to Chelmsford and the 8.02 train to London. She returned home at about 6.30, by which time I had cooked the evening meal. My hours at Baddow Laboratory were 8.30 until 5.00. It was about a 15 minute walk, or quicker by bicycle.

This story seems to be diverting back to earlier years than the period it is supposed to cover; this is because it had been written piecemeal over several months; I will try and get back to the years after the war.

Household goods were acquired slowly, first our own English Electric cooker in 1947 in preparation for getting our house, and at a cost of under £30; we still have it in 1989. We also had a Burco electric wash boiler for the children's clothes. In the 1950s we had a new Electrolux vacuum cleaner to replace the Hoover which my parents had bought in the 1920s, and a refrigerator and washing machine. The home-built television era started in 1948, when many engineers built sets at Baddow to a magazine design, using a batch of old radar valves left over from the war. In 1950 Dave Ewings designed a television set which was to be made at Liverpool in the English Electric factory; they gave the first dozen sets to senior managers, and these were constantly being returned to Dave for repairs. By 1955 he was working with me, and one particular set was owned by G.M. Wright, the father of Peter Wright of Spy Catcher notoriety, and he did not want it any more so I acquired it. It was much reconstructed in the next eight years, and the large cabinet has been cut about to house the amplifier and loud speakers for the broadcasting receiver.

We had one holiday in a caravan at Exmouth in about 1953, travelling by train and sending our luggage in advance, which we could still do then for about 2/5 a trunk (12 1/2p). In 1955 I took Peter alone on his first journey to Europe, to Rotterdam, Arnhem, Cologne, Bonn and beyond Koblenz, travelling on ferry ships, trains, buses, Rhein steamers, and finally by air from Calais on one of the planes that carried cars across the Channel in those days. Kate and Barbara stayed at Dymchurch whilst we were away, and we arrived there through Lydd aerodrome very much in need of baths.

In the following year we planned our first journey to Europe, at first intending to hire a car, but we were apprehensive about reliability and decided to buy a new small car, an Austin A30 costing about £550; we had ordered a Morris Minor but it took a long time to come, and prices were increasing so we took the one available. This was a fine little car, averaging about 50 miles to the gallon, and very easy to service; we did 18000 miles in three years, with three long trips to Europe, but in 1959 with the children getting bigger and with visits from French and German youngsters we changed to the bigger Hillman Minx which we kept with little trouble in its 90000 miles until 1988 when we bought the Metro. Car servicing was one of the do-it-yourself jobs, never going to a garage except for the annual tests and the rare welding repairs. House painting was also done by ourselves, after the original house building in 1951-2. We always used Dulux paint, with two top coats, which would last on the outside for seven years; later we changed from yellow and reds to white paint of the same make, but the surface was not so resistant to weather, and it would powder off with washing; one expert said that it was because the old lead had been replaced with

titanium. There was also a great deterioration in the quality of softwood from the 1950s onwards; many old houses in England can be seen with hundred years old windows and doors, but present day items seem to rot quickly, perhaps because the wood is not properly seasoned. Using plastics instead of wood and metal also leads to quick wear and short life.

From 1956 to 1964 we generally made a European holiday trip of two or three weeks every two years, travelling by car through Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. In the later years there were a few business trips to conferences in Delft, Munich and Genoa; Kate came with me and had quite a good time whilst I was in meetings. At these times the children had several exchanges with children from France, Germany and Austria some arranged through the schools and some by private arrangements; they would travel out by train and we would pick them up in the car on our holiday journeys. It worked quite well in the early 1960s, but we would hesitate to take the risks nowadays.

In 1970 we made the last holiday trip to the Black Forest and Ramsau in Austria with Barbara and Richard, who were a bit concerned about the cost, which came out exactly as estimated at £240 for the four of us for nearly three weeks away, including all travelling costs. It would be different now.

Barbara married Richard Ash, who was an estimator at Marconi's in 1967, but in the early 1970s he took a job at Westland's in Yeovil and they moved to a house in Queen Camal, Somerset. Elizabeth was born in 1973, but in mid-1973 Richard became ill with a neck pain which was diagnosed as Hodgkin's disease, and he had to have some intensive ray treatment in hospital. He was able to return to work for a time, but was not resistant to infections and he died in Bristol in mid-1974. Barbara married Peter Nichols in 1977 and they moved to a pre-war bungalow in Drayton, Langport; it had a large plot of land, and they have done a lot of reconstruction to the house. The garden is mainly given over to ornamental trees; there is a small greenhouse and Barbara has three beehives which produce honey quite well. In 1990 at age 42 she has a busy life with a part-time job in an insurance office in Yeovil and other activities in this locality. Peter Nichol's former occupation in the sheepskin treatment business, in which his father formerly had a business, has collapsed in the district, and he now does maintenance work for a large firm of solicitors in Taunton. Elizabeth is finishing this year a two-year catering course at Taunton College; they produce some very good meals which we attend two or three times a year.

In 1987 we finally moved from Essex to Somerset, mainly to be nearer to Barbara. The bungalow in Great Baddow had served us well, and although the one at Langport is slightly larger, there is less storage space in the roof space and outbuildings, so we had to dispose of many things. The house sale was very worrying; ultimately our house was bought by a religious fanatic with a large family, who has been intent on making extensive building changes which we hear about from our former neighbours.

That, in 1990, just about brings the history up to date. Reading it over there are a lot of repetitions, because it has been written piecemeal over several years.

From the Chair

Since our last magazine our new web service provider – Beachshore has been working on our new website, and we hope to have it fully up and running very soon. I have to apologise to all members, as many of the searchable aspects of our site have not been available, but I hope you will agree that the new site that we believe is as secure as it can be, was well worth waiting for.

I would like to thank all of the many members who contacted us reporting the bogus email messages they received, and for being so patient and supportive during a very challenging time. I'd also like to thank all of our key members who gave up substantial amounts of their own spare time, to answer your many emails and to work with Beachshore, to enable the successful migration of our data to our new website.



ANDREA HEWITT

Our branches all enjoyed their festive meetings before Christmas, with the HQ branch presenting 'A Festive Family History Assortment' via the Zoom platform. Our Vice Chair Toni Neobard, assisted by members of our Events Team, gave an entertaining view on the popularity of Victorian weddings held on Christmas Day, and the mostly less merry Christmas Day for those in the workhouses. It did become clear, however, that many families often suddenly became homeless at Christmas, proving that at least some workhouses tried to pass on as much Christmas cheer as they could afford to their inmates!

Our audience, including many members from outside Essex, and overseas, seemed to thoroughly enjoy the colourful and informative snap-shot of the Victorian Christmas for probably the majority of the population at the time.

If you missed it you can still view the presentation online, and I would recommend you to do so! (Having logged into your ESFH account go to Activities, then Events, then Recordings where you will see all events listed that are still available for you to view.)

I am very pleased to report that our 'Genetic Genealogy for Beginners' course on Zoom, continues to be very popular. Again if you haven't already joined these sessions, or you've just been given a DNA kit for Christmas, once you've got your results, you can view all of these recorded sessions, to ensure that you are getting the most from your DNA results, and knocking down those 'brick walls' we all come across.

The New Year brought the sad news that due to personal commitments Jean-Marc Bazzoni, our Editor and Hon. Secretary was having to step down from both of these roles, and this magazine will be his last as Editor. I'm sure you

will all agree that he has done a fabulous job of editing the Historian, producing the monthly newsletter that he instigated, and in his role as Hon. Secretary. He will be sorely missed. Jean-Marc says he will remain a member of ESFH, and he hopes to be able to become more involved with the Society again, if and when he has more time. We wish him and his family well, and look forward to welcoming him back as a volunteer again at sometime in the future.

Meryl Rawlings has kindly offered to cover the Hon. Secretary role until a replacement can be found. Please contact Meryl if you are interested in taking up this post.

Our Vice Chair Toni Neobard, has already found a volunteer to take over as Editor of the Historian. Carol Mulroney, a member from our S.E. Branch is a local councillor, and a Trustee for the Leigh Heritage Centre. She already edits their magazine, and has a keen interest in local and family history. I'm sure that she will be able take over from Jean-Marc, with the assistance of Ian Fulcher.

Ian has been assisting our Editors for many years, with the layout of the Historian for the printers, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for his sterling contribution in the publication of our much loved magazine.

We have decided to discontinue the monthly newsletters, for the time being. Any urgent issues will be published to members via the Website, individual emails, and the Historian, so that as many members as possible can be kept up to date with our activities.

We also have found a volunteer to manage our Social Media. David Perkins who received our annual Students award at our AGM, has shown a great deal of support to the Society, since he received his award, so we are sure he will do a super job promoting our Society in his new role.

We invited both Carole and David to our last Executive Committee Meeting where they were both co-opted onto the Committee.

Many of our volunteers represented us at the East Surrey Virtual Family History Fair, in January 2025. Over 25 other groups took part, and ESFH saw a good level of interest from visitors especially regarding DNA.

Once the new website is fully up and running, I'm sure you will see areas where improvements can be made, for you as a user. Please direct your suggestions to our Web Manager or Data Controller, so that we can tailor our site for the benefit of all our members.

The Essex Branch of the Western Front Association

Meeting dates for 2025

Focussed on education and remembrance about the First World War, this organisation meets on the second Wednesday monthly, alternating between two venues, the Village Hall in Hatfield Peverel and the Royal British Legion in Hornchurch.

We meet at two venues, one every other month, meet from 7:30 for an 8pm start.

Please note that our meetings are always open to both members and non-members of the WFA.

Hatfield Peverel: The Bar Area, The Village Hall, Maldon Rd, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2HP on the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July September and November.

Hornchurch: 'The Poppy Lounge', 1st Floor, Legion House (RBL Hornchurch Branch), 205 High Street, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 3XT, on the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Car parking available onsite at Hatfield Peverel, but there is limited parking at the actual venue in Hornchurch but ample nearby in public car park in Fentiman Way. This car park now charges for evening / overnight parking. Both venues allow use of the bar.

We request an entrance donation £3.50 and there is a book raffle at each meeting which supports our Memorial Fund, allowing us to assist in memorial development, principally in Essex.

For information we also have a Branch Facebook page, which is regularly updated. As you would expect this has a strong Essex focus. Search under The Western Front association Essex Branch.

Hatfield Peverel Branch

12 March: 'Shield and Protect' - The Essex Yeomanry. Stephen Keoghane.

The Essex Yeomanry was the County's cavalry territorial force, and served gallantly on the Western Front, taking part in, amongst others, a major cavalry assault on the French village of Monchy Le Preux in 1917. As artillery, the regiment served with distinction in various theatres of operation in World War 2. Stephen Keoghane published his book of the same title in 2024 and we are pleased to welcome him to our Hatfield Peverel location to present this talk to us.

14 May: Poppy and Cornflower Ladies - Dr Vivien Newman.

We all know about the role of the poppy in remembrance, and the French have a similar relationship with the cornflower. In this talk Viv will tell of a not totally

harmonious story across the globe, following in the footsteps of the Poppy and Cornflower Ladies of the immediate post war years.

9 July: Churchill's Intervention: The North Russian Relief Force 1919 - Andy Stuart.

Whilst most of the troops were looking forward to going home after the Armistice in 1919, many were committed to Russia to support the anti-Bolshevik forces in the Russian Civil War. This is an area that many may have heard of but not always know a lot about, involving troops from many Western nations. Andy's grandfather served in this conflict. Andy Stuart's grandfather served as a member of the Force.

No date or details listed for September.

12 November: Essex Branch Members Night.

This month will be given over to short talks / presentations by Branch Members. This is a good way for members to give airtime to their own family stories, research, or battle trip experiences. Talks will be of 20-30 minutes duration and will, as experience has shown in other branches, tell us things we didn't know about. We shall be looking at a bit of a social side as well if possible.

Hornchurch Branch

9 April: 'First Things First; The Early Days, RFC Suttons Farm' - Richard Smith.

This talk will cover the origins and history of RFC Suttons Farm in Hornchurch. It was from here that William Leefe Robinson shot down a Zeppelin in September 1916, the first downed by air combat over the UK. Suttons Farm was a key part of home defence in the First World War and continued this role as RAF Hornchurch in World War Two. This talk by Richard Smith will be presented by Essex Branch member Jonathan Steer, but Richard will be attending to answer questions arising.

10 June: On To Aleppo - Stuart Hadaway.

In this presentation Stuart will conclude the journey of the Egypt Expeditionary Force in 1918. The Force had been significantly restructured to meet needs of the Western Front but continued to a successful conclusion from Jerusalem to Syria, and forcing the Ottoman army out of the war in the area.

13 August: 'Redipuglia Italian 3rd Army Memorial' - James Paul Smyth.

This talk is about the largest war memorial in Italy and one of the largest in the world, housing the remains of 100,187 Italian soldiers killed between 1915 and 1917 in the battles fought on the Karst and Isonzo Front. James regularly visits the area and has family there. One of his relatives served in the Austrian forces in the First World War.

8 October: The British West Indies Regiment in the First World War - Paul Chambers.

This talk will tell of the formation and experience of the volunteer force of the British West Indies Regiment that served in the Middle East and on the Western Front. This

was a unit that suffered some 1500 fatalities, but their story is little known and certainly deserves to be told. Paul is the Chair of the British West India Regiments Trust.

10 December: Talbot House - Martin Passande.

This talk will tell the story of Talbot House, its importance in the First World War and its post war history, including its legacy. Martin has undertaken the role of Warden on several occasions. Martin has also let me know that December 2025 will be the 110th anniversary of its opening, so a perfect time for the talk.



The Essex Branch of the Historical Association

We are the Essex Branch of the national Historical Association. We meet regularly and organise a programme of talks aimed to appeal to all with a love of history, from history professionals to people with no historical background at all.

We offer high-quality presentations from historians, usually experts in their fields, about their current researches into history. We seek to have talks about local, national and international history, including political, economic, social and cultural aspects, and acknowledging diversity, as well as to have contributions from ancillary specialists like archivists, archaeologists and museum curators.

We also put on other activities including history visits and CPD events.

The Essex Branch is part of a national charity, the Historical Association and the branch has existed since at least 1920. The branch is managed by a committee of volunteers.

We meet monthly on Saturday afternoons from September until May at 2:30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2XB to hear presentations from historians about their researches into history. We also organise history themed visits.

Upcoming Events

22 March - What have the Normans ever done for us? - Professor David Bates (University of East Anglia)

26 April - Alfred the Great and Late Anglo-Saxon England - Dr Eric Boston - C.A.T.S. College, Cambridge

17 May - The North Sea Floods of 1953 - Cherry Boroughs - (Author: The Farmer & The Fury).

For further information:

<https://essexbranchha.com/>

Colne Engraine

by Angela Hillier (ESFH 28397)

Ref D/P 193/3/1

The following lists of people living in Colne Engraine cover the years 1767, 1784-1790, 1796-1797, 1800-1825. The first lists give the names of occupiers of land (each name usually has a page to themselves), the names of their fields, the area each field covers in Acres, Rods and Perches and whether it is arable or pasture land. The later ones are just lists of names and amounts of money. There is nothing to say who made the later lists or what any of them were used for although there is mention of Tithes at one point so it may be that the vicar of the parish made them to help him work out the amounts of tithes due to him from these people.

I have only transcribed the names from the lists and only every 10th year after 1790.

Please note:- things in italics are written in pencil in the original and are possibly updates to the occupiers made at a later date.

An Estimation made of the Parish of Colne Engraine in the County of Essex taken by Owen SWAN in the year 1767.

Mr BARNARD - Burtons - Mr BROWN,
BEE farms, Mr SEWELL owner
Mr BAKER - Mrs HANY? owner
Mr BARNARD Westwood Farm, Sam
BARNARD Mr MORLEY owner
Mr BARNARD - FIRMAN, FRENCH
Mr James BROWN
George BEARD
Jn^o BEARD - Isaac BR Brick House, Ja
MAYHEW, G. FULLER
Mr John BRAND
Mr John BROWN - Mr HALE
Sam BRIDGES, Mr HILLS owner
Lawrence BULL - PURKISS, S. CLARKE,
OSGOOD, HANBURY
Mr BUNTING - Mr PERCELL
Mr Ralph BULL - Mr PURKISS, Mr HILLS
owner
Mr BURL - Mr CARRWARDEN
Mr COCK - Mr COLLIS, Mrs EKINS
Mr Henry COLLINS - Mr CARTER
Mr Rich^d DUTTON - NUNNS
Dan -EEPER - Hen RAY
Mr FOSTER held by Mr DUTTON

Mr Tho^s GALLAFENT
Mr Will^m GALLAFENT
Mr GRAY - Isaac BROWN, Mr HILLS
Mayhew
Mr^s HOWLAND - Mrs BUXTON
[not given] HYAMS - HYAM
Mr KENT - Mr MORLEY, Mr BROWN,
Brick House
W^m, KING, Mr TICE or CARTER
Joseph KING
Mr Tere MAYHEW - Mr CARTER or TICE
Richard MANNING - Jn MAYHEW
understood Owner, Isaac MANNING, Isaac
JOHN, John MANNERS
Mr MEAD - MILLS
Danⁱ MILLER - Ja MAYHEW
Mr MORLEY - Mr MORLEY, Isaac
BROWN Brick House
Mr MORLEY's - W^m KING occupier and
owner
John MORSE - STEVENS now Mr HILL
Mr OAKS - Mr SEWELL
[not given] PARMENTER - Preston
SARIN?
[not given] PEVERAL - Mr PERCIVAL

Mr PRENTICE - Mr BEARD
 Ja PUDNEY - Mr BROWN of Farm, Mr
 HILL's Estate
 Mr RAY - Mr PERCIVALL
 Josph SEWELL - W^m KING occupier and
 owner
 Robt SEWELL - Mr CARTER
 Thomas SIDEY - Jn^o MANNING, Mr
 BAGGIS owner
 Mr SMITH - W^m KING, Mr TICE or
 CARTER

Joseph SMITH - Ja MAYHEW
 Mr John TILLOTT - Isaac ?MANNING, Mr
 BRASIER Earls Colne
 Mr Isaac TILLET - Isaac BROWN, Brick
 House, Mr MORLEY owner
 Tho^s WASH - Mr PIPER
 Tho^s WEBB - SPURGEON
 Rich^d WILKERSON - Mr BRIDGE, Mr
 BOTT Earls Colne
 [not given] WILLIAMSON - Mr SHAW, Mr
 WENDON

1784 Occupiers Michm Nov 17

ARNALL Thomas
 BAKER Thomas
 BARNARD Samuel
 BAINES [not given]
 BEARD Geo, KENT [not given]
 BROWN Isaac at the farm
 BRIDGE John
 BROWN Is Brickhouse
 BULL Ralph & George
 BURLS John
 BULL Law
 BUNTING Samuel
 COCK Collis John
 COCK W^m late GREEN W^m
 DIXON Finch John
 FIRMAN William
 FREEBORNE John Geo CARTER
 FULLER [not given]
 GALLAFANT Widow
 HALE Joseph by MANNING
 HAWKSHAW Charles
 HILLS [not given]

HYHAM Mr^s
 KEMP Thomas
 KING Joseph
 LAY Mark
 LEAPER [not given] RAY Henry
 MANNING John
 MAYHEW Jeremiah
 MANNING Isaac
 MILLER Daniel
 MILLS Thomas
 PERCIVAL Ed^w
 PRENTICE Robert now James
 PUDNEY [not given] Is BROWN at ye
 Farm
 RAY John
 RINGER Matthew
 SEWELL Jos by Mr TONKINS
 SEWELL Tho^s
 STEVENS Geo, KETLEY [not given]
 TILLOTT [not given] Isa MANNING
 WASH Thomas
 WEBB Spurgeon Mr BROWN at ye Farm
 WENDON James

Names of Occupiers Michs 1790

BAKER Thomas Widow
 BARNARD Samuel
 BAINES Revd Thos
 BEARD John

BROWN Is (Farm)
 BRIDGE John
 BROWN Is (Brickhouse)
 BURLS John

BUNTING Saml
 CARTER Geo
 CLARK Saml
 COLLIS John
 COLLINS Henry
 COCK Wm
 CREFFIELD Danl
 FIRMAN Jn^o & Ab^m BARNARD
 FRENCH Rob^t
 FULLER Geo
 GALLAFENT W^m
 HALLOWDAY Fra^s
 HALE Jos
 HILLS Phil Esqr
 HOUGHTON Ja^s
 HYAM John

KENT Geo
 KING Jos & son
 MAYHEW Jn^o
 MAYHEW Jas
 MANNING Jn^o
 MANNING Isaac
 MILLS Thos
 PERCIVALL Edw^d Esqr
 PRENTICE Jas
 PURKIS Tho^s
 RAY John Widow
 RAY Henry
 SEWELL Tho^s Esqr
 STUCK Wid^w
 STEVENS Geo
 WENDON Ja^s

Names 1800

BAKER Mrs
~~BARNARD Mrs~~
 BARNARD Ab
 BEARD John
 BROWN Is Far
 BROWN I. B. H
 BRIDGE. Jn
 BRIDGE. W
 BUXTON Mrs
 BURLS John
 BUNTING S.
~~CARTER Geo~~
 CLARK Sam
 COLLIS John
 COLLINS Hen
 FRENCH R^t
 FULLER G.
 GALLAFENT W^m
 HALE Jo^s
 HILLS P. Esq

HOUGHTON Ja
 HYAM Jⁿ
 KING Wm
 MAYHEW Jn
 MAYHEW Ja
 MANNING Jn
 MANNING Is
 MILLS Tho
 NUNN Fr
 NUNN Ja
 PIPER [not given]
 PRENTICE [not given]
 PURKIS T.
 RAY Mrs
 SANDERSON [not given]
 SEWELL T. Esq
 STEBBING Jn
 P. STUCK
 STUCK Mrs
 Mr TOUL

1810

Mr Ab BARNARD
 Mr Jn BEARD
 Mr I. BROWN
 Mr I. B. BROWN
 Mr I. BROWN B. H.
 Mr Ja BURLS
 Mr J. BUNTING
 Mr CLARK's now Mr FRANCIS
 Mrs COLLINS
 Mr DASELEY
 Mr FIRMAN
 Mr FRENCH
 Mr FRANCIS
 Mr FULLER
 Mr GALLAFENT
 Mr GEE
 Mr Jn GREY
 P. HILLS Esq
 Mr HOUGHTON
 Mr HYAM

Mr JOHNSON
 Mr KING
 Mr Jn MAYHEW
 Mr Ja MAYHEW
 Mr MILLS
 [not given] MILLER
 Mr MOSS
 Mr Fr NUNN
 Mr Ja NUNN
 Mr PIPER
 Mr PRENTICE
 Mr PURKIS
 Mr SEWELL
 Mr Jer SHAVE
 Mr SIGGORS
 Mr STARK
 Mr STUCK
 Mr STEBBING
 Mr TAYLOR
 Mr VAISEY

Colne Engraine 1820

Mr ARNOLD late BURL's
 Mr BARNARD
 Mr BEARD
 Mr BROWN Elms
 Mr I. B. BROWN
 Mr I. BROWN
 Mr BRIDGE
 Mr BUTCHER
 Mrs COLLINS
 Mr COLLIS
 Mr B. COLLIS
 Mr DAZELY
 Mr FIRMAN
 Mr FRANCIS
 Mr FULLER
 Mr GALLAFENT
 Mr GEE
 Mr HILLS
 Mr HOUGHTON

Mr JARMAN
 Mr KING
 Mr MAYHEW
 Mr MILLS
 Mr MILLS jun
 Mr NUNN
 Mr T. PERKIS
 Mr PIPER
 Mr PRENTICE
 Mr QUILTER
 Mr RAY
 Mr SEWELL
 Mr T. SEWELL
 Mr SHAVE
 Mr SIGGORS
 Mr STEBBING
 Mr STUCK
 Mr VAIZEY

Back In The Family

by Michael Loxdale (ESFH 32111)

I have a second cousin, let's call her Wendy to protect her anonymity, her paternal grandfather and my maternal grandmother being brother and sister, they having a brother named Robert Francis. Wendy and I have met on a couple of occasions and visited the old family homes still standing in Essex plus paying visits to the Record Office in Chelmsford to view some old documents that survive.

Nothing unusual in that you say but I have a story to tell!

The above mentioned Robert was born at Ulting in 1890 and no doubt had a normal middle class upbringing, his father being a farmer/farm bailiff, before Robert took the plunge and married Jessie Hazelton at Orsett Register Office in October 1916. The marriage register entry records his occupation as a Private in the Essex Regiment. He had been serving in the army during WWI since September 1914 and posted to France in August 1915. He briefly enjoyed the fruits of married life before he was tragically killed in action in February 1917.

Very sad, but as they say "life goes on" and Robert's wife re-married a few years later and it doesn't appear that she had any children from either marriage. All too much for me and having hatched, matched and dispatched Robert, I ventured off on to greener pastures on my ancestor hunt.

Not so Wendy!



ROBERT FRANCIS WILLIAM
1890 - 1917



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

She made various enquiries about him from various sources and discovered that his demise was as a result of "promiscuous shelling", that he had no known grave and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. Both Wendy and I have visited to pay our respects, she going one step further and making sure details of him were placed on the various WWI websites just in case his remains were ever unearthed.

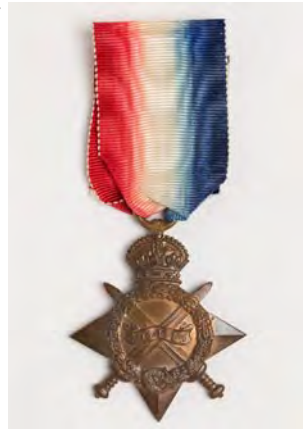
Wendy also found out that Robert had been entitled to three medals and started to wonder. If it was Robert's wife who had collected these medals would anyone, on her departing this life or any of her heirs, have an inkling as to the story behind them or would they have bothered to retain them? And so she started to keep an eye

on the online sales websites in the vain hope that one or more of said medals might turn up one day.

Dream on I thought!

But lo and behold, in early December 2024 on Ebay his 1914-1915 Star did come up for auction, proving it is the right one for Robert as it is inscribed on the rear with his name and rank. Listed for £65, but a bid of £50 secured the honour and it is now proudly displayed in Wendy's home along with those of her grandfather Francis (Robert's brother remember).

So, take a hint from my talented second cousin and keep a look out on the various online sale sites as you never know what might be out there. And if, like me, you can't do it ask the grandkids!



1914-1915 STAR (AUCKLAND MUSEUM , WIKIPEDIA)

☆ ☆ ☆

Saffron Walden Union

by Angela Hillier (ESFH 28397)

G/SW M3

Page 4 (12 Jul 1844) to Page 43 (8 Nov 1844)

lists of Paupers receiving out relief for sickness etc each week. Gives parish, names reason for payment

Page 6

(19 Jul 1844)

Lucy GOODWIN (spin) age 21 and Sarah TAYLOR (spin) age 17 both residing in the workhouse wish to apply for free transportation to Australia. Union writes to the Commissioners about it.

(26 Jul 1844)

Letter received from the Commissioners saying the Government subsidy for free passage to Australia has ended. .They are unable to do anything about passage to Canada and Monsa... as it is too late in the year.

(4 Oct 1844)

Letter received to say the Wimbish Paupers have been transported to Canada by Messrs MARSHALL & Co and the balance of the payment for the assisted passage is now due.

Dorset Family History Society
in partnership with Devon Family History Society
and the Family History Federation

**Save the
date!**

South West FHF Really Useful Family History Show

Saturday 29 March 2025

Kinson Community Centre (Pelhams Park),
Millhams Road, Kinson BH10 7LH. 10am-4pm.

- Free entrance ■ Free parking
- Knowledgeable speakers
- Friendly Family History Societies
- Local History & Commercial exhibitors
- Meet the experts ■ Refreshments ■ Raffle



Visit our website regularly to see
updates and for more information.



[https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/
events-activities/family-history-day/](https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/events-activities/family-history-day/)

Poor Relief and the Settlement Papers of Rayleigh (ESFH Award 2024)

by David Perkins

Introduction

The Essex Record Office (ERO) holds a vast collection of settlement papers covering the majority of parishes from across the county of Essex. The settlement papers for these parishes contain documents relating to an individual's and, where appropriate, their family's legal evidence of place of settlement. Ranging from the late seventeenth century to the early nineteenth, settlement papers offer unique details and a window into the lived reality of the common person who is otherwise lost to history. Taken from original research, this essay is a study into the administration of poor relief and settlement in the town of Rayleigh in Essex.

Settlement papers are historically important documents that are highly informative and provide windows into the lived lives of those people. The personal and familial information that is given in the settlement papers is an invaluable source for both historians of family history and genealogists alike. Unlike say baptismal or marriage records, which are also of great importance, settlement papers not only give the empirical information, such as name and date, but provide information about a person's work life, their wages, their expenditure on rent, or their movements between different parishes, information that is otherwise not recorded anywhere else.

Aside from the information about the people stated in the documents, the documents themselves can also be used by the historian or researcher in a myriad of different ways. As informative as the *prima facie* information on the documents is, information about the mechanism of legal settlement and poor relief can also be revealed. The physical attributes and manufacture of the documents themselves can too be of benefit to the historian of material culture. The very fabric from which the paper is made, the watermark, who printed and sold the document, or even in some cases clear evidence of the recycling of paper, be that pages cut from a tax ledger or using the reverse side of a lost dog poster, can provide information extrinsic of the documents purpose but nevertheless valuable in its own right.

Although the details contained within the settlement papers is information given by the named person, it is important to consider that that information was not written down by the person giving that information, but rather by the parish officials. Settlement papers, although accurate in what they record, do not give a true voice to the person named therein. The documents are, due to them being official and legal documents, to some degree formulaic and regular, and seldom allow for a more detailed account of a person's existential existence. We cannot hear the individual's voice in the settlement papers, we only read the pertinent facts. The only occasion when we can see the physical presence of the named person is with their sign or signature. And although a small detail, the inscribed mark, whether that be an X or a well-formed signature, provides a tangible link to that person in that document at that time.

A history of settlement and the types of settlement papers

Prior to the English Reformation, care for those who were unable to support themselves was, in the main, provided for through the Catholic Church. However, with the closing of many religious houses in the sixteenth century, and with them the manpower, facilities, and above all, the finances, the responsibility for providing care and relief to those in need fell to the local residents of that parish. And although it was the State that mandated the closure of those institutions that were central to providing relief, the State remained conscious of its Christian obligation to provide aid and charity to its subjects. Indeed, the common person reciprocated this belief, they 'could and did insist that something was given, that the rich live up to their obligation.' As a means to organise and distribute this relief, the Act For Punishment of Sturdy Vagabonds and Beggars was passed in 1536. This Act stated that the churchwardens of each individual parish were now required to collect voluntary alms from there parishioners, which was then to be used to relieve the poor of that same parish.

The well administered system of relief that had been in place prior to the English Reformation of the Church was not easily solved through the 1536 Act. In 1552 the Act For the Relief of the Poor was introduced, requiring that a collector of alms, rather than the churchwardens specifically, was to be chosen from amongst the parish and they then be responsible for managing the finances of the parish's poor relief. Alongside an appointed collector there was the stipulation that a register of the impotent poor, those who were unable to work through injury, illness, or old age was recorded and kept.

Although many people in every parish across the country were willing, as part of their Christian duty of charity, to give alms and support to those in need, there were many who were not as willing to donate. The State did not have the funds to take direct control of poor relief, so to ensure that there was money available within each parish the 1563 Act For the Relief of the Poor was enacted to ensure sufficient funds became available. The Act stated that those who did not voluntarily contribute financially to the relief of the poor were to be examined by the Justices of the Peace on their ability to donate, and then enforced to do so if they were found to be able.

Since it was the parishioners who were giving their own money to their fellow parishioners, there was a clear delineation by society on who was deserving and who was not. Once a deserving person had been identified there then came the question of 'is that deserving person from this parish, and if so, then eligible as a recipient of poor relief?' A means to act as confirmation of which parish an individual belonged to was created following the 1662 Act For the better Relief of the Poor of this Kingdom (Act of Settlement), whereby an individual was examined by two Justices of the Peace of the parish to assess whether they had legal settlement in that parish. Those found not to have legal settlement could either be removed to their parish of legal settlement, or the hosting parish may collect poor relief from the other parish and distribute it to the guest parishioner in a process known as out relief, the most commonest method of providing parish relief.

Although legal settlement in a parish could both be acquired at birth or gained through an individual's actions, such as work or marriage, an individual's default place of legal

settlement at birth was the parish where their father had legal settlement. As Lynn Hollen Lees identifies, although the system of poor relief was residualist, it nevertheless treated male and female paupers differently. A child born away from their mother's home parish would still have had their place of legal settlement as being that as where their father had his place of settlement, and a child born outside of wedlock would have their place of settlement as that of their mother's father. Legal settlement could, although subject to change over the course of the eighteenth century, be gained in a variety of ways, such as completing an apprenticeship, working in the parish for one continuous year, or by renting a property for £10 or more per year.

The settlement paper's that are to be found at the ERO are then what remains of each parishes collection of the legal and official settlement documents created following the aforesaid 1662 Act. And although allowing for many changes and new statutes, the 1662 Act would largely remain in place until the system of poor relief was overhauled with the implementation of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. The 1834 Act radically changed the way poor relief was administered by moving the administration of relief away from the parish and into the hands of 'unions' administered to by a Board of Guardians.

From the early sixteenth century through to the early nineteenth, the relief of the poor was collected, administrated, and distributed by the parish to its own parishioners. The settlement papers discussed in this essay are the documents that were then produced by the parish to legally prove, or not, a person's right to legal settlement and so their right to receive poor relief from the parish. The three types of documents produced in this process were:

Settlement examinations: Settlement examinations were testimonies, sworn on oath, given by the pauper to ascertain their place of legal settlement, and so which parish was then liable for providing them with poor relief should they at that time, or at a later date require relief. The examinations, although identifying who was liable to give relief, were held not for the purpose of removing a person from the parish, but rather to clarify that persons place of legal settlement. Settlement examinations contain information that can include, the name of who was being examined, their age, their place of birth, their parent's names and place of legal settlement, their apprenticeship details (including, how long they served as an apprentice, whether they completed their apprenticeship, if indentured then by whom, the name of, and also the parish of, the apprentice's master), their employment history (including dates, who employed them, the wage, and length of service), history of any property or land they may have owned, rented, or leased (including when, who from, and the cost), when they were married, where they were married, and who they married (although often only the first name of the wife is given in a settlement examination for a man whereas the full name of the husband is always given in a settlement examination of a woman), when their spouse died, and the names and ages of any children that would be living with the examined person. The settlement status of any older children that had left home may also be noted.

Settlement certificates: These certificates were issued as proof and confirmation of that person's place of legal settlement, and so the parish that was liable to give that

person poor relief should they become in need of it. Should a holder of a settlement certificate move to live or work in another parish, the settlement certificate would give the new parish the legal peace of mind that they would not become liable for that person's poor relief. Settlement certificates contain information that can include, the name of who was being given settlement, their age, the location from where they had moved, and in the case of pregnant unmarried women, a note on the child's paternity.

Removal orders: Removal orders were issued by the parish to remove an individual or family group away from the parish and to the place of their legal settlement. Removal orders contain information that can include, the name of who was being removed, the age of who was being removed, and the parish to where they were being removed. Prior to the Poor Removal Act of 1795, the parish could at their will remove any person who did not have legal settlement, irrespective of whether that person had sought poor relief or not. James Stephen Taylor rightly describes this as a 'humane Act', since it first prevented people being removed should the parish suspect that they may become chargeable, and second, the Act introduced suspension of removal until the pauper had recovered should they be ill when the removal order was issued. To reflect this change in law, the removal order documents themselves increased from one to two pages to accommodate space for the removal order suspension to be noted should it be required. Once the person had sufficiently recovered so as to be removed, then this would also be noted, as would if the person died during the time of the removal suspension order being in place. The 1795 Act, although ensuring the wellbeing of the infirm and to some extent giving peace of mind to those persons who were at the point of seeking poor relief, its humanity did not extend to pregnant unmarried women who could be removed from the parish at any time, regardless of them requiring poor relief or not. Steven King comments that of the three types of settlement papers, removal orders were commonly the least of which to be issued due to the possibility that the parish where they may be removed to could pay out relief and so negate the need for a removal order.

Poor relief in Rayleigh

Having legal settlement meant that an individual then had the rights to demand from their parish of legal settlement poor relief for themselves, and where appropriate their dependents. By the end of the period covered by the settlement papers for Rayleigh, William Cobbett, political writer and farmer, stated of the poor laws, and so poor relief, that 'the poor man in England is as secure from beggary as the King upon his Throne, because when he makes known his distress to the parish officers, they bestow upon him, not alms, but his legal dues [my emphasis].' These legal dues, although evolving and flexible, were at their root grounded in the social perception of rights gained by the individual from their belonging to that community, that parish. A clear example of this sense of belonging, and also of the perceived safety that the parish community afforded was succinctly expressed by pauper Elizabeth Langford of Kirby Lonsdale in 1819, 'I cannot nor will not be quiet Lost while I have a parish to flee two.'

To make an application for poor relief, be that written or verbal, the pauper would have to approach the overseers of the poor and the vestry of their parish. Surviving

petitions to the overseers of Rayleigh for poor relief are poignant in their appeals. Of the twenty-two letters written to the parish overseers that are held by the ERO, all convey a deep sense of the plight and poverty faced by the applicants. Thomas Sagger writing in 1809 notes of the rising cost of staples, 'every thing is so excessive dear and especially Flour'. Richard Porter writing in 1826 examples the hardships faced following the death of a spouse, 'I have as the Doctor states suffer'd severe loss in the death of my poor wife...she has left me a Family of four children the youngest quite an infant...I am only indebted to the exertions of my poor but kindhearted neighbours for the little comfort that is left me.' The relief that could be given was never likely to completely transform the poverty of the applicant, but it could certainly ease their immediate deprivation.

Throughout the eighteenth century and until the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, the parish vestry served as the most basic office of government. In the case of Rayleigh, this office was administered to by that of the parish vestry for the Holy Trinity church. Rayleigh was, during the period covered by its remaining settlement papers, a single parish town, meaning that nearly all local administration passed through the Holy Trinity vestry. Despite the overseer and vestry administering a prominent civic office, Rayleigh, a small town with a population of eight hundred and seventy-nine in 1801 increasing to one thousand three hundred and thirty-nine by 1831, did not have a dedicated office for the overseer or vestry. Official meetings and business were then conducted at a variety of locations, invariably inns, both in Rayleigh and occasionally in the nearby larger town of Rochford. One such inn in Rayleigh was the Golden Lion, about one hundred metres from the church.

In providing poor relief to its parishioners, the overseers had a wide range of methods with which to provide relief. Although Rayleigh did have its own poor house where it could provide shelter and attend to the medical needs of its parishioners, poor relief in Rayleigh followed the national pattern of relief, whereby relief was commonly given as out relief.

Out relief could be made in a vast variety of ways, tailored to the needs of the pauper, and as far as the overseer's judgement of the situation and parish finances would allow. Commonly this relief could be given in money if the relief was due to last over a lengthy period of time, or perhaps relief may be given in food or clothes to attend to immediate issues. Some paupers, largely the elderly or long term infirm, were granted weekly relief, whilst others, such as the temporarily unemployed or short-term sick were granted casual relief. To deal with cases of helping the pauper gain money by their own endeavours, spinning-wheels and tools were on occasion given to the paupers. In the case of pauper children, the overseers could instigate an apprenticeship, although in Rayleigh this only appears to have been applied to boys. Although Noel Beer has identified evidence where a form of apprenticeship took place whereby girls, and some boys, were out-boarded to live with other families to receive 'training for their future'.

Rayleigh was economically an agricultural settlement. Inspecting the 1840 Tithe Map of Rayleigh which lists the usage of each plot of land, it is possible to reconstruct the economic nature of the town. Of the seven hundred and nineteen plots listed, there

were two hundred and seventy four arable, sixty-five meadow, fifty pasture, ten wood, three orchard, one water, one waste, and three hundred and five either a house, cottage, yard, garden, or shop. And since the proportion of meadow and pasture, used for livestock, is markedly lower than that of arable land, the conclusion is that cereal production was the core farming enterprise in the area by the mid-nineteenth century. Beer concludes that Rayleigh had a high percentage of its work force engaging in agricultural activities. Beer also identifies that a sense of community was expressed through ploughing matches, both within the town and against neighbouring parishes. Alongside the main event, awards and prizes were given at these matches 'which recognised the development of attitudes and behaviours which were seen to be appropriate to the times, particularly that of loyalty to one employer.'

Rayleigh's population was increasing, and economically reliant on agriculture. Over the course of the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth, the needs and limitations of the parish effected the overseer's implementation of relief. The impact of the wars with France, poor harvests in the post-war years, rising national unemployment, and social unrest, necessitated the overseers of Rayleigh to adapt how they gave poor relief and to increase the rates to the ratepayers. One method, that was commonly used across the country, was to implement roundsman and Speenhamland systems to combat rising unemployment and provide for those needing aid. On the 27 September 1819, following the 1819 Act For the Regulation of Parish Vestries which allowed each parish to appoint a Select Vestry to take charge of policy decisions and relieve claimants, the vestry of the Holy Trinity, headed by the Reverend Syer and in the company of Mr Clayton, Belcham, Brewitt, Wink, Witham, Attridge, Boston and others, met and formed a Select Vestry in the King's Head Inn in Rochford.

The Select Vestry for Rayleigh were certainly effective and efficient in administering poor relief to the town, being able by 1821 to bring poor relief expenditure down from its peak in 1819 of £2022 per year back to its pre-1817 level of around £1000 per year, and then subsequently to maintain that level for a further six years. An advert in the Chelmsford Chronicle newspaper from 1830 stated, 'Poor Rates, 6s, 6d. in the pound, Labouring men per day, 1s. 8d. to 2s; many of these however cannot get employment.' What this advert in the newspaper tells us is that by 1830, unemployment was prevalent in the town and around thirty per cent of local rates were spent on poor relief. Paul Slack identifies and concludes that expenditure nationally on poor relief per £ increased from 11 percent in 1700, to 12 percent in 1750, 19 percent by the 1780s, and 21 percent by 1800. There was a national trend in the increase in poor relief from the late seventeenth century through the early nineteenth, both in the number of recipients and in the relief given, relief from parishes in agricultural areas, such as Rayleigh, markedly increased in the latter half of the eighteenth century.

The effectiveness of the poor relief administration in Rayleigh can perhaps be ascribed to the continuity shown in its administrators. When the Reverend Syer came to the Holy Trinity and so Rayleigh, one of his churchwardens, Mr Richard Goodman, had been serving in his role for the past eighteen years. With the exception of Mr Ford, all the other churchwardens who served under Syer would still be present at the creation of the Select Vestry in 1819.

Continuity in the vestry of the Holy Trinity took this form:

1790-1808 R. Goodman and ...

1808-1809 R. Goodman and G. Belcham

1809-1817 G. Belcham and J. Ford

1817-1820 G. Belcham and S. Clayton

1820-1833 T. Brewitt and S. Clayton.

On the 23 April 1810, the year following Syer's arrival in Rayleigh, the vestry decided to appoint as overseer in perpetuity, although he left office in 1827, a Mr. John Wink, schoolteacher and previous clerk to the "Rayleigh Association for prosecuting felons &c".

The said John Wink doth agree to do the office of a Perpetual Overseer as is customary at the annual Sum of Twenty pounds from Easter 1810 until Easter 1811 and so on from year to year unless previous Notice be given in writing from either party, etc.

Overseers and the community

The overseers and vestry of the parish were all parishioners themselves. And although in positions of local power, they were all members of Rayleigh's community and could be employers in their own right. Those persons who were administering and administrating poor relief did so not at a distance but face-to-face with their neighbours. The whole process of poor relief, from the application by letter or in person to the overseers, to the hearings where the documents were produced, to the actual giving of relief, was done in public and to the knowledge of that parishes community. The overseers and vestry of each parish were not acting in isolation either, and a certain level of communication took place between different parishes, and also with other official bodies, such as with the magistrates and keepers of the House of Correction.

Evidence from the settlement examination of Frances Wilding demonstrates the communication between overseers of different parishes and also the care that the overseers showed to the parishioners. From her settlement examination Frances was sixty-five years old and living in Springfield, Chelmsford. A note written by overseer J. Archer, beneath the examination states that 'Above is the Examination of the poor woman at Springfield who I mentioned to you last week', the note and examination are addressed on the other side to Thomas Harridge Esquire, overseer of Rayleigh. It is clear then that these two overseers met and did discuss their parishioners. On the reverse of a copy of John Cutsby's settlement examination originally taken on 12 November 1811, there is a letter dated 6 August 1827 from the overseers of the parish of Ashen addressed to the overseers of Rayleigh. The parish of Ashen was writing to Rayleigh to argue and persuade them that John Cutsby's widow should not be removed from Rayleigh to Ashen. In what appears to be a mixture of compassion and protecting the finances of their parish's poor relief, the parish of Ashen make the request to Rayleigh that the widow Cutsby remain in Rayleigh and that Ashen will

pay her out poor relief of 2s 6d per week, aware that her rent was 1s 6d per week. Although parishes were legally able to charge the paupers home parish for the cost incurred during a removal suspension order, collecting the money owed could on occasion become a 'tedious and troublesome' process. Additionally, Ashen also argued that they would not like to be put to the expense of having the widow removed, since it would cost Ashen to pay for the out-riders to collect her. In cases of out relief, and where the parishes were separated by a great distance, Thomas Sokoll provides evidence that communication between overseers was usual.

The overseers of the parish of Rayleigh were also, besides their work administrating poor relief, employers in their own right. Thomas Harridge, overseer prior to John Wink, is cited as an employer in several settlement examinations. John Cockley was employed by Thomas as a husbandman in 1814. Since there is no evidence to suggest that Thomas was a farmer, it can be assumed that John was hired to look after Thomas's horse. Indeed, John was docked 5s from his wages for breaking a 'duny cart', possibly John was then responsible for collecting the house's night soil to add to the horse manure for compost. William Dowsett was similarly hired by Thomas, only in his case it was expressly stated that his work was to look after Thomas's horses. Both John and William gave their evidence at their settlement examination in front of Thomas. Should either person have parted company with ill-feeling then the process of giving evidence, or hearing evidence could well have been an uncomfortable experience.

Indeed, since settlement examination was a legal process, it was in the interest of the pauper not to commit perjury when giving their evidence, but equally for that pauper it was beneficial to highlight those facts which may increase their chance of being awarded settlement, and to shadow those facts that could be held against them. Equally, the examiner was also bound to be truthful and fair, since they too could be subject to legal reprisal should they willingly note false evidence or deliberately misconstrue the paupers evidence.

As diligent as the overseers of the poor were, they did on the odd occasion make mistakes in their work. William Turner's removal order correctly states at the beginning of the document that the place of Fritton is indeed in the county of Suffolk. However, at the bottom of the document the scribe made a mistake and places Fritton in Essex. Of course, some errors may have come from the person being removed. Elizabeth Harvey's removal order, dated two weeks after William Turner's and scribed by the same person, has the place of removal crossed out. Initially it read Heybridge but was amended to Finchingfield.

The contemporary mistakes are perhaps not as rare as one would hope. Amongst the settlement papers are examples of places that do not now, nor did in the past exist. John Garrard is stated as being removed to Burhwich or Burghwich in Suffolk, both variants on the location are specified in the document. However, there is no record of either place name having existed. There is a village named Burgh in Suffolk, less than a mile north-east of Grundisburgh, which may be the correct location. Elizabeth Archer is said to be removed to Chellfield in Kent. The only evidence for that location is from an indenture record for Moses Shank dated 1712, 'Indenture: Withers Cheyne

of Hockliffe and Moses Shank of Chellfield co. Kent to Christ Perry of Hockliffe – Chalgrave and Hockliffe'. Chalgrave, and Hockliffe are in Bedfordshire, and there is a Chelsfield in Kent that may be the modern location of Chellfield. Other unknown locations include Kelsey in Hertfordshire as stated in Thomas Ellison's removal order. Interestingly the corrections on William Turner's, and Elizabeth Harvey's documents, along with the unfindable location in John Garrard's, and Thomas Ellison's documents were all made on documents signed by the same overseer, Thomas Harridge. The Reverend Joseph Wise does sign all of these documents, but they were, by examination of the handwriting and signature, penned by Harridge between 29 January 1801 and 16 April 1805.

Since it was the parishioners of the parish who through the levy of the poor rate paid for poor relief in the parish, those same parishioners desired that those administering the system of poor relief were doing so in an economical way. Evidence of this comes first from John Rout's settlement examination, which is written, although it should be noted as not being signed or dated, on the reverse of two lost dog posters. The posters state that two dogs have strayed from Dunton Hall, about ten miles west of Rayleigh, and a reward of 1 guinea will be given by Mr W. Gale on their return. By using these posters as writing paper, has now, unbeknownst to their creators, preserved a small piece of ephemera that would not have been recorded anywhere else, and so can provide for the contemporary researcher a glimpse into the lived lives of those people from the past. That the owner of the dogs was prepared to offer such a relatively high reward for the return of his dogs suggests that the animals were highly valued by Mr Gale. Additionally, the reward offered speaks to the gulf in wealth that was prevalent in society at that time. As an indicator of earnings and rent in Rayleigh, a female servant could expect to be paid 1s 6d to 2s per week, and a house may be rented for £8 per year. The reward of 1 guinea, £1 1s, was certainly a good deal of money to many of Rayleigh's parishioners.

The frugality of Rayleigh's administrators is further bolstered by their use of old tax ledgers. Beginning with William Waight on 21 January 1807 and ending with William Synett on 2 February 1809, there are in addition six other incidents where the settlement examination has been written on a page cut from what appears to be a ledger for the receipt of tax payments. The rectitude shown in recycling the paper is admirable, and no doubt the contemporary parishioners of the parish would have been pleased to know that the administrators were not needlessly spending their rates. But the length of time over which these ledgers were re-purposed is curious. One or two on the same day, or even concurrent months would show a short-term solution to the lack of other paper. But since this occurred over a full two calendar year period, and it must be remembered that we only have remaining to us a small fraction of the documents produced, then it has to be concluded that the administrators of Rayleigh had a vast excess of unused tax ledgers. Why this was so is of course speculation, but a possible cause is the discontinued use of that form of ledger, so making the pages suitable for another purpose, but nevertheless, a demonstration of financial prudence on the part of the overseers and vestry.

Third party involvement

Aside from the individual or family, or the churchwarden and the overseers, or on the very rare occasion honorary witnesses, there is no other indication or comment given on third parties involved in the process of settlement. Fortunately for us however, there is amongst the documents evidence of how poor relief operated in the real world. On the reverse of William Thorrowgood's removal order there is a glimpse into the costs incurred by the parish. William and his wife Mary's removal from Rayleigh to Great Stambridge, on or shortly after 12 February 1795, a distance by road of only about seven miles, tells us that the total cost of removal was 15s 10d, from which 5s was paid for the horse and cart, and 8d paid for the turnpike. This then gives us evidence of potential local travel costs in late eighteenth century Rayleigh. Further, the cost list on the reverse of the document also notes that 2s 2d, later altered to 2s 8d, was paid to a tailor. From this we can likely conclude that since it was the end of February, therefore late winter, the Thorrowgood's were insufficiently clothed for the journey, and so by reasonable inference had insufficient clothes in general. Although the removing parish were entitled to, and able to, and, in general, did claim the money back from the parish that the individual or family was being removed to, the very evidence of the parish of Rayleigh ensuring the well-being of the Thorrowgood's, even on such a short journey, provides evidence of a social contract between the parish and the parishioners that not only worked to fulfil a legal obligation, but one that also cared for the individuals wellbeing. Taylor notes that the overseers, aware of their legal obligation to administer relief, were as careful to provide adequate care for those being removed as much as they were for their own parishioners.

Since we know that 8d was paid for the turnpike, it is then a confident statement to make that the Thorrowgood's travelled on the horse and cart, in their new warmer clothes, and along the turnpike. The turnpike road that they travelled on left Rayleigh and went to Leigh, from where the Thorrowgood's would then have travelled north to Great Stambridge. The 1746 Act of Parliament gave rights to twenty-six miles of turnpike roads around Rayleigh, and as much as the improved roads were to the speed and comfort of travel, there were those who saw the new roads as an opportunity to take poor relief into their own hands. In the November of 1772 the toll gate at Hadleigh, a few miles south of Rayleigh, was robbed of 19s 6d by masked men on horses, who then after rode to the Stroud Green toll gate just east of Rochford, about six miles east of Rayleigh, and repeated their crime. Although the story of the Thorrowgood's and the highwaymen are not directly related, the incidents are after all separated by twenty-three years, the knowledge that highway robbery was a real lived possibility can help with building a better picture of the society and potential concerns that the Thorrowgood's may have had but are not, nor could be, written down on theirs, or anyone else's settlement papers.

The operation of poor relief relied on more than just the gentlemen overseers, churchwardens, and parish vestry. In the case of the Thorrowgood's we know not the name of the person who drove the horse and cart, nor the name of the place where the clothes were bought. These additional actors in the mechanism of poor relief are seldom named. However, on the reverse of the removal order of William Maize we can see a named third party involved in the process. The note reads that 'John Pretty is charged to convey William Maize from Sittingbourne to Rayleigh'. This note

then raises the question of why the person being removed was to be accompanied. Unfortunately, we do not know the age of William, but it is possible that he was a child, and so was accompanied for his safety. Should William have been an adult, then we can consider, if elderly he may have needed accompaniment, or as in the case of John White and his wife Mary, that they do not return again after having been removed on two previous occasions. On the reverse of John White's second removal order, there is a note that reads 'conveyed to the turner house Rochford 11 March 1837'. John White and his wife Mary had been removed from Shorne in Kent to Rayleigh six years earlier on 28 January 1831, so perhaps a guard was sent with them on their second removal to ensure that they did leave Shorne. John's settlement examination of 1837 confirmed that John was born and had legal settlement in Rayleigh, and it had been Rayleigh who had been paying out relief to John and Mary whilst they lived in Shorne. Why the White's had been removed twice from Shorne despite receiving out relief from Rayleigh may speak to their social character as it is clear that Shorne did not desire them as residents.

Health care

The average life span for a resident in Rayleigh in 1800 was twenty-four and a half years, improving to just over twenty-six years by 1822. That is not to say that for the few who were fortunate, living into the nineties was a potential, as was incidents of infant mortality. Premature death through disease was prevalent in society over the period of the settlement papers, with sickness and disease encompassing, but not limited to, cholera, small pox, influenza, typhoid, typhus, measles, and scarlet fever to name a few. And since Rayleigh was economically reliant on agriculture, farming accidents were a common cause of injury.

In administering poor relief, the overseers were able to provide medical care alongside money, sustenance, and necessities, provision for which came variously from the parish poor house, contracting doctors and midwives, and by vaccinations and inoculations. One doctor who was contracted to the parish was Hervey Byass who came to live in Rayleigh at the end of the eighteenth century. Working with Dr William Butler, they served the medical needs of the parish poor. As an indication of costs to the parish, the doctors presented a bill on 30 April 1830 charging £10 for attending the poor for half a year, and a further guinea for attending to a Mrs Cable.

The medical status or history of those in the settlement papers is seldom to be found. And indeed, although Rayleigh was largely an agricultural community, there remains only two traces of injury or death associated with farming, that of John Scott and James Camper. No later than March 1807 John had worked as a labourer in marsh ditching and pond cleaning. During this work in the cold and wet, John succumbed to trench foot, or as the settlement examination puts it, his 'toes were past healing'. John first applied to Mr Boreham, the overseer of Thundersley for poor relief and was given 2s. John then went to the nearest surgeon in Rayleigh, Dr Byass, where he was 'obliged to stop until this morning' (23 March 1807). The same day, John then travelled to Thundersley to ask for further relief, however Mr Boreham instructed John to go and speak to the overseer of Rayleigh for relief.

The only other instance of infirmity comes from James Camper. At about seventeen

years of age James went to work for Mr Bell of Rayleigh. However, within half a year of beginning work James was injured and sent home to his father until he recovered. James was well enough to return to work six weeks later, but did request to be released from his hiring by Mr Bell. Bell refused the request, and James did serve his full year, less six weeks, and was paid his full wages. In later life James would look after the threshing machine of Mr Gerald of Rochford, so it can be supposed that James's accident whilst working for Mr Bell was related to agriculture.

The overseers of the parish were not only responsible for the care of those who had legal settlement in the parish, but also responsible for the care of those who after having a removal order served on them were judged not to be well enough to be removed and so had a suspension of removal granted. John Jay, his wife, and children's removal was temporarily suspended on account of Elizabeth his wife being ill. The family were eventually removed after Elizabeth recovered on 4 September 1806, four months after the removal order was made on 15 May 1806. There appears in the removal orders for Rayleigh no undue rush on the part of the removing parish to remove people immediately after a decision had been made. The reason being that the removing parish were able to charge the parish where the person was to be removed to for the maintenance of said person until it was deemed safe for them to travel. In the case of the Jay family, it is stated that the parish of Rayleigh charged the parish of Ovington the sum of £7 for the four months until the family could be removed.

Other examples include William Foot and his wife Sarah. Due to be removed on 15 May 1806 but due to Sarah's illness they were not removed until 1 August 1806. A charge of £3 9s was made for their keep. Robert Diss, and Mary his wife, were delayed in their removal by Mary's illness. And although Mary was said to be recovered within two months, the charge to the new parish of Great Thurlow in Suffolk was an enormous £16 8s 9d. Due to the large sum of money requested by Rayleigh of Great Thurlow it can be concluded that Mary's illness was indeed severe. William Camper, Rebecca his wife, and family, were deemed to have cost the parish £6 3s for their two months stay between 9 October 1806 and 11 December 1806. William Dines, and his wife Elizabeth, were deemed to have cost the parish £2 10s for 24 days between 16 October and 9 November 1809.

The suspension orders so far shown here end with the removal of the person after their recovery. But, as to be anticipated, this was not always the case. Elizabeth Walker, wife of Thomas, had her removal suspended due to her being unwell to travel on 28 January 1814. However, Elizabeth did not recover from her illness, and as her document states rather bluntly, 'Elizabeth Walker is dead', 22 February 1814. Yet Elizabeth did have a husband and six children, the oldest being seventeen years and the youngest just 'thirteen weeks or thereabouts.'. And although Elizabeth died a little over three weeks after the removal order was made, the parish of Rayleigh charged the parish of Ingrave £9 14s. John Webb, Elizabeth his wife, and their two children, had their removal order suspended when John was ill on 28 April 1819. However John did not recover and was on 17 May 1819 noted as 'hath since departed this life'.

Orphans and Children

Although much rarer than adults being removed from the parish, there are examples of children being removed on their own. The removal order of Thomas Chalk aged thirteen, along with his sister Sarah aged eleven, and Mary aged seven does speak to the potential of them being orphans. On the reverse of the Chalk children's removal order is a note that reveals that the children were accompanied on their removal. Accompanied to ensure that they leave, or of their safe arrival is unspecified, only that the conveyer of the children was to fulfil his duty 'by an Order or a fine'.

On further reading of the Chalk children's removal, it is clear that it was their father William Chalk who gave evidence to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish as to where the children should be removed and so where they had legal settlement. On the face of it this does seem odd that their father William would send the children away from Rayleigh, even to the nearby settlement of Thundersley. It is clear from the removal order that William Chalk was ill, and strongly suspected that he would not survive his illness or injury. William therefore must have been the instigator of the removal order. And it can be assumed that he was sending the children to his original place of settlement, where perhaps he had extended family, or someone trusted to look after the children.

The Chalk family does demonstrate a caring family unit; however, this familial love cannot be said in the case of Joshua and Elizabeth Merchant. The removal order of Joshua aged four years, and Elizabeth, aged one month, states that their mother is dead, and they have now been deserted by their father. Since the children would not have been able to understand or comprehend the requirement for gaining or proving settlement, they naturally did not engage with the parish themselves. The evidence for the children's place of legal settlement, North Benfleet, was given to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish by William Wingfield and his wife. Although the removal order does not give details, it may be speculated that this was a neighbourly gesture of ensuring the welfare of the children. Since the place of removal was specified by the Wingfield's then there is a real possibility that they were familiar with the Merchant family. The outcome of the Chalk children versus that of the Merchant children shows a strong familial bond versus that of a rather callous action of deserting children and newborn babies.

A further case of a neighbour giving evidence to the parish for the removal of a child comes from Sarah, the wife of Thomas Benett. And although the removal order informs us that the person to be removed is William Stileman, 'an infant aged eleven years or thereabouts', the circumstance of his removal is not declared. Aside from death or desertion there are cases of mothers giving evidence for the removal of their own children. William Turner aged three years, was one such. The removal order does not give the reason why his mother gave evidence for his removal, nor indeed that of the circumstances that led her to do so.

Single women

The settlement certificates for Rayleigh are in the main issued to males. The occasions where a certificate had been issued for a single woman is certainly rare.

From the Rayleigh records there exists only four examples. The first being issued jointly to Mary Mayhew and Martha Mayhew. Although there is no certain indication of what relationship the two women had to one another, it is assumed that they were sisters since if one was the child, even an adult child, of the other this would have been noted.

Of the four settlement certificates issued to single women for their move to Rayleigh, Rachel Webb is the only one that is noted to have children. Rachel at the time of the certificate had a six-year-old child (sex not specified) and is also pregnant. Rachel is described as a widow but the as yet unborn child or children, are noted as 'likely to be Bastard or Bastards'.

The churchwardens and overseers of the parish in ascertaining the legal settlement of an individual did not rely solely on the testimony of the individual concerned. In the case of Mary Jackson her place of legal settlement was judged from evidence given by three women who knew her. Why Mary Jackson was unable or unwilling to be examined herself is not noted in the document, although a reasonable conclusion would be that she was not prepared, for reasons now unknown, to name the father of her child. The three women who gave testimony as to the child's father all stated that Mary had told them that it was Benjamin Jackson. Since Mary was not prepared to name the father, it is unlikely that they were then married. But yet Mary's surname is given as that of Benjamin's. From the parish's stance, the reason for ascertaining who the father was, was for the purpose of establishing which parish was then responsible for Mary and her child's poor relief. That Mary is given Benjamin's surname in the document does then indicate that they found the testimony given by the three women as valid but does not explain why Mary was not examined herself. The only single woman, with no children, that there exists a settlement certificate for is Hester Miller, a widow, age not recorded.

Soldiers and Sailors

Although the years 1798 to 1812 saw a great increase of men in the armed forces there is surprisingly few references to the army or navy amongst the settlement papers. Susannah Fry who was removed from Rayleigh is stated to have been married to a 'Private in the Royal Artillery'. However, and rather tragically, her husband William is stated as being 'now or late' of the army. What is interesting here is that during times of continental, not to say international conflict, Susannah is being removed not knowing if her husband is dead, wounded, alive, or had deserted her. The removal of Susannah highlights the lack of a social contract that the State, through the army, did not have with the families of serving soldiers.

Sarah Fortune's husband, John, is also stated as being in armed service, only in his case as a private soldier in the 'Western Battalion of the Essex Militia'. Despite its name, John's battalion was not confined to Essex but was active abroad. In the years immediately preceding the issuing of Sarah's removal order, John's battalion was variously stationed 'at St. Domingo, Bomarde, Port Jack Thomas, Irois, and St. Mary's.' Again, as with Susannah Fry, there appears to be no State intervention in the wellbeing of its soldier's families, there was no military covenant.

The occupation of the husband of Mary Ann Smith can only be guessed at. However, Mary is in the same position as that of Susannah Fry and Sarah Fortune in that Mary Ann's husband, James Smith, 'is absent from her beyond seas'. Where exactly overseas does tempt with tantalising possibilities, only increased by the fact that Mary Ann and her two children are being removed from Chatham in Kent, the site of England's, and Britain's primary naval shipyard and dock. In 1834, the date of the removal order, the location or occupation of James Smith runs a spectrum of possibilities, such like Sarah Johnson's husband, also James, who was a private in the 25th Regiment of Foot now serving in the West Indies or elsewhere.

The majority of occupations as noted in the settlement papers is that of husbandmen or labourer. This is not surprising since the economy of Rayleigh was in the eighteenth century overwhelmingly agrarian. The eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were, though, times of overseas expansion and military conflict, and as a consequence, a time of military impressment. The American revolutionary war, and the wars against France being most notable. Traces of these conflicts is present in the settlement papers. Additionally, it should be noted that since we see former soldiers and sailors applying for relief in some way from the parish, we can see the lack of a social contract or military covenant between the State and the enlisted man.

Richard Potter served in the 58th Regiment of Foot, although when exactly he served is difficult to say. His settlement examination was taken on 1 November 1774, where it was noted that he had once held employment in Thundersley about thirty years ago. Richard Webb served in the Essex Militia for three years until 1782. Thomas Leggatt, of Burnham-on-Crouch was apprenticed to a dredger for seven years but was pressed into His Majesty's Service. Thomas served two years in the navy and was discharged on 5 November 1782. His examination by the parish took place on 19 June 1783 where Thomas presented his service logbook, in which the names of the ships and their masters, along with their routes is documented. Joseph Humphries, who prior to 1806 had served in 'the 2nd Battalion of His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Infantry'. John Pomfret had, prior to 1782 been drawn up into the Essex Militia for a month and had prior to that 'served in the 40th Regiment of Foot from which he was discharged having found a man in his place'. James Sutton served seven years and six months in the 54th Regiment of Foot under the command of Captain Cammell and Lieutenant Burnett. At the Battle of Waterloo, on the 17 June 1816, James was wounded in his left arm but despite this continued to serve with the regiment until Michaelmas 1820. And although James was awarded a medal for his participation at Waterloo, he did not receive a military pension since he served in the regiment as a volunteer from the East Middlesex Militia rather than as a regular soldier, nor had served the required fourteen years. James is a good example of the lack of military covenant towards servicemen, even despite those who were awarded a medal.

Perhaps the most scandalous event in the Rayleigh settlement papers is from the settlement examination of James Hunt. About the year 1817, Joseph Little was living in a house in Stock with Susanah Hunt, the wife of John Hunt who had enlisted in the marines some two or three years before. Joseph lived with Susannah for upwards of a year before he enlisted in the 95th Rifle Brigade and went with the regiment

to Ireland. Susannah went with Joseph to Ireland. After eight months of being in Ireland Susannah gave birth to a child, James Hunt. Joseph was discharged from the army about one year later and returned to Stock with Susannah. Joseph stayed with Susannah a few days before leaving her and moving to Rayleigh. About two months later Susannah was examined as to who James's father was, to which she replied that the father was Joseph Little. The parish of Stock acting on this information issued an order of filiation whereby Joseph was ordered to pay maintenance of 2s per week. Joseph, unable or unwilling to pay, then negotiated with Stock and agreed to 1s 6d per week. Joseph paid the maintenance due until Lady Day 1832. The settlement examination declares that since Joseph had ceased paying maintenance, and James had then become chargeable to the parish of Rayleigh.

Abandonment and desertion

Prior to the 1857 Act to amend the Law relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in England, divorce from a spouse was near unobtainable to the common person since it required an Act of Parliament. From 1700 through to 1857 only three hundred and seventeen such cases were passed by Parliament. Since divorce was in practice a legal impossibility for the majority of the residents of Rayleigh, the only practical solution to an unhappy marriage was for either the husband or wife, although invariably the husband, to desert the other. The deserting party may not have to travel far, as is shown below in the case of Robert Stebbing, or they may choose to travel further afield to Britain's distant colonies and acquisitions overseas.

A particularly poignant story of desertion involves Robert Stebbing of Rochford who deserted his wife Elizabeth sometime before 28 October 1790. The settlement papers for Rayleigh have no further record of Elizabeth, but Robert however does return to Rayleigh when removed from Buttsbury on 7 December 1795, only now with his new wife Rachel and James their ten month old son. Since divorce was as good as near impossible in the late eighteenth century, and indeed for the vast majority of the population until the latter half of the nineteenth, and even then only barely, it has to be concluded that Elizabeth died sometime after 28 October 1790 and before the beginning of February 1795 when Rachel gave birth to James, that is assuming James was conceived inside of wedlock. We cannot now ever know the precise circumstances for Robert's desertion of Elizabeth. He may have done so out of lack of affection, callousness, revenge, spite, or infidelity (of either party). Or perhaps he had a pragmatic reason for leaving Elizabeth that then later turned into desertion, he may have left Thundersley and moved to Buttsbury for work, fallen in love with Rachel, heard that Elizabeth had become ill and died, and then married Rachel. Mary Ratclif is another such case. Stating that she comes from Cheshire, when examined in Rayleigh she is unable to say the whereabouts of her husband or whether he is alive or dead. Susan, otherwise, Susannah Fry, stated in her settlement examination, 22 January 1807, that her husband, William, deserted her about six months after they were married. Susan believes that he left her to join the artillery, although Susan does state that she has seen him once during the past two years. Whether she saw him, or they spoke is unknown, but either way, Susan, now Susannah, was removed by Rayleigh to Thundersley in September 1808.

Rebecca Plumb, rather than being deserted by her husband appears to have been separated from her husband. Rebecca's settlement examination details that Rebecca and John had five children, three boys and two girls, and that the three boys were living with their father in Buttsbury and the two girls with Rebecca in Rayleigh. The document states that Rebecca has not seen John for a year but has been informed that two of her sons were now dead. Rebecca, now seeking settlement in Rayleigh had, since living in Rayleigh, been receiving out relief from the parish of Buttsbury.

Between leaving her husband, the gendered division of the children, the death of two children in her husband's care, and that the parish of Buttsbury are paying out relief, does lend to the conclusion that the separation of Rebecca and John was mutual to the couple and consented to by Buttsbury parish. A plausible conclusion maybe that of domestic violence which was known to the parish and so facilitated the out relief. Susannah Reddington's settlement examinations dated 9 May 1803 and 10 October 1811, both state that Susannah and her husband live apart by mutual consent, with Susannah living in Rayleigh and her husband John living in Great Burstead. By the time of the second examination Susannah has two children, aged eight and five. Since the space of time that they have lived apart is eight years it must be assumed that for the younger child to have been fathered by John, the couple would have had to have seen each other during that separation period.

Conclusion

For the researcher of genealogy, the family historian, and indeed all persons with an interest in the lives of those of the past, settlement papers can not only provide us with the facts as written down by official administrators, but also, through additional research, provide a broader and deeper picture of the lived lives of those same people. Although the documents that have survived in archives to this day are but a fraction of the number that were produced, what is recorded in the settlement papers represents a concise picture of that individual as required at that moment in time, but by reading against the grain and analysing that information in the context of the time that it was created, a far fuller and infinitely more detailed world is revealed. A world that goes past the recorded data and into the realities of the lived lives of those named in the documents.

King comments that the poor 'marshalled their histories' to gain settlement. Without further investigation, and so building a knowledge of the existential realities faced by the pauper, this marshalling, or editing of the truth, could seem as if the pauper was actively lying to the overseers and vestry, but taken with the contemporary thought that relief from the parish was their legal right, it is perhaps no surprise that the pauper framed their narrative so as to obtain what they believed was owed to them by society. Sokoll, although conceding that we can now never know for definite that the appeals and evidence given to the parish were wholly honest, does conclude that since rural parishes, such as Rayleigh, contained relatively few people, validating claims of relief was then possible, so making the paupers evidence more likely to be honest and truthful. Those administering poor relief provided relief to the paupers of the parish on an individual basis and with reaction to the needs and requirements of their own parishioners. Indeed, the overseers and vestry of any given parish were not serving

to withhold relief but administer it the best they could, and with genuine compassion to the paupers well-being.

Taylor perfectly sums up the utility of the settlement papers to the researcher when he wrote that the documents contain 'the story of an individual who may seem to have been of little historical consequence. Yet the documents contain part of a single life that once had immeasurable importance to a few, and may still, in and by itself, have significance to the historian.'



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

“There Are Not Many People Who Knew That”

By Fred Feather (ESFH 27366)

It was like Michael Caine's famous comment. Did you know that a former British policeman became an Emperor? And that there was an Essex connection! After the cataclysmic wars at the beginning of the nineteenth century relations between England and France would not have been describable as an “Entente Cordiale.”



NAPOLION III



NAPOLION III PLAQUE

Napoleon Bonaparte 1769-1821 was deposed in 1815, and succeeded by a Bourbon ruler. Napoleon's son held the title of Austrian Archduke, but died in 1831 at the age of 21. The great Emperor's brother had the title of King of Spain. His son Charles-Louis Napoleon Bonaparte 1808-1873 was to become known as Napoleon III.

Charles attempted a revolt against the Bourbon regime of King Louis-Philippe during the 1830s and 1840s and served a prison sentence. He left France and came to England where the oldest remaining blue plaque in London commemorates his stay in the capital in King Street.

In 1848 countries in Europe were in turmoil and it was anticipated that this might spread to England. Among the 10,000 volunteers of that year were Bonaparte and a member of the Ponsonby family which had fought in the earlier wars against Napoleon the Great and who walked the beat with him in Kensington as Metropolitan Police Special Constables. In the next decade, Napoleon returned to France and was elected their Emperor as Napoleon III. Napoleon's truncheon was given to Ponsonby, and I have spoken to a descendent of Ponsonby who holds the truncheon in Bath.

Special Constables at that time wore an armband and in 1932, Napoleon's armband was donated to the Chelmsford Museum upon the death of the owner, Cecil Bocking,

THE GREAT CHARTIST DEMONSTRATION.



No. III.—DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAVES.

THE GREAT CHARTIST DEMONSTRATION



METROPOLITAN POLICE SPECIAL'S ARMBAND

a Chelmsford optician. Further investigation revealed that Cecil had been an Inspector in the Special Constabulary and he had been given it by his grandfather, Thomas Bocking, a former Metropolitan Chief Inspector who in turn had been given it by Napoleon's Aide-de-camp.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Family History Show

Join us at Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool. With exhibitors from all over the UK and Ireland, this is the largest family history show in the North of England. Many family history societies, archives and companies attend each year and there is lots of history from the local area too.

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/liverpool/>

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Quarter Session Writs for 1577 and part of 1578

by Angela Hillier (ESFH 28397)

I was interested in these Essex Record Office catalogue lists of writs *[a legal document from a law court that tells you that you will be involved in a legal process, in this case to ensure people appear at the following Quarter Session]* because you get a name, place of residence and an occupation at a very early date, but unfortunately the books for both years are not fit for production so it is unlikely that you will find out the reason for the writ.

Quarter Session records are very interesting as you find all sorts of gems in them. However they have one huge drawback, there is no way of knowing what is in them without looking. Generally the Sessions Books, the written up copy of the proceedings, are not usually too hard to read and will be in English after 1732. This cannot be said of the documents written while the court was in session – the minutes – as the clerk tries to keep up with what is being said the writing is generally awful and full of abbreviations.

There appear to be large numbers of victuallers in these lists who are probably applying for, or renewing their licences, but some may be trying to deal with the results of those who have over indulged and fights or are even being summoned for watering their beer, not having a licence or being open when they should be closed.

If you have an ancestor who suddenly 'pops' up in a parish and can find no settlement documents in the parish chest the Quarter Sessions may be able to help you. It may be that the parish officials went to the Quarter Sessions to get a ruling about where someone came from if the local JP couldn't decide or the parish they were being sent to queried the judgement. In which case you may get some interesting details of your ancestors lives and there may even be a copy of their examination kept with the court paperwork for that session. It may pay to check a bit before as well as after the date they suddenly arrive to see if the case was carried over whilst evidence was gathered.

The few women that appear may be there because the parish officials are trying to get the fathers of their illegitimate children to pay maintenance in the form of a 'bastardy bond'. If you have an illegitimate ancestor it may be worth checking around the time of the birth to see if there is a case brought by the parish officials, or at a later date in the Petty Sessions by the woman concerned, to get some form of monetary payment for the child's upkeep. It sometimes takes a while for this type of case to come to court as the woman or her family may have the money to keep the child at first but when times get hard they resort to the courts.

To find out what is available for both Essex and the rest of England and Wales use the Gibson Guide to Quarter Session Records for Family Historians, though this may not be a complete listing of all that is held and the introduction in my copy suggests consulting the relevant Record Office catalogue. For Record Office catalogues online these records are usually found under a reference beginning with a Q.

Ref Q/SR 65/79 [1577]

Thomas ARTHUR,	Great Baddow,	Husbandman
Henry BAKER,	Billericay,	Husbandman
John BATES,	West Tilbury,	Husbandman
Stephen BURRELL,	Writtle,	Husbandman
Thomas BYND,	Halstead,	Husbandman
Thomas CARTER,	Margaret Roding,	Husbandman
Tomas CLARKE,	Laindon,	Yeoman
William COLE,	West Ham,	Husbandman
Francis CROMPTON,	West Ham, Y	eoman
John CURBY,	Halstead,	Husbandman
John EVERED,	Great Baddow,	Yeoman
Robert FOLLENTYNE,	West Ham, T	ailor
John FULLER,	Barking,	Husbandman
John FULLER,	Springfield,	Victualler
Ottewel GLYDEALL,	Rawreth,	Gentleman
Roger HALDEN,	Margaret Roding,	Husbandman
Robert HELE,	Netteswell,	Husbandman
Osias HERNE,	Chelmsford,	Tailor
Francis HIXE,	Danbury,	Victualler
[blank] HOLFORD		
[HOWLFORD],	Springfield,	Husbandman
William HOLLINGWORTH,	[blank or illegible],	Yeoman
Richard INGRAM,	Chelmsford,	Tailor
[blank] KEBBET,	Margaret Roding,	Victualler
William LANGLEY,	Thaxted,	Husbandman
John LOVELEY,	Plaistow,	Smith
William LUCAS,	Brentwood,	Victualler
Thomas LUCKEN,	"Games" in the parish	
	of High Easter,	Yeoman
John MARWOOD,	West Ham,	Husbandman
[blank] MOMFORD,	Danbury,	Shoomaker
Richard MOYLE,	West Ham,	Yeoman
Richard MYCHELL,	Finchingfield,	Husbandman
William NELE ,	West Ham ,	Husbandman
Richard NEWTON,	Danbury,	Victualler
Edward NOKE,	Good Easter,	Husbandman
John NOKES,	Writtle,	Husbandman
Miles PARKER,	Springfield,	Victualler
Owen PAXSTON,	Barking,	Yeoman
[blank] PLOMER,	Danbury,	Victualler
Thomas POTTER,	Danbury,	Husbandman
John POTTER,	Earls Colne,	Yeoman
John SORRELL,	Great Dunmow,	Yeoman
John SPALDING,	Widford,	Yeoman

Thomas STEVENS,	Danbury,	Victualler
Thomas STEVENS,	Earls Colne,	Glover
John THORNTON ,	Writtle,	Husbandman
William TURNOR,	Earls Colne,	Weaver
William TURNOR,	Maldon,	Yeoman
Richard VERE,	West Ham,	Yeoman
[blank] WARMAM,	Springfield,	Victualler
John WHELER,	Brentwood,	Husbandman
Paul WHITHORNE,	West Ham ,	Yeoman
Geoffrey CROWE,	Pleshy,	Carpenter

Ref Q/SR 65/80 [1577]

John CROWE,	Pleshy,	Carpenter
Richard FERRERS,	Middle Temple London,	Gentleman
Francis GRENE,	Theydon Garnon,	Labourer
[blank] GOODEN,	Theydon Garnon,	Labourer
Thomas GROVE ,	Woodham Ferris,	Husbandman
Richard HATCHE,	Mountnessing,	Yeoman
Robert JACKSON,	Debden,	Labourer
John LODGE,	Quenden,	Clerk
William MASSEY,	Chignal St James,	Gentleman
Stephen MELBANK,	Mashbury,	Yeoman
Thomas MASON,	Theydon Mount,	Yeoman
George MARSHALL,	Barking,	Labourer
Arthur MOTT,	High Roothing,	Shoemaker
John MARDON,	Kelvedon,	Husbandman
James NYCOLSON,	Lindsell,	Husbandman
John NOTT,	Shenfield,	Tailor
Valentine OSBORN,	Halstead,	Weaver
Lawrence PORTER,	Chignal Smealy,	Husbandman
Francis QUICK,	Aveley,	Innholder
Thomas ROBYNSON,	Woodham Ferris,	[not given]
Gilbert RYGBYE,	West Ham,	Labourer
Oliver SLEPE,	West Ham,	Husbandman
Mark SPARKEN,	Danbury,	Butcher
Thomas SAWEN,	Thaxted,	Butcher
William WARDNER [WARNER],	South Weald,	Labourer
Alexander VYNE,	Halstead,	Weaver

Ref Q/SR 65/81 [1577]

John AKENSON	Newport Pond,	Yeoman
alias AKENSYDE,	Danbury,	Sawyer
Henry AWGOR,	[blank] in the hundred	
Nicolas BAKER,	of Chafford,	Painter
John BELT,	Salcott,	Tailor

Richard BOTOMLEY,	Henham,	Labourer
John BRAGG,	Myddleton,	Yeoman
Richard BREWER,	Epping Street,	Victualler
Thomas BUTLER,	[blank] in the hundred	
	of Chafford,	Husbandman
John COLLEN,	Wivenhoe,	Husbandman
Henry COOKE,	Dagenham,	Husbandman
Agnes DIXSON alias Austa DIXON,	Barking,	Widow
Laurence FORD,	Ingpeter,	Victualler
Lawrence FORD,	Ingatestone,	Victualler
John FYLBARNE,	Ingatestone,	Labourer
Christopher HARSNET,	Great Horkesley,	Baker
William HEARD,	Rainham,	Yeoman
[blank] HOPPER,	Woodham Ferrers,	Victualler
John HORN,	Chaldwell,	Husbandman
John LENTFORD,	Willingale Doe,	Tailor
Thomas LENTFORD,	Willingale Doe?,	Fuller
Marmaduke MIDDLETON,	Billericay,	Schoolmaster
Henry MULLOCKES,	Willingale Doe?,	Victualler
Thomas ROWLAND,	Ingatestone,	Victualler
Thomas SHELTON,	Little Chesterford,	Husbandman
Richard STOCKWELL,	Danbury,	Tailor
Richard THEDAM,	Dunton,	Husbandman
Walter THREDDER,	West Thurrock,	Yeoman
Robert WARD,	Hadstock,	Husbandman
[blank] WELHAM,	Halstead,	Currier
William WYLLETT,	West Thurrock,	Husbandman

Ref Q/SR 65/82 [1577]

Ralph HAMMOND,	Ardleigh,	Weaver
William HILLS,	Wickford,	Yeoman
John HODSON,	Maldon,	Labourer
Robert HOULFORD,	Springfield,	Victualler
John KYNDGE,	Thorrington,	Labourer
Richard LAMBERT,	Ardleigh,	Labourer
Joan LOWTLEY,	Ramsey,	Spinster
Thomas LUKE,	Great Waltham,	Labourer
William MEADE,	Great Waltham,	Husbandman
John NEWMAN,	Ardleigh,	Labourer
Matthew PAYNE,	Ardleigh,	Labourer
John PYKE,	Gestingthorpe,	Labourer
John SKOTT,	St. Ossyth,	Victualler
[blank] SOMERS,	St. Ossyth,	Victualler
Robert STAMER,	Wickford,	Yeoman
Samuel TASELER,	Great Clacton,	Labourer
Richard TOES,	Tendring,	Labourer

Robert TURNOR,	Langford,	Husbandman
Edmund WADE,	Writtle,	Yeoman
Stephen WEST,	Manningtree,	Victualler
John WHALE,	Margaret Roding,	Yeoman
John WITHAM,	High Ongar,	Tailor
Thomas WYSKARD,	Ingatestone,	Victualler

Ref Q/SR 65/83 [1577]

Thomas ABELL,	High Roothing,	Husbandman
John ARKENSYDE,	Newport Pond,	Yeoman
William AWDE,	Danbury,	Glover
John BAKER,	Lindsell,	Labourer
Ralph BARDWICK,	Ardleigh,	Weaver
John BASTWICK,	Stondon,	Husbandman
Elizabeth BESSE,	Pleshey,	Spinster
James BOLTON,	Stratford Langthorne,	Victualler
Benjamin BROMLEY,	Broxted,	Labourer
William BUCK,	West Ham,	Husbandman
[blank] BURTON,	St. Ossyth,	Victualler
Richard CHAPMAN,	Ramsey,	Tailor
Annianias CLARKE,	Gestingthorpe,	Labourer
Robert CLARKE,	Great Clacton,	Labourer
Richard CLAY,	St. Ossyth,	Labourer
William CORNYSHE,	High Roding,	Husbandman
Alfedge DRAPER,	Dunmow,	Husbandman
Henry DRAPER,	East Hanningfield,	Tailor
Ralph DYER,	High Roding,	Husbandman
Walter ELLET,	Margaret Roding,	Yeoman
John EVERED,	Chelmsford,	Tailor
Richard GOLDING,	Thaxted,	Labourer
John GARDYNER,	Lindsell,	Husbandman
John GEVESON,	Barking,	Labourer
Henry GYLES,	West Ham,	Husbandman
John HARRYSON,	Kelvedon,	Smith
Katherine HEWES ,	West Ham,	Spinster
Jonas INFORD,	Danbury,	Tailor
[blank] JOLES,	Stratford Langthorne,	Spinster
Henry JOWLE,	Danbury,	Smith
George KNIGHTBRIDG,	Chelmsford,	Tailor
Henry KYPPEN,	Broxted,	Husbandman
Robert LANKESHIER,	Chelmsford,	Tailor
Richard LARYMER,	West Ham,	Husbandman
Edward LOCKYER,	Aveley,	Miller
Thomas PAGE,	Thaxted,	Husbandman
Richard PETT,	Thaxted,	Husbandman
[blank] WARBINGTON,	Ramsden Bellhouse,	Gentleman

Ref Q/SR 67/58 [1578]

John BLACKMAN,	West Ham,	Yeoman
Richard BURLE,	Blackmore,	Husbandman
Thomas CHAPMAN		
alias COOKE,	Stanstead Mountfitchet,	Husbandman
Richard COCK,	Orsett,	Husbandman
Thomas COOKE,	Witham,	Victualler
John CROXSON,	Margaretting,	Victualler
Thomas CULVERTON,	Earls Colne,	Husbandman
[blank] FULLER,	West Hanningfield,	Victualler
Thomas FYLPOTT,	Dagenham,	Yeoman
Stephen GILL,	Broomfield,	Victualler
John HARDLEY,	Chelmsford,	Victualler
George HARRYOTT,	Barking,	Labourer
William HAYWARD,	North Ockenden,	Husbandman
John HEWET,	Dagenham,	Yeoman
Thomas HULL,	Woodham Ferrers,	Carpenter
John HUYYT,	[blank],	Purveyor
William INGLISHE,	Stebbing,	Husbandman
John JARVICE,	Earls Colne,	Fuller
John JONES,	Chelmsford,	Victualler
George LAKE,	Woodham Ferrers,	Carpenter
John LYNDCOME,	Takeley,	Husbandman
Robert MANNERINGE,	Goldhanger,	Tailor
John MULLENS,	North Ockenden,	Yeoman
John MYTCHELL,	Edmonton Middlesex,	Labourer
Robert PAYNE,	Edmonton Middlesex,	Husbandman
Thomas PHILPOT,	Rainham,	Purveyor
Henry PRYOR,	Goldhanger,	Vvictualler
John REDHED,	Epping Street,	Husbandman
[blank] ROWLAND,	Ingatestone,	Widow
Thomas SALINGE,	Dagenham,	Labourer
Edward SARLE,	North Weald Basset,	Labourer
Elizeus SAUNDER,	Woodham Ferrers,	Labourer
Thomas SAUNDERS	Takeley,	Husbandman
Gregory SHETTELWOOD,	Chelmsford,	Husbandman
Francis SMYTHE,	Alphamstone,	Husbandman
John STARLING,	Thaxted,	Victualler
William STURKEY [STURKE],	West Thurrock,	Labourer
John THURGOOD,	Stanstead Mountfitchet,	Husbandman
Nicholas TOMSON,	Langford, I	Labourer
Bennet WATSON,	Earls Colne,	Labourer
George WEBBESTER,	Blackmore,	Painter
Thomas WYLSOON,	Kelvedon,	Innholder

My Ancestors and the Herberts of Wilton

by Elizabeth Cheffins (ESFH 33627)

My research started 40+ years ago when records were not on the internet. Visits to record offices were many. It took ages to scroll through many microfilms to find the person you were seeking. Perhaps some of you remember taking heavy books from shelves one by one, to look for births, marriages and death entries. Once an address had been found, you then had to look through the census returns and scroll through reels of films to find an address, and hopefully the family!

Ada Mary Stebbing, my grandmother was born in 1894. She had two brothers Arthur and Charles, and one sister Muriel. Their parents were Arthur Charles Stebbing and Isabel.

Tragedy was to hit the family in 1909 when Arthur was knocked down and killed, aged 45yrs. He was on a cycling trip of the South Downs when he was knocked off his bike by a Maples removal van. On his trip, Arthur had bought a small china teapot for Isabel, his beloved wife, as a present which was in his inside pocket, remarkably it was still intact, not a chip to be seen.

It must have been really hard for the family not having a father especially in those days. Isabel made some money doing dressmaking, her eldest daughter Muriel became a headmistress, Ada was a milliner, Arthur and Charles were in insurance. Both brothers were involved in WW I and both survived.

John Stebbing, their great-grandfather was born in a village, or more of a hamlet in 1804 called Capel St Andrew in Suffolk. The church there was knocked down in the 1500s so the parish records are of Butley in Suffolk the nearby village. He was the son of a farmer, James and Elizabeth Stebbing. Not much is known of his early years. In 1837 he married Emma Cook from Berkeley, Gloucestershire (maybe she was a maid in Berkeley Castle) in St Martin in the Fields, London. Their sons John Arthur and Charles James Stebbing were born in Firbeck, Yorkshire. Their daughter Elizabeth was born in Maltby, Yorkshire.

In the 1841 Census, Emma Stebbing is living with her son John Arthur in Yorkshire. Her husband John is a servant in Grosvenor Street, London, next door to the household of Lord Palmerston. Ten years later, John is still working in London as a



JOHN & ELIZABETH STEBBINGS ABOUT 1860

servant in Carlton Gardens and by 1861, he is now employed as House Steward at Wilton House, Wiltshire, the stately home of the Earl of Pembroke.

In John Arthur Stebbing's will he mentions a ring that was given to his father by Lady Herbert.



WILTON HOUSE

Who was Lady Herbert?

Looking through a copy of Whose Who, I found that she was married to Sidney Herbert, 1st Baron Herbert of Lea (1810-1861), the son of the Earl of Pembroke. Sidney Herbert was acting as Earl as his elder half-brother Robert was not a suitable

person to run the estate as he was apparently a spendthrift and a heavy drinker.

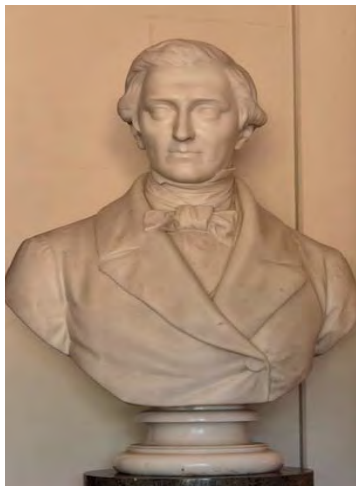
During the 1980s, I visited the beautiful house of Wilton and its grounds, along with my parents. Photos of servants were displayed but I saw no one that I recognised.

There are an extensive amount of documents about Wilton House and the family at the Wiltshire Archives which I examined, and I found a few letters between Sidney Herbert and his wife Elizabeth where they mention John Stebbing several times, as he was House Steward. John's daughter Elizabeth was educated in the village.

I am still looking through the vast amount of archives for information. Sidney Herbert and his wife met Florence Nightingale in 1864 when they were travelling in Italy, and they became close



ELIZABETH HERBERT



SIDNEY HERBERT OF LEA

friends. Florence became a regular visitor at Wilton and Herbert House in Belgrave Square, London and I like to imagine that John Stebbing may have opened the door to her on a few occasions.

The Crimean War (1853-1856) was one of the first conflicts in which military forces used modern technologies such as explosive naval shells, railways and telegraphs. It was also one of the first to be documented extensively in written reports and in photographs. Unfortunately, the war also quickly became a symbol of logistical, medical and tactical failures and of mismanagement. The reaction in Britain led to a demand for professionalisation of medicine, most famously achieved by Florence Nightingale, who gained worldwide attention for pioneering modern nursing while she treated the wounded.

It's a remarkable coincidence that Florence wrote to Sidney Herbert, Secretary of State for War to ask if she could go out to help in the hospital. At the same time Sidney Herbert wrote and asked Florence if she would go ... their letters crossed in the post.

In August 1861, Sidney Herbert passed away with Bright's disease. In his will he left his servants a years wages if they were in his employment for more than a year. If he had lived a while longer, he would have been the next Earl. It is said that he could have been Prime Minister but was said to be too nice! John Stebbing carried on working for Lady Herbert until he retired, and he died in Kingston-upon-Thames in 1883, aged 78. Lady Herbert died in 1911.

This year I visited Wilton House and spoke to some of the guides on duty. They were very interested and said I should wait to see Dr Foster who wrote the book about Sidney Herbert. After I had a chat with Dr Foster I said I was going into the Swindon & Wiltshire record office the next day. The following day we got to the record office and the archivist said that Dr Foster had phoned and could I ring him. To my complete surprise he had a photo of John Stebbing and Elizabeth his daughter taken in the garden at Wilton House in about 1860.

I always say you need patience and determination and an open mind as family history is a great hobby. It takes you to villages, towns, counties and maybe countries you wouldn't normally go to and meet some lovely people in doing so.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Essex Record Office (ERO)

ERO Presents: Raising Steam

Tuesday 1 July 10.40am - 12pm

Location: Essex Record Office, Wharf Road Chelmsford CM2 6YT

Speaker: Graham Rowlands

The Holden F5 Steam Locomotive Trust, formed in 2003, is constructing a replica of the Great Eastern Railway's M15R (latterly LNER/British Railways F5) Class of locomotives, designed by James Holden and an improvement upon members of the earlier M15 (LNER F4) Class introduced by Thomas William Worsdell.

With examples to be seen throughout East London and East Anglia, the last member of this type was withdrawn by May 1958. In their last years of service, they became synonymous with the Epping to Ongar branch (on what was part of London Underground's Central Line) where they operated push-pull services until November 1957.

The 'Trust' is recreating one of these locomotives, namely GER number 789, latterly British Railways number 67218.

Whilst not having the glamour and following of an express locomotive, upon completion the engine will be well-suited to the needs of many heritage lines; with modern engineering practices and design work being coupled with original drawings, GER 789 will be more than capable of all but the heaviest loads.

The first step in the project was to obtain the necessary drawings, which were sourced from the Great Eastern Railway Society (the drawings being in the care of the Essex Records Office) and the National Railway Museum. Original drawings have since been converted into a digital CAD system.

Tickets on sale from 15 April.

Clarifications & Corrections

Whilst browsing through the Edition No. 182 August 2024 of THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN, I found some incorrect information. In the last paragraph on page 70 it states that Trove has Australian and New Zealand newspapers online and they are free. That's incorrect. Trove has Australian newspapers as it is part of The National Library of Australia, based in Canberra. New Zealand newspapers will be found on Papers Past which is also free, so, just in case someone cannot find New Zealand newspapers on Trove does not mean they do not exist, they're just on another website.

Judith Woodlock DipFamHist UTAS

ESFH Member No. 1274

Society Information

www.esfh.org.uk

Payment of Membership, Services and CD's by post

Facilities on our website allow for Membership, Services, CD's published by the Society, Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates etc. to be ordered and paid for using a credit or debit card (payment taken via the PayPal website) or a PayPal account. New members wishing to pay their membership fees by cheque should send an email, or write, to our membership secretary Miss A Turner to enable her to send them a membership application form. A payment by cheque must be in GBP, payable at a UK bank, in favour of the "Essex Society for Family History" and crossed.

Membership applications and queries should be sent by post to Miss Ann Turner, 1 Robin Close, Great Bentley, Colchester CO7 8QH or by email to memsec@esfh.org.uk.

Research Centre and Services

Our Research Centre is based at the Essex Record Office Wharf Road Chelmsford CM2 6YT and is open to both members of the Society and non-members from 1.00pm - 4.00pm on Wednesdays and 10.00am - 1.00pm on Thursdays when you will find volunteers on duty.

Our research team offers a service to search indexes and databases where we hold the relevant data at our Research Centre. For details of the indexes we hold please see our website under the Services tab followed by Research and Services. For all enquiries regarding our Search Services please email searches@esfh.org.uk.

For products sold via our online shop and how to order and pay please see our website under the SHOP tab.

Essex Strays Index

References to people from Essex found in records elsewhere. Enquiries with stamped addressed envelope to Mrs Ann Church, "Windyridge" 32 Parsons Heath Colchester CO4 3HX E-mail: ann.church32@gmail.com

RootsTech by FamilySearch

6-8 March 2025

Join the world's largest family discovery event and discover the conference where genealogy, technology, and love for family intersect.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

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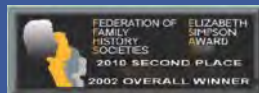
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