



West Surrey Family History Society

ROOT and BRANCH



June 2025

Vol 52 No 1

WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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THE OBJECTIVES OF WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

As a registered charity the Society's formal objectives are: "To collect, index, co-ordinate, publish and make accessible in the interests of genealogy any documents or records, with particular reference to documents or records relating to the ancient County of Surrey; to promote the preservation of such documents and records; to encourage the study of genealogy; to assist educationally by lectures or otherwise in record research."

“Taking the Past into the Future”

ROOT and BRANCH is the quarterly journal of the **WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY [WSFHS]** which is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies and a Registered Charity [Number 278091]

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Covers - See editorial

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WSFHS Information

Website: www.wsfhs.co.uk

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY - Annual Subscriptions: £13 Ordinary Membership (or £12 for Senior Citizen); £13 Joint Membership (two members living at the same address); and £16 Overseas Membership. The Subscription year commences 1st April.

Annual subscriptions can either be paid direct to the Membership Secretary by sterling cheque payable to West Surrey FHS, or through GenFair, the internet-based online family history fair, using the secure Credit/Debit Card payment facility; a 50p administration fee is added for UK Members. GenFair can be accessed either through its own website <https://genfair.co.uk> or through the Society's website, www.wsfhs.co.uk where there is a link on our publications page. Those with a UK bank account can alternatively arrange an annual Banker's Order if desired.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS - Annual subscriptions can either be paid direct to the Membership Secretary by sterling cheque, or through GenFair, both as described above.

GENFAIR - As well as providing a means to pay subscriptions, this facility can also be used to purchase West Surrey FHS publications. Purchases via GenFair are VAT free for all purchasers.

SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE - General correspondence should be sent to: Secretary@wsfhs.org. Membership enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary. An SAE or three IRCs, or equivalent, should be enclosed for postal reply. All genealogical enquiries should be sent to the Editor. Please state if you are agreeable to your enquiry appearing in Root and Branch.

Root and Branch

Contact with Authors - Readers wishing to contact the author of an article published in Root and Branch are invited to send their communication with a covering letter and a SAE to the Editor for forwarding to the author. Alternatively, if an email address has been published then please mention Root and Branch in the subject line if using email to make contact.

All material submitted for publication must be the original work of the person submitting it. Articles should not have been published elsewhere, and where necessary, copyright clearance should have been obtained e.g. for pictures and photographs. The opinions expressed in the articles and notices are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the society.

NEXT ISSUE - The next issue of *Root and Branch* is planned for the beginning of September 2025. Deadline for receipt of material for that issue is 30th June 2025. Articles for *Root and Branch* should be sent to editorial@wsfhs.org ■

WSFHS PUBLICATIONS

by Alison Durkin

Featured Publication:

CD45 – Norwood (Surrey) Cemetery Burials 1837-1865

This CD is now also available as a **download from Genfair** and contains indexes and transcriptions of the burial registers for Norwood Cemetery. The cemetery was founded by an Act of Parliament in 1836 with its first burials taking place the following year. This cemetery is south of the Thames and should not be confused with the parish of Norwood in Middlesex.

The introduction to this CD gives a background to the origins of the cemetery and a map shows the layout of the 40 acre site.

These registers are very detailed and many of the entries give an exact address and precise age at death. For example, George Riddle of 172 Blackfriars Road, who was buried on 29th May 1838, was aged 11 years 9 months and 21 days.

There are very few relationships or occupations noted but occasionally there is a gem such as 15 year old Emma Sarah Vos of Regents Square, Grays Inn Lane, who was buried on 29th January 1842, was noted as the daughter of Dr Vos of Calcutta and 2 year old Isabella Goodeve who was buried on 25th May 1842 having died on board the ship Vernon on her passage from Calcutta was noted as the adopted daughter of H H Goodeve of Calcutta.

Several people are noted as having been removed from St Thomas, St Bartholomew, Westminster and Guy's Hospitals and there are a few children noted as being stillborn.

Although these registers can be found on-line, some of the older images are not very easy to read so this CD can be used as a great finding aid before referring to the images.

CDs can be purchased via the WSFHS website or GenFair - £11.00 (plus P&P)

Also available as a download from GenFair

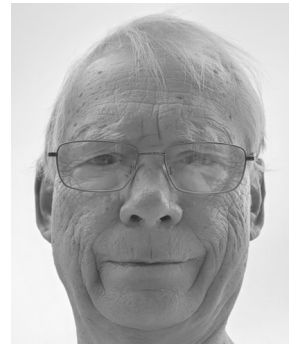
Full details and prices of all WSFHS publications can be found on the WSFHS website (www.wsfhs.co.uk) or by emailing bookstall@wsfhs.org. WSFHS publications may be purchased through GENfair <<https://genfair.co.uk>>, which has a secure Credit or Debit Card transaction facility.

Overseas customers are advised to order from <<https://genfair.co.uk>>



Editorial

by Richard Weatherhead



Welcome to the fifty second volume of Root and Branch. Owing to the publication schedule of this magazine, I have not been able to incorporate any details of the VE day celebrations in Surrey. On this occasion therefore, I want you collectively to be my reporters by sending in details and photographs of any event you have attended to commemorate the events of 80 years ago. Please also send in any family history reminiscences of the day in 1945. How did your parents and grandparents celebrate it either outside Buckingham Palace, or at the numerous local events, thanksgiving services and street parties that took place at the time? VJ day commemorations take place on 15th August so please send in any family stories or photographs of this event as well. The content of our September journal is in your hands!

After last year's 50th anniversary for our Society, this particular issue marks another anniversary as is ten years ago that my late wife and I took over the editorship of this journal. The front cover is a reminder of those forty issues and the fact that I am now the longest serving editor. So, what is the role of the editor? The primary task is to ensure that there is a wide range of material being submitted to the magazine. This is why I always include requests for members to submit articles, though a ready supply was much more forthcoming when we took over and our Society boasted over 1000 members than it is today when the Society has shrunk to half that number. Thus, I often have to make direct requests from individuals. I am also indebted to our contributors of our regular features for their continued efforts. My second task is to organise all the emails, word documents, photographs and even hand written letters that I receive into the typeset magazine that you are looking at. For this I use Microsoft Publisher. I then send this draft to our proof readers and to my copy editor for correction, whilst I get on with producing the covers and ensuring that no material we produce infringes anyone's copyright. Once I have the final pdf proof, I liaise with our printer to get a draft copy. This I then have to check though and then, if necessary, make corrections and receive another draft to check. When I am finally happy, I give instructions to publish the final print run which is then distributed to you. By then I have moved onto the next edition!

This magazine carries our obituary for Jill Haworth who was the co-ordinator of the Woking branch of our Society when we first joined. I remember her for the very warm welcome she gave us when we attended our very first meeting. This issue also carries the resignation letter of Ann Sargeant, our President for the last five years and long time former Secretary of the Society. It was through her help and encouragement that we stepped into the role of joint editors of this magazine a decade ago.

The warm spring has made our Surrey countryside burst forth with life. Our rear cover shows a blue carpet of bluebells emerging from the dappled shade of the plentiful woods on our chalk downlands: whilst simultaneously sandier soils to the west of the county are covered with banks of rhododendrons and azaleas. ■

Letter from the Trustees

This is the first magazine which is now available electronically and we are very pleased that some members are now looking at it online. If there are any of you who would like to access and download Root and Branch electronically in future instead of the paper copy please advise the Membership Secretary at membership@wsfhs.org.

After four years, Ann Sargeant has regretfully decided to step down as our President. She has been a stalwart of the Society for a considerable number of years, many of them serving as our Secretary. The Trustees would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all her help and invaluable advice.

Please make a date in your diary for 27th September 2025 to attend the 51st AGM of the Society at Woking. We would like to welcome as many of you as are able to be with us and are privileged to have Nick Barratt coming to give a talk immediately prior to the AGM. Please see the centrefold of this magazine for more details on the event. As previously advised, we will be putting forward proposals for amending membership subscriptions at the AGM so please keep an eye on the website for up to date information nearer the time as we are awaiting further details of the number of members opting to receive electronic copies of Root and Branch to estimate the current cost of printing and posting.

We have been advised that sadly Jill and Pablo Haworth have both died in recent months. They were regulars at the Woking meetings and Jill was the Co-ordinator for the Woking Centre for many years. An obituary for Jill appears elsewhere in this issue.

Regretfully we are having to consider closing our Woking Centre meetings because we are unable to plan a programme for next year as we have not had anyone come forward to help plan and book speakers. We will be very disappointed to have to close the Centre and hope that one or more people will step into the breach, ideally from those attending Woking but of course this is a task that could be undertaken from anywhere. Please contact woking@wsfhs.org if you would like further information on the role.

We hope that many of you will have enjoyed the celebrations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May and some indeed may have family recollections from VE Day itself. Anne Ross recalls that on VE Day her parents went to Buckingham Palace and were among the waving crowds. There will of course be the 80th anniversary of VJ Day to follow in August.

The Trustees



How well do you know Surrey?

by Tony Kelly



Questions for June

- 1) Which Woking born builder was a partner in the firms that built Nelson's column and the Wharncliffe Viaduct ? Where was his first wife buried in 1842 ?
- 2) The 1976 version of the film the Omen included scenes shot at which Surrey church?

Answers to the March questions

Q: Where is Seething Wells

A: Seething Wells is in Surbiton near the boundary with Long Ditton. In 1847 the Lambeth Water Works Company built its new water works in anticipation of legislation prohibiting the extraction of water from the Thames for household use. Seething Wells has been in the London Borough of Kingston since 1965. It is now a residential area. If you take the 715 bus from Guildford to Kingston you get a reasonable view of the pumping station shortly before the bus enters Kingston town centre

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seething_Wells

consulted 12 March 2025

Q: When did Peter Rabbit come to Surrey ?

A: 1896

Beatrix Potter had a holiday home in the Surrey Hills hamlet of Woodcote near Leatherhead.

<http://rossbayvilla.org/stories/2014/01/30/another-story/>

consulted 12 March 2025



Obituary for Jill Haworth

By Chris Leech

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of Jill Haworth on 8th February 2025 and her husband Pablo on 16th April 2025.



Jill Haworth was the Co-ordinator for the Woking Centre when I joined the Society in 1994 and remained in that role until June 2010.

She was always welcoming and worked hard to provide a good programme of talks and activities for the group. I particularly remember a group visit to the Newspaper Archive at Colindale. Jill was also active in volunteering for our annual Open Day at Woking Leisure Centre. In recent years despite declining health Jill and Pablo were still attending meetings at Woking when they could.

Jill was a primary school teacher and married Pablo in 1962. She was an active member of the St John's and Chobham Flower Club, where she participated enthusiastically in various activities, showcasing her dedication to her community.

Jill and Pablo were integral to the group of volunteers dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Basingstoke Canal. Jill, in particular, was instrumental in creating an archive and supporting events, often quietly yet effectively fulfilling her roles. Whether running sales stands at meetings and events or engaging in archival work, Jill exemplified the spirit of volunteerism and community dedication.



Diary of Events around the UK

by Jane Thomas

Apart from Guild of One Name Studies virtual weekly meetings (below), there are activities in June and September but none in July and August.



6 June: GOONS Friday Virtual Pub Crawl – Now Every Friday at 2 P.M. Eastern US Time. That is usually 7 p.m. BST. Free to all a wide-ranging chat and occasionally a talk. <https://one-name.org/events> This is a weekly occurrence but is only listed here once.

The Helpful pub (every Wednesday at midnight in UK - EST 6.00pm). Both now have the same link.



7 June: Berkshire FHS 50th Birthday Conference – “The Victorians” 10.00 - 16.30 at Wokefield Place, Wokefield Estate, Goodboys Lane, Mortimer, Reading, RG7 3AE. 4 speaker slots, 7 speakers and stalls. There is accommodation available. Other events open to non-members as well for rest of year.

<https://berksfhs.org/50th-anniversary-conference/>

14 June: Goons Seminar, “The Best Days Of Your Life?” 9.30 – 4.45 at Bearley Village Hall, Bearley, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0SR

https://one-name.org/mc-events/education-seminar/?mc_id=2582#

21 June: Wiltshire FHS Family History Day. 10.00am - 3.00pm at Michael Herbert Hall, South Street, Wilton, SP2 0JS.

<https://wiltshirefhs.co.uk/images/wfhs/NewsItems/2025FamilyHistoryDayWilton.pdf>

Dates to note:

13th September: Bath & Avon FHS Family History Fair, 10:00 - at Turnberries Community Centre, Thornbury. That is all the posted details

<https://bafhs.org.uk/bath-avon-fhs-family-history-fair/?v=7885444af42e>.

19th - 21st September: Halstead Trust Conference “Secrets and Lies” at Holiday Inn, Peterborough West – Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 6SG.

In June there were discounted tickets <https://secretsandlies.org.uk/>

27 Sept WSFHS AGM: at Trinity Church, Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LH. Doors open 1.30pm Talk, Dr Nick Barratt “The Forgotten Spy: the secret life of Ernest Oldham” followed by the AGM. **The WSFHS bookstall will be there**

5 October: Family History Show. Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd E, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5AQ, 10.00 – 4.00 <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

The WSFHS bookshop will be there

8 November: WSFHS Fair at Woking Leisure Centre NB 2nd Saturday

The Family history Federation has a list of events run by other Family History Societies, mainly branch meetings but there are some online events.

Details of other Open Days and special subject meetings: - new layout showing many FHS <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

Also remember **Surrey History Centre** has courses <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/events>

TNA events and exhibitions programme has a full range of talks, webinars and family activities. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/events/> Archives Media Player has a large selection if you missed any event. ■

News from Surrey Heritage

By Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre



I must begin this report with huge congratulations to our Heritage Apprentice, Gemma Cooles, for her recent success in completing her Level 3 Library, Information, and Archive Services Apprenticeship.

Gemma joined Surrey History Centre in October 2023 after years of volunteering with Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Her enthusiasm for history, archives, archaeology and all things 'Heritage' has shone through. Balancing a full-time job and an apprenticeship can be challenging at times, but Gemma tackled it brilliantly with outstanding commitment, even being 'Highly Commended' for her hard work in this year's Westminster Adult Education Service Celebration and Awards event at Lords Cricket Ground.

I must also record our thanks to our wonderful Local Studies Librarian, Carole Garrard, who retired in April. Carole joined us in March 2000 and quickly became a highly valued member of our team. Her hard work in cataloguing the books, pamphlets, directories, maps, illustrations and journals that arrive in the office each day has ensured their visibility and accessibility for research. Amongst a myriad of day-to-day tasks, including regular public search room duty, Carole was particularly responsible for the detailed cataloguing of our historic printed maps collection. She became a specialist in this field giving well-researched talks and training sessions to numerous appreciative audiences. She also undertook considerable additional detailed work on the periodical, illustration and local directory collections, making them more widely available to researchers via our on-line catalogue. At the last count our library collections numbered nearly 40,000 items – all of which were familiar to Carole and showcased in her many displays in our search room and at our open days. We all miss her and wish her a very happy retirement.

Readers of my last report will have spotted that late last year we were presented with two plans of a Surrey garden designed by one of the greatest English garden designers, Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) of Munstead Wood, Godalming. Though she described herself as an 'artist-gardener', Jekyll was also a painter, embroiderer, interior designer, author, and photographer. As an early exponent of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey, her legacy includes significant garden plans, watercolours, photographs, and publications, many of which are held at Surrey History Centre. The newly unearthed plans, detailing the garden at Warren Hurst in Ashted, were thought to be lost but were discovered inside a copy of Richard Bisgrove's book, *The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll* (1992). They were returned to a former property owner, who brought them to the attention of the Surrey Gardens Trust. We are very grateful to the Trust for encouraging the owner to donate them to us and also for generously funding their repair by Rachel Marsh our Conservator. ►

The discovery of these two plans is important. While other plans of Warren Hurst exist in the Gertrude Jekyll Collection at the University of California, Berkeley, and can be accessed through the Surrey Gardens Trust website, these newly found plans offer more detailed evidence of Jekyll's work. One plan is a tracing made by the house architect, Percy Leeds, to communicate with Jekyll. He wrote notes on it, asking her questions about planting and plant sourcing, and she responded with her own instructions. The other plan is a rough pencil copy of one of Jekyll's detailed herbaceous border designs, given to the architect for reference. Together, these plans show that the garden project was active in July 1914, just before the First World War began. They capture the creative exchange between Jekyll and the architect as they brought her designs to life. These documents offer a fascinating insight into Jekyll's methods and types of plants and shrubs, confirming that the garden was fully planted.

Finally, the results are just in from the Archive and Records Association's annual Survey of Visitors to UK Archives which ran between October and December last year. If you visited us during that time, you would probably have been invited by us to take part by completing the survey form. I'm pleased to report that our visitors rated us very highly, giving valuable feedback on our services and facilities and an overall rating of 9.6 out of 10, which is wonderful. I will not test your patience with a detailed breakdown of the results, but one figure struck me as particularly interesting. Asked why they were visiting our archive, just 22% of our visitors gave 'Family History' as the main focus of their research. That's down from 33% in the last Survey in 2022 and a massive drop from the 74.7% of visitors doing family history when the Survey first asked this question in 2006. While I appreciate that the increasing availability of family history sources online has reduced the need for genealogists to make regular visits to a record office to check parish registers, census returns etc, I do worry that there is a risk that by not lifting their gaze from their computer screens, some family historians might be missing out on the thrill of visiting an archive, handling original documents and discovering the amazing stories behind the names on a family tree.

Recent Accessions

Highlights of our recent new accessions include the following:

7062add19

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: additional records, including annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health, 1919-1947; byelaws, 1929-1986; papers relating to the Borough's Golden Jubilee, 1987; 'Borough Insight' magazine, 1993-2021; and papers relating to celebrations for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, 2002

9326add1

Milford Hospital: history of the hospital, 1928-1988, by Major AV Lovell Knight, c.1991

9463add8

Bourne Hall Museum: additional accruing accessions, including: deeds and sale particulars relating to properties in Epsom and Ewell, 1890s-1970s; papers and photographs of Dorothy ►

Lee (later Meek, later Cooke) of The Eight Bells public house, Ewell, 1920s-1960s; plan drawing of proposed house, Hookfield Estate, Epsom, 1933; incident report book of temporary police station at Epsom Racecourse, 1936-1997; plan drawing of proposed rebuilding of The Rifleman public house, Epsom, 1938; site plan of The Marquis of Granby public house, Epsom, 1941; Nonsuch and Ewell Antiquarian Society report on the 1890s-1970s village of Ewell and proposed future development, 1968.

10354add4

Claud Waterer, estate agent of Chertsey: additional sale particulars relating to various parishes, 19th cent.

10570add1

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), otherwise Charles Lutwidge Dodgson and the Dodgson family of Guildford and elsewhere, including Skeffington Dodgson (1836-1919): additional family records including diaries, letters and photographs, and records relating to the Lewis Carroll heritage, including research of Philip Dodgson Jaques, 18th -21st cents.

10709

St John the Evangelist church Wotton: plans and specifications relating to the rebuilding of the church, 19th cent-early 20th cent

10710

Arthur William Owen and John Owen of Guildford: papers relating to their service with Royal Engineers and Royal Navy during World War I and World War II, 1915-1946

10713

Frederick George Dighton (1913-1986), D Company, 1st Bn, The East Surrey Regiment: photograph albums of his service in India, 1933-1937, including one album featuring fellow soldiers, Indian villagers, scenes of the Quetta earthquake (1935), and Fyzabad, and one photograph album of service in Lucknow and Lahore (1933-1937), and Bombay and Sudan (1937-1939), including fellow soldiers, filming of 'The Four Feathers' at Saboloka, Sudanese villagers, Fyzabad, and hill stations; biographical notes with press cuttings, 1933-1939

10714

Deed relating to the lease of 20 acres of land in Walton, Surrey, by Queen Catherine of Braganza to William Brett of Walton, gentleman, 31 July 1688

10716

Christ Church United Reformed Church, Leatherhead: baptism registers, 1939-2002

10717

Moor House School and College, Hurst Green, Oxted: records including minutes of board of managers, annual reports and accounts, log books, admission registers, 1945-2020 ►

10720

31 New Haw Road, Addlestone: deeds, 1894-1949; Airscrew Co Ltd, Weybridge: souvenir programmes, 1940, 1948, book of photographs of construction of parabolic laminated wood arches made by the firm for the Festival of Britain, 1951, and cuttings relating to death of chairman Mr J D Titler, 1957

10721

Whitley, Hughes and Luscombe, solicitors of East Grinstead: deeds relating to property in Godstone and Lingfield, 1850-c.1900; sale particulars of property in Godstone, Lingfield, Dorking, Horley, Merstham, 1744-c.1990 29/01/2025

10722

Bletchingley and Ockham, 1908-c.1990; copy will of Robert Prikler of Dorking, 1744

10723

No. 1 Company, 51st Surrey (Malden) Battalion, Home Guard: photograph, 1941

10724

County of Surrey Convalescent Home, Seaford, Sussex, annual report and accounts, 1897-1898; Long Ditton Workmen's Club and Institute, annual report, 1896

10728

Manor of Wildwood, Albury: court book, 1633-1906; deed of appointment of new trustees, 1901

10730

Irene Giles (1914-2003) of Send: photograph album of Gordon Stewart's Great Danes at Send Manor Kennels, Send Marsh. Includes photographs of Stewart, his staff, and royal and celebrity visitors. Also photographs of Irene Giles in the Land Army at Secrett's Farm, Send, 1930s-1940s

10731

A Company, 5th Surrey Battalion Home Guard: map showing area operation of No 9 Platoon, drawn by Robert H Wiley, 15 May 1943

10732

East & West Molesey and Hampton Court Cottage Hospital: minute book, 1920-1896-1939; Ion House School, East Molesey: pupil certificates, 1896-1903

10734

Peaslake Women's Institute: records including committee minute books, 1927-2018; record books, 1918-2018; annual reports and programme cards, 1920-2018; memories of ►

Peaslake WI in wartime; letters and other papers sent to WI from Stillwater, the New Zealand link institute; and photographs

10737

Estates in Godalming, including of the Chitty family: deeds and probate, 1714-1772

10740

Margaret Randall, later Margaret Evershed (1905-2007) of Cranleigh: correspondence and papers relating to herb collection during the Second World War, 1940-1942

10741

CSM Frank A T Brewer, 5th Battalion, Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey): papers and photographs, including relating to his captivity as a POW in Germany in World War II, 1924-1965

10742

Kathleen Broderick (nee Cawte) (1911-1986), schoolteacher, Clarendon Road School. Ashford: teaching letters of recommendation, 1930s-1950s; staff photographs, 1940s-1950s; and brief biography, 2025

10743

Guildford Diocese Mothers' Union: additional records, including executive committee minutes, 1997-1999; finance committee minutes, 2002-2003; and records of Hinchley Wood, Leatherhead and Weybridge branches, 1937-2015

10744

Papers relating to freehold land in Weybridge belonging to the late Josiah Dudley of Weybridge, 1833-1875

Forthcoming Events

South Asian Heritage Month

South Asian Heritage Month runs from 18th July to 17th August and provides an opportunity to discover British South Asian history and identity through education, arts, culture and commemoration. South Asian influences can be found everywhere in Britain, from our food and clothes to our music and even our words. The streets of our towns and cities are rich with the colours, sights and sounds of proud South Asian identity. Its culture permeates all parts of British life and adds to the diversity of the nation. We will be hosting a display in our foyer during our normal opening hours, Tuesday to Thursday 9.30-5.00.

In August and September we will also be hosting a display in our foyer by Woking U3A's Family History Group focussing on family history and the Second World War. In October we will be celebrating our important collections relating to Lewis Carroll with a display in ►

Please keep an eye on the Heritage Events page on our website for further details of these and other events or join our mailing list to keep up to date with all of our news and activities. ■

Woking Leisure Centre - Saturday 8th November 2025, 10.00am – 4.30pm

★ Also, do you know any other societies or groups who may like to have a stall this year. The ★
★ tables are £20 each and optional electricity is £15. ★

★
★ If you are able to help us or would like more information please email [***fair@wsfhs.org***](mailto:fair@wsfhs.org)

Sue Warner

Note: These interests have been submitted by the member listed below. The four items of information which follow each surname below are, from left to right: the county or country of interest (abbreviated using the Chapman Codes); the parish, town or general area of interest; the period; the membership number by which the member submitting the surname may be identified.

Name	County	Town, village, area	Date	Number
TIDY	SRY	Abinger, Rusper, Crawley	Pre 1650	7335
TYDYE	SRY	Abinger, Rusper, Crawley	Pre 1650	7335
TYDIE	SRY	Abinger, Rusper, Crawley	Pre 1650	7335

To make contact with the member who has submitted the above entries, please email interests@wsfhs.org quoting the membership number of the person submitting the entry. Your response will then be forwarded.

Letters

From our President Ann Sargeant

Dear All

I believe it is five years since you honoured me with the Presidency of West Surrey Family History Society. This therefore means that my continued presence in the role would need to be agreed at the next Annual General Meeting later this year.

Given my now personal circumstances it has become impossible for me to give the Society the attention, time and help I would ideally wish to give. So with very much regret I must tender my resignation from the Presidency.

My years on the Committee as Secretary are very fondly remembered and it has been such an honour to be entrusted with first the Vice Presidency and most recently the Presidency. Thank you so much for your trust. I am really so very sorry not to be able to continue and sincerely hope our paths will still cross occasionally in the future.

Very best wishes.

Ann

From Robin Punter

Hello, My name is Robin Punter and I am trying to contact any existing members of the Punter family who may have a George Punter, born 1906 and living in the Guildford area, at 3 Bridge St, with his mother, Mary Punter. His army service number is 1638176 & he served in the Royal Artillery.

My reason for asking is that I wrongly assumed that this George was my uncle but upon receiving his documents from the national archives I quickly realised that he is not my relative, but a very distant cousin. I have no need to keep his army records, and I am reluctant to throw them away so I wondered if you knew of someone in your society who might be more closely related to George or might just be interested in having a copy of his service record. I am offering to send them out free of charge. I just want them to go to someone closer to him.

Replies to secretary@wsfhs.org



From Cliff Webb

The companies that digitise records for our use are enabling people to research in their own homes and use precious time in archives more productively.

However, researchers must also be aware that nobody can guarantee the accuracy of a transcription. Ancestry, unfortunately have the worst track record for this, and one can only assume from the ludicrously poor readings that frequently come up, that entries are not checked. To the contrary, the IGI for example was compiled by dual entry, i.e. two people made the transcript, and differences were adjudicated on by a third, highly experienced person. So while the IGI is not perfect, it is very nearly so and for all practical purposes it can be relied on.

An Ancestry search, therefore, is very much a lucky dip; if you find an entry, great, but failure to find one is no guarantee whatever that it is not there, read incorrectly or missed altogether. I have for many years been trying to come up with good transcriptions of London burials, since these are not in the IGI. Much of this work is done from scratch. Recently, however, I had occasion to check the Ancestry transcription of the register of St Olave Hart Street because I could not find the well-known entry for Samuel Pepys, the diarist. He had been mis-transcribed. No shock there, but what was a surprise were other entries where completely fictitious names had been applied. It generally happened where there was no surname in the original.

Just to give one example on 4th January 1737/8 there is an entry:

“Ann, a black girl in the new yard”

In the Ancestry index she is rendered “Ann Morris”. This is not a one-off, once I started looking for them, I found several others. I cannot come up with any explanation, unless their indexers are on piece work, and only complete names count. That might explain a lot! Any other ideas?

From Andrew Walker

My third great grand father, Thomas Walker [1791-1864] was born in Hampshire where his ancestors had lived for over two hundred years. He moved to Surrey by 1814 when he married Harriett Hurst [1792-1868] in Chiddingfold and they remained in the area for the rest of their lives. From the birth records of their children, Thomas was engaged in a number of occupations in Brook nr Witley including victualler, labourer and workhouse governor. In 1836 following the formation of the Hambledon Union, the couple were engaged as Master and Mistress of the Workhouse in Hambledon, Surrey. This role was clarified in the 1841 census as School Master and School Mistress and they remained in these posts in both the 1851 and 1861 censuses. I would welcome any extra information you might be able to point me towards regarding the history of these workhouses.

Replies to the editor—editorial@wsfhs.org



Parish Register Update

By Cliff Webb

Botley's and Lyne parish register

The first baptism register runs from 1849 to 1902. I recently had cause to consult it online. Ancestry, for some reason, had only filmed the 1900-02 period. Fortunately, FindMyPast had filmed the whole register. Remote searchers will have to look at FMP to see the material. Both pay per view sites are, of course, freely available at Surrey History Centre.

Ealing and Stanwell Parish Registers

I am delighted to say that two long missing parish registers have been recovered by The London Archives (formerly London Metropolitan Archives). They had been deposited many years ago and later had somehow been misfiled in the several miles of records TLA holds. While neither parish is in the historic county of Surrey, one is in the current administrative county, and both will be of interest to many researchers.

The first is the second register of Stanwell from the 1650s to the 1690s. The marriages had been printed, but of the baptisms and burials, hitherto, we only had very poor quality films, which were illegible in many places. This register's reference is DRO 22/A1/22.

The other is the earliest register of Ealing starting in 1582. Again, the marriages have been printed, but the baptisms and burials were on microfilm, also illegible in places. Its reference is DRO 37/A1/1.

I have had good quality photos made of these registers and am engaged on making transcripts of them. These will be made available online in some way, probably through FindMyPast. A physical copy of the Stanwell work will be given to Surrey History Centre and of both parishes to The London Archives. I am grateful to the British Record Society for providing a research assistant to take these photographs for me.

Guernsey

We have for some while been able to access the parish registers of the Isle of Man and Jersey. Guernsey has, however, been neglected. I am glad to report that FindMyPast are beavering away at both Guernsey Archives and the Priaulx Library, and the registers and transcripts of them should be available fairly shortly.

■

Call for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for the roles listed below:

Executive Committee Members[#]

Four additional members are required to join the committee which oversees the affairs of the Society. Your initial commitment will be to attend up to six evening meetings a year which are held either on Zoom or in person, and to undertake any administrative tasks necessary for the smooth running of the Society.

Speaker bookers for the Camberley, Woking and Zoom Groups*

A small group of volunteers is required to book the speakers for our group meetings. Training will be provided in how to identify suitable speakers and in how to ensure that a broad range of family history topics are covered. The volunteers will be encouraged to build up a database of speakers who in the case of Zoom talks may not necessarily be located close to Surrey. An ideal task for any member to undertake as it can be done from any location!

Publicity Officer*

A publicity officer is wanted to ensure all WSFHS activities and events are well presented and advertised in as many ways as possible. Our aim is to raise the profile of the Society, to increase attendance at Centre and Zoom meetings, to generate publicity for new publications and to keep the Society's name in the public eye.

This is an opportunity to be creative and innovative. As most of the work will involve contacting news sources, radio stations, Surrey based organisations etc., by emails and publicity shots, the volunteer(s) do not need to live locally. This position could be shared by two people and should require about an hour or two a week.

Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator*

A volunteer to expand our collection of Monumental Inscriptions from burial grounds and churches in the County of Surrey.

Zoom Co-ordinator(s)*

Do you fancy joining an organising group – a group with no Earthly bounds? You can stay at home, live anywhere, as can the Zoom speakers. The times of meetings are flexible – could fit in with optimum times world wide (though a somewhat comfortable time for UK is a good idea). Enthusiasm for searching out new and unusual speakers is desired. A small group of helpers is better so that no one has to be tied to every month.

[#] Please see centrefold for details of how to apply

* Please contact Jane Thomas secretary@wsfhs.org for further details and please put Volunteer in Subject Line ■

Dorking PCC Wills to 1700 [Part 2]

By Cliff Webb



Walter Browne, esquire 25 Apr 1583 (to be buried in the church)

to my wife Mary all my lands and tenements Compton, Sussex and my house in Dorking I live in for life and then to my son Thomas with remainder to my son Richard then to my third son Walter; to my wife manor of Godwell and lands and woods at Offham, Kent until my son Thomas is 21; to my sons Richard and Walter out of Godwell £5 p.a. each, once Thomas is 21; to my daughter Ann 100 marks to her marriage out of my lease of manor of Milton in 10 years after my death; residue to my wife, exec.; nephew Thomas Browne, knight and John Cowper, esquire, overseers

Witnesses: John Cowper; William Engley; William Bowell

Proved: 4 December 1595 to exec. PROB 11/86/409

Richard Jeale, yeoman 23 Mar 1592/3 (to be buried in the church; to poor of this parish £1; to the 4 who carry me 1s each; to the ringers at my burial 4s) to John son of Richard Jeale, snr., of Shepperton, Middlesex, deceased £139 out of money due from Edward Sackville of Dorking, gentleman, John Bisshopp, snr. and John Bisshopp of Shepperton, jnr., yeoman and William Jeale of Wolberghe, Nutfield; to Philip Chapman of D., shoemaker £5 I owe him out of John B.'s first payment; to John Jeale furniture and goods part in hands of Robert Rutter of Shepperton, husbandman and all my brass at Andrew Marden's in Reigate, yeoman at 20 with remainder to my goddaughter Elizabeth daughter of said Richard J., deceased and Henry Rutter son of said Robert R. by his now wife Margaret when Elizabeth is 18; to the children of John Peter of Milton which he had by his now wife my kinswoman £2 out of £15 which Nicholas J. of Nutfield, yeoman owes me; to the two sons of John Mattram £2; to Richard Hill of Betchworth £1; to Edith Brockhole, widow £1; to Ann Gunner and Elizabeth Tanner servants to Mr Gainsford 10s each; to Thomas and Joan children of William Farnelley of Arundel, Sussex, carpenter which he had by my sister Joan Jeale £2 each out of £8 which said William owes me by a bond for £20; to Robert Rutter if he brings up John Jeale until he is 8 all the money he owes me and my goods he has in his hands and a band which ... Bates of London, haberdasher is bound in £12 to pay £6 to said Margaret now wife of Robert Rutter of which I have received £1 10s; to Henry Langton of East Clandon, clerk £1 of the £2 he owes me; Mathew Browne of Chertsey, esquire to have John Jeale's legacy to invest for him and to bring up said John after he is 8; to John Hudson of Dorking, weaver my old russet fustian doublet but not the buttons and to his son William my old cloth hose; to John Mattram clothes and my silver buttons; to Robert R. clothes to make John J. coats; to George Daye's wife and ... Currants, widow a ewe sheep with half her lamb and half the wool which is in keeping of Henry Elliott of Westcott; to Philip Chapman, shoemaker my sword which is at the cutler's; residue to Richard Daye of D., yeoman, exec.; Hugh Mason of D., tanner and John Mattaram of D., turner, overseers (£1 10s each) ►

Witnesses: Hugh Mason (X); John Mattram (X) Michael Earle Philip Chapman (X); John Britt (X)

Proved: 19 May 1593 to John Theaker, notary public proxy for exec. PROB 11/81/425

Miles Dudley (X), yeoman 1 May 1597 (to be buried in the churchyard)

to my son William all my tenement Wadhurst with 4 crofts of land adjoining and a close called Longeham and others called Eastfield and The Furlong all within lordship of Milton, Dorking and all my messuage etc. Paggitts (4 acres) and parcel of land Streedes (4 acres) and 2 acres called Chadhurst in Milton now in occupation of my brother Thomas D. by lease at 3s 4d p.a. which reserved to my son Jasper; to my wife Juliana furniture; to my daughter Agnes goods and £4; to my daughter Alice goods and £4; to my sons Miles and Richard £4 each; residue to my sons William, Thomas and Jasper, execs.; William Heather and Edward Netlefolde, overseers (3s 4d each)

Witnesses: William Heather; Edward Netlefolde; Richard Daye; Thomas Dudley; William Hooker

Proved: 30 May 1597 to Richard Stubbs, notary public proxy for execs. PROB 11/89/496

John Tirrell [nuncupative] 6 Jan 1603/4 (to the preacher Mr Richard More £2 and two fitches of bacon that hang at my mother's; to poor widows and old men £1 10s) to my sister Ellen £2 and to my sister Elizabeth £2 and to my sister Agnes £1 and to my master Mr Richard Ware at Reigate £1; to goodman Cuddington 10s; to John Husey 5s; to goodwife Dudley, widow 5s; to Samuel Browne 5s; to Thomas Cowper 5s; to my uncle Fuller 6s; if it please God to send to my wife and me our former health this will to be of no effect and my house, etc. to my wife Rebecca for life and then to my child if she pregnant and if not to my brother Richard T.; of £1 4s Nicholas Browne of Leatherhead owes me 6s to Richard Stirman and 3s to William Holand and rest to Richard Browne; I owe my sister Susan 15s 8d

Witnesses: [none]

Proved: 16 January 1603/4 to Edward Lambert and Ellen Lambert alias Tirrell, sister PROB 11/103/41

Joan Penningfold or Panningfolde, widow Nov or Dec 1603 (suffering from the plague and 'shut up') nuncupative] to my son Mathew, exec. paying the legacies in his father's will of which he was exec. and to my other sons Richard and Thomas P. 10s each; residue to my son Mathew

Witnesses: Incent Sheiffeild; William Dendye

Proved: 17 March 1603/4 to Dorothy widow of Mathew P. in person of John Price, notary public PROB 11/103/342

William Radcliffe, gentleman 25 Oct 1614 (to poor of this parish £1 p.a. for 10 years; a sermon yearly for 20 years in Dorking church 10s each preacher; to almsmen and women of D. 20 marks for mourning clothes) to my wife Mary all her jewels and gold chains and all my ►

household goods in my house at Dorking except my silver and gold plate, horses and cattle which to my nephew John Gooding of London, haberdasher to be sold to pay my legacies; my wife to have house at Dorking for life and then to said John Gooding and she to have lease at Milton per her late husband Walter Browne's will and to her £6 13s 4d for mourning gown; rest of lease after the death of my wife to said John Gooding and to my younger sister's son William Challoner; to my nephew John G. all my clothes; to William C. £100; to my wife's son Walter Browne £5 p.a.; to my nephew Thomas Gooding £10; to my nephew Richard Challoner £10; to all the daughters of Robert and Margaret G., deceased and the daughters of John and Joan C. £6 13s 4d each; to Thomas Tooker and Walter Harflett if I die within a year a mourning cloak each; to Thomas Smythe and William Lanckton if still my servants at my death £5 each; to Catherine Marden and Ann Michell if they with me at my death £3 each; to my friend Robert Bourman £2 for a cloak or ring; to my sister in law Ursula Graye £5; residue to my nephew John G., exec.

Witnesses: Thomas Browne; Thomas Powell; Thomas Smythe

Proved: 1 November 1614 to exec. PROB 11/124/457

William Martynn or Martin, miller 4 Jun 1617 (to be buried in the churchyard; to poor of this parish 10s) all my goods to my 4 children equally viz. Richard, Mary, Joan and William by my exec. until they are 19 or married; residue to my brother in law Richard Hardyn, exec. in trust; William Counstable and Samuel Lanckester, overseers (... each)

Witnesses: William Counstable; Samuel Lanckester; Stockdale Cuddington; William Symon

Proved: 11 June 1617 to exec. PROB 11/129/701

Brian Barkham (X), yeoman 25 Dec 1619 (to be buried in the church; to poor of this parish £2) to Edward Lusted, jnr., Edward Merrie, Agnes Baker and Unica Potter servants of Edward Lusted of Chart £1 each; to Elizabeth daughter of William Cunstable £1; to my godson Nicholas son of James Fynche £1; to Gilbert Blase £2; to my godson John son of Ralph Holdesworth £5 when out of his apprenticeship; to Thomas Mason £1 I promised him in lieu of a kindness he did at my request for Gilbert Blase and Richard Shooe be likewise paid £5 to fulfil all matters between us; to Oliver Huntley, gentleman £10 to repay a bond for a horse; my horse to Walter Browne, gentleman when he asks or £5; to Thomas Browne, gentleman son of Mrs Radcliffe £1; to John Donne £2 for a cloak I had of him; to William son of Robert Sheffeld £10 when out of his apprenticeship; to Richard Daye, snr. a £2 gold ring; to Edward Sheffeld and his wife Jane furniture; to Edward Lusted of Chart furniture and £2 for a quarter's boarding which ends next 17 Feb; to William L. of Stumblehole my old cloak; residue to Giles Huishe of D., gentleman, exec.; Richard Daye, snr. and Edward L. of Chart (£1 2s piece of gold), overseers

Witnesses: Richard Daye, snr., scr.; Edward Lusted and his wife Emma

Proved: 25 January 1619/20 to exec. PROB 11/135/62



William Heather [nuncupative] to my 3 daughters £100 each of which £50 at 21 or marriage and £50 3 years after and furniture and goods; other goods to my wife; residue to my son John, exec.

Witnesses: [none]

Proved: 26 November 1623 to exec. PROB 11/142/604

Ralph Dalton (X), yeoman 19 Jun 1631 all my land to my brother Richard; to my daughter Mary at 15 £100 in hands of Mr Jasper Goodwyn and the bond in hands of Thomas Mason ready to be sealed, the use of the said £100 to my wife Mary until child is 15; crops to my brother Richard; to my brother Richard, my kinsman William Lancaster and my wife Mary £18 that Geoffrey Peeter owes me between them and all my other goods; wife, exec.; Henry Gosden and brother Richard, overseers (5s each)

Witnesses: Richard Day, snr.; Samuel Lancaster; Henry Gosden; William Lancaster; John Cuddington

Proved: 21 September 1633 to exec. PROB 11/164/377

Henry Henshawe, mercer [nuncupative] 17 Jun 1635 to ... Phillipps 5s; to Samuel Lancaster £1; to Jane wife of Peter Charman £1; to John Stent £2 to apprentice him; to Richard Mason's wife 5s; to widow Wales 5s; to Rachel Huberd 6s; to widow Cox 2s 6d; to Thomas and James sons of Francis Buttery 10s each for a Bible; to Ann Wickenden 2s 6d; residue to my brothers Richard and John H. and my sister Joan wife of Abraham Bodle; brother Richard, exec.; Stephen Goffe and George Woodman, overseers

Witnesses: Francis Buttery; Henry Gosden

Proved: 15 July 1635 to exec. PROB 11/168/436

Ephraim Bothell, leatherdresser 31 Mar 1638 (to poor of this parish 10s) all my land and houses in Dorking and house and land Lodgmore in lordship of Westgate, Dorking to my wife Susan for life and then said house and 4 tenements in West Street to my second son Ephraim paying to my eldest son John's 5 children Ephraim, John, Jean, Susan and Elizabeth £20 each at 21 and after the death of my wife; if Ephraim dies to my wife Susan house I live in; to my eldest son John £100; to my son Ephraim £100; to my son William £100; to my son Thomas my house and land Lodgmore after the death of my wife; to my younger son Samuel £100 at 24; to my daughter Susan B. £50; to my daughter Sarah B. £50 at 21 or marriage; to my daughter Jane B. £50; residue to my wife, exec.; friends Benjamin Ridge, Henry Paine, John Heather and Henry Gosden, overseers (3s 4d each)

Witnesses: Thomas Thompson; Henry Gosden; Henry Paine

Proved: 27 April 1638 to exec. PROB 11/176/563



The Help Register

Are you willing to undertake up to one hour's research for a fellow member?

Are you in need of help in finding a record of your family?

The Help Register aims to put in touch those members *requiring* help with those who can *offer* suitable assistance. There is a data base and communication is mainly by email. The scheme is intended to be reciprocal if possible and is designed neither for lengthy research nor for paid genealogical research. This reflects the beginning of the Society when members helped each other and the society – many did transcribing of records for the good of all.

For example, I have a Surrey member who would like a look-up in early Northampton records and occasionally visits Southwark Archives and would be willing to do a look-up there for a completely different member.

I have a few “local to Surrey” volunteers and a few others in UK and abroad. The idea is that members can call on other members to help when the information they seek has not been found on the internet or the image/transcript needs to be clarified. *We still need more, especially Metropolitan London look-ups and other county records.*

Do you live near to your local record centre?

or

Do you regularly (not necessarily often) go to a record centre away from your home?

If yes, please send:

- your current email address or your address,
- the record centres or sources of information you can access
- a rough estimate of your expenses,

If you would like some help please include **full details** of what you would like looked up and *where you have already looked.*

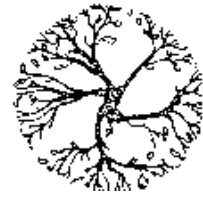
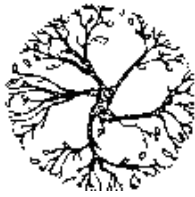
For further details, please email: HelpRegister@wsfhs.org

Please note that this service is only available to WSFHS members



West Surrey Family History Society

Registered Charity No 278091



Members' Afternoon and Annual General Meeting

to be held at

Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LH

Saturday 27th September 2025

1.30 pm Doors open - WSFHS Bookstall

**2 pm - 3 pm Talk: 'The Forgotten Spy: The secret life of Ernest
Oldham' by Dr Nick Barratt**

3 pm - 3.30 pm Break and WSFHS Bookstall

Refreshments will be available

**3.30 pm The 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the West Surrey Family History Society**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the
FIFTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
will be held at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday 27th September 2025
Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LH

Elected Trustees for 2024-2025

Chair: Ms Sue Turner, **Secretary:** Mrs Jane Thomas, **Treasurer:** Miss Jean Follett

Mrs Chris Leech; Miss Anne Ross; Mrs Maura Sellars; Dr Richard Weatherhead; Mrs Anne Welch

Proposals for Motions to be tabled at the AGM must be submitted in writing. Each proposal must be signed by the proposer and the seconder both of whom must give clear name and address information including their WSFHS Membership Numbers. Posted letters or scanned documents sent by email are acceptable*

Proposals must reach the Secretary no later than Friday 4th July 2025.

Nominations are invited for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee (Trustees) which comprises up to twelve persons. If four or fewer nominations are received, those nominated will be deemed to have been automatically elected as the above Officers and Committee members have agreed to stand for the next year. If more than four nominations are received then a full ballot of the membership to elect all twelve members will be organised. Executive meetings are held either on Zoom or in person.

Nomination Form 2025

I am willing to stand for election as a Committee Member (Trustee) of the West Surrey Family History Society at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 27th September 2025

Proposed Committee Member

Name Signature

Membership Number.....

Name of Proposer Signature

Membership Number.....

Name of Secunder Signature

Membership Number

*Please send proposals and nominations by **Friday 4th July 2025** to
The Secretary (Email: secretary@wsfhs.org). Forms may be scanned. If signatures are impossible, the proposer and seconder also will need to send affirmative emails.

Granny & Granny Bourne

by Frances Francis

My father's mother was Lydia Mary **Wakeman otherwise Beard**. Tracing her was more of a challenge than I expected. I knew her name from my father's birth certificate but that was all I knew! I started my search by ordering her 1911 marriage certificate. My first surprise was to discover that her father was Craven **Bourne** (deceased) revealing where my father's middle name came from.

I then searched for her birth certificate but there was no Lydia Mary Bourne. I had hit a very solid brick wall that eluded me until the 1901 census was published. In 1901 I found her living with her parents and younger sister Gertrude. Gertrude died in 1910 but another sister Florence who was to play an important role in my family's history was born in 1907. The entry stated that Granny was born in Oxted, Surrey around 1890. By this time BMD records were available online at several sites. I did a search for all Lydia's born in Oxted around 1890 and got 7 results. By a process of elimination looking for deaths and marriages I was able to remove 6 leaving me with one a Lydia Mary **Hall**!



Granny Bourne with her children

Taking a chance I ordered this birth certificate. When it came there was no father listed but mother was given as Sarah Hall formerly **Osbourne**. This name Osbourne is changed to **Osmond or Osman** on various documents. The given address was The White House, Oxted. I had a gut feeling this was indeed Granny but how to prove my theory? I did an address search on the 1891 census which revealed that The White House was the home of William **Bourne** and living with him was Craven **Bourne** his son!

Craven Bourne married Sarah Ann Helena Osmond in 1897 after Craven had divorced his first wife Florence **Newbon** for adultery. He had custody of their son Craven Ingledew Bourne who was brought up by Bourne relatives. I found Craven's divorce at TNA. He filed for divorce twice but the first one was cancelled. The second application went ahead. Divorce records that survive give many useful details such as addresses and occupation. On the 1901 census Craven claims Lydia aged 3 as his daughter together

with her younger sister Gertrude who sadly died in 1910. Florence was not born until 1907.

Craven married Sarah Ann Helena Osmond in December 1897 3 years after Lydia was born. Sarah is given as a spinster – no mention of the name Hall. Craven was 16 years older than Sarah and died in 1909 age 59. ►

I had to wait until the 1939 Register was published until I could check my grandparent's address 48 Pursley Road, Hendon, Middx. This register confirmed Lydia's birth date to be the same as on the birth certificate I purchased. Proof at last! Living with her was her mother Sarah Bourne who was incapacitated. Sarah Bourne died in Hendon in 1949 aged 83.

Lydia's mother was loved by all her grandchildren and was always known as Granny Bourne. I can find no trace of a marriage for Sarah Ann Helena Osborne/Osmond/Osman to a Mr Hall nor any divorce. In Victorian times women employed as housekeepers and sometimes even cooks called themselves Mrs. to give them an air of authority. On her marriage certificate to Craven Bourne in 1897 it clearly states him as a divorcee but her as a spinster. Craven died while they were living in Portsmouth in 1909.

By 1911 Sarah Bourne had moved to Gratton Road, Hammersmith with her daughters Lydia (18) and Florrie (Florence age 4) where she opened a boarding house for itinerant artists. After going AWOL from the Grenadier Guards in December 1901 Lydia's future husband became a travelling



1914: Robert & Lydia with my father and baby Gertrude

music hall
artist and

early film actor using the name **Samuel Beard**. This was no doubt where Lydia and Robert met and fell in love. Robert P Wakemann aka Samuel Beard married Lydia M Bourne in the 2nd quarter of 1912 in Fulham. Lydia too had a short career on the stage under the name **Lydia Beard**.



Robert driving Queen Boudicca's chariot in an early MGM film

Robert enlisted in the RHA in 1914 but did not reveal that he was a deserter! After discharge in 1920 they had 7 more children all entered on the GRO birth register under the name **Wakeman otherwise Beard** and appear twice in the BMD register once as **Wakeman** but also as **Beard**. Lydia and Robert who worked for London Transport were well known in the Mill Hill area taking many local roles over the years. Despite an age gap of

15 years and opposing views about politics and religion they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1962.

Sarah Bourne was very important for Lydia's family looking after them at various times including when they were sick and needed country air! My Uncle Raymond had many stories



Golden Wedding 1962

about his life in Meldreth with Granny Bourne when recovering from a chest infection. My father often talked about her with affection. Although I don't recall meeting her my sister did.

Lydia Mary Wakeman was a very independent person with firm views. I'm sure she will have been involved with women's suffrage but so far have not been able to prove a link.

Editor's Note: You can read more of Frances' family history in Vol 51 Nos 1 & 2 ■

The Stubborn Conservatism of Diplomats

by Cliff Webb

Diplomatics for those not familiar with this meaning of the word, is the study of the structure and form of documents.

We all meet parish register clerks who we praise for including useful bits of information, and others who we blast for giving the bare minimum, leaving us puzzling between more than one individual of the same name. Some registers continue to give the same information for hundreds of years, each successive parish clerk following precedent. For example, in St Botolph Bishopsgate the clerks almost always give the age in the burial register, a most useful piece of information.

Sometimes, however, it is not the information given that is consistent, but the format of the register itself. The major divide here is between those registers which contain baptisms, marriages and burials in one sequence and those which separate them, sometimes even into separate books. From our point of view, the latter is the more helpful form.

The clerks at St Olave Southwark, however, having a lot of entries to house, allotted a register page to each month. On each page, the marriages were written on the left, the baptisms in the middle and the burials on the right.

The first problem with this is that the registers were tightly bound, which means that some information, often something as vital as the surname, is hidden in the binding at least in the ►

film and digitised versions. Sometimes examination of the original will enable the missing information to be read, but sometimes not.

Worse, as the parish grew in size through the 17th century, there was sometimes too little space for the baptisms, and more often the burials. The St Olave clerks, however, refused to change their ways. Burials would be crammed into the wrong columns (easily missed). When this expedient did not work, they wrote entries on little slips of papers and gummed them to the register. Sometimes those who made the film noticed and took one photo with flap in place and one with it extended. In other cases, they did not, and the flap obscures the entries underneath. Worse, it is clear in some cases the flap had come loose and has disappeared, losing the information altogether.

In 1665, the clerks were indeed overwhelmed, and the burials filled many pages with no entries for baptisms or marriages. But come 1666, and with relief the clerks reverted to their old ways, and continued so until the printed registers of 1754 and 1813.

It seems strange that so inconvenient a format continued for so long. Yet, one has to remember the innumerable medieval records written on rolls of parchment which are far harder to use than in the codex or book form. I well remember transcribing the Surrey Association Oath Roll of 1696 which contained some 40 pieces of parchment stitched together end on end making a roll the size of a substantial tree trunk.

Yet, Acts of Parliament are still engrossed on rolls of vellum, and many other central governmental series were in roll form until comparatively modern times. There was an outcry recently about the Acts, when it was suggested they be written on the finest paper to save money. The change was not made, but it seems that even if it had, the plan was to engross on rolls rather than in books. All very strange!

■

Why I started Family History

By Jenny Mukerji

Why did I start Family History? It probably has its roots back when I was at St Andrew's (CofE) Junior School in Farnham and we were told the story of the White Ship sinking, taking with it the only son of Henry I to his watery grave and leaving the nation without a royal male heir. This inspired me and I found history interesting. I enjoyed it at secondary school until Mrs Simpson left and was replaced by a teacher whose style was "flat" and I failed history "O" level by two marks! Years later I went to evening classes and the rest is, well, history. We moved back to Woking from Horley in 1982 and I started to think that I needed my own piece of history. Where did my ancestors fit into all this other information I had about the past? So I joined the WSFHS and, again, the rest is history!

■

WILLOUGHBY VERNER (1852-1922)

By Bob Verner-Jeffreys

In Farnham Museum is a watercolour of Farnham Park painted by seven-year-old Willoughby in 1859, showing the deer frightening ladies in crinolines and bonnets [fig 1]. Willoughby grew up to be a famous soldier, naturalist, artist and author. When he died, Harold Hodge, the editor of the Saturday Review, published an Impression saying “soldier, sailor, inventor, historian, antiquary, writer, artist, naturalist, sportsman, society man, churchwarden, Orangeman, raconteur, conversationalist, Verner was all these and more than a smattering of all.”

William Willoughby Cole Verner was born on 22nd October 1852 near Reading to Colonel William John Verner of the 53rd Regiment and his wife Mary Anne, illegitimate daughter of John Rogers a London textile merchant. From an early age, encouraged by his father, he took a great interest in natural history, especially birds and fossils. His Natural History Diary from 1867 has been published recording much shooting and egg collecting as was usual in those days. Even on active service in the Army he was still shooting, collecting, writing and sketching as we will see. Later, retiring wounded after the Boer War he lived half the year at his house in Hartfordbridge (now obliterated by the A30) where he kept raptors and half at his villa El Aguila at Algeciras [Figure 2], rock climbing, exploring caves in pursuit of his hobbies, writing military history, editing the Rifle Brigade Chronicle, ornithology (his major work "My Life Among the Wild Birds of Spain" caused some mild amusement) and always drawing and painting. He had a superb hand; he became Professor of Topography at ►

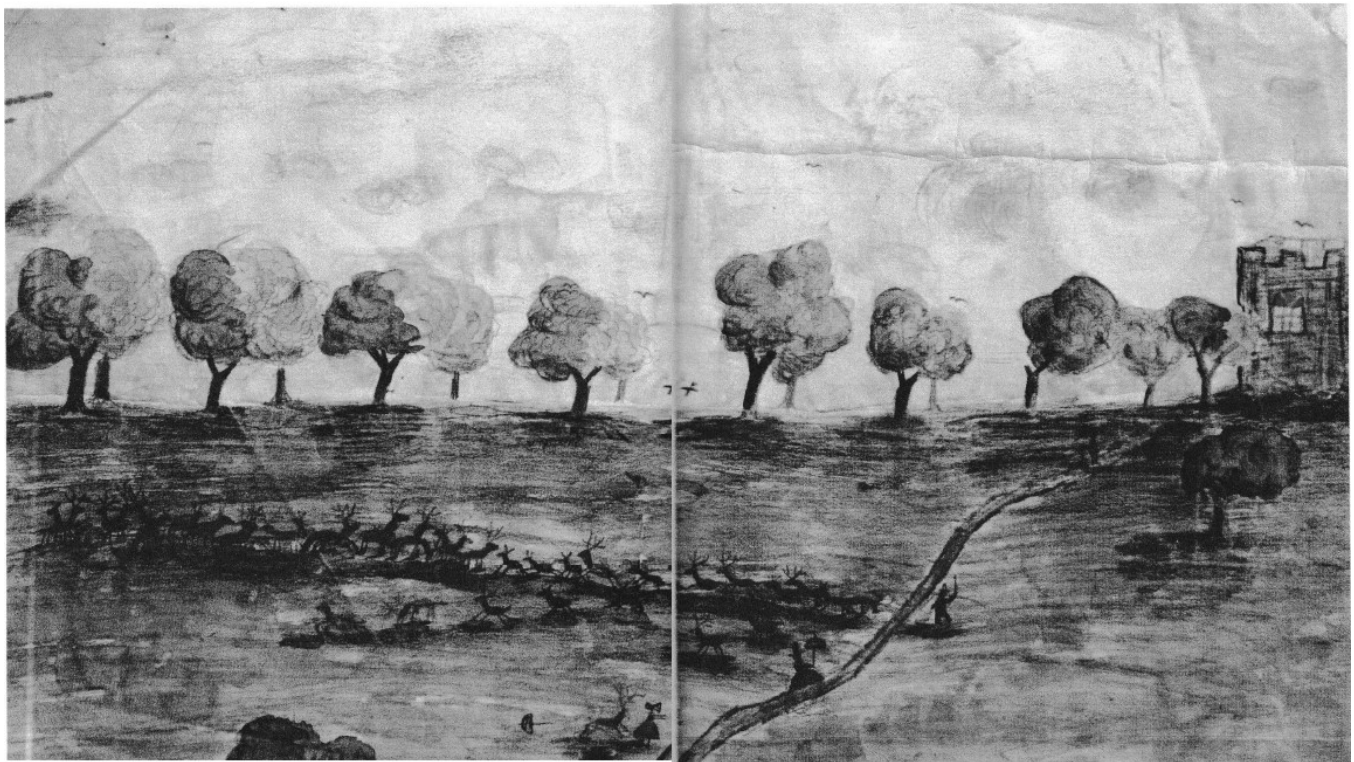


Figure 1: Farnham Park by Willoughby Verner

extracted from "History of Farnham Park" by Pat Heather with permission of Farnham and District Museum Society

Sandhurst, producing beautiful maps. He invented a cavalry sketching case and a prismatic compass still used in the Army until the 1920s and 1940s respectively.

Verner is an unusual name, some thought a version of the German Wernher, but extensive research reveals a different story. He was a proud Ulsterman, the Verners or Vernours having left the Lowlands of Scotland in the 17th century. His great-uncle Sir William Verner (1782-1871) had fought in the Peninsular campaign and at Waterloo in the 7th Hussars. His descendants left Ireland in the 1920s, settling near Seale and then Tilford. The 6th and last Baronet, my cousin Sir Derrick died in 1975; his sister Ruth lived at 1 High Park Road and was for a time secretary of the Farnham Society and on the Watts Gallery committee.

What then of Willoughby's military career? In 1874 he joined the Rifle Brigade and was posted to Gibraltar which was the start of a life-long attraction to the Mediterranean. In 1881 he passed first by examination into the staff college and first out, promoted to Captain. Three years later he was stationed with the 3rd Battalion at Aldershot where he continued his natural history studies on one occasion describing a voyage along the Wey from Farnham to Guildford and finding traces of otters. Later in September, he joined the expedition sent to rescue General Gordon from Khartoum when threatened by the Sudanese Mahdi uprising. The force was to travel 1,400 miles up the Nile. Willoughby was attached to the Intelligence Department of the Nile Expeditionary Force, associating with a certain Major Kitchener with whom at one stage he shared a tent.

He took part in the serious battle of Abu Klea on 17th January 1885 when he was hit in the face by a Dervish. Two days later at the battle of Gubat, an arab was brought to him on whom was found, after searching the folds of his garment, a small scrap of paper 1.5 inches square on which was written the message "Khartoum is all right. Can hold out for years. C.G.Gordon 29.12.84" Unfortunately, as we now know, the Expeditionary Force was too late, and faced the long journey back by desert and river. Those who have seen the superb Korda 1939 film "The Four Feathers" will know the difficulties the Army faced (in fact the film was based on Kitchener's later Omdurman campaign in 1898, but conditions were the same).

Of course, Captain Verner sketched and wrote the whole time, including at Abu Klea and its aftermath, the Egyptian monuments and birdlife. One painting shows the post mortem on a crocodile, finding "the carcass of a donkey, skull of an ox and a great quantity of pebbles presumably to assist its digestion". His experiences of this campaign produced a large book entitled "Sketches in the Soudan" published in 1885 - the list of subscribers is impressive, starting with the Royal family and senior officers. Its original paintings were given to the Rifle Brigade Museum in Winchester. Copies of the book now fetch hundreds of pounds.

In 1887, he patented his cavalry sketching board which he had strapped to his wrist when riding his camel. The writer Adam Hart Davis praised this among his famous inventions; "Major Verner's Patent" was still in use in the Great War. Three years later in 1890 he created and became editor of the Rifle Brigade Chronicle, a post he held for 29 years. He also wrote "The British Rifle Corps" and began his exhaustive history of the Brigade (of which more later). He was promoted to Major in 1891 and then in 1896 to Lieutenant Colonel when he ►

became Professor of Topography at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. In 1895 he invented a new prismatic and magnetic compass, taken up and manufactured by two firms, the 9th version of which was still in use in 1942.

During the Boer War, he fought at the battle of Belmont but was badly injured when his horse fell on him at the battle of Grospan on 25th November 1899. In 1904, after promotion to Brevet -Colonel, he retired from the Army but continued writing military history. The next year he was invited by the Duke of Cambridge to write "The Military History of HRH George Duke of Cambridge".

In 1912 he was able to publish Volume I of his monumental "History of the Campaigns of the Rifle Brigade" dealing with 1800-09, followed seven years later by Volume II 1809-13. It has often been asked whether he had written the third volume - he was indeed working on it at his death, but the sad story came out that his widow, tired of the blizzard of paper surrounding her, asked the gardener to burn the lot!

I am aware that in all this I have not mentioned his family. In 1881 he had married the Hon. Elizabeth Mary Emily Parnell daughter of the third Lord Congleton. She was a fairly forceful character herself, known as Leila, but the only mention of her in the two published diaries is a sketch of her holding a ladder in one of his bird-nesting exploits. They had one son, Rudolf Henry Cole Verner who became Commander RN. He was gunnery officer on HMS Inflexible in the Falklands campaign of late 1914 but was sadly killed the following year at the Dardanelles by Turkish fire. They also had a daughter, my grandmother Dorothy May (1884-1969).

In 1905, Willoughby was told by Jose Bullon, a Spanish farmer, of an unexplored cave in Andalucía. He was lowered into the cave, now known Cueva de la Pileta, where he found many



Figure 2 Willoughby at his house 'Aguila' in Algeciras
Photograph taken about 1914

paintings of animals and the ashes of a fire. His published reports attracted international interest and gave rise to many further investigations. The author has been down the cave with Jose Bullon's grandson who has preserved Willoughby's rope at the entrance. Willoughby also explored Devil's Tower Cave in Gibraltar with Abbe Breuil discovering Neanderthal tools.

Willoughby died at his home El Aguila on 25th January 1922. The Governor's barge took his coffin over to Gibraltar where he was buried. The 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade formed a firing party and the Governor Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien represented the King. His tombstone in the North Front cemetery bears the inscription "He lived for Regiment and died for the Regiment". ▶

His work and collections were dispersed, the Willoughby Verner Collection of the Royal Green Jackets Regimental Archive is at Winchester, his medals and badges and other items having been given to the old Rifle Brigade Museum. Collections of birds and eggs ended up in Oxford, Haslemere and elsewhere. The family have several of his books; I have his daughter's copy of "Sketches in the Soudan" and my son has the book Willoughby produced after his son Dodo was killed and a diary and paintings of the Falklands and Dardanelles actions.

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SURREY SESSIONS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10th 1835 (Before Mr Hedger and a full Bench of Magistrates)

William COOPER, a diminutive boy, was tried and acquitted on an indictment charging him with stealing a whip, the property of Robert Harris, a tradesman at Byfleet.

After the verdict was pronounced the prosecutor got into the witness box, and addressing the Chairman said, "The friends of the prisoner hope that the boy will be taken care of, for they can do nothing with him. We can't keep him in the union he is such a terrible dog; and if he is sent adrift again I don't know what will be done. He can't be kept in a workhouse."

Chairman - Has the boy been in the workhouse? -

Prosecutor Yes, and he kicks up pretty rows there, and thinks nothing of climbing over walls twenty feet in height.

Chairman - I suppose you are one of the guardians?

Prosecutor - No, nor don't wish to be one. I have had quite enough of that business in my time; but I am deputed to say that both the friends of the boy as well as the parish expect the Court will be pleased to take the future care of him in their hands.

Chairman - That's a very reasonable request indeed. You must go back, Mr. Prosecutor, and tell all concerned that the Court cannot do any such thing. The verdict of acquittal has taken all power out of our hands to inflict any punishment on the boy.

The prosecutor appeared quite astonished at this intelligence and said there was no person to take back the boy to Byfleet after he was discharged, and that he must get there as well as he could. The prosecutor then descended from the witness box after having applied for his expenses

The Morning Post (London, England) Tuesday September 11 1835. Issue 21119

British Library Newspapers Pt II 1800-1900.



Tales from Green Lane Cemetery

By Jenny Mukerji

Sir Arthur William Garrard BAGSHAWE (1871-1950)

Sir Arthur was born in St Leonards-on-Sea on 29 July 1871, the son of Rev Alfred Drake BAGSHAWE (1836-1913) and his wife Frances Margaret, nee GARRARD (c1839-1934). He was baptised on 19 September 1871 at Salford Priors in Warwickshire. He had an older brother, Leonard Alfred (1868-1931) and an older sister Frances Ursula (1870-1962) who married Rev Charles Edward Geneste WALSH (1861-1910).

From 1872 until 1877 Sir Arthur's family home was in Creake, Norfolk where his father was the vicar. Because of the nature of being a member of the clergy, Rev BAGSHAWE's family were often on the move and in 1877 they moved to Taynton in Gloucestershire. They remained there until 1891. The BAGSHAWE family had owned the manor of Wormhill Hall and Oakes Park in Derbyshire since the 15th century and from 1891 until 1902, Alfred BAGSHAWE was the vicar at Wormhill Hall. Ownership of the manor by-passed Alfred and Sir Arthur, but went to Sir Arthur's son, Thornber by way of the deed of gift by a first cousin once removed in 1963.

Sir Arthur was educated at Marlborough where his interest was in Natural History; he then obtained a First Class in Part 1 of the Natural Science Tripos at Caius College, Cambridge in 1892. Later he went to St George's Hospital where he graduated as MB, BCh in 1895. He also qualified as Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS), and as a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (LRCP).

Sir Arthur held a senior house appointment at the Royal Northern Hospital until 1898 when he entered the Colonial Medical Service and was posted to Uganda. In 1900 he became a medical officer of the Uganda Protectorate and a member of the Lango Expedition in 1901. This involved working with the Anglo-German Boundary Commission, defining the borders of Tanganyika (Tanzania) from 1902 to 1904. In consequence of this post, he became familiar with the medical problems of East Africa which included a Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) epidemic in Uganda. At the time little was known about the tsetse fly and the treatment of sleeping sickness. Sir Arthur “quickly became one the most distinguished workers on trypanosomiasis” (British Medical Journal, 1950, p847). In 1906-7 he worked with a sleeping sickness investigation in Uganda and was the first to discover the pupae of *Glossina palpalis* in their natural breeding ground.

Because of his former love of natural history, he was able to indulge in his interest of the local flora and fauna and made extensive collections of specimens of rare plants, which he subsequently gave to the section of the British Museum that later became the Natural History Museum. In 1906 three of his botanical notebooks were donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. ►

At the behest of the British Government an international conference was held in London during 1907-8 to consider the problem of trypanosomiasis. The establishment of a central international bureau to extract up-to-date information on sleeping sickness and disseminate it to researchers and investigators in the field was recommended but not set up. However, a British Bureau, the Trypanosomiasis Bureau (or Sleeping Sickness Bureau) was established by Lord ELGIN, (the then Secretary of State for the Colonies) and Sir Arthur became its first director in 1908. This appointment was in recognition of his work in tsetse flies and sleeping sickness whilst in Africa. In the same year Sir Arthur took the Cambridge Diploma in Public Health, (DPH).

Between 1908 and 1912 Sir Arthur produced four valuable volumes containing articles and maps covering the known distribution of sleeping sickness and tsetse flies in Africa. These articles also appeared in the Bureau's monthly *Sleeping Sickness Bulletins*.

However, it was not all work for Sir Arthur at this time. On 20 September 1910 he married Alice Mary THORNBUR (1875-1944) at All Soul's Church in Langham Place, St Marylebone, London. Alice was born in Forest Gate, London and was the daughter of Joseph Harry THORNBUR (c1837-1897) and his wife Sarah Ann, nee RICHES (c1843-1901). Her father was a woollen merchant and he died at their home, Bedford Lodge, Earlam Grove, Forest Gate on 25 December 1897. Lady Alice had a sister, Gertrude (1870-1936) who married Rev George William SALL (c1856-1935) in the Guildford Registration District in 1919. She had been living with Sir Arthur and Lady Alice in Rickmansworth in 1911, so it is possible that she came with them to live in Woking before 1919.

In 1911 Sir Arthur and Lady Alice had made their home in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. At that time he was the Director of Sleeping Sickness Bureau in Burlington House, a part of the Colonial Service. They had two sons, Thornbur, born on 21 September 1911 and Christopher Frederick, born 29 April 1913.

In 1912 the Trypanosomiasis Bureau became the Tropical Diseases Bureau as the work on Sleeping Sickness had been so successful that the idea was extended to other diseases. Sir Arthur also held the office of Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (1917-21) and was its Treasurer (1925-35), having been an original Fellow of the Society. In 1920 he was awarded the Mary Kingsley Medal of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He was also the editor of the *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* and the *Bulletin of Hygiene*.

Sir Arthur's name appears in the Woking Directories for 1922 and 1924 as living at Fairlawn, Ashwood Road, Woking, Surrey. From 1935 until 1948 he lived at Bramblehaw, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.

A further change came to the Bureau in 1926 when it became the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases. For a time, Sir Arthur was a member of the expert committee of the Health Committee of the League of Nations, dealing with tuberculosis and sleeping sickness in equatorial Africa. He was knighted in 1933, having received the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1915 (King's Birthday Honours List?).



He retired from his position as Director of the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases and his editorial work in 1935 and this probably coincided with his move to Farnham. On 16 May 1935, *The Times* reported that Sir Arthur and Lady BAGSHAWE attended a reception given by the Chairman and Committee of Lloyds the previous day for the visitors from the Dominions and Colonies in the presence of the Prince of Wales. From 1935 until 1937 he was president of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

With retirement and a move to Farnham, Sir Arthur was able to involve himself in local matters. Martha HUGARD (also buried in Green Lane Cemetery Plot A540) had been in his service for many years and had been highly thought of. She was with Rev Alfred BAGSHAWE's household in Taynton in 1881. When she died aged 83 in 1938 Sir Arthur was one of the executors of her Will.

Whilst in Farnham, Sir Arthur was a governor of the Farnham (Boys') Grammar School and in 1940 he presented the school with a prismatic compass. He was also Treasurer of the Lower Bourne Mission Church (which later became St Martin-by-the-Green Church). He was also the Treasurer of the Farnham and District Association for the Blind and Chairman of the Farnham branch of the League of the Hard of Hearing. His hearing was impaired in later life.

During the Second World War, Sir Arthur was an Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Warden. Lady Alice died suddenly at her home, Bramblehaw on 26 April 1944. Her death was announced in *The Times* and her funeral service took place at the Lower Bourne Mission Church, with Rev A E HUDSON, C H R Baldwin and Canon W R MILLS (her cousin) officiating. She was cremated and her ashes were buried in Plot B1228 of Green Lane Cemetery.

Thornber (Tom) BAGSHAWE, Sir Arthur's elder son married Junior Commander Hilary BAGSHAWE, ATS in Wimbledon in May 1946. Thornber was an officer in the Grenadier Guards and after demobilization went into farming, initially in Hampshire. Later Thornber and his wife moved to Upper Tylecrwn, Llanvillo Talgarth, Breconshire and Sir Arthur joined them there in 1948.

Sir Arthur died on 24 March 1950 in St Winifred's Hospital, 24 Romilly Crescent, Cardiff. His obituary appeared in *The Times* on 27 March 1950 and in *The Farnham Herald* on 31 March 1950. He was cremated and his ashes interred along with those of his wife in Green Lane Cemetery, Plot B1228. A memorial service was held for him in St Thomas-on-the-Bourne Church, Farnham on 30 March 1950.

As mentioned earlier, Thornber (Tom) inherited the manor of Wormhill Hall and Oakes Park. He married the daughter of Herbert Vale BAGSHAWE and has descendants. His brother, Christopher did not marry and had been living in a home in Hastings for children with learning disabilities.

Sources:

National Portrait Gallery (photograph portrait); Royal College of Physicians (AIM25); The Farnham Herald; The Times; Landed Gentry. Blogspot.com; FindmyPast; FamilySearch; FreeBMD

Zoom and Centre Talk Reviews and Schedule

We have four meeting groups, one virtual and three face to face venues in West Surrey; Camberley, Walton on Thames and Woking. Please check the WSFHS website for any changes.

CAMBERLEY – Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley. GU15 3QB. Meetings on third Wednesday of the month. Doors open at 7.00pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Co-ordinator: Sue Turner

Email: camberley@wsfhs.org

In **January**, we welcomed Rebecca Clarke who gave us a very interesting talk entitled *'HMS India, her men and their stories'*. Arnold Clarke, who was on board HMS India when she was sunk by U22 and spent WWI interned in Norway was Rebecca's grandfather-in-law. He and his siblings, four older sisters and an older brother, were avid letter writers. One example of their writing was a circular - literally written on a circular piece of paper with the text spiralling into the centre. Rebecca mentioned that she had found some of Arnold's letters for sale as their envelopes with censor markings were of interest to philatelists but she had managed to get copies of the letters.

Arnold had been an apprentice at Yarrow shipbuilders in Glasgow when war broke out and he joined up, writing to his father about his decision to do so. He was trained as an Engine Room Artificer and his first ship was HMS India. Formerly SS India, a P&O liner sailing between Britain, India and Australia, she was commandeered by the Admiralty and converted into an armed cruiser. Her task was to intercept any suspicious marine traffic in the North Sea while dodging U-boats, but she was torpedoed by U22 in August 1915. Rebecca read two extracts about the sinking from a man on board HMS India and from one on U22. Some men were rescued by the trawler "Saxon" and some by a Swedish ship. The men were landed in Norway, but those on the Swedish ship (a neutral vessel) were allowed to return to England, but those on the "Saxon" (a belligerent vessel) were interned in Norway. The internees were allowed to send two letters a week, but were allowed to receive any number of letters. Arnold and his sisters and brother wrote regularly, sending postcards and letters. His letters described the trips he had been on to Lillehammer and Skene to shop and the work he did on the Dovrebanen railway. The soldiers were still being paid and were also entitled to two weeks leave, so they were able to go home to Britain and then return to Norway. The internees were released at the end of the War and most returned to Britain.

We thanked Rebecca for her very interesting talk and then were able to look at various items that Rebecca had brought along, including her book 'A Bare Chronicle of Existence: Stories and Letters from Internment in Norway During WW1'.

Report by Sue Turner ►

February, was an Informal Meeting to share ‘*Treasures*’, artefacts and ancestral Stories. The meeting was full of interest. Tales were shared on how anecdotes from family members could help lead to discoveries from anywhere in the world. There were portraits, photographic and artistic, with stories that brought the sitters to life. Some ‘treasures’ were admired, not necessarily of a monetary value, but all with a past to bring to the present. Every item gave rise to a lively discussion which added to the enjoyment of the meeting.

Report by Anne Ross

In **March**, the talk was ‘*My Favourite Ancestor*’ and Sue Turner entertained us with a fascinating journey of the life of Joseph Haresceugh, starting from a photograph of her maternal grandfather, Richard Ellis Holiday, his parents and siblings, to the nefarious happening of Joseph’s son, Joseph Scott Haresceugh.

The research which started in the 1970s (before the Internet began) involved trips to London to look at GRO Indexes and Census records and to Manchester to look at parish records. Her grandfather’s birth certificate showed that his mother was Margaret Haresceugh(?) and required a search for her marriage certificate to confirm the surname. Looking for her baptism revealed instead a Joseph Haresceugh having children in Manchester, who was likely to be related. However Margaret’s father, George, and Joseph were born 100 miles apart, but by looking a census records and then more parish records, it was found that they were brothers.

The other interesting facts that the research revealed was that Joseph moved around the country (for economic reasons) and had many different jobs. He was born in Derbyshire in 1812, baptised in Cumberland in 1821, married in Manchester in 1836 when he was a joiner. He moved to Leeds about 1847 as an infant school master; in 1857 became the first Master of Adel Reformatory, Leeds, married secondly in Manchester in 1866 to his deceased wife’s sister and in 1870 became the Manager of the Night Soil Works in Rochdale. He was the joint author in 1871 of a booklet about the Rochdale Nightsoil system, which included a photograph of ‘The Collection Van at the Corner of George Street’ with two men standing in front of the horse, who were probably the authors. Joseph died in 1883 in Rochdale, but in 1887 the Rochdale newspapers reported ‘Alleged Defalcations by a Rochdale Corporation Official’ naming him as Joseph Haresceugh, a traveller in NightSoil’ which must have been Joseph’s son, Joseph Scott Haresceugh. His accounts were deficient by £600 and he had absconded - the Police Gazette mentioned that he had been seen in Leeds and Selby. Sue tracked him down to Chicago where he bigamously married a Mrs Edith E Barnicle, but his subsequent whereabouts are still unknown.

Report by Sue Turner

Forthcoming Meetings

June 18 Wednesday 7.30pm. Sarah Pettyfer - ‘*Researching in Archives*’. Sarah is a professional family, house and local historian. She is an active member of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA). She holds the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies (IHGS) Higher Certificate and Diploma in Genealogy and is now a tutor for the Higher Certificate course. ►

Drawing on her background as a family law solicitor, Sarah's particular areas of interest are legal records, in particular deeds, Manorial court and Chancery court records. Although no longer practising Sarah remains a member of the Law Society. This talk is aimed at those who are not familiar with local archives and the records they hold. It will provide an introduction to the records which can be found in local archives which can help take your family history research further. The talk concentrates on records which are not yet digitised or available online and will take you through some examples of parish chest records (other than registers of baptisms, burials and marriages) to provide an insight into the type of information to be found.

Sept 17 Wednesday 7.30pm. Stephen Cranstone '*Sidney Sime, Artist and Unwitting Historian*'

WALTON ON THAMES – Hersham Centre for the Community, Queens Road, Hersham Village KT12 5LU. Access is to the rear of the building, and free parking is available adjacent to the centre. A map is available on the Walton on Thames Centre page of WSFHS website. There is good disabled access including parking spaces. Meetings on fourth Tuesday. Doors open 7.30pm for 7.50pm.

Co-ordinator: Lesley Cowing

Email: walton@wsfhs.org

In **January** Antony Barnes gave an interesting talk on '*Hersham*' to the Walton On Thames Branch, the meetings of which are held in a hall in Hersham. Hersham began as a strip of land beside the River Mole. In 1851 Hersham and Walton were divided into the two villages. Hersham Green was left open for the poor of the area. In 1830 Holy Trinity Church was built. This was replaced by St Peter's Church in 1887 built by J L Pearson. In 1842 the Church of England National Village School was built.

William Lily was an English astrologer and one of the first residents in Hersham. He bought a small plot of land, Hurst Wood, there and retired to practice medicine as well. He died in 1681. Frederick Coring Vax was a benefactor who never married and died in 1933. His mother and sisters lived in Claremont Cottage so he decided to move here. He was church warden for St Peters and bequeathed the church bells, a field for recreation called Vauxmead and the village hall.

At one point there were ten pubs in Hersham including the Bricklayers, The Waterman's, The Jolly Waggoners and The Fox and Goat which is where the Ceramics cottage is now. The Bricklayers and Waterman's are still in operation. Queens Road used to be called Common Road but was renamed as Queen Victoria used this road to access Claremont House.

ABC motors was established here in 1912 by Ronald Charteris, the chief designer was Granville Bradshaw. It was absorbed by Vickers in 1951 and closed in 1970. ► Hackbridge & Hewittick was a large manufacturer of electricity transformers many of which

were used in cinemas. There was a slaughter house in the centre of the village but it is unclear when it closed.

In 1968 Hersham and the surrounding area were very badly flooded. In 1980 the Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme was built with a system of sluice gates to prevent this happening again. The bypass was opened in 1977 and the village centre around the Green was designated a Conservation Area in 1989.

Notable residents of Hersham are Roy Green (The History of Hersham on FaceBook), George Greenwood local author and historian who wrote “Hersham in Surrey” in 1986. The Profumo family were also residents.

Anthony brought a large selection of books and leaflets about Hersham including one on Julie Andrews who lived in West Grove Road so everyone was able to browse them at leisure before and after the talk.

Report by Susie Pearce & Lesley Cowing

In **February** Jane Lewis of The Surrey History Centre gave us a talk on Manorial Records. The manor was essentially an administrative unit of a landed estate; they varied greatly in size from a few acres within a single parish to manors covering many square miles and several whole parishes and were predominantly focused on agriculture. The land within a manor was divided into two primary parts: the demesne (pronounced duh·mayn), which was directly controlled and farmed by the lord, and the peasants’ land, which they farmed for their own use.

The manorial system is rooted in 5th Century feudalism, giving the people protection in return for service. There was a gradual shift towards a money-based economy, with peasants increasingly paying rent in cash rather than through labour services. Court Leets (or view of Frankpledge) existed which was a system of law enforcement and policing in which members of society were mutually responsible for the behaviour of their peers. The system included everyone in the community. Ag labs can be found in the records as jurors.

The manorial documents are all about payment, a Herriot is essentially a death tax, it literally meant best beast i.e. the family gave to the lord of the manor the best beast from their stock when taking over the land their father held. Manorial courts regulated the administration of the manor by enforcing local customs and agricultural practices, settling minor disputes and debts and transferring property rights, notably copyhold tenure, (where a tenant's legal title was based on a copy of an entry on the court roll). All tenants of the manor were meant to attend and could be fined for not doing so. The system was formally abolished in 1922, but enclosures had already effectively ended the feudal system. The records can include deeds, wills and marriage settlements and are a vital source for local, social and economic history and for pre-16th century genealogy. ►

Pre 1800 records are not all in Latin, the hand writing can be challenging but not impossible, it is often formulaic, but it is worth the effort, documents can give you family relationships for the times before Parish registers. Archive staff will always help and it will get easier.

Look for transcripts, many have been made. Nottingham University has some good online articles. For archaic legal terms see Jacobs Law Directory (available on the internet archive web site). Search The Manorial Documents Register on the National Archives web site, search by parish not manor. Use your local record office web site.

Report by Susie Pearce

In **March** Chris Green gave us a very interesting talk on the '*Changing face of our High Streets*'. His example was Merstham near Redhill, the village was on the main coach road from London to Brighton, but as he outlined, the changes do reflect our own area.

The village shops were only ever on one side of the High Street and Chris "walked" us along the road giving us a history of each of the properties together with details of past occupiers he has found in census returns, directories etc. There was a coaching inn, The Feathers, which remains as a pub today. The boot repairers is now a house, the butchers became an antique shop and is now a barbers. The Baptist chapel congregation relocated and the building became an antique shop, then a computer shop and is now a tanning parlour. Where the post office once was (it relocated to other premises) became variously a tea shop, a sweet shop, an ironmongers, a party outfit shop and is now a flooring shop. The bakers became a private house. There is a boxing gym occupying premises that was once a grocers/fishmonger. A drapers transitioned through various uses and is now a tattoo parlour. What was a bank is now a pizza place. And so the transition from a high street providing the necessities of life; butchers, bakers, grocers etc has become something quite different.

We all reflected on the changes, old photos of Walton on Thames High Street prompted remembrances of what was there before, McDonald's was a Tesco's and before that a Sainsbury's where butter was still patted into blocks. We have a proliferation of coffee shops, barbers and nail bars but no individual butcher, baker or grocer anymore.

Report by Susie Pearce

Forthcoming Meetings

June 24 An informal meeting with the theme of 'where in the world did you find them'. Have you found ancestors living in unlikely locations around the globe and what records and archives have you used to find them? Bring your research to share with the group, send anything you want displayed on the screen to us beforehand or bring it on your own memory stick.

Sept 23 Sally Gardener – 'Using newspapers in researching family history.' What can you find and how to find it. ►

WOKING – Trinity Church, Brewery Road, Woking. GU21 4LH. Meetings on second Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7.45pm for 7.50pm - Bookstall and information available.

Co-ordinator: Chris Leech

Email: woking@wsfhs.org

Our speaker in **January** was Julian Pooley from Surrey History Centre who gave a very helpful talk on '*Discovering the lives and experiences of our ancestors*'. It is surprising the number of records that are available to give more than just the basic facts of dates and events. An example given was that on Wednesday 16th October 1822 at St George Church, Esher, John Bristow was buried and contemporary illustrations of the church were shown. It was a wet day according to the Meteorological tables in the Gentlemen's Magazine. The Parish Accounts book shows the cost of the funeral. Poor Law Settlements and Accounts records cover a large amount of documents including letters about the family. The Bristow family is included in the Shere records. Sometimes there is information in Parish registers beyond the basic information required. The Bisley records for 1918 have summarised histories of people recorded in the margin and Wallace Laverty, the minister from Headley in Hampshire, wrote many notebooks with potted biographies of his parishioners. The Court of Quarter Sessions records are another good source of information including for petty crimes, Charities, plans etc and Findmypast has a database of over 54,000 names from the Quarter Sessions from 1780 to 1920s. Other records that can help to widen our knowledge of our ancestors' lives and experience include Mental Hospitals and other Institutions, school records, maps, and letters or diaries that may have survived within the family or been held at local Record Offices.

'*The Rise of Non-Conformity*' was the subject of the interesting talk by Sally Gardiner in **February**. A non-conformist is a member of the Protestant church who dissents from the established Anglican church, prior to 1662 known as a dissenter. The established church prior to 1533 was Catholic. The rise of non-conformity started in the 14th century with John Wycliffe (1328 – 1384) possibly the first dissenter who inspired the Lollards. In 1534 the Act of Supremacy made the monarch the head of the Church of England. Those in public office had to swear allegiance to the monarch and the established church. In the period 1533 – 1558 there was huge religious upheaval. By 1604 three hundred Puritan ministers had been ejected and in the 17th century more denominations like the Baptists and Quakers started. The 1689 Toleration Act allowed non-conformists to worship openly and erect chapels and by 1715 there were thousands of meeting houses registered and 400,000 dissenters. In 1851 the population was 17,927,609 and church goers 7,261,038 according to a religious census. The GRO collected non-conformist registers in 1837 and 1857 and these are available online with The Genealogist. TNA also has records in RG 4/5/6/8.



We had a fascinating **March** meeting when Richard Marks gave his talk about the role of '*The Royal Navy in WW2*'. His well researched talk was illustrated with photographs of the many different classes of ship used during the war and gave an insight into what it was like to serve on them. Sailors and officers could be posted to any ship with the exception of submariners who were always volunteers for their difficult working conditions. During the war sailors just had 'HMS' on their caps without the name of their ship. The Navy supported the Army in landings and on D Day surgical and medical services were provided near the beach by the Navy. All large ships had doctors, surgeons and operating theatres on board. HMS Belfast fired the first shot in the D Day landings and that is partly why it has been preserved.

Report by Chris Leech

Forthcoming Meetings

June 12 Dr Geoffrey Mead – '*The South at Work*' This talk looks at various aspects of employment and trades, both historic and contemporary, across the South of England. This talk aims to give a structure to a somewhat complicated economic history where historic iron, timber and fishing trades are seen alongside defence industries, seaside resorts and air travel.

Sept 27 **AGM Saturday at 2.00 pm** - Nick Barratt '*The Forgotten Spy: the secret life of Ernest Oldham*'

Zoom Meetings on the Internet

To join our Zoom meetings you will need to register for the talk in the members' area of WSFHS website. If you do not have a password apply to the webmaster. There are different days and times for the talks. 'Doors' open 30 mins before the talk. The meeting starts 10 mins before the hour.

Co-ordinator: Jane Thomas

Email: secretary@wsfhs.org

If you know of a speaker who you think will interest our audience, please let Jane know. Thanks to Zoom they need not be local and even could be international. We seem to have fallen into only evening meetings but we could do afternoon or morning sometimes.

Jane cannot continue to plan, run nor write up Zoom meetings The process can be broken down to at least three actions. These can be done by one or a team of people anywhere in the world. Planning is in place until October with some more pencilled in.

In **January** Chris Green gave a well-illustrated talk about the '*London Bridges from Hampton to Tower Bridge*'. He talked about styles of bridges and focussed on five main bridges with a brief mention of a trio of bridges in proximity Most bridges have been replaced at least once ►

due to changes in tidal river flow and advances in transport design – larger and heavier vehicles on land and water. The first bridge in London which had stone piers was London bridge built in 1209. By the mid 18th century it took over an hour to cross, as the road was only 12 feet wide, with wooden buildings (shops and overhanging accommodation). So, in 1750 Westminster bridge was opened. By the early 19th century the old bridge fell out of use. John Rennie designed a bridge, built entirely of stone. This was opened in 1812. London Bridge railway station opened in 1836, bringing city workers who crowded the pavements. The bridge started sinking. In 120 years, it was showing its age. The stone bridge was sold, dismantled, and re-erected in Arizona. The new concrete one with practical wide heated pavements to avoid ice was opened in 1973 at a cost of £4.5 million.

Upstream, the first Hungerford Bridge, a pedestrian one built by Brunel, opened 1845. It looked very like Clifton Suspension bridge with brick towers. This served a large indoor market beside Hungerford Hall. Fire destroyed both the hall and market in 1854. SE Railway extended their line to build their London Terminus Charing Cross, over the river, and Brunel's bridge was demolished (the chains were used in Clifton) to be replaced with a metal girder bridge with narrow walkways. Later one was removed and rail bridge widened. The narrow walkway was replaced with twin bridges attached to the railway supports to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Way upstream, by the 18th century, Richmond bridge was opened in 1777 to replace the ferry. Like most Thames bridges this was a toll bridge. This is an elegant stone arch bridge. It is still the original 18th century structure. Battersea bridge, built in 1771, was originally wooden, so needed continuing maintenance. Battersea, Albert (a cable-stayed bridge), and Chelsea, a suspension bridge are very close together. Chelsea needed a bridge, mainly as Chelsea Barracks were close. Opened in 1858 it was originally called Victoria Bridge. In 1937 a wider self-anchored suspension bridge was built. Albert Bridge between them, was opened in 1873. The metropolitan Board of Works took over both bridges in 1879 and Battersea was replaced with a five span arch bridge with cast-iron girders and granite piers. Albert Bridge, which still has its toll booths, was unable to cope with motor traffic weight. In the 1970s more support was added but it still has a weight limit.

At the end of the 18th century plans were drawn up for a bridge to meet the end of the Strand. Strand Bridge's design was to match Somerset House on the north bank. It was opened by the Prince Regent and The Duke of Wellington in 1817 and its name was changed to Waterloo Bridge. It was so beautiful that many tourists came to see it. The mechanical turnstiles were another tourist attraction. When the old London Bridge was replaced, the faster flow damaged the piers so by the 1930s it had to be renovated or replaced. The LCC voted to demolish it. The new bridge was built of the new pre-stressed concrete. As it was constructed in WWII, many of the work force were women. By the late 19th century, the deep navigable part of the river needed to have links between the populous East End and the southern bank. After many weird designs a bascule opening bridge was chosen. The towers were built to enable ships to continue to move between them. It took eight years to build at a cost of £1.2 million. The Prince of Wales opened Tower Bridge in 1894. In 1895 the road was lifted 6,000 times. One day, in ►

1910, a record breaking 64 openings were noted. By 2005 it only opened 100 times. Since 1854 plans for a bridge opposite St Paul's Cathedral had been mooted. It was only when Bankside A, a coal fired power station was decommissioned and the Tate Art Museum utilised the building for their expansion, that the idea was resurrected. The Millennium pedestrian bridge designed by Norman Foster was opened May 2000. It was very popular but when many people were in step it swayed; it had to be strengthened and was reopened on February 2002. The recording of the talk was available in the members' area on the website for seven days.

Our **February** talk was '*Using AI In Family History*' with Andrew Redfern. This is longer than normal but detail is important here. Andrew introduced us to AI terms and how we could use it. What is artificial intelligence? AI has become a catchall term for applications that perform complex tasks that once required human input. Now often used interchangeably with machine learning and deep learning. Generative AI describes algorithms (such as ChatGPT) that can be used to create new content, including audio, code, images, text, simulations, and videos. CHATGPT: G – Generative, P - Pre-Trained and T – Transformative. A free account can be found at: chat.openai.com Some other AI tools are deepseek, perplexity, midjourney, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Claude, Transkribus and Apple Intelligence.

Laura Clark Murray pondered "How can we use a tool that we can't believe?" Answer: by constraining it to work only with material we know to be true and explicitly telling it what we want it to do with that material.

Andrew said "Humans lead, AI supports. It is the interaction between humans and the AI tools that make a difference. Anyone can chat with a bot but the true power is in refining what to say, how to say it, critically analysing output and reiterating details in a dance of manipulation."

He gave us Principles of Using AI

1. Generate Options, Not Answers
2. Think Small, Iterate Often
3. Craft Prompts, Constrain Content
4. Use Verbs, Shape Responses
5. Transform Information, Reuse Output
6. Edit Carefully, Check Thoroughly
7. Stay Transparent, Act Ethically

He demonstrated this with prompts to produce a biography using only a little information, copying in info from research to improve it, or describing a given image, transcribing text from an uploaded image and correcting a transcription and identifying any corrections. This was using an ancestor who had mentions on the web in the public domain and was then refined with Andrew's "true" knowledge. ►

A useful tool is <https://transkribus.ai/>, which can transcribe and translate documents, whether handwritten or typed.

Helpful URLs:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogyandai>,

<https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/getting-started-with-ai-infamily-history/>

<https://familytreewebinars.com/speaker/andrewredfern>

Examples for use of a FREE ChatGPT account: you can write a biography using research you have collated about an ancestor, create a table of some information relating to a group of ancestors e.g. Birth dates, locations, etc, create a timeline of an ancestor from a passage you have written about your ancestor and extract data from a newspaper article such as names, places & relationships. Enjoy exploring and controlling AI. The handout and recording of the talk were available in the members' area on the website for seven days.

In **March**, Phil Isherwood introduced us to '*Free Antiquarian Resources on the Internet*'. There are thousands of antiquarian (i.e. copyright expired) books on websites that are available for us to use. Many are relevant to aspects of our Family History Research. They range from things like Burkes Peerage and Visitations of the Heralds (for the good and the great!), through directories and guides, to occupation and education lists; not to mention MIs, church, court and council records.

There are four sites:

Google Books: <https://books.google.com>

Hathi Trust: <https://www.hathitrust.org>

Internet Archive: <https://archive.org>

FamilySearch Digital Library: <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books>

They all have slightly different ways of working but all enable you to search for titles and for text and to copy and download. Phil suggests you download the relevant Victoria County Histories. He produced a handout with many titles of useful volume. The handout and recording of the talk were available in the members' area on the website for seven days.

Reports by Jane Thomas

Forthcoming Meetings

June 5 Thursday 7.30 pm for 7.50 pm. Chris Hewis – '*Wedding Customs and Nursery Rhymes*'. Have you ever considered the origin of some of our ancient customs? This talk tries to explain, in a light-hearted way, how some of these originated. ►

Sept 2 Tuesday 7.30 pm for 7.50 pm. Dr Colin Chapman – ‘Migration’ Dr Chapman has first-hand working experience of migration in North and South America, Africa, India, Japan, China, Australasia and across Europe. He began family history research at the age of seven, has been closely involved with many FHSs as well as SOG and FHF. The movement of ancestors from place to place is one of the most fascinating yet challenging aspects of genealogical research. Colin will explain some reasons for migration and methods used by individuals, families and communities. He will recommend online and tangible sources of migration records.

If you have questions regarding any Zoom Meetings please contact Jane Thomas by email, zoom@wsfhs.org. ■

REMINDERS

- **Please put the following two dates in your diary**
Saturday 27th September afternoon - Society AGM
Saturday 8 November – Surrey Family History Fair
- **You are my reporters for the September issue. Please send in any photographs or articles relating to either the VE or VJ day celebrations this year or in 1945**
- **Would you like to help run the Society or change the way it operates? Please look at the centrefold on how to become a member of the executive committee or how to make a proposal at the AGM**
- **The Society urgently needs help in booking speakers for meetings. Could you help?**
- **Root and Branch is dependent on a ready supply of articles submitted by our readers on any aspect of family history. As family historians you must have at least one good story to tell!**
- **Can you spare some time on the 7th/8th November to help out at the Surrey History Fair. Please see page 14 for details**

Future Meetings of the Society

Please refer to ‘Zoom and Centre Talks, Reviews and Schedule’ on the preceding pages for previews of the following meetings and for the location of each Centre along with times of the meetings and the names and telephone numbers of the Centre Co-ordinators. **The times given below are door opening times.**

Please check the WSFHS website for any changes.

June

Thursday 5	7.30 pm	Zoom	Chris Hewis	Wedding Customs and Nursery Rhymes
Thursday 12	7.45 pm	Woking	Dr Geoffrey Mead	The South at Work
Wednesday 18	7.00 pm	Camberley	Sarah Pettyfer	Researching in Archives
Tuesday 24	7.30 pm	Walton on Thames	Informal Meeting	Where in the world did you find them?

September

Tuesday 2	7.30 pm	Zoom	Dr Colin Chapman	Migration
Wednesday 17	7.00 pm	Camberley	Stephen Cranstone	Sidney Sime “Artist and Unwitting Historian”
Tuesday 23	7.30 pm	Walton on Thames	Sally Gardener	Using newspapers in researching family history
Saturday 27	2.00 pm	AGM at Woking	Dr Nick Barratt	The Forgotten Spy: the secret life of Ernest Oldham

SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

The following are details of the services available to Members. The Members Area of the website provides exclusive access for members to the Surrey Monumental Inscriptions Index, electronic copies of Root and Branch, electronic copies of Exchange Magazines from other Societies, copies of AGM minutes, the constitution and other important documents.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Free Search Service. Over 140,000 names recorded. The index is on-line in the Members Area of the Society website

ELECTRONIC COPIES OF ROOT AND BRANCH

The current issue of Root and Branch is available electronically in the Members Areas of the website. Past copies are also available and more are being added.

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE JOURNALS

The Society exchanges journals with other Societies and Organisations. They are available in the Members Area of the website.

HELP REGISTER and HELP FOR MEMBERS

Contact for members requiring help and members who can assist by looking up specific enquiries in their local Record Office, library or other information service

REFERENCE LIBRARY

Free access to information from the books and some other resources. For list of items see website

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

Journals from other family history societies are available to view online.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Interests, Forms, Updates and Enquiries. A free service to enable contact with other WSFHS members researching the same surnames in all parts of the world (not only Surrey). List of names in members' area of website.

ONLINE INDEX TO GENEALOGICAL DATABASES

This is an extensive reference guide.

SURREY INDEX OF NAMES [SINDEX]

An online index to Surrey names from a variety of sources. Available on Society's website.

RECIPROCAL BENEFITS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Events and visits and information available through local organisations.

