



West Surrey Family History Society

ROOT and BRANCH



June 2026

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WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN - Ms Sue Turner

Email: chair@wsfhs.org

SECRETARY - Mrs Jane Thomas

Email: secretary@wsfhs.org

TREASURER & BOOKSTALL OFFICER - Miss Jean Follett

Email: treasurer@wsfhs.org or bookstall@wsfhs.org as appropriate

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Miss Anne Ross

Email: membership@wsfhs.org

5 Blaise Close, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7EW

JOURNAL EDITOR - Dr Richard Weatherhead

Email: editorial@wsfhs.org

1 Cabbell Place, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2XF

WEBMASTER - Ms Sue Turner.

Email: webmaster@wsfhs.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Miss Jean Follett

Mrs Chris Leech

Miss Anne Ross

Mrs Maura Sellars

Mrs Jane Thomas

Ms Sue Turner

Dr Richard Weatherhead

Mrs Anne Welch

CENTRE CO-ORDINATORS

CAMBERLEY Sue Turner

Email: camberley@wsfhs.org

WALTON-ON-THAMES

Lesley Cowing Email: walton@wsfhs.org

WOKING Chris Leech

Email: woking@wsfhs.org

ZOOM Jane Thomas

Email: secretary@wsfhs.org

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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WSFHS Information

Website: www.wsfhs.co.uk

Find us on  <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestSurreyFHS>

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

We would like to remind you that the **NEW** subscription rates for 2026/2027 become due on **1 April 2026**. Payment as soon as possible after this date would be gratefully appreciated.

Annual Subscription Rates

Electronic Copy of Root and Branch only

£13.00 Full and Overseas Membership,

£12.00 Senior Membership

Paper copies of Root and Branch including postage

£18.00 Ordinary and Family

£17.00 Senior Membership

£21.00 Overseas Membership

Payment Methods

1. Bank Payment by Internet or Telephone

Sort code: 20-61-82 Account number: 60940577

Reference: your 4 digit WSFHS membership number followed by your surname

2. Debit/Credit Card at GenFair: <https://genfair.co.uk/>

On the home page, please click Suppliers (top left), then scroll down to West Surrey Family History Society and go to Membership Subscriptions

(There is an additional 50p administration charge on UK Membership only):

Please quote your **name** and **membership number**.

3. Standing Order (see website for form)

4. Cheque by post addressed to the membership secretary enclosing a renewal form downloadable from website

Overseas members are recommended to use the GenFair website for payment. ►

WSFHS Information [continued]:

Society Correspondence

General correspondence should be sent to the Secretary at secretary@wsfhs.org

Membership enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary whose address details are given on the inside front cover of this magazine.

All genealogical enquiries and queries should be addressed to the Editor using the contact details shown on the inside front cover. 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 either by email to editorial@wsfhs.org or by post 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.

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NEXT ISSUE - The next issue of *Root and Branch* is planned for the beginning of September 2026. Deadline for receipt of material for that issue is 30th June 2026. Articles for *Root and Branch* should be sent to editorial@wsfhs.org



WSFHS PUBLICATIONS

by Alison Durkin

Featured Publication:

CD41 – Some Surrey Monumental Inscriptions

This CD is now also available as a **download from GenFair** and contains scans of the WSFHS Monumental Inscription Microfiche Series MS-MI1-13. It also includes surname lists from six additional parishes which were extracted from listings made in the 1880s/1890s and the 1930s.

A recent talk reminded me of how useful and interesting Monumental Inscriptions can be which prompted me to look at what WSFHS publications are available.

The information included on this CD has been taken from both inside the church and the grounds outside. Those MIs found inside are often much larger and contain more genealogical information such as the Poulton family vault in Byfleet which has information for the 9 people interred there. Some parishes have a plan of the cemetery along with the positions of the graves.

The majority of the gravestones give names, dates of death and age but others contain far more detail about the relationships between those that are buried such as second son or youngest daughter. Others give details of where a death occurred; for example, Arthur Bonsey of Brox Pottery, Chertsey, drowned when two steamers collided near Woolwich on 3rd September 1878, he was aged 39.

Many of these MIs were recorded in the 1970s, some of which may now be unreadable due to erosion. So, if you have been to one of these cemeteries and not been able to read the inscription, this CD may have the information you are missing.

Don't forget to look at the Surrey Index of Names which can be found in the Members Area of the WSFHS website. This has almost 4 million names and includes around 150,000 MIs.

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 can be found on the WSFHS website. Please make cheques payable to WSFHS and send to WSFHS Bookstall, c/o 42 Selwood Road, Old Woking, Surrey GU22 9HT. WSFHS publications may also be purchased through GenFair, <<https://genfair.co.uk>>, using a secure Credit or Debit Card transaction facility.

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



Editorial

by Richard Weatherhead



I hope you made good use of the winter days working on your family history projects and are looking forward to putting them aside as gardening and summer holidays beckon. However before you do, have you made any interesting discoveries or found family surprises? Please write and tell me about them? I would also like some advice from our seasoned family history researchers. For some time, I have been using hints generated from websites such as Ancestry and Family Search. The result of using these has meant that my own family tree has grown so broad and family connections so remote that I am failing to recognise the names and relationships of new hints whilst not making any progress in deepening the family tree to find earlier generations. Do you have any rules governing the shape of your family tree?

I am very pleased to see how many of our members have submitted new names to our Members' Interests database. The purpose of this database is to allow members to share common interests in any given name. Since we relaunched the service six months ago over six hundred new names have been added. If you have not done so, please take advantage of the opportunity to submit your family surnames and locations to the list and perhaps you may be able to break down some brick walls of your own. For details of the latest added names and how to submit yours, please see p16.

The Society's treasurer and bookstall manager Jean Follett after twenty years in the post has decided to retire though she intends to remain a trustee. I hope all members will join me in thanking her for her contribution to the work of the Society. For the Society to continue we need to find someone with basic book-keeping skills to take over the treasurer's role as we cannot function without someone fulfilling this role. We are also looking for a group of members to transport and present the Society's bookstall at external functions.

The centrefold contains the timetable for the AGM to be held on the 24th October. Before this Dave Annal will give a talk entitled "The Enumerator Strikes Back". In addition, this is your opportunity to put forward proposals to influence the way that the Society is organised or to suggest new activities, and to make change happen by standing for election to be a member of the executive committee.

In this issue, Valerie Patrick reflects on life a hundred years ago in Surrey and highlights how things have changed. David Rose investigates the life of a local family from a series of photographs that was found in a second hand shop. Julian Pooley gives us the latest news from the Surrey History Centre and provides details of the latest acquisitions. Jenny Mukerji describes the lives and times of two local residents who are buried in Green Lane Cemetery in Farnham, Mat(t)hew Henry Harris (1877-1941) and Frank Hale (1886-1954) and of their families. Tony Kelly continues to challenge your knowledge of the County in his quiz "How Well do you Know Surrey" and Cliff Webb completes his latest series on the PCC wills of Dorking. If you are interested in any parishes of west Surrey that we have not yet covered please let me know and I will include them in future issues. We also remind ourselves of when we had banks in most of our towns!

The final pages of this magazine contain reports of all of the interesting and varied talks given at Society meetings over the last quarter. The last page contains details of forthcoming talks. Why not come and join us? ■

Letter from the Trustees

Thank you for renewing your subscription to WSFHS and welcome to a new volume of Root and Branch. The success of the Society over the years has been down to the dedication and hard work of volunteers. However, we are always wanting more people to keep the Society moving forward. Currently the burden on those who volunteer is more onerous, with too few volunteers but too many tasks. If the Society is to **survive** and grow we need your help!

In this context our Treasurer, Jean Follett, after serving us in that essential role for many years has announced that she will be retiring later this year. We are, therefore, looking for a volunteer to take over this role, preferably someone with basic book-keeping experience. If you or someone you know is interested in this please contact us at secretary@wsfhs.org. We cannot emphasise enough how **vital** this is for our future. We are also looking for someone, or a team of someones, to take on the Society Bookstall visiting a number of family history fairs including our own at Woking Leisure Centre in November.

We do encourage you, if you are able, to get to one of our in person Centre meetings which are held monthly apart from July, August and December (except Woking who do have a December meeting). Walton on Thames and Woking meetings are held in the evening but Camberley now hold theirs on a Saturday afternoon, hopefully making them more easily accessible to a wider group of members. They are also open to non-members, so you can bring your family, friends and neighbours. In addition to hearing a good talk there is always the possibility of asking questions formally or informally about family history issues you may have. Our informal meetings allow the members to contribute something of their research to others who are interested. Even if you cannot get to a Centre meeting every member can potentially attend a monthly Zoom talk either live or via a recording, normally available for 7 days after the talk unless the speaker has asked for the talk not to be recorded. To register for a Zoom talk you need to go to the Members' Area of our website and enter your password. If you cannot remember your password email webmaster@wsfhs.org and you will be sent a new password.

As you will be aware this year marks 100 years since Queen Elizabeth 2 was born. As family historians we are able to 'see' and 'hear' what life was like 100 years ago because there was photography and radio. Local newspapers also give us a glimpse into the life and times of our forebears. In 1926 only 18% of houses had electricity and many had no indoor plumbing. Hats were worn by all and men's tended to denote status as the class system was very evident. Cars were for the wealthy. Public transport was more plentiful. During the snow at the beginning of the year buses with pneumatic tyres were mostly able to cope. Solid tyres were wrapped in rope to give them traction. Is there any record of how your family coped in the General Strike? Perhaps reading 'Winnie the Pooh' by A. A. Milne would have helped! Enjoy the detective work needed to get a rounded picture of life at any given time. Happy hunting!

The Trustees ■

How well do you know Surrey?

by Tony Kelly



Questions for June

- 1) Who what or where was/is York Town?
- 2) Who what or where was/is Cambridgetown ?

Answers to March questions

Q. When was the first great fire of London?

A) 10th July 1212

It began in Southwark, spread along London Bridge and went on to destroy much of The City. Weather conditions did not help, as it was a long hot and dry summer, with strong gusts from the south, carrying embers northwards, the City was already burning by the time London Bridge was consumed. Often compared to the 1666 great fire, the 1212 blaze was far more devastating in terms of lives lost.

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Great-Fire-of-London-1212/>

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

<https://southwarknews.co.uk/history/in-depth-history/8219-2/>

<https://www.spookyisles.com/great-fire-of-southwark-1212/>

Q. Born in Exeter in 1866, by what name was Fredrick Westcott better known.? He owned the "Fun Factory" in Camberwell.

A) Fred Karno

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

<http://www.knowledgeoflondon.com/karno.html>

<https://www.layersoflondon.org/map/records/fred-karno-fun-factory-28-vaughan-road-1896-1918>

<https://conormasterson.co.uk/blog/view/what-is-the-funfactory>



Call for Volunteers

It is essential that some of these roles are filled if the Society is to have a future:

Treasurer*

A person with basic book-keeping skills is required to take over responsibility for the accounts and day to day financial dealings

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 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.

Bookstall Managers*

A group of members is required to manage the bookstall and take it to family history fairs in the region.

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.

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 contact Jane Thomas secretary@wsfhs.org for further details .



Diary of Events around the UK

by Jane Thomas



Apart from Guild Of One Name Studies virtual weekly meetings (below), there are a few activities in June, one in July but none in August.

3 June: 11:59 pm BST - GOONS Virtual The Helpful pub (every Wednesday)

4 June: 7.00 p.m. BST - GOONS Virtual Study Buddies for Genealogy (every Thursday)

5 June: 7:00 pm BST - GOONS Virtual Pub Crawl Now Every Friday

Free to all a wide-ranging chats and occasionally a talk and a helpful evening. These are weekly occurrences but is only listed here once. ALL now have the same link. <https://one-name.org/events>

13 June: GOONS: Seminar, "Hops, Pubs and People" 9.30am for 10.00am - 5.00pm at Fradley Village Hall, Church Lane, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 8NL
<https://one-name.org/seminar-events/>

27 June: Wiltshire FHS: Family History Day, 10.00am - 3.00pm at Bromham Community Hub, New Rd, Bromham SN15 2JB Café and free parking:
<https://wiltshirefhs.co.uk/images/wfhs/NewsJPGs/2026-06-27WFHSOpenDay.pdf>

27 June: Families In British India Society Open Meeting and AGM 10:00am - 3.00pm at Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ. Free entry. 3 talks
<https://www.fibis.org/event/open-meeting-and-agm/>

4 July: Huddersfield & District FHS Exhibition at Colne Valley Museum from 12:00 weekly on Saturday afternoons till August 2 at 4:00 pm 'What did your Ancestors do? Occupations of the Past'
[https://hdfhs.org.uk/event/exhibition-at-colne-valley-museum/13th September](https://hdfhs.org.uk/event/exhibition-at-colne-valley-museum/13th%20September)

Dates to note

24 October: WSFHS AGM at St Peter's Church, Hersham. Doors open 1.30 Talk 2.00pm Dave Annal - "The enumerator strikes back" followed by the AGM. **The WSFHS bookstall will be there.**

3 October: Family History Show. Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd E, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5AQ, 10.00am – 4.00pm <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>
The WSFHS bookstall will be there.



7 November: Surrey Family History Fair at Woking Leisure Centre. Organised by our Society. **The WSFHS bookstall will be there.**

The Family History Federation has a list of events run by other Family History Societies, mainly branch meetings but there are some online events.
<https://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/news-and-events>

Details of other Open Days and special subject meetings: - new layout showing many Family History Societies: <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. ■

Surrey Banking

Every quarter it seems, one or other of the major banks announces a closure of a bank branch in Surrey. Recent examples are Santander's closures of its Woking and Farnham branches and Godalming's loss of its Lloyds and Nat West branches though a banking hub is proposed for the latter.

Until the Bank Charter's Act of 1844 phased out the right of small banks to issue currency Surrey's towns boasted their own banknotes. As examples: West Surrey Bank which had branches in Guildford, Aldershot, Chertsey, Egham, Epsom, Farnham and Godalming; Guildford banks operated by Haydon and Smallpeice and by Sparkes and French; Farnham banks operated by Smith & Co, Stevens & Co. and Knight & Co.; Kingston on Thames Bank; Reigate Bank and the Croydon and Dorking Bank.

This article was inspired by Cliff Webb sending me a photograph of a bank note of the short-lived Godley Bank at Chertsey. Shown on front cover. He writes:

"Readers may be interested to know that briefly Chertsey had not only its own bank, but its own banknote (see illustration on front page). Named after the ancient Hundred in which Chertsey was located, it was founded by Henry Thomas Willats about 1833. It ceased trading when he died two years later."

On the back cover are examples of notes issued by other Surrey towns Top right a Farnham £5 bank note issued by James Knight & Sons; top left a "Darking Bank" £1 note; bottom left a Reigate and Darking Bank £5 note and bottom right a two pence note from the Farnham New Bank.

I have learned much from briefly reviewing this subject and I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has more detailed knowledge of this specialist area with a view to expanding the article or indeed when Darking refined its name!

(photographs courtesy of Cliff Webb, the British Museum and Pam West) ■

News from Surrey Heritage

By Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre



I am delighted to report that we have now appointed a new Librarian to oversee the 40,000 or so books, journals, pamphlets and illustrations relating to the history of Surrey and its people that we hold at Surrey History Centre. Eric McAdams joined us on 14 April and will also be part of our search room public services team, so will become a familiar face for visitors to our search room. I have also now been given clearance to recruit two new Heritage Assistants to join our team, so look forward to introducing them to you in my next report.

Recent Accessions

Highlights of our recent new accessions are listed below. Items marked in bold have been purchased for us by **Surrey History Trust**, and I would like to express my thanks to members of the Trust for their invaluable support. The Trust acts as our 'Friends' organisation, raising funds through membership subscriptions and events that we can draw upon to support our work. As we no longer have a budget for purchasing historic documents when they come up for sale, we rely very much on the Trust when we seek to rescue, preserve and make accessible Surrey materials that appear at auction, on ebay or in a bookseller's catalogue. If you are not already a member of Surrey History Trust, please look at their page on our website Surrey History Trust - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk) to see the full range of support they are able to provide and to follow a link to their membership page. It costs £15.00 a year to belong, and every membership fee goes to support our work.

10812

Lt Caryl Ames Perry (1911-1943), 1/6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: letters, 1942-1943

10814

Thames Valley Morris Men, Claygate: records, comprising log books, 1952-1988; record books of founder member, Jim Brooks, 1952-1993; newsletters, 1974-1989; memoirs of founder member, Cyril Douglas Smith of Claygate, 1987; and guide to TVMM traditions and uniform, [1990s]

10816

Papers of Margaret Mary Davies (later Duke), nurse at Netherne Hospital, Coulsdon: 1920s-1930s, including photographs of nursing staff, and poems written for her by a patient, 1936

10817

Wonersh United Reformed Church: records comprising church and elders' meeting minutes, Sunday School register and baptism register, 1947-2025

10818

Collected deeds and papers, including relating to Bramble Walk, Epsom Common; the Plough and Harrow public house, East Street, Epsom; Fredley Manor and Juniper Hall, Mickleham. Also USB of articles on Epsom etc (1797)-late 20th cent

10819

First World War scrapbook compiled by Mrs Edith Mary Cawston of Leigh Court, Cobham c.1914-1919

10815

Dorothy Fox (1882-1968) of Frimley Park: juvenile handwritten magazine, 'The Scrutinizer' 1892-1897

10820

Godalming Footpaths Preservation Society, later West Surrey Society: minutes 1889-1912

10821

Close called Little Inhams, Chobham: deed, 1610

10822

Deeds relating to various properties and land in Surrey, collected by antiquarian Horace Crawshay Frost (1897-1964) of Goldhanger, Essex, 1722-1902

10824

C Company, 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey): group photograph Dec 1918

10825

St John the Evangelist, North Holmwood: additional parish records, including Parochial Church Council minutes, 1981-2013; PCC annual accounts, 1936-2011; and publications, 1990s-2011

10826

Brookwood Asylum, later Brookwood Hospital, Woking: design drawings for chapel, [1863]; and plans of 1872 extension, 1899 extension (female block, nurses' block and new chapel), and Female 8 Ward, 1907

10827

Collected records relating to The Lady Peek Institute, Cranleigh, 1884-1906; Cranleigh Bowling Club, 1914-1957; and dedication of new ambulance, Cranleigh, 1935

10829

Lewis Carroll Collection of Edward Wakeling, including photographs, letters, published works of the Rev CL Dodgson and others; text of talks, and digital research materials of Edward Wakeling. Detailed on spreadsheet, c.1857-2017

10830

Heath Hall Estate, Thursley, and Lea Park Estate, Witley: additional papers of the Knowles family, including accounts ledger, rent books, correspondence and plans late 17th cent-20th cent

10831

Henrietta Roberts, nee Grout (1871-1964), schoolteacher of Chobham: collected papers and photographs 1880s-1920s

10832

Grayswood: Roll of Honour of those who served in the First World War 1914-1918

10833

Arthur Tapp (b.1858) of Horley, churchwarden and president of Horley Cottage Hospital: diaries, 1913-1919, including photographs, press cuttings, notes and quotations; and diaries/accounts of his travels abroad, 1882-c.1894

10834

Surrey Ladies Garden Club: papers relating to Club activities including annual novelty vegetable show and related short talks, 1936-1937

10835

Barron family of East Molesey: papers and photographs, including relating to George Barron (c.1865-1927), Molesey fireman 19th cent-20th cent

C98ret2

File re alleged warnings of police speed traps given to motorists by Automobile Association patrolmen, including correspondence with Association (ref: CC98/3/41) 1908

CC1308

St Mary's C of E Infant School, Shackleford: records, including log book, admission register and photograph albums, 1965-2025

Forthcoming Events

At Home in History – reflections on writing the history of domestic life. A talk by Jane Hamlett, Professor of Modern British History at Royal Holloway College, University of London

Wednesday 10 June, 5.30pm to 6.45pm on Zoom

The homes we live in have a powerful influence – shaping our behaviour, relationships and values. In this talk Professor Jane Hamlett will explore how the home has become an important category for understanding the past, drawing on her own research on the domestic lives of women, men, children and animals in 19th-century Britain. We will explore the homes of the rich and poor and the many people who lived in institutional spaces in this era including Surrey's Royal Holloway College, the Holloway Sanatorium and Brookwood County Asylum. House history is now increasingly popular with our customers at Surrey History Centre and reflecting on this growing interest, Jane will ask 'What can histories of home tell us, and why are they important today'?

Tickets: £6.

Please book a place at www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

Once payment has been received you will be sent the Zoom joining information shortly, or next working day if booked in the evening/weekend.

Subtitles included. A recording will be sent the following day for you to download and keep.

Surrey WW2 Bomb Map Launch

Saturday 13 June, 10.30am to 4.15pm at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

Did you know Surrey experienced over 3,000 bombing incidents and 275 aircraft crashes in World War Two?

Join us for the launch of the Surrey World War Two Bomb Map — a unique chance to uncover the stories behind the explosions that shaped our county. Explore a live interactive bomb map, discover archive material in our exhibition, and enjoy an expert talk revealing how these events affected local communities. Step back in time. See Surrey's wartime history come to life.

Doors open at 10:30am, with a talk from 11:00am to 12:00pm. After the talk, the remaining time is yours to explore the map and view the exhibition at your leisure.

Tickets: free, booking essential

Please book a place at www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

Behind the Scenes Tour at Surrey History Centre

Wednesday 17 June, 2pm to 3.30pm at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

Join us for a behind the scenes tour of Surrey History Centre.

Explore the foyer artworks The Surrey Tapestry and Surrey in Glass, created with support from the Arts Lottery Fund. Journey through six miles of strongroom shelving and

discover how we preserve over 900 years of Surrey's written history. Visit the specialist paper conservation studio and see the work of our archive conservator whilst learning how we're working to make Surrey's archives accessible and relevant to all.

We will also stop by the archaeology finds room to watch volunteers processing discoveries, and enjoy a glimpse of treasures from our collections in the search room at the end of the tour.

Tickets: £10.

Please book a place at www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

Spaces are limited to 12 so early booking advised.

The tour will involve periods of standing. If you require a chair in any of the rooms, please make a note of this when booking so we can accommodate your request. Surrey History Centre is fully wheelchair accessible.

Woking in Wells' Time (1895-1896)

Free display in the foyer at Surrey History Centre marking the 160th anniversary of H. G. Wells' birth and the 80th anniversary of his death

Tuesday 4th August to Thursday 27th August during normal opening times.

Combining the rich resources of Surrey History Centre and The Lightbox, this display provides a fascinating glimpse of what Woking would have been like during the time H. G. Wells lived here.

The History of Surrey's Mental Hospitals

A talk by Julian Pooley at The Horton Arts Centre, Epsom

Saturday 5 September, 12 noon

This talk traces the history of mental health care in Surrey from the 18th century to the late 20th century. Drawing upon the records of the county's earliest private asylums; county institutions at Springfield, Brookwood, and Netherne; charitable foundations such as Royal Earlswood and Holloway Sanatorium; and the 'Epsom Cluster' of Horton, Long Grove, The Manor, St Ebba's, and West Park hospitals. Through the talk, he will present medical records to uncover the hidden stories of patients and the care regime they experienced, alongside photographs and other records rescued when these vast hospitals closed to explore daily life in psychiatric institutions over the course of three centuries.

This fascinating talk will appeal not only in people interested on the history of mental health care, but also local history and their own family histories.

To book a place go to <https://thehortonepsom.org> and click on their 'What's On' page.



Members' Interests

The Members' Interests section has played an important role ever since the foundation of the Society in bringing together members who are researching a particular family name with other members who share a common interest. ALL MEMBERS are now invited to update their MEMBERS' INTERESTS using the form printed on p63 of Sept 2025 issue of Root and Branch or by downloading or completing electronically a form from <https://wsfhs.co.uk/Members/descent.php> and sending to Sue Warner whose contact details are on the inside back cover, as the Society has now decided to withdraw the old list.

Note: These interests have been submitted by the members listed on the adjacent pages. 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
ANSELL	SRY	Cranleigh Area	16-19C	5512
ANTIS(S)	Any	Any	Any	0022
ATHERTON	LAN	Ulverston	18C	0071
AUSTIN	SRY	Guildford	19-20C	6345
AUSTIN	BKM	Medmenham	19-20C	6345
BAGENT	SRY	Haslemere	16-17C	5512
BAKER	SRY	Chobham	1800+	6923
BAKER	HAM	Southampton	1800+	6923
BAKER	SRY	Woking	19-20C	6345
BAKER	BKM	Iver	19-20C	6345
BATCHELOR	HAM	Southampton	1800+	6923
BERNARD	SFK/NFK	All	18-20C	5742
BLAKE	BRK	Reading	18C	4040
BLAKE	SRY	Guildford	19C	4040
BONNER	SRY	Godalming	17C	3889
BOURNE	SXS	All	20C	5401
BOURNE	SRY	Southwark	19C	5401
BOURNE	SRY	Oxted	19-20C	5401
BROWNING	SRY	All	18-20C	5742
BUDDEN	SRY	Pirbright	1600-1890	6996
CARR	LAN	Ulverston	18C	0071
CHUTTER	SRY	Farnham	18C	3889
CHUTTER	SRY	Frensham	19C	3889
CLACK	CAM	Burwell	All	5401
CLACK	SRY	Battersea	All	5401



Name	County	Town, village, area	Date	Number
CLEMENTS	HRT	Harlow	18C	5401
CLEMENTS	HRT	Sawbridge	19C	5401
CLEMENTS	SRY	Cobham	19-20C	5401
COLLETT	GLS	Fifield	18C	5401
COLLETT	GLS	Cowley	19-20C	5401
COLLINS	SRY	Farnham	18C	3889
COOKE	SRY	Pirbright	All	0715
COPUS/AS/ES	SRY	All	All	6144
DAVI(E)S	SRY	All	18-20C	5742
DEADMAN	HRT	Much Hadham	19C	5401
DOWD(E)Y	SRY	All	18-20C	5742
DUNFOLD	SRY	All	18-20C	5742
EADE	SRY	Wonersh	16-19C	5512
EDWARDS	SRY	Seale	Pre 1800	0715
ELLIOTT	SRY	Farnham	18-19C	4040
ELLIOTT	SRY	Guildford	18-19C	4040
ELLIS	HRT	St Albans	18C	0071
ETHERINGTON	SRY	Seale	Pre 1825	0715
ETHERINGTON	SRY	Wrecclesham	19C	0715
FRANCIS	SRY	Hamstead	19C	5401
FRANCIS	GLS	Henbury	19C	5401
FRANCIS	SXS	Brighton	19C	5401
FRANCIS	CMN	Llanstephan	18-19C	5401
FRANICIS	ESS	Westham	20C	5401
GORRINGE	SRY	Horne	19C	4040
GORRINGE	SSX	Worth	18C	4040
GORRINGE	SRY	Guildford	20C	4040
GRANT	LAN	Glasgow	18C	0071
GRATEHEAD	ALL	All	Pre 1950	3945
GREATED	ALL	All	Pre 1900	3945
GREATHEAD	ALL	All	Pre 1900	3945
GREATHEAD	ALL	All	Pre 1900	3945
GREATHEED	ALL	All	Pre 1900	3945
GREETHEAD	ALL	All	Pre 1900	3945
GRIFFIN	WAR	Birmingham	19-20C	5742
GRIMES	SRY	All	20C	5742
HAMPSHIRE	SRY	Woking	19-20C	6345
HAMPSHIRE	SRY	Cranleigh	19-20C	6345
HARD	DEV	South Brent	Pre 1856	0022
HARRIS	BRK	Reading	18C	0071



Name	County	Town, village, area	Date	Number
HARTFREE/ ARTFREE/ HEARTFREE	SRY	Worplesdon	All	0715
HARTFREE/ ARTFREE/ HEARTFREE	SRY	Pirbright	All	0715
HILL	ESS	Writtle	1800-1900	7346
HODGEAT	ARL	Ashfield	18C	0071
HOMER	WAR	Birmingham	18-20C	5742
HOPCRAFT	OXF	Arncott	18-19C	4040
HOPKINS	LDN	Mile End	1800-1870	7346
HOPKINS	MDX	Bethnal Green	1800-1870	7346
HOPKINS	WIL	Bradford-on-Avon	1800-1860	7346
HOSKING	DEV	South Brent	Any	0022
HYDE	SRY	Chertsey	19-20C	6345
HYDE	MDX	Shepperton	19-20C	6345
ILES	HRT	Hertford	18C	0071
JEFFERY	SRY	Woking	19-20C	6345
JEFFERY	KEN	Chatham	19-20C	6345
JELL(E)Y	SRY	Pirbright	1600-1850	6996
JEMMETT	OXF/LDN	All	19-20C	5742
JOINT	DEV	South Brent	Any	0022
KNAPMAN	DEV	South Brent	Any	0022
LEGG(E)	SRY	Witley	18C	3889
LEGG(E)	SRY	Elstead	18C	3889
LIDDIARD	WIL	Ramsbury	19-20C	5742
LING	SRY	Send/Ripley	19-20C	5742
LOCK	OXF	Asthall	18-19C	4040
LODGE	HRT	Hitchin	19C	5401
LODGE	MDX	Marylebone	19-20C	5401
LONGMAN	AVN	Bristol	18C	0071
LUMLEY	NFK/SFK	All	18-20C	5742
MALTHUS	SRY/MDX	Albury	17C	0071
MANSELL	SRY	Worplesdon	All	0715
MANSELL	SRY	Pirbright	All	0715
MARTIN	SRY	Shere/Merrow	16-19C	5512
MASON	All	All	18-20C	5742
MILLS	SRY	Compton	16-19C	5512
MITCHELL	DEV	South Brent	Pre 1813	0022
MORISON	MOR	Deskford	18C	0071

Name	County	Town, village, area	Date	Number
MORSE	MDX	Westminster	18C	0071
MOSS	SRY	Farnham	19C	3889
MOYNIHAN	CHI	Guernsey	19C	5401
MOYNIHAN	USA	New York	19-20C	5401
MURRELL	SRY	Farnham	1800+	6923
NEWCOMBE	GLS	Winstone	19C	5401
NEWCOMBE	GLS	Elkstone	18C	5401
OSBORNE	BRK	All	19C	5401
OSMAN	BRK	All	19C	5401
OSMOND	BRK	All	19C	5401
PALMER	HAM	Portsmouth	18C	0071
PARRATT	SRY	Various	1800/2000	6923
PATRICK	SRY	Seale	17C	3889
PATRICK	SRY	Frensham	18C	3889
PENELLUM	DEV	South Brent	Any	0022
PETT	SSX	Westbourne	1800+	6923
PETT	KEN	Medway	1900+	6923
PHILLIPS	OXF	Arcott	18-19C	4040
PLAW	SRY	Bramley	16-19C	5512
POTTER	SRY	Albury	18-19C	4040
POTTER	SRY	Guildford	18-19C	4040
PULLEN	SRY	Woking	1800+	6923
RANGER	SRY	Cranleigh Area	16-19C	5512
ROAF	SRY	All	19-20C	5742
ROGERS	ESS	Lindsell	18C	0071
RUSSELL	SRY	Pirbright	1600-1800	6996
SHERWOOD	SRY	Pirbright	1800-1900	6996
SHIRROTT	SRY	Pirbright	1600-1900	6996
SHORD	BRK/OXF	All	19-20C	5742
SIMS	SRY	Effingham	All	5401
SKILTON	SRY	All	18-20C	5742
SLATER	SSX	Horsham	18C	0071
SLAUGHTER	SRY	Worplesdon	All	0715
SLAUGHTER	SRY	Pirbright	All	0715



Name	County	Town, village, area	Date	Number
SMITH	SRY	Witley	18C	3889
SMITH	DBY	Derby	18-20C	5742
SOAN/SONE	SRY	Frensham	18C	3889
STANBRIDGE	SRY	Shirley	19C	5401
STANBRIDGE	SRY	Dorking	19C	5401
STANBRIDGE	HAM	Emsworth	19-20C	5401
STANBRIDGE	SRY	Claygate	20C	5401
STEMP	SRY	Cranleigh	16-19C	5512
TAYLOR	HAM	Portsmouth	18C	0071
TICKNER	SRY	Woking	1800+	6923
TUCKER	DEV	South Brent	Pre 1868	0022
TUNNELL	SRY	Bramley	16-19C	5512
TURNER	SRY	Brookwood	19-20C	6345
TURNER	SRY	Woking	19-20C	6345
TURNER	SRY	Chertsey	19-20C	6345
TURNER	NFK	Norwich	19-20C	6345
TURNER	SRY	Pirbright	1600-1800	6996
VEALE	DEV	South Brent	Any	0022
WAKEMAN	STS	Wolverhampton	18-20C	5401
WAKEMAN	MDX	Hendon	20C	5401
WEAVER	OXF	Hailey	19C	4040
WEAVER	OXF	Curbridge	19C	4040
WHITE	SSX	Merston	1800+	6923
WHITE	HAM	East Meon	1800+	6923
WICKENS	BRK	Reading	18C	0071
WOOD	SRY	Shere	16-19C	5512
YOUNG	SRY	Wonersh	16-19C	5512



Contact Details

Non-members should email interests@wsfhs with details of their enquiry and quoting the relevant membership number. Their query will be forwarded to corresponding member.



Dorking PCC Wills to 1700 [Part 6]



Henry Gosden, mercer 7 Apr 1690 to my son Henry at 24 all my messuage in Dorking in my own occupation and all my messuages in Wokingham, Berkshire and Wiltshire except the messuage which I late bought from Henry Symes, gentleman to my wife Elizabeth, exec. all my messuage Holbrookes, Ockley now in occupation of William Coxall for life and then to my son John G. at 24; to my daughter Elizabeth G. at 21 or marriage all my messuage near the Holmwood now in occupation of William Seaman and all my messuage and shop in Dorking in occupation of Thomas Uffman and John Horsenayle; to my daughter Elizabeth 12 acres of pasture and wood in D. now in occupation of William Seaman which I was lately assigned from John Brice, William Brice, gentleman, William Brice, citizen and ironmonger and Thomas Reyner and Elizabeth his wife; to my daughter Rebecca G. at 21 or marriage all my messuage in D. in occupation of Edward Rickman and all my messuage and 12 acres in East Heath, Wokingham in occupation of Richard Kitcherside which I late bought from Henry Symes, gentleman and all my 3 messuages in D. in occupation of Ginny Fish, Edward Broadbelt and widow Lewis my wife for £275 I have already contracted to sell the same to said Ginny Fish of D., barber chirurgion; to my wife all my messuage and an acre in my own occupation and that of John Freeland which I late bought from Daniel Hall and his wife Elizabeth, Richard Simonds and Thomas Simonds; to my father Henry G. of Dorking, mercer, John Wood of Westcott, D., clerk, Michael Jeale of D., yeoman and Edward Round of D., yeoman, overseers

Witnesses: William Worland; John Cleare; Robert Spencer

Proved: 22 May 1690 to exec. PROB 11/399/329

William Worland, chirurgion 11 May 1684 before we married my now wife Mary, exec. agreed that if she survived me I would leave her £50; my father Richard W. late of Standon, Hertfordshire, deceased by his will left several legacies and made me exec. and £60 remains unpaid; residue to my sons Richard, Charles and William except surgeon's instruments which to my son Charles

Witnesses: John Budgen; Thomas Lea; Miles Dudley

Proved: 20 December 1690 to exec. PROB 11/401/442

Edward Rownd, yeoman 13 Oct 1688 to my son James R. £1; to my son William R. £1; to my grandson Edward Morres £10 at 21; to my other grandchildren £1 each; my wife Elizabeth to have my chamber goods except my book press, books and my chest by the book press and all my clothes which to my son Edward and after the death of my wife rest to my son Edward; to my sister in law Mary widow of my brother James R. of Charlwood £3 p.a. to satisfy any bond by me to John Wood of D., clerk and Miles ►

Dudley of D., yeoman of 8 Jun 1678; to my sister Mary Knight, widow £2 p.a.; son Edward R., citizen and ironmonger, exec.; John Wood and Miles Dudley, overseer (10s each)

Witnesses: Henry Gosden, snr.; Henry G., jnr.; Rebecca Gosden

Proved: 19 May 1691 to exec. PROB 111/404/410

James Fisher (X), clerk, 29 Sep 1690 to my son Thomas £140; to my daughter Mary wife of William Wood of Dorking, brewer £100 and to her children after her death and if she makes no will £20 to my grandchildren Samuel and Edmund Walter between them and £10 more to my son Thomas; to my grandson John Wood son of my daughter Mary £40 at 21; to my granddaughter Phoebe Davis £100 (my best Bible and a silver porringer) at 21 or marriage, my daughter Marr to have to have interest of same £100; to my grandson William Davis son of my daughter Phoebe Marr £30 at 21; to my daughter Phoebe £30, furniture and goods; to my grandson Samuel and Edmund W. £5 each; to my daughter Mary Wood my silver tobacco box and a silver spoon; all my English books (except my best Bible and my large Concordance) between my children and grandchildren; to my children a broad piece of gold each; to my grandchildren a guinea each; to my granddaughter Elizabeth wife of James Dudley furniture and goods; friends William Walter of Cobham, yeoman, Michael Jeale of D., yeoman and Miles D. of D., yeoman, execs. (£1 each)

Witnesses: Thomas Slater; John Eed; William Edmunds; Michael Cowtabell

Proved: 20 June 1691 to execs. PROB 11/405/114

John Budgen, doctor in physic, forseeing the fatal consequences of a decaying health **20 Oct 1696** (to poor of this parish £6; to poor of Newdigate £2), my library to my nephew John B.; to my sister Elizabeth Bridger if alive £6 for mourning; to my goddaughter Fiducia Barling £5 and to her mother my cousin Mrs Mary Barling £5; to my friend Mr Thomas Lea, vicar of Dorking £10; to Mr John Calthorpe, apothecary £20; to my servant Elizabeth Worthington £12 if living with me at my death; to my servant Jane Nettlefold £3 if living with me at my death; to John and William Sturgesse of Newdigate £3 each; to my nephews Edward and James Budgen 5s; all my copyhold messuage Harpers, Reigate which surrendered by acceptance of Thomas Hill and Daniel Ware to use of nephew John Budgen of Trinity College, Oxford; residue to my brother Edward, exec.

Witnesses: Daniel Hall; Edward Rogers; Edward Rogers, jnr.

Proved: 24 March 1696/7 to exec. PROB 11/437/186

■

West Surrey Family History Society

Registered Charity No 278091



Members' Afternoon and Annual General Meeting to be held on

Saturday 24th October 2026

St Peter's Church, Hersham

1.30 pm Doors open - WSFHS Bookstall

**2 pm - 3 pm "The Enumerator Strikes Back"
 Talk by Dave Annal**

3 pm - 3.30 pm Break and WSFHS Bookstall

Refreshments will be available

**3.30 pm The 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 of the West Surrey Family History Society**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the
FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
will be held at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday 24th October 2026
at St Peter's Church Hersham

Elected Trustees for 2025-2026

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 3rd July 2026.

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 Trustees 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 2026

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 24th October 2026.

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 3rd July 2026** to

The Secretary, 77 South Hill, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1JU

(Email: secretary@wsfhs.org) Forms may be scanned. If signatures are impossible, the proposer and seconder also will need to send affirmative emails.

A Different Way of Life

By Valerie Patrick

I was born almost eight decades ago at a time when the pace of life was calm and slow, and nothing much changed from year to year. Money was scarce and everything in and around our towns appeared grey and dismal. My father's demob suit hung on the side of the wardrobe and there were gas masks in the cupboard, evidence of recent terrible happenings. My life centred on our family home in Wimbledon, and to my great delight, also around my paternal grandparents home at Bridley Cottage, the Rough Road, Worplesdon Hill, Woking, Surrey, where the countryside seemed vibrant with the changing seasons and smelled deliciously of pine needles.

At that time, and for many years after, there were two rough roads, one which looped round from Heath House Road close to where General Eisenhower had a wartime retreat, and which exited on to the Bagshot road, the other, a dead end lane where stood Bridley Cottage at its far end. During my father's childhood, for he had been born at the cottage in 1920, the council had tried to name the road Clod Hill House Road, but the locals had torn the sign down. It is now Clodhouse Hill. Where oh where were Clod Hill or Clod House?

The cottage had been built for my grandparents, Albert known as Jack, and Annie Slaughter nee Watts in 1917, the year they married at Pirbright Church. They occupied it immediately post WW1 until 1961. My grandfather had emerged from the war physically unscathed, but almost certainly mentally scarred. He had been in the Army Service Corps, later the Royal Army Service Corps, driving ambulances and quite literally picked up the pieces generated by war. The wounded and dying he took to field hospitals for treatment. He never spoke of his experiences, and spent his subsequent working life as chauffeur and gardener for the Honorable Mrs Dorothy Brabazon of Bridley House. After only three years of marriage, her husband the Honorable Ernest Brabazon, younger son of the Earl and Countess of Meath, had been killed in 1915 while fighting with the Coldstream Guards.



Private Albert Slaughter A.S.C.



Annie Eliza Slaughter nee Watts

Mrs Brab, as she was known in our family, a daughter of Horace Ricardo of Bramley Park, Surrey, was a figure to be avoided. She was not child friendly, and we, my brother and I, were downright scared of her. We were never allowed to go near her house which stood on Worplesdon Hill, and there was a point in the woods between the cottage and the house beyond which we were not allowed to venture. Only the chickens could walk that way, for my grandfather kept them in a clearing in the woods which was well known to Mr Fox.

I loved my grandparents dearly. Nothing was too much trouble for them, and I think of them more and more as I grow older. Little Bamma, as opposed to my other grandmother big Bamma, came from the Forest of Dean and had worked as Lady's Maid to Lady Ivy Halsey Bircham at Admiral's Walk, Pirbright. Her husband, Sir Bernard, related to the Ricardo family, was private solicitor to King George V. That is where, in 1911, she met my

grandfather who was a chauffeur and ostler at the house. She was everything you could wish for in a grandmother, and being barely five feet tall, her street cred rose considerably in our estimation. She was a talented raconteuse of family stories, some of which I absorbed, but others I wish I had listened to more carefully.

My grandfather on the other hand, came from the silent brigade, the silence only broken when he delivered a witty comment or made an astute pronouncement, but he was kind, loving and easy going. His family had ventured little further than Pirbright or Worplesdon since the early years of the 17th century, and probably further back than that. There were pikemen in Henry VIII's army living in Farnham in the 16th century, but I have so far been unable to establish a connection. Only the Hogs Back divided the two settlements. The sun always appeared to be shining when we were at the cottage. It probably was, for we mainly stayed there in the summer, and visited only for single days in colder months when there were icicles inside the windows. The cottage had no damp course, so my grandfather's boots in the cupboard beneath the dresser grew mould. Above them, in cups hung on hooks, my grandmother placed money for the rent, the butcher, the baker and so on. We were never short of food as produce came from the garden and eggs from the chickens. If a rabbit was spotted, my grandfather would take his gun from the back of the kitchen door, disappear outside, and reappear with the next day's lunch. ►

When autumn approached, the kitchen was a hive of activity with fruit and vegetables to be preserved and placed in Kilner jars which lined the larder shelves. On the outside wall was the meat safe. The larder floor ran with damp, but nobody worried about that. There was no electricity upstairs until the 1950s, so we used candles to light our way to bed. I slept in a big brass bedstead, with a curtain behind the head, beyond which all manner of objects were hidden from view. Everything creaked and groaned, even the highly polished Lino on the landing floor beyond. One day, while peeping into the landing cupboard, my adventure into the world of family history began. A pile of sepia photos emerged, unnamed. Who could these people be? As they looked back at me, I could tell they were members of my family for they looked like us. For more than twenty years I kept those treasures safe, then, in 1977 I attended an evening class run by Jean Cole and John Wiles. I subsequently became member 715 of WSFHS, and received my first letter of help from Shirley Parnell. I've loved every moment of my adventure and thank all those who have helped me on my journey of exploration.

There were many visitors to the cottage as my grandparents were sociable beings. While my grandmother belonged to the WI in Brookwood, my grandfather gardened the estate and exhibited his flowers at the Brookwood show. Among the friends who called, I remember Mrs Foster and Mrs Tidy. The butcher came in his Morris van, as did the baker whose van contained pull out shelves on each side, upon which sat cream doughnuts and other delights. On Saturday mornings we were allowed to choose one each.

Neighbours were few and far between. Mr Murray Dewar, a member of the whiskey family, lived in the big Edwardian house opposite with his friend. Mr Petter, his gardener, arrived

daily on his sit up and beg bike, his ginger handle bar moustache parallel to the bar he gripped. The housekeeper, Miss North, was of an indeterminate age. She skittered along trying not to be seen, her cloche hat pulled well down so as to almost obscure her Harry Potter glasses. Her coat was long and shapeless, and her shoes black and ►



The author with her grandfather

laced. Her cottage is no more, having been replaced with a box like structure of dubious architectural literacy. Round the corner on Heath House Road lived Judy Cornell, the daughter of a local gardener, and her family, in a tied cottage. On one occasion, she and other friends ran away and left me alone in the nearby woods, my first experience of terror.

The journey from home to my grandparents took most of the morning and involved a train journey from Wimbledon to Brookwood. My father always had a word with Stan White who ran a garage and car hire business from the station yard. We then walked under the line with its criss cross paving of standard railway design, to emerge in the cemetery, at that time, immaculately maintained by the many gardeners one saw. The route then took us past the old north station and a variety of mausolea, each of which had a huge door knocker. Needless to say, we tried them all, before emerging on to the Bagshot road through the main gate but not before we had stood reverently before Ronnie Calthorp's angel bedecked memorial. My father had known him. A ten minute walk then took us to the cottage.

Today, with different expectations and greater prosperity, our way of life has changed beyond belief. Bridley Cottage as I knew it has been swallowed up in a variety of large extensions, of which only the central part is recognisable. The latest building, possibly an indoor swimming pool, covers my grandfather's beloved vegetable garden and fruit cages, the spot where we stood to have our photos taken, next to the pile of pea sticks, close to the edge of the wood, now buried under concrete. The wood has gone, leaving sweeping lawns, with most of the land now owned by the cottage rather than, as before, by Bridley House. Even the name has changed. It is now Sixpenny Buckle and is said to be worth several million pounds. I wonder if someone found one of my shoe buckles and a sixpence in the garden? The old name did however live on when my parents moved to Farnham and called their house Bridley.

I can still shut my eyes and think of how everything once was, and I can remember my grandparents waving from the doorway as we climbed in to the taxi to take us to the station on our way home. ■

Did you know?

Until 1907, it was not permitted for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister (or half sister). He could not marry his deceased brother's (or half brother's) widow until 1921. Even after these dates, he still could not marry his divorced wife's sister or his divorced brother's widow until the wife or brother had died.

Though never specifically mentioned, it meant that a woman could not marry her deceased sister's widower until 1907 or her deceased husband's brother until 1921.

However, this was only a problem if the person marrying you knew! So marrying your deceased wife's sister's illegitimate daughter at a nearby Register Office in 1895 could be possible. ■

Family in photos found in a charity shop

By David Rose

Some years ago I acquired a collection of a family's photos that had ended up in a Guildford charity shop.

Someone bought them and then passed them on to a friend of mine who owns a collectors' record shop in Guildford. Among the photos were some rare picture postcard views of what's known as Guildford's Great Storm of 1906, and so he kindly sold the whole collection to me!

Soon the photos of the people as well as a number snap shots of local places intrigued me. Who were they? Online research has now revealed who the family were and a good deal of their life story.

The vital clue was not one of the photos but a baptism, confirmation and first communion certificate. This was of Emily Cumbers (sic) who was baptised on July 21, 1878, and confirmed on March 25, 1893, at Shalford parish church [photograph 1]. Her surname was actually Cumber. That name was familiar to me, as in the Surrey Times' special supplement of the Great Storm of 1906, it was reported that a tree had been blown down and crashed through one of a pair of cottages on Shalford Road, Guildford. One of the occupants was a 78-year-old bed-ridden man - a Mr J. Comber. (The newspaper spelt his name incorrectly!)



Photograph 1: Baptism Certificate



Photograph 2: Storm damaged cottage

One of the "storm" postcards in the collection featured these two cottages [photo 2]. This family must have bought the postcards and kept them ever after. The bed-ridden man was James Cumber. The 1881 census records him living on Shalford Road, age 51, occupation coachman and gardener. His wife, Ann, 54, sons James, 23, Frederick, 21, John, 20,

George, 17, Charles, 16. The fallen tree in 1906 didn't kill James, he died a year later in 1907. ▶

The 1891 census of the same address also records James and Ann, sons George and Charles, but also daughter Rose, 28, and grandchild Emily H, 12. Moving on to the 1901 census, we have James, 71, still working as a “gardener domestic”, grand-daughter Harriet E (Emily’s first and second names swapped around) and boarder George Fordham, occupation coal carman, 25. He is going to become Emily’s husband.

It would appear the Cumber family had another son, Henry (Emily’s father). On the 1881 census he was listed as aged 27, occupation coachman domestic servant, living at Woodhill Cottage, Send - born Shalford. He wife was Mary, 24, daughters Alice, 4, and Harriet (Emily), 2, and son Francis, 4 months.

Harriett Emily Cumber (as named on her wedding certificate) married George W. Fordham at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Shalford on April 7, 1901. He gave his profession as a coal porter.

This detail helps to possibly identify George in some of the family photos as one shows a man with his horse-drawn coal cart [photograph 3].

On the 1911 census the Fordhams were living at 3 Chestnut Road, Guildford. George 34, coal carman, Harriet Emily, 32, Margaret Winnifred, 9, Charles William Henry, 7 and Walter George, 5.

George and Emily had a daughter, Emily Elizabeth, born in 1915. On the 1918 register George and Emily are listed with Charles and Walter and were living at 2 Ferngrove Cottages, Falcon Road, Guildford.

This was a great clue as the house looks much the same today. There are a number of



Photograph 3: George Fordham and his coal waggon

photos of George and Emily standing outside the house and further photos with what appears to be other family members in the garden, some in front of a shed, which also exists today! [photograph: 6]

The uncanny thing here is that my paternal grandparents George and Eva Rose lived at 7 Falcon Road. My late father, Arthur, was born in 1922, and lived there until he married my mum in 1947. I can only think my grandparents, my dad and his two sisters would have known the Fordham family!



Photographs 4 and 5: Emily and George outside their house



Photograph 6: Family members outside shed



Photograph 7: George and the family dog

Of the photos, one in particular shows presumably George Fordham with the family's pet dog in the public open space known as Foxenden Quarry, York Road. [photograph 7]. In fact, Falcon Road is nearby, off York Road.

The 1939 register lists Harriet E. Fordham, occupation unpaid domestic duties and Emily E. Fordham, invoice typist, at 2 Ferngrove Cottages, Falcon Road.

However, there are many photos in the collection that are a mystery. One is of a youngish-looking man standing at the door of a corrugated-iron church. This may be the similar-looking chapel that was in Martyr Road, Guildford. There is another picture postcard of two men pictured with a Guildford Co-operative Society delivery van [photograph 9]. Perhaps that's one of the sons?



Photograph 10.



Photograph 9: Co-operative Society Van

Another photo shows a man and a woman and two children [photograph 10]. He is wearing a uniform and the badge on his hat has been identified as of the Royal Navy Police.

There are some Victorian-era photos of school children groups and also other people, the latter who I can only presume are older relatives of the Cumbers and Fordhams.

Then there are a number of wedding photos from about the 1920s. Perhaps George and Emily's daughters' weddings, as it looks like Emily and George are also in the photos.

[Photograph 11]



Photograph 11: Family Wedding

Daughter Margaret Winnifred died in 1932. There is a photo of Emily (I am sure) standing beside a grave with lots of flowers. Possibly soon after Winnifred was buried? [Photograph 12]

There are further photos that appears to be of the same grave.

George died in 1943, Emily died in 1944.

Son Charles William Henry died in 1964.

Son Walter George died in 1992.

Daughter Elizabeth died in 2004.

The grave photos I identified as being Guildford's Stoke Old Cemetery, Stoughton Road.

Visiting the cemetery, it didn't take long to find the family plot. There are inscriptions to Harriet Emily,



Photograph 13



Photograph 12

George and Elizabeth. Rather poignantly are two words on one of the stones surrounding the plot. They read: "SAFELY HOME". [photograph 13].

Two Tales from Green Lane Cemetery

By Jenni Mukerji

Mat(t)hew Henry HARRIS (1877-1941)

Matthew's name is given as Matthew and Mathew at different times, I will refer to him as Matthew.

Matthew was born on 17 March 1877 and was baptised on 11 April 1877 at Belguam, India (renamed Belagavi in 2014). Matthew's parents were Henry and Harriet HARRIS and as Belguam had a large fort, his father would have been serving in the British Army there. Matthew had a sister, Harriet Louisa who was born on 10 May 1874 and baptised at Poona, India on 11 June. She died on 21 August 1875 and was buried the following day at Ghorpoorie, India.

As a young child Matthew was enrolled in the Royal Military Asylum in King's Road, Chelsea. This was a residential school for the children of soldiers in the regular army; its foundation stone was laid in 1801 and in 1892 it became the Duke of York's Royal Military School. He had been registered there in the Apprentice Ledgers with his mother, Harriet HARRIS as his next of kin. On 13 March 1891 he was recruited at the Horse Guards War Office, London SW to join the Royal West Kent Regiment as a tailor. (My uncle Walter Reginald IVEY (1911-1983) was a tailor in the Guards at Pirbright Camp prior to the Second World War and, like Matthew, he was quite small in stature.) Matthew's religion/faith was recorded as being Church of England.

He signed his Attestation Papers at Shorncliffe on 23 March 1891, signing up for 14 years. He was 13 years old and these papers describe him at that age. He was 4ft 5 inches tall and weighed 68 lbs. His chest was 26 inches and 28 inches when expanded. He had a fresh complexion, brown hair and eyes. His distinguishing features were a scar on his left arm and a mole on his left forearm. In the 1891 census he was in Cheriton, Kent.

Matthew's time in the Royal West Kent Regiment saw him spend time in India and Malta. He spent ten years in India where he applied to become a bandsman in 1893. He was awarded a medal for being on the Punjab Frontier 1897-8 and then, in order to complete 21 years with colours, Matthew was re-engaged by the RWK Regiment on 17 November 1900. It was on a short home leave in England that he married, as a Lance-Corporal, Ellen Mary JUDD (1880-1969) at the Trinity Church in Folkestone on 7 March 1904. They left for his return trip to Malta on 4 April 1904 and their first daughter, Charlotte Edith was born there on 20 August 1906. Later that year he was posted back in England and his daughter Elsie May (1909-1944) was born on 17 April 1909 in the Dover area. Elsie features in another Tale from Green Lane Cemetery. Ellen's birth (17 September 1880) was registered in Stockbridge and lived in East Tytheley, near Romsey. Her father was Michael JUDD (1853-1941) who was a domestic groom in East Tytherley in 1881 and a miller's carter in 1891. Her mother was Ann, née DUMPER who was born in Wallop in 1852. They had married in 1876 and had at least nine children. ►

Being a bandsman, Matthew also had to train to be a stretcher bearer. This was one of the duties of army musicians and how many became casualties when in combat. In the 1911 census the family were living at the Quebec Barracks at Headley, Hampshire. Matthew was discharged, with the rank of sergeant, from his regiment on 22 March 1912.

In 1913 he became the bandmaster at Shadwell Industrial Schools, Shadwell Lane, Moortown, Wetherby, Leeds. This was a care home for boys, mainly from Yorkshire, but Matthew was obliged to leave on account of the health of his daughter Charlotte.

The family moved south to where Matthew took up the post of bandsman at the Farnham and Hartley Wintney Schools at Wimble Hill, Dippenhall between Crondall and Farnham. Formed in 1849, these schools were one of the few such bodies set up under a Poor Law Commissioners' scheme to encourage adjacent unions to operate combined Poor Law Schools for children whose parents were in the workhouse. This school was for children from Farnham and Crondall and also took in children from Alton's union.

Whilst at Wimble Hill, the First World War began and Matthew rejoined his old regiment and served near Boulogne and Etaples (from WW1 Army Service Casualty Form 210466). He was discharged from the RWK regiment in 1918 in Dublin as a Lance Sergeant. His discharge papers tell us that over the years, since his attestation papers of 1891 he had grown to be 5ft 5 inches tall, and his chest was now 36 inches. The other distinguishing features had not changed. At the bottom of his discharge papers his officer had added "Very hard working, reliable and trustworthy. Has done excellent work in the RAFA (?)". It also says that he was a musician (solo performer - clarinet). His battalion had been training new recruits and looking after wounded soldiers in Dublin. However, they were also involved in arresting Sinn Feiners but it is not clear what Matthew's role was in the province; was he one of the wounded, hence his discharge?

But this was not the end of his military career. Despite being rejected a number of times because of heart problems, he was accepted on 23 January 1918 by the Royal Flying Corps as a corporal, bandsman and clerk with the number 129372, (TNA AIR 79/1159/129372 & 409693). However, it appears that he had shrunk as he was now 5ft 2 ¾ inches tall with a 32 inch chest. The Royal Flying Corps incorporated with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1 April 1918 to become the Royal Air Force. Matthew was duly transferred to the RAF that day. On 31 March 1919 he was transferred to the Reserve Listings (A3/103126) and discharged on 30 April 1920.

In the 1921 Census Matthew's family were living at Wimble Hill however, his obituary in the *Farnham Herald* 8 March 1941 tells us that the Farnham & Hartley Wintney Schools Institution broke up in 1930 and the children were sent far and wide. This was very upsetting for Matthew but he was asked to remain and help with the "old people", but his health was failing him. Wimble Hill District School became a hospital and was taken over by the new National Health Service in 1948, becoming the Wimble Hill Hospital looking after psychiatric patients under Park Prewett Hospital in Basingstoke. (I remember going to a Christmas Fayre provided by the patients in the late 1960s/early 1970sd. It was very run down and the NHS sold it off for redevelopment shortly afterwards. ►

In the 1939 Register, Matthew was living at Haselbury in Weydon Lane, Farnham with his wife Ellen (giving her birthdate as 17 September 1881) and his daughter Charlotte with her husband storeman Peter John DUFFEY (1912-1984). Matthew's occupation was described as School Porter, retired. Further along Weydon Lane, at Waterclose lived his other daughter Elsie May DOWNHAM with her husband joiner and foreman William Edward DOWNHAM ((1905-1981) and their (redacted) son Peter.

Whilst living in Farnham, the *Farnham Herald* tells us that Matthew devoted his time to children's activities. He was ASM to the Scout Troop under Rev. E R MORGAN from its inception (more research required here!). He encouraged children's sport activities and trained them for bell ringing. It also tells us that Farnham people will remember him at Carnival times leading his gaily dressed n****r minstrel troupe. He was also a member of the Crondall branch of the British Legion and one time played in the Farnham Orchestra.

His funeral, officiated by Rev SANDIFORD of St Thomas-on-the-Bourne, took place in Green Lane Cemetery on 6 March 1941. He was buried in plot A330.

Matthew's wife, Ellen died in 1969. She is not buried in Green Lane Cemetery. His elder daughter Charlotte married Peter John DUFFEY in Aldershot in 1935 and died in 1965, without having any children. Again, she is not buried in Green Lane Cemetery. Peter DUFFEY's death was registered in the Bath area.

His younger daughter, Elsie married William Edward DOWNHAM (1905-1981) at St Andrew's Church in Farnham on 11 April 1931 when she was still living at Wimble Hill. They had one son, Peter who was born in 1932. Elsie was buried in plot A326 in Green Lane Cemetery on 18 January 1944 with Rev WIMBUSH officiating. Her husband then married Hilda L MORTIMER in Farnham in 1950 and moved away from the area. His parents, Edward George DOWNHAM (1880-1950) and Elizabeth Emily, née BURNINGHAM (1881-1954) were already buried in plot A325, beside Elsie.



Frank HALE (1886-1954)

Frank HALE was buried in Plot A417 in Green Lane Cemetery on 28 October 1954. His wife, Gertrude Elizabeth HALE (nee GIDDINS) had already been buried in the adjoining grave in 1951.

Frank was the third son and fourth child of Joseph HALE (1852-1935) and his wife Sarah Susannah, nee RODWELL (1854-1933) of Hope Cottage, Green Sleeves Road, Nazeing, Essex. His father was a dealer in hay, who started off as a labourer who carted hay.



Although Frank's mother was born in Roydon and his father in Nazeing, the couple had married in Marylebone in 1877. Why was this? It comes about because Sarah was one of four daughters and her sister, Helen Sarah (born 1851) had married her first husband, Joseph HANNAFORD (c1849-1883) at All Souls' Church in Marylebone on 29 September 1873. In 1871 Helen was a housemaid in the home of William PROCTOR, a cheesemonger in St Pancras, London and after her marriage to Joseph HANNAFORD she lived in Cleveland Street, Marylebone where her husband was a porter. In 1891 Helen was back living in Epping with her brother Joseph HALE and his family. By 1901 Helen was back in London, this time as a housekeeper and cook in Downshire Hill, Hampstead with Arnold KENNEDY, a secretary to a consulting engineer. She married Henry Cook DAVIS (1840-1908) in Paddington in 1902. He was a carpenter who lived at 59 Amberley Road, Paddington in two unfurnished rooms on the second floor. His landlord was Richard G SAWYER (a pewterer of the same address) and he paid 6s.6d per week in rent. As a widow, Helen was visiting Arthur and Constance CRAWFORD in Ealing in 1911.

Frank's grandfather and father of Sarah and Helen, William Thomas RODWELL died in 1865 and his widow, Ellen married John WARDERS (a victualler) in Islington in 1868. After having another daughter, Beatrice Emma (1869-1872), she died in 1872. Now orphaned, it was probably from Helen's home in Marylebone that Sarah married in 1877.

Sarah and Helen had two other sisters. Caroline (1857-1942) and Elizabeth (1860-1921). Caroline married William Alfred PULHAM (c1859-1925), a terracotta finisher and they had two children, Beatrice Annie (born in 1883) an infants' teacher with Essex County Council and Herbert. Elizabeth married Alfred George HARRIS in 1897. ■

The Julian and Gregorian Calendars

by Cliff Webb

It is well known that the Protestant world did not immediately accept the new, more accurate Gregorian calendar, because it had come from the Pope. By 1751, however, the Julian calendar had become inconvenient for trade, and it was agreed that Britain and its growing empire would adopt the Gregorian. To achieve this, 11 days were omitted, being 3-13 September 1751.

However, many countries kept the old Julian calendar, in particular, the Eastern Orthodox Church generally did not change. As of today, Christmas is celebrated in the Julian calendar 13 days later, on the 7th January. As of 2101, this gap will increase to 14 days and Christmas to the 8th January.

It occurred to me that if one waited long enough the Julian year would match the Gregorian one, and the Orthodox would once again celebrate Christmas on the 25th December. A great job for AI which tells me that this will indeed happen in the year 50,900. ■

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 Saturday of the month. Doors open at 1.30pm, meeting starts at 2pm.

Co-ordinator: Sue Turner

Email: camberley@wsfhs.org

In **January**, we had an informal meeting led by Sue Turner looking at Stranger Things, the co-incidences, strange happening and odd people in your tree. This was a change from the original advertised program, but it was well attended and everyone brought something or someone. A very interesting and thought-provoking meeting.

In **February**, Margaret Taylor came to talk to us about Clandon Park, which is a National Trust property near Woking which was gutted by fire in 2015, when Margaret was present as a volunteer. She described the fire, which started in the basement, spread behind the wallpaper (which was not pasted on the wall, but on panels, which could be taken by the family if they moved house) and eventually took out the roof. The talk was mainly about what was revealed how and when the house was built and about the plans to make the House available to the public. It is intended not to fully renovate the house as it was, but to restore the outside, but to leave the interior as a skeleton to show how these houses were built.

We thanked Margaret for a very interesting talk.

In **March**, we had a very interesting talk from Dr Penny Walters about demystifying DNA and how to link it to the paper trail. Amongst much informative information was the advice to download your DNA data and upload it to other companies that accept DNA data and to Gedmatch as they may have other tools and matches that may be useful. She also showed how an Ancestry Fan chart can be used with your DNA matches to find your Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA).

We thanked Penny for a very interesting talk.

Reports by Sue Turner



Forthcoming Meetings

- Jun 20** Sue Turner '*Beginners Guide to non-Civil Births, Marriages and Deaths*'. This is the second in a series of Beginners Guides to Family History. This talk will provide an overview of non-Civil Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales and also in Scotland. While most of these will be baptisms, marriages and burials in the Established churches and in Non-Conformist churches, there are also some organisations which record births rather than baptisms, have different marriage registers and some do not record burials.
- Sep 19** Sue Turner '*Beginners Guide to the Census*'. Every ten years, another census appears for us to explore, but sometimes looking at the background to them can reveal why the person you are searching for is not there or has given 'wrong' information. This talk will look at the England and Wales and Scotland censuses from 1801 to 1921 and at the 1939 National Register to help to explain what you can and cannot find out.

Although aimed at beginners, these talks will also be useful for more experienced family historians as more information both online and offline is appearing and reconsidering your method of searching may result in finding that elusive ancestor.

Sue Turner is Chair of the Society and has been working on her family history for nearly 50 years, having produced over 200 family trees for herself, partner, brothers in law and friends. She has a Masters degree with distinction in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde.

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 Andy Richardson gave a talk on Aircraft Manufacturing in which he explained about Britain's Once Incredible Aircraft Industry.

Early aviation started in 1903 with C S Rolls, Geoffrey de Havilland and Vickers. In 1912 our aviation assets were inferior to other European countries so, the Royal Flying Corps was formed. Between the wars air transport was not considered a priority so only small and medium sized companies were in existence. When World War II commenced development of civil aircraft was suspended and the focus was on military aircraft. This was when the jet engine came into service. ►

In 1942 the Brabazon committee was set up by Churchill to lead the nation's effort to regenerate and take the lead in civil aerospace. In 1945 the industry was the most productive in the UK with more than 20 companies building airframes and 9 making engines

In 1947 Bristol cooperated with BOAC. Previously, Boeing were the preferred choice for transatlantic routes. Britain then became a world leader using the De Havilland Comet which was faster and smoother than those used in America. After six months in service there was a series of accidents, so it was withdrawn for an investigation to take place. The discoveries about frame stress and metal fatigue altered all aircraft development. The Comet 2 was successfully flown, followed by version 3 and 4, commercially until 1981. (The Nimrod was a derivative – flying until 2011.) During that time the technological lead had passed and Pan Am started using the 707 which was cheaper to operate and faster.

After 1957, employment would fall from 268,000 to 60,000. In 1964 the Ministry of Aviation merged with Ministry of Technology to slim down the aircraft industry. In that same year the Plowden Enquiry said Britain couldn't stand alone so they worked with the Saudi Royal Family, but it was alleged they made secret payments to Saudi officials.

To sum up the aircraft industry has been affected by corruption, bribery and scandals.

In February Major Paul Whittle gave a talk about the Crimea War. The reason why the Crimea War commenced was to do with the rights of Catholic and minorities in Palestine and Naval Power in East Mediterranean. In 1853 war had broken out between Russia and Turkey, so Britain and France went to Turkey's aid in 1854.

The public in UK were given more information than before by people like Roger Fenton. The first message was sent from Balaclava to London via a 300 mile undersea cable (Balaclava to Varna and Varna to Constantinople) in 1855 and published in the Daily Telegraph.

The war commenced in Varna and then switched to the Crimean Peninsula; it was flawed by strategy and military incompetence. In total Britain sent 111,300 soldiers of which 30,000 were Irish. These were prominent in major battles like Inkerman. Notable commanders were Field Marshall Lord Raglan 1788 – 1855, Lord Cardigan commander of the Light Brigade and Major General James Brudenell. The Irish Sisters of Mercy established a field hospital at Balaclava which was more successful than Florence Nightingale's at Scutari. Mary Seacole from Jamaica was a nurse there. More soldiers died of disease than were killed in action. In Britain, “Killed in Action” 2,755, “Died of Wounds” 2,019 “Died of Disease” 16,000, French “Killed in Action” 10,240, “Died of Wounds” 20,000 and “Died of disease” 60,000. There were similar numbers for Turkey, Russia.

After the war there was a Royal Commission on the Health of the Army; the “Purchase of Officer Commissions” was abolished and reform of army organisation commenced. ►

The Treaty of Paris 27 April 1856 brought an end to the war between the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire.

In March Sharon Hintze gave us a talk called “Catching Up with Family Search”. She explained Family Search is the brand name for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is free to use, the largest preserver of genealogical records, has 5000+ Family Search Centres. It has digitized 2.4 million films and 600,000 genealogy books however the microfiche collection and images are not fully digitised yet.

Sharon spoke about “Genealogies” which are static trees, these are read only and include Oral trees, Guild Of One Named Studies, Partner Trees including Roots Finder, American Ancestors. You can contribute your private tree.

She then explained the best way is to search using “Full Text Search”. This will display family histories, medical records, newspapers, passenger lists, school records and many more. Sharon gave examples of how to avoid too many results. To find an exact word or phrase use “quotation marks”. To include a word use the + symbol and to exclude a specific word use the - symbol. To find different spellings use ? For instance Jens?n will return Jensen and Jenson and for a different form of the root word use * for instance Car* will include cars, carriage, carpenter .

You can apply Full Text directly from the catalogue, although not every record set is digitized and some records sets have restriction on viewing.

Family Search Tabs on the home page will bring up icons for “MyHeritage Matches”, “Search all Family Trees”, “Chat with your Ancestors” and “Improved Change Log”.

Sharon said she hoped this will help with our use of Family Search.

Reports by Lesley Cowing

Forthcoming Meetings

- 23 Jun** **Alan Fitzgerald** – “*The Lost Rivers of London*” Most of these rivers join the Thames somewhere along its banks in central London, where they join can still be seen today. Both North and South of the Thames, these rivers have interesting stories to relate, from floating coffins to the Temple of Mithras.
- 22 Sep** **An Informal Meeting** “*Which of my Ancestors I would most like to meet*” - or just to grill them for those missing links.



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

Co-ordinator: Chris Leech

Email: woking@wsfhs.org

Our speaker in **January** was Sue Turner who gave us an interesting talk '*Follow the Money*' about the rich results you can sometimes get from Wills. If you find in your research an ancestor is described as a 'Gentleman' or of independent means or a couple were married by licence these are all clues that there is money in the family and therefore it is worth looking to see if there was a Will. Before 1858 Probate records are through the Church Courts, after that date they are civil records through the Probate Registry. Some records are online and Death Duty Registers from 1796 – 1903 are available on Findmypast. Women could only write a Will if they were widows or spinsters. Sue found one spinster in her research who died in 1887 who named 71 beneficiaries, giving much detail about family relationships, addresses and married names.

In **February** our informal meeting was of a practical nature as we were checking indexing of the names appearing in four issues of *Root and Branch* in 2024/25. It was an enjoyable evening for those who were there and it was such a pity that more people did not come along. Richard Weatherhead is hoping to progress this project to eventually index the names in all of the issues of *Root and Branch*.

David Rose and Geoff Burch gave us an excellent talk in **March** on '*A Romany Lifestyle*'. The first written reference to Gypsies was in Tudor times around the London area. The advent of the Industrial Revolution and the growth of the capital saw them moving out to the Home Counties. They were a wandering people who worked the land and lived in bender tents, huts and later in caravans and were very poor. It was a tough life. David Rose shared many pictures of Gypsy camps in the Woking area and nearby and a short 1920 silent film of a Gypsy school room built by Surrey County Council. Gypsies were tolerated for a long time but by the end of the 19th century many large landowners, including Lord Onslow, decided that they would move them off their land. David referred to a useful book by Alan Wright entitled *Their Day Has Passed: Gypsies in Victorian and Edwardian Surrey*.

Geoff Burch had family links in the Old Woking area with his mother Rose Baker being born in a tent at Sundridge Camp. She was one of 13 children and only one of those was born under a roof. The families were involved in hop picking in season and the children were taken along. One of his great great grandfathers, James Baker, was known as Baker the Sweep and lived in West End, Chobham. He died in a flu epidemic aged 51 in 1891. In his research Geoff has also found ancestors living in a field behind 'The Grange' in Old Woking, St John's Lye and Maybury Hill. It was a very worthwhile talk.

Reports by Chris Leech ►

Forthcoming Meetings

- Jun 11 **Julian Pooley - *Out of sight, Out of Mind?*** Sources for the History of Surrey's Mental Hospitals, 1770 to circa 1990. Was your ancestor in a Surrey asylum? This talk traces the history of people living with mental illness and learning disability in Surrey from the 18th century through to the 1990s. Using the records of the earliest private asylums, county institutions, and charitable foundations, it tells the story of mental health care in Surrey and uncovers the hidden stories of patients and the care regime they experienced. It draws on photographs and other records rescued when these vast hospitals finally closed
- Sep 10 **TBA**

Zoom Meetings on the Internet

To join our Zoom meetings, you will need to register for the talk in the Member's area of WSFHS website. If you do not have a password, please 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: Zoom@wsfhs.org

In **January** David Cufley led a workshop on *Drawing charts and trees by hand as a research tool*. David, a member of North West Kent FHS, has been researching his family for many years and as a part of his research into the Cufley name has sent charts of families to other Cufleys for annotation, so handwritten charts made life simpler. Paper charts with a pencil can be taken into all archives to note discoveries.

He focussed on a Family Group Sheet (FGS) chart. He used a number system based on four numerals – the first pair denotes the family and the second pair denotes the generation, as family history tends to have overlapping true generations David takes 3 decades as a generation. When David started, he was generation 0 but now has two generations below so has to find how to number them. He said numbering is a personal thing, so use a system that makes sense to you. Each sheet has its own number with linking sheet above (older normally) and lower (younger) noted. He used A4 as landscape with the sheet number on the right-hand side for filing in portrait mode.

FGSs help us to understand the timeline and relationships of a family. Hand drawn charts need not be neat and have room for notes. Entering details by hand reinforces memory. To produce a neat version for filing, David used squared paper under the sheet to align the lines. If the family has more than 9 children another sideways sheet will be needed.



David also showed other diagrams including ‘Drop Charts’, ‘Total descent charts’, ‘Birth briefs’, ‘Timelines’ and ‘Mind maps’; some of which by using templates, can be filled in by anyone and you do not need to be a draughts person.

When we looked at a total descent Chart, (a circular chart like an extended dart board), David demonstrated their usefulness in families with shared ancestors (he used King Charles showing Queen Victoria’s appearing in both his mothers and his fathers “sides”). Our template is on A4, but it is best to be printed as A3 – on an A4 printer, print 2 halves and join them.

We looked at mind maps and brainstorming charts, which he had used with the worldwide Cufleys (and another local Essex surname that with Y DNA linked strongly with them) showing numerous notes added over time. When using both of these charts try to avoid crossing lines (radiating from the centre is best.) Colour showing linked areas of research helps.

On all the charts gaps show easily and re-occurring data may indicate trends that suggest future research needed.

David included a template entitled “tracing your ancestors” with all basic steps in arrowed boxes with a large box stating join your local FHS, with two-way arrows for “ask specific questions” and “get advice” and showing how often we have to return to the box record our findings on the family tree (or FGS)

This highly informative workshop was recorded and is available on the website for about a year, with some charts– see “Meeting Handouts & Recordings” on the wsfhs website.

In **February** Denise Bates, who has a degree in history, with a focus on the period c1800-1952 in Britain, based her talk on her research for her book “Breach of Promise to Marry – A History of how Jilted Brides Settled Scores”. Breach of promise was a claim for damages following a broken engagement – both women and men. She used newspaper reports of cases heard in court c1780-1970.

In the early years women had no financial control. As Denise says, “Impoverished spinsters and widows were not well regarded by society and had few options for earning their living.” More well to do women’s problems were dealt with by their families without recourse to law.

Charles Dickens, who had been a clerk in the court and then a journalist, used his first novel Pickwick Papers to illustrate greed of unscrupulous solicitors and barristers and judiciary by having Mr Pickwick being sued by his landlady for Breach of Promise, even though it was a misunderstanding. Pickwick versus Bardell was quoted in real courts for years.

Pickwick went to court in 1832. The decade before saw great increase in cases. Hence there was great interest and Dickens was very aware of manipulation of the ►

victims in using the law. In the 1780s there were fewer than 20 cases but in 1820s there were nearly 100. It rose steadily with the 1860 total reaching nearly 300 but in 1870s the total shot up just under 600. The next decade dropped by 200 but then in the 1890s it rose sharply to over 500 before gradually dropping again. The 1910s had about 200 cases. These reflected eras of financial woes and by the end the greater opportunities for working women.

Mrs Bardell's invented case encouraged a few women who sued with inferred claims rather than unambiguous proposals. In 1869 the law was changed to ensure that only a definite offer had been made.

It was very difficult for a man to defend a claim because a broken engagement was a matter of fact. Of the cases heard in court, the women won 80%, lost 8% with the remaining 12% negotiating a settlement,

The range of damages in the period 1781-1920 was massive: ranging from £25 to £1,000+, with 60 women awarded over £1,000. There was no objective method for calculating damages. Jurors could be unduly liberal or mean. They seemed more influenced by a woman's class or looks than the loss she had actually suffered. Remember juries were all enfranchised men.

In the 1780s the average award was just over £500 but half that in the next decade, the following 10 years saw the sum fall to around £450 but in the 1810s the average was over £800. That might explain the massive number of cases in the 1820s. The awards averages tapered from there with just under £200 in the 1910s.

Most women who had to resort to the courts were lower middle class – those that had to support themselves. With their damages the majority set up their own business or lived off the income from the capital or married someone else. Plenty though did not receive any money, and some spent their own money trying to pursue the debtor. Many more had to put it down to experience. Not many reacted like Miss Havisham. Denise Bates' book details can be found at www.denisebates.co.uk.

The talk was not recorded.

In **March**, Ian Currie gave us the weather “highlights” from the last few centuries illustrated with numerous photographs, including many of his own, plus some earlier paintings and prints.

He started with the Freezes. Britain had a Little Ice Age until the first quarter of the C19th, with low solar activity producing low winter temperatures. Famous freezes enabled Henry VIII to take the Royal Sledge to Greenwich, the Thames to freeze to the North Sea and Ice Fairs to be held in London and other towns on the upper reaches. Old London Bridge prevented most of the tide passing the narrow arches. so the less salty, and un-embanked river (shallow and wide) could freeze immediately up-river of the ►

Bridge. So, inhabitants of both Surrey and Middlesex banks could shop at stalls and enjoy all the other entertainments. Inland rivers froze so often, that skating on them was popular pastime. Elsewhere, the Channel had problems with ice flows and the Arctic ice reached the edges northern Scotland; polar bears landed!

There used to be snow fences on some hilly roads in Surrey and Lewes had a damaging avalanche. Snow has become less common but there have been notable falls and freezes in the twentieth Century. 1947 had heavy snows causing road and rail chaos with deep drifts, which lasted well into the spring. This was followed by a hot summer. 1962/63 saw snow fall on Boxing Day and the freeze lasted in some parts till Easter.

Very strong winds caused comment. In 1703, with winds over 110 mph, the original Eddystone lighthouse was obliterated and the smashed and piled ships on the Thames caused Daniel Defoe to write about the Great Tempest. Was Robinson Crusoe wrecked by a similar storm? More recently we have had the 1987 storm – not a hurricane but wind speeds that could compete. 19 people died in 1987 whilst over 8 thousand died in 1703!

Britain has nearly the most tornados in the world. Throughout the ages they have struck causing varying amounts of damage and interesting effects - small animals raining down! Smaller dust devils, caused by dry heat can be strong enough to be noticeable.

Squalls with thunder and lightning, and perhaps hail can be damaging. The Derby in Coronation Year (George V 1911) was memorable as the storm hit as the leader was led in. Elsewhere, hail stones have been recorded as big as eggs and hail fall has been heavy enough to look like snow.

Volcanic eruptions can affect our weather; in 1815, Mount Tambora was the worst eruption in recent times. 1816 was the year without a summer – crops failed. Mary Shelley, thwarted on a walking holiday in Switzerland, started Frankenstein - a short story competition to occupy the party. The dust in the sunsets inspired Turner.

One fatal coastal storm in 1859 inspired Admiral Fitzroy to hurry to finish his project to have barometric stations around the coast. He used some of his own money to speed up the completion. Hence, we had the shipping forecast. One sea area, Finisterre, was renamed Fitzroy, in his honour.

Our climate has always been fickle - in 1662 there was such a mild winter the parliament demanded that all people should pray for normal cold weather – diarists commented on roses in December, and thriving moulds, fungi and insects. Their prayers were answered, the next year was very cold with widespread ice – iron skates were imported from the Continent.

Recent trends since 2000 though have years with increasing records of extreme heat and unseasonal dry times. Our seasons are changing. The summers are warmer and dryer and the winters milder and wetter. That does not stop extreme storms and disruptive weather occurring.



Forthcoming Meetings

Jun 16 Tuesday 9.30 am for 10.00 am. **David Cufley** – ‘*Kevin Bacon Family History Laboratory*’. An interactive experiment to make family history links between members and to verify if the ‘six degrees of separation’ has any relationship to Family History

It will explore the connections members have to each other and how they may be related by genes, place or event. Serendipity and Kismet are important research tools of family historians and are little used and explored, this laboratory will try to highlight their use.

Sep 16 Wednesday 12.30 pm for 13.00 **Sophie Kay** – “*What’s That Job?*” Dr Sophie Kay is a professional genealogist. She is the Ancestry and Genealogy Expert for the show “Time Team”; and a frequent contributor to Family Tree Magazine. She is a member of both AGRA and APG.

The talk will share tips and strategies for deciphering and researching unfamiliar occupational terms in our family history research

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



REMINDERS

- Note the dates for the **AGM** Saturday 24th October and the **Surrey Family History Fair** Saturday 7th November
- Become a Trustee of the Society – fill in the nomination form
- Use your book-keeping skills as Treasurer of the Society
- Submit an article to “Root and Branch”
- Come to a Society meeting or attend one virtually on Zoom

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 11	7.45pm	Woking	Julian Pooley	Out of Sight, Out of Mind
Tuesday 16	9.30am	Zoom	David Cufley	Kevin Bacon Family History Laboratory
Saturday 20	1.30pm	Camberley	Sue Turner	Beginners Guide to non-Civil Births, Marriages and Deaths
Tuesday 23	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Alan Fitzgerald	The Lost rivers of London

September

Thursday 10	7.45pm	Woking	TBA	TBA
Wednesday 16	12.30pm	Zoom	Sophie Kay	What's That Job?
Saturday 19	1.30pm	Camberley	Sue Turner	Beginners Guide to the Census
Tuesday 22	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Informal meeting	Which of my Ancestors I would most like to meet.

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.



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Please contact Jarrod Pearson on Tel: 01483 884884
Email: JPearson@wokingprint.com

