



West Surrey Family History Society

ROOT and BRANCH



September 2025

Vol 52 No 2

WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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THE OBJECTIVES OF WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

“Taking the Past into the Future”

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

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WSFHS Information

Website: www.wsfhs.co.uk

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

 <https://twitter.com/WestSurreyFHS>

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

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

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

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

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

Root and Branch

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

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

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

WSFHS PUBLICATIONS

by Alison Durkin

Featured Publication:

CD17 – Four Guildford Directories

This CD is now also available as a **download from Genfair** and contains the following Guildford directories: Russell's Directory of 1842 and Hooke's Almanack of 1871. Also included are two Biddle's Directories of 1929 and 1934 which cover the following additional parishes: Abinger, Albury, Artington, Blackheath, Chilworth, Clandon (East and West), Compton, Cranleigh, Ewhurst, Gomshall, Horsley (East and West), Normandy, Ockham, Peaslake, Peasmarsh, Pirbright, Puttenham, Ripley, Send, Shalford, Shamley Green, Shere, Wanborough, Womersley and Worplesdon.

Some village information is missing from the 1929 directory and a few pages are missing from the Streets and Inhabitants section of the 1934 directory.

Each volume includes an index of residents and commercial traders with additional sections giving details of local organisations, schools, clubs and dignitaries. They contain a rich source of names including Fire Brigade Volunteers, Magistrates, MPs, Guardians and Overseers of the Poor, Judges and Police Constables.

There are also short sections giving tips for housewives, some recipes and some health notes. Overall an interesting resource for anyone with ancestors living in the Guildford area during this period.

CDs can be purchased via the WSFHS website or GenFair - £6.00 (plus P&P)

Also available as a download from GenFair

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

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



Editorial

by Richard Weatherhead



I hope you've had an enjoyable summer break. We've been fortunate this year with long, hot days and warm evenings. Whether this summer will be remembered for water shortages like those of 1976 remains to be seen. While the weather is always a popular topic of conversation in England, it's worth remembering that our ancestors relied on it far more heavily—for both their livelihoods and survival.

This upcoming quarter will feature two of our Society's major events for the year: our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the afternoon of Saturday, 27th September, and the 'Surrey Family History Fair' on 8th November. For full details of both events, please refer to the flyers inserted in this magazine, as well as the outer back cover.

Before the AGM, a talk will be given by Dr. Nick Barratt. During the AGM itself, we will review the Society's achievements over the past year. One key agenda item will be a vote on a proposal to adjust the members' subscription rates. While the exact wording of the proposal is still being finalized, it will be published on our website before the meeting. We will also hold a discussion on how members can further support the Society in achieving our four charitable objectives, which are outlined on the inside front cover of this magazine. We encourage you to attend and share your thoughts!

The 'Surrey Family History Fair' will once again take place at the Woking Leisure Centre. This year, we are introducing a series of workshops aimed primarily at those just beginning their family history journey. If you know anyone who has expressed interest in genealogy, please let them know about this excellent opportunity to get started. As always, entry to the event is free, and the first two hours of parking are also complimentary.

With regard to Root and Branch, digital versions in the form of pdfs are now available for free both to our members and in a redacted form to our exchange journal partners. Over 50 other family history societies now participate in this scheme, and you can now read both their journals and our digital version in the members' area of our website.

In my previous editorial, I asked you to serve as my reporters by sharing details and photographs from any events you attended to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. I also invited you to send in any family memories or stories related to the day in 1945. As of now, I'm still looking forward to receiving your contributions, whether for VE Day or for VJ Day.

Lastly, a reminder that R&B needs our Society's members to submit articles about their own family history. This is your opportunity to see the fruits of your hard labours in print!!!



Letter from the Trustees

We are pleased that for the first time since before Lockdown we have met as committee in person rather than on Zoom. We hope that you have not melted in the heat we are experiencing as we write this letter and are looking forward to taking up the baton of family history research in the autumn and the resumption of our local Centre meetings for those who live near enough and our Zoom meeting for our long-distant members.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Sue Harvey who for more than 15 years has organised the booking of speakers for the Woking Centre ensuring that we have had a varied programme of talks which has been much appreciated. We are now looking for a volunteer to take on this role to enable meetings to continue in Woking beyond the end of this year. In addition help is needed with booking speakers for our Zoom talks and back-up for running these sessions on occasion so if you can help with either role please contact woking@wsfhs.org or zoom@wsfhs.org respectively for further information.

At the time of writing, the exact change in the level of membership subscriptions to be proposed at the AGM on 27th September is being finalised. Prior to the AGM, which will be in Woking this year, we are delighted to have secured Dr Nick Barratt as our speaker for what promises to be an intriguing talk *'The Forgotten Spy: The Secret Life of Ernest Oldham'*. The details about the AGM are in the magazine, but please keep an eye on the website for any changes.

Our (FREE) Surrey Family History Fair is on 8th November this year (not our usual first Saturday in November due to the half term holidays). To replace the Talks that we had before 2020, we will be having Workshops. There will be three workshops which will be repeated throughout the day in the Hall particularly aimed at, but not limited to, those who are fairly new to family history. Information about the Fair is included as a flyer in the magazine so please read it, mark the date in your diary and feel free to make the flyer available locally, perhaps on a local noticeboard. Our bookstall will be present along with those of other visiting family and local history societies, genealogical and commercial organisations. We have a good relationship with our County Record Office, Surrey History Centre (also in Woking), and are grateful that they will also be present again. Visitors will be able to browse our Reference Library containing a cornucopia of material and get assistance from the various specialist Help Desks. Full details of all those organisations attending will be on our website nearer the date.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM and at the Fair. Please volunteer to help at the Fair if you can.

The Trustees



How well do you know Surrey?

by Tony Kelly



Questions for September

- 1) When did oil come to Sutton Place ?
- 2) Who was bricked up in Shere in 1329?

Answers to the June questions

Q) Which Woking born builder was a partner in the firms that built Nelson's Column and the Wharncliffe Viaduct ? Where was his first wife buried in 1842 ?

A) Born in Woking, Samuel Morton Peto was a partner in the firm that built Nelson's Column and the Wharncliffe Viaduct in West London.

Today trains still use the Wharncliffe Viaduct on the journeys from London to the West Country.

Mary Peto, the wife of Samuel Morton Peto, died on 20th May 1842. She is buried in the churchyard of St. Paul, Clapham.

Q) The 1976 version of the film the Omen included scenes shot at which Surrey church

A) The Omen was filmed at Guildford Cathedral.

<https://movie-locations.com/movies/o/Omen-1976.php>

consulted 12/3/2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2006/jun/04/religion.film>



Diary of Events around the UK

by Jane Thomas

I have listed those within reasonable driving distance unless really special. There is a dearth of meetings in November and December.

The Guild of One Name Studies hold their “pub crawls” on Friday evenings on Zoom. Organised from Canada, hence daytime pub crawl - you can join with tea! Helpful Pub meets every Wednesday at midnight – for those sleepless researchers! Non-members are welcome
<https://one-name.org/events>



10th September Kent FHS Open Evening at St. Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone Kent ME14 2AN. We are open from 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start- various activities. Everyone is most welcome to join in this open evening. Guests £2.
<https://www.kfhs.org.uk/open-evening-1669>

13th September Bath & Avon FHS Family History Fair, 10:00 - at Turnberries Community Centre, Thornbury. That is all the posted details <https://bafhs.org.uk/bath-avon-fhs-family-history-fair/?v=7885444af42e>.

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

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

4th October Family History Show. Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd E, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5AQ, 10.00 – 4.00 <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>
The WSFHS bookstall will be there

11th October: Romany & Traveller FHS Family History Open Day at Chesham Town Hall, Parsonage Lane, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1EP

This is an informal drop-in that’s free and everyone’s welcome. It is your opportunity to meet others with an interest in the family history, culture and heritage of Romany, Traveller, Fairground and Circus people not only in Buckinghamshire and surrounding counties but everywhere across Britain. Still being planned.

<https://rtfhs.org.uk/event/rtfhs-family-history-open-day-live-event/>

18th October Guild of One Name Studies DNA Seminar at Beauchamp College, Ridgeway Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TP 09:30am for 10:00am choice of subjects and speakers,
<https://one-name.org/seminar-events/>



2th5 October: Oxfordshire FHS Fair 10.00 - 4.00 at Cherwell School (North Site) Marston Ferry Road, Oxford OX2 7EE Some on-site parking but no street parking. <https://www.ofhs.uk/events/event/ofhs-family-history-fair-2025>. **The WSFHS Bookstall will be there**

8 November: Surrey Family History Fair [NB 2nd Saturday of Month]

At Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Rd, Woking, GU22 9BA

10am - 4.30pm Free Entry

Bookstall, Help-desks, Workshops, various FH societies and WSFHS Reference Library <https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>

For more details please see outer back cover and flyer

Up to two hours parking free – charges apply after that

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

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

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

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

Letters

From : Peter Cocker **Email:** fmy098@gmail.com

I would be pleased to hear from anybody in your organisation that has an interest in the Cocker family or associated families as I am collating a family history and any information they can provide would be greatly appreciated.

I should therefore be most grateful if you would kindly mention this to all your members at any appropriate moment.

I am always happy to correspond with relatives however distant in a mutual understanding of the family history and how we have spread ourselves within Britain and across the globe. ■

News from Surrey Heritage

By Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre



Visitors to our search room at Surrey History Centre many notice a couple of changes to the layout of the room and the service we provide. In order to make more efficient use of the space and staff availability, we are now focussing our public service and document issue at the main desk at the top of the room by the main door. This will enable our Heritage Assistants to provide a more comprehensive service and issue your documents to you from one single point; and the duty archivist who formerly sat at the far end of the room will now be on call to assist and answer your research questions as required, rather than physically based in the room itself. This will enable us to undertake more cataloguing of the many new accessions that arrive each week and deliver more talks and other events as part of our public engagement programme.

Recent Accessions

Highlights of our recent new accessions include the following:

10482add3

Jekyll family of Surrey and elsewhere: additional records as described on depositor's schedule, including photograph album, correspondence and battle plans, 18th – 20th cents.

10702add1

Sydney Oliver Collection Trust: additional records including diary and letter book of Marianne de Cabrera (nee Richards), wife of Ramon de Cabrera of Virginia Water, and associated published material, c.1835-2000

10745

Mitcham British School: class photograph, 1891; property in Charlwood: deeds, 1906; property in Lingfield: deeds, 1848 and 1907; Horton War Hospital, Epsom: photograph album, c.1914-1918

10748

Petridge Wood Estate, Horley: sale particulars with estate plan, 1910, and Land Registry estate map, nd [20th cent]; Horley Lodge, Salfords, near Redhill: sale particulars with estate plan, 1966

10750

Victoria Almshouses, Reigate: records, including minutes of meetings of Board of Governors and committees, 1897-2020; annual accounts and other financial and administrative records c.1944-2020; regulations and byelaws; registers of inmates, 1900-1974; deed of trust, 1900; photograph album, 1955, and papers and publication relating to centenary, 1997 ►

10752

Old Dorkinian Association, later Ashcombe Dorkinian Association: minutes and papers, and some records of Ashcombe School, c.1930-2019

10753

St Bartholomew's and St Christopher's, Haslemere: additional parish records, including banns registers, 1929-1994; service registers, 1920-2024; and vestry and PCC minutes, 1878-2001

10755

Whyteleafe County Grammar School: panoramic photograph, 1953; Golden Jubilee order of service, 1957; postcard of school building, nd; 'Semper Fidelis' old girls' newsletter, 1997

10756

Copper Beech, Roffes Lane, Chaldon, sometime part of the Chaldon Mount Estate: deeds, 1919-1933

10761

Cliff Webb, local historian of Crondall, Farnham: collected papers and photographs relating to people, places and properties in Surrey, 1711-1993

10762

Geoffrey George Stedman, architect for Woking Urban District Council: plans and photographs of projects in Woking, 1960-1971

10763

Guildford Street, Chertsey: Deed of bargain and sale from Thomas Pudsey of Weybridge, gentleman, to Thomas Brown of Chertsey, bricklayer, of 3 freehold messuages, 16 Jun 1782; with bond for performance of covenants, 1782; possibly associated list of shop fixtures (?W Tidy), nd [early 19th cent; and receipt for 800 bricks to William Youde for building an oven, 21 Dec 1831 (?tiling at Whitall')

10764

Ottershaw Park Estate: sale particulars, 1907; conveyance, 1921; and draft agreement and related papers, 1927

10765

Mr Norsworthy, editor of Rawlings and Walsh Ltd, printers, Chertsey: collected records relating to Staines and Egham, 1833-1935

10766

St Michael the Archangel, Aldershot: additional parish records, including PCC minutes, annual accounts, faculties and parish magazines, 19th -21st cents. ►

Forthcoming Events

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

Join us for a Virtual Tour Behind the Scenes at Surrey History Centre with Julian Pooley on Zoom

Wednesday 3 September, 5.30pm - 6.45pm

Our tours behind the scenes are always popular and tickets for them sell quickly at our Open Days, but if you are unable to visit us in person why not join us for a virtual visit to the archives. See the artworks in our foyer, 'The Surrey Tapestry' and 'Surrey In Glass' commissioned with major funding from the Arts Lottery Fund. Follow us on a tour through the six miles of shelving in our strongrooms and see how we rescue and preserve 900 years of Surrey's written memory. See the work of our archive conservator and visit our search room to see a selection of the archive and printed treasures in our care, and hear about our engagement work to make Surrey's archives accessible and relevant to diverse communities.

Tickets: £6.*

Schools of Thought: Education Records for Family Historians.

Tea and Talk with Jane Lewis

Tuesday 9 September, 2pm - 4.30pm at Surrey History Centre

Find out more about the records of schools, universities, colleges and other educational institutions, the information they contain and what these sources and resources available can tell us more about our ancestors.

Tickets £6 and limited to 30*

Land of My Father's Father: tracing your Welsh ancestors. With Jane Lewis

17 September, 10.30am - 11.45pm on Zoom

Croeso! Tracing Welsh ancestry has its own set of specialist research techniques, and this talk will concentrate on where to find valuable resources, what can be found online and how to tackle any unique challenges associated with researching in Wales.

Tickets: £6.*

Picturing the Patient: Photography in Surrey Hospitals, 1850-1960.

A talk to mark World Mental Health Day with Julian Pooley

Wednesday 8 October, 5.30pm – 6.45pm on Zoom

Surrey had many psychiatric and learning disability hospitals, and their archives inform our understanding of historic attitudes to mental illness, epilepsy, and a wide spectrum of learning disabilities. Medical case notes telling the personal stories of thousands of people, young and old, who were admitted to these vast institutions are often accompanied by a photographic ►

portrait of the patient, bringing us face to face with a person long dead through the emulsion held in negative on a fragile glass plate or sepia image captured on paper. Often taken on admission to the hospital, we see them at a particularly vulnerable time in their lives and their gaze both challenges and resonates with us through shared emotions and experiences. They are an important resource for the history of asylum photography, shedding light on the history of mental health, the social background of patients and the approaches to care and treatment provided by different institutions in Surrey over more than a century.

Tickets: £6.*

Conservation Study Day

Saturday 11 October at Surrey History Centre

The Autumn Meeting of Surrey Local History Committee will focus on the conservation of archives, with a talk by our Conservator, Rachel Marsh, visits to see her current work in the Conservation Studio and a display of conserved documents and re-bound printed volumes in our search room. Full details of the day and how to book will be posted on www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

This Side of the Looking Glass: Archives from the Real Life of Lewis Carroll.

Wednesday 15 October 5.30-6.45 on Zoom

Surrey History Centre's Lewis Carroll collections have grown over the last 75 years. 160 years after the first publication of 'Alice', we're celebrating the archives of the Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898) and his fascinating writing persona, Lewis Carroll, with a free foyer display and cabinet exhibition in our search room. On public view for the first time are items from important collections received over the past two years, including from the Dodgson family. Join Isabel Sullivan, Senior Archivist and curator for a virtual walk through some of the exhibits.

Tickets: £6.*

Schools of Thought: Education Records for Family Historians. With Jane Lewis

Wednesday 29 October, 10.30am – 11.45pm on Zoom

Find out more about the records of schools, universities, colleges and other educational institutions, the information they contain and what these sources and resources available can tell us more about our ancestors.

Tickets: £6.*

Moving On: Tracing our Emigrant Ancestors. Tea and Talk with Jane Lewis

Wednesday 12 November, 2pm – 4.30pm at Surrey History Centre

Discover why (and how) our ancestors emigrated and the records we can use to trace their journeys and new lives. Explore techniques and resources for overseas research, including Ireland and mainland Europe.

Tickets £6 and limited to 30*



Members' Interests: New Entries and Updates

Please read and action

One of the services offered to members is the ability to make all other members aware of the names that they are researching [Members' Interests] by submitting a list of those names for publication in Root and Branch. Members will be familiar with the format of the entry in the printed edition of Root and Branch which includes the Names of Interest and the full name, membership number and full postal address and email of the member who submitted them. (The digital version of Root and Branch available as an exchange journal carries only the membership number of the submitter).

Subsequently, those names are placed on-line in the free resources section of our website <https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/freeresources.php> so that anyone including non-members can view them. For this reason, only the membership number is given to identify the submitter of the names. Any person wishing to follow up on them is requested to contact Sue Warner [see contact details on the inside back cover] who will pass on the enquiry.

This service thus provides a point of contact for members who may be researching or have already researched the same ancestral lines.

When members first join the society, they are sent a form similar to that shown on the following page and requested to fill in their entries. Existing members have also been able update their interests by downloading a form from the Members' area of the website <https://wsfhs.co.uk/Members/descent.php>.

As a result of names of interest having been added over the last forty years without any names being removed, our list of Members' Interests has become more difficult to consult and manage as many of the members who submitted their form originally may have changed their email address, their postal address or left the society or passed on. In addition, there is an added obligation on the Society under the Data (Use and Access) Act [2025] which enhances your right of erasure [that is the right to be forgotten].

The Trustees would now like **ALL MEMBERS** to update their **MEMBERS' INTERESTS** using the form on the subsequent page or by downloading a form from the Members area of the website <https://wsfhs.co.uk/Members/descent.php> (which can be completed electronically) and sending to Sue Warner so that the old list can be retired and replaced by a new version.

How to fill in the form:

Surname: In capitals, with minor variations in brackets eg BROWN[E]. For more complex variations please list separately

Country/County: Use 3 letter Chapman Code, include Country if not ENG, e.g. SCT/AYR [For Chapman County Codes see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapman_code]

Town, Village, Area: For example Abinger, Southwark

Period: Relevant year span for example pre 1825, 19C, 1650-1800, 1850+ ▶

Members' Interests Update Form

Members' Name and Address [in print with black ink]	Membership Number
Email:	Date

Surname	Country/ County	Town, Village, Area	Period

Do you have some more names to list? You are welcome to use another form .

Call for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for the roles listed below:

Executive Committee Members*

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

Speaker bookers for the Camberley, Woking and Zoom Groups*

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

Publicity Officer*

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

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

Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator*

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

Zoom Co-ordinator(s)*

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

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



Dorking PCC Wills to 1700 [Part 3]

By Cliff Webb



John Bothell, mercer 28 Nov 1638 (to poor of this parish 10s) to my eldest son John £20; to my son Ephraim £10; to my daughters Joan, Susan and Elizabeth B. £5 each; to my wife's 3 children by her former husband as follows: to her son Henry Trigg £10 and to her daughters Elizabeth and Frances T. £5 each at 21; residue to my wife Elizabeth, exec.; Benjamin Ridge, Henry Gosden and Henry Paine all of Dorking, overseers

Witnesses: Henry Payne; Henry Gosden

Proved: 11 January 1638/9 to exec. PROB 11/179/44

Walter Browne, gentleman [nuncupative] all to my brother

Witnesses: William Morrice, clerk; Ann Hamden; William Morrice; Ann Holmden

Proved: 9 June 1641 to Thomas B., brother PROB 11/186/307

Jane Cumber (X), widow 11 Aug 1642 (to be buried in the church near my late husband John; to poor of this parish £3) to my daughter Ann now wife of Richard Read, gentleman £10 and said Richard R. £5 and to his son Richard R. £2 10s; to my brother Benjamin Bachelor 10s and sister Elizabeth wife of William Ray of Croydon £2 and to her 5 children 10s each; to my nephew William Ray son of my sister £5 when he is out of his apprenticeship; residue to John Evershedd, John Steere of Ockley, gentleman and William Cumber of D., gentleman, execs. (£1 each) they spending £30 or rather less to buy freehold land and pay profits to my daughter Ann; if Ann has no children £5 to my brother Benjamin and £5 to my cousin Edward Pynnion of Reigate and rest to my sister's children

Witnesses: William Wonham; John Dendy, jnr.; Aquila Symons

Proved: 20 September 1642 to execs. PROB 11/190/272

David Dudley, wheelwright 27 Sep 1646 (to be buried in the churchyard; to poor of this parish 13s 4d) all my land at Logmore, Dorking (7 acres) to be sold and my son in law John Reed may buy if he wishes; to my eldest son Thomas £30 and to his children Jean, Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary 10s each; to my daughter Jean wife of John Eeds £30 and to their son David E. (my godson) £10; to my 4 younger sons William, Daniel, David and Edward D. £40 each; to my servant Elizabeth Foster £1; residue to my wife Joan, exec.; neighbours and friends John Heather and Michael Jeale, overseers

Witnesses: Edward Howell; Michael Jeale

Proved: 14 November 1646 to exec. PROB 11/198/127

William Steere, yeoman 7 May 1645 (to poor of parish chosen by execs. £1 10s) to my eldest daughter Ann wife of Edward Charlewood of Leigh, Surrey £1; to her children Daniel, ►

Thomas and Susan C. 20 nobles each; to my daughter Frances wife of Geoffrey Peeter of Dorking £1 and to her 4 children Mathew, William, Ann and Frances P. 20 nobles each; to my servant Alice Davis 20 nobles; residue to my grandson Edward eldest son of Edward Charlewood of Leigh, exec.; Henry Payne and George Rogers of D., overseers (10s each)

Witnesses: Jean Payne; Edward Day

Proved: 28 February 1647/8 to exec. PROB 11/203/513

William Rudge, innholder, aged 20 Feb 1647/8 (to be buried in the churchyard) to my wife Ann furniture and goods including two of my new great pewter dishes called Voyders; to her all my other goods for life and then half to my son Tobias R. and half to my grandchildren William, John, Ann and Jane R. children of my son William, deceased; if my wife gives up the inn she may sell moveable goods but to give security to my heirs; to my wife my wine licence for life; to my godson John Liveinges son of Edward of D., butcher 10s for a silver spoon; to my goddaughter Jane daughter of Aquila Simons of D., butcher 10s for a silver spoon; to William Foster of D., victualler 10s for a ring; to my other grandchildren 1s each; friends William Hardwicke of D., clerk and Henry Gosden of D., draper, overseers (£1 each); wife, exec.

Memorandum: a legacy of £80 formerly given by John Wild of D., cook to the use of my wife Ann for life and then to my son Tobias, said son to give release for same as he has already had enough from me

Witnesses: Jasper Goodwyn; Francis Trappes; Thomas Hill

Proved: 16 June 1648 to exec. PROB 11/204/510

William Burnett (X) of Milton, yeoman 14 Oct 1648 to my nephew William son of Stephen B. of Bradley 5s; to Stephen Hollis son of William £2; to my kinsman Edward Hollis of Milton all my messuage etc. in Milton now in occupation of John Foster for term of years formerly made to my father William, deceased; residue to said Edward H., exec.

Witnesses: John Spencer; John Bowles (X); John Foster

Proved: 1 November 1648 to exec. PROB 11/206/8

Susan Bothell, widow and spinster 1 Feb 1648/9 to my daughter Sarah Bothell my house and all its contents paying to my brother John Hamond £4 p.a. formerly given him by his mother and to the 5 children of my son John Bothell, late deceased £20 each as by his will, and to pay to my son Samuel Bothell £100 formerly willed by his father; to my children Ephraim Bothell, William Bothell, Susan Bignall, Jane Hollowaye and Thomas Bothell a pair of sheets and pillowcases and 2s 6d each; to my grandchildren 2s 6d each; residue to my daughter Sarah, exec. ; friends John Heather, Henry Gosden and Henry Payne, overseers (3s 4d each)

Witnesses: Henry Payne; William Bothell; Thomas Bothell; Samuel Bothell

Proved: 21 May 1649 to exec. PROB 11/208/220



Joan Goddins (X), spinster 15 May 1649 to my sister Alice wife of Mr Miles 1s; to Edward Browne of Dorking, gentleman 10s; residue to William Hooker of Dorking, yeoman, exec.

Witnesses: C. Roffey; Mark Huegh

Proved: 22 June 1649 to exec. PROB 11/208/580

John Stanbridge (X), yeoman 9 Mar 1647/8 (to be buried in the churchyard) to my wife Joan £3 p.a. out of freehold land for life; to my son William livestock and furniture; to my son John furniture; wife Jane [sic], exec.; John Wicker, snr. and John Wood of Westcott, overseers

Witnesses: Thomas Mathew (X); John Hocker (X); Edmund Stilwell

Proved: 5 December 1649 to exec. PROB 11/210/444

Dorothy Kenny alias Kennett, spinster, servant to William Hooker, yeoman 8 Mar 1649/50 [nuncupative] (at burial 4s) to Elizabeth daughter of William Hooker my Bible and clothes; to Elizabeth eldest daughter of George Haslewood of Dorking, labourer a smock; to Elizabeth youngest daughter of said George Haslewood clothes; to my two brothers and sister 2d each; residue to William Hooker and his wife Elizabeth, execs.

Witnesses: Daniel Hill of Dorking, yeoman and Alice wife of George Haslewood

Proved: 13 March 1649/50 to exec. William PROB 11/211/660

Daniell Hall, husbandman 18 May 1650 to my eldest son Daniel £20 and his mother her gold ring and furniture at 21 to be brought up by my father Gardner or whoever getting £3 10s p.a.; to my daughter Jane H. £20 and furniture at 21 and if both Daniel and Jane die it to my youngest son John at 21; to my son John £42 to bring him up and then £20 and furniture at 21; brother Miles H. and brother in law Stephen Richman of Dorking, execs.; George Rogers and Thomas Blake (my kinsman) of D., overseers (1s each)

Witnesses: Henry Payne; George Rogers

Proved: 18 June 1650 PROB 11/212/700

George Fuller, aged 13 Feb 1649/50 son in law John Doudley, exec.; to my son John 1s and to his 8 children 6d each; to William Stoane 6d and his 3 children 6d each; to my son in law John Chasmore's wife Joan 1s and his 3 children 1s each; to my son in law Edward Leaneref's wife Susan 1s and to their son 1s; George Miller; George Steer; William Seaman; son in law John Dudlye to keep me and my wife

Witnesses: [none]

Proved: 18 January 1650/1 to exec. PROB 11/215/113

John Chace, husbandman 5 Jul 1650 to my wife Elizabeth 40s; to my brother Richard C. 2s; to my sister in law Elizabeth Heasant 10s and to her children 2s each; residue to my brother in law John H. of Dorking, gardener, exec.

Witnesses: William Lancaster; James Finch; Robert Newman (X); William Poe

Proved: 3 November 1651 to exec. PROB 11/220/5



Thomas Kempe, cordwainer 20 Mar 1650/1 to my daughter Jane K. 10s p.a. for life out of my messuage etc. near the market house in Dorking in my own occupation; to Henry Gosden of D., draper and Henry Trigge of D., chandler, overseers (1s each) all my messuage above to the use of my now wife Elizabeth for life and then to Thomas and John K., my two younger sons with remainder to my eldest son William; if wife remarries she to pay £1 10s p.a. to younger sons; to my daughter Martha wife of Thomas Crawley £2; to my son William £10; residue to wife and daughter Sarah wife of John Lee of D., husbandman, execs.

Witnesses: William Lancaster; Thomas Hyll; Robert Holloway

Proved: 7 May 1653 to exec. Sarah power reserved to other exec. PROB 11/230/76

Richard Holman, esquire 20 Sep 1652 [very long religious preamble] (to poor of St Clement Winchester, in the chancel of which the corpse of my father is buried £5; to poor of Dorking, but only if I live there at my death £10) my wife Jane is “the greatest of all God’s temporal gifts to me” [there are more personal details about his wife and about his son John who has wounded him deeply]; if son John is obedient he may receive up to £50 p.a. at discretion of his mother, and she to provide portions for my daughters at her discretion; in the name of my cousin Mr Christopher Worneall I bought certain lands in Kent by lease and others in his name and he to convey these lands to my wife; various loans in my own name and that of my daughters Mary and Sibella; to my trusted servant William Poe £50; to my other servants £1 each; all my goods to my wife and if she died intestate then Christopher Worneall to be exec. in trust for my daughters Mary, Eleanor and Sibella

Witnesses: Samuel Cosen; Rowland Jewkes; Francis Butterrey; Thomas Hill; William Scott

Proved: 10 May 1653 to exec. PROB 11/230/87

Peter Wood of Logmore, yeoman 12 Jan 1652/3 to my wife Margaret all the goods she brought with her and £20 my sons Elias and James owe me for a bargain of wood I sold them and also a little meadow Tanklins Mead, Milton which to her by surrender, livestock, chamber in house and £6 p.a. out of my land at Logmore and furniture; to my daughter Rebecca furniture and goods; to my son Samuel furniture; residue to my sons John, Elias and James between them; son John, exec.

Witnesses: John Terry (X); Samuel Wood (X)

Proved: 10 June 1653 to exec. PROB 11/227/193

Mathew Mersh (X), yeoman 30 Oct 1654 to my wife Agnes £50, furniture and goods; to my son John £80, furniture and goods; to my son William 2s 6d and to his 2 children Catherine and Ann 2s 6d each at 21; to my daughter Agnes Heather 2s 6d and to her 4 children Ann (2s 6d), Frances (5s), Sarah (2s 6d) and Martha (2s 6d) at 21; to my daughter Joan Blake £3 and to her 3 children Jane, William and Agnes 2s 6d each; residue to my son Mathew, exec.

Witnesses: Daniel Stilbrett; George Francis

Proved: 22 December 1654 to exec. PROB 11/237/689

The Help Register

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

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

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

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

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

Do you live near to your local record centre?

or

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

If yes, please send:

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

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

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

Please note that this service is only available to WSFHS members

SAMUEL ALEXANDER KIRKBY (1845-1927)

By Bob Verner-Jeffries

The Lord called Samuel and he answered "Here am I" (Samuel 1 3:4) - but which Samuel?

Anne and I were married 60 years ago, (and yes, the King and Queen did acknowledge us) and being a budding genealogist, I began asking my new wife's family tactfully for an outline of their ancestors. To our surprise and joy, various aunts and uncles and cousins provided stories and memories, and I settled down happily to further work at the record offices. My apologies for the length, but I am trying to distil over 50 years of spasmodic research and 2 box-files into prose.

In particular, Anne's grandfather Samuel Alexander Kirkby whom she had never known interested me greatly. The family knew he had been a great mathematician and engineer spending most of his career in Ireland. Intriguingly he had no English or Irish birth certificate having been born on a sailing ship in the Atlantic. We have never seen a picture of him. He died at home in West Dulwich (which the editor assures me was once in Surrey so he does count among our number), having been persuaded by the IRA or their forebears to travel back eastwards with his young family.

The Kirkbys from their name were northerners, and before long we were in a maze of Kirkbys centred on Sheffield, a surprising number being christened Samuel. Some of the family I had asked provided written family trees but not going back very far, so I asked an excellent Yorkshire genealogist John Thompson for help. He and his friends were avid searchers in Yorkshire records and produced over a period of five years a blizzard of entries (this is all ages before the internet) but as he said "we are somewhat overburdened with Samuels".

This will not be a recitation of names and dates, nor a treatise on civil engineering, but I hope an interesting story and may show what can be found out by a few journeys to places including of course Sheffield but also Cork, Westmoreland and the Isle of Man. I must also thank correspondents in Argyll and Gibraltar amongst others closer to home.

I suppose we should divide the story up into digestible bites starting from earlier times, summarising education and career and of course marriages and offspring.

The Sheffield people

Kirkbys from the 16th and 17th centuries have been traced, and the occupations around Sheffield as one might expect were mostly in the metal trades. We went to Cutlers' Hall and the reference books mention a mark "Kirkby for Use" in 1812 on plated ware. Some of the family became rich and acquired large houses and embraced nonconformism. One of the Samuels has a tomb in the forecourt of the Upper Independent chapel in Norfolk Street, Sheffield.

Anne has a mourning brooch of another Samuel which we have just had mended by a jeweller [Figure 1]. It commemorates a Samuel who died 4th December 1855 aged 61, and has ►



Figure 1—Mourning Brooch

several locks of his hair behind glass. On a wet day in the Isle of Man in 2017, we found his grave in St George's Churchyard, Douglas; with him was his wife Sophie who lived on until 23rd January 1872 aged 69. They were described as "of Grove House Sheffield" and appear in the 1851 Isle of Man census. They turned out to have been our Samuel Alexander Kirkby's uncle and aunt, not parents. Having done our investigation, it seems that the tomb in Sheffield was for our Samuel's grandfather born in 1762, dying in 1812 and his wife Sarah who died in 1838.

Going back a bit, in 1680 Benjamin Kirkby was listed as Master Cutler. He lived from 1642 to 1709, married Elizabeth Pearson in 1673 and was great-grandfather of Samuel (1762-1812). The Kirkbys had been associated with this chapel since Puritan days. This Samuel of the tomb had sons including the Isle of Man Samuel and our Samuel's father Edward. All clear as mud so far?

Parents and siblings

Our Samuel Alexander Kirkby was the 3rd son and 4th child of Edward (1807-1876) variously described as wine and spirit merchant and accountant at various addresses in Yorkshire and Lancashire but it seems that he had wider ambitions. Apart from Samuel (I o M), Edward had sisters Eliza and Emily. Both married brothers, which is where the name Alexander comes into the family. Luckily, we have a small oil painting of Emily [Figure 2]

For those followers of extinct peerages the Alexanders are interesting: Eliza and Gervase Alexander had no children but Emily and William Alexander had a son Dr Reginald Gervase Alexander- on 22nd July 1912 the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords declared him one of the co-heirs of the Barony of Cobham (established 1313) and the doctor's sons Gervase Disney and Robert Disney Alexander became the 15th and 16th Lord Cobham. Unfortunately the title collapsed again.

Edward Kirkby married Anne Holwell Short on 7th May 1836 at the Bishop's Palace, Isle of Man. Anne was the daughter of Revd Laurence Short who was rector of Ashover over the border in ►



Figure 2—Emily

Derbyshire [see front cover for picture]. We visited Ashover, a delightful village where Laurence was rector from 1797 to 1835. Edward and Anne married the year after Laurence died. Through Anne the family can claim descent from John Zephaniah Holwell famous as survivor of the Black Hole of Calcutta. Another small oil painting of Anne seems to suggest that after 200 years her eyes have been inherited by another Anne. Addresses for Edward and Anne change frequently, including Liverpool, Preston, Dunham Massey, New Basford Notts and in Anne's later years Castle Jane, Co. Cork

The Marine Register for 1845 states "I hereby certify that Mr Edwd. Kirkby's third son and fourth child & not yet named was born on board the "New York Packet" at 7.30 a.m. Wednesday 4th June 1845 in Lat. 8. 23 N & Long. 24. 10 West. W.E. Hawkesley Master, New York Packet". According to one of Anne's older cousins the family were on their way back from Australia! If so, how was the New York Packet involved, though the spot in the Atlantic near the Cape Verdes west of Sierra Leone does seem to lie near a route from the U.K. to South America and beyond according to an early 19th century map. Only recently, I found that there were 2 British ships called "New York Packet", both carrying passengers (voluntary and involuntary) to Australia.

Thus the 1851 census is interesting; for in Nether Hallam Yorkshire we find Edward Kirkby 42, Anne 36 and children Ernest Edward 12; Marian Sophia 7 (who started life in Sydney NSW); Samuel 5 "born at sea"; Laurence Holwell 4 born in Liverpool; and Sarah Eleanora Anne, 1, born in Preston. Subsequently, I found that our Samuel was baptised in Wigan at a month old, 7th July 1845. Anne Holwell Kirkby née Short died on 26th February 1881 with probate granted in Cork on 31st May and 8th August to her son Samuel Alexander Kirkby, personal estate £7,188. Her address was given as Castle Jane, Cork formerly of New Basford Notts.

Education

The first mention of a school for Samuel is Heversham Grammar School; this school (1613-1984) is in a small village in Westmoreland on the A6 road. From there Samuel went to Liverpool College whence we have an ornate 'Cyclopedia of Biography' presented to S.A. Kirkby in 1862. He left there at 18 for a five-year pupillage at the Vauxhall Foundry, Liverpool. He was then admitted to St. Catherine's Cambridge on 9th February 1868, migrated to Christ's on October 17th and from where he graduated with a BA in 1871 and a MA in 1872. He was Senior Wrangler and he was awarded one of the first Whitworth engineering scholarships for which we have found his bronze medal. His brothers Edward Ernest Ward Kirkby and Charles Ward Kirkby also studied at Cambridge and became clergy (see Crockfords). Samuel also studied at the Sorbonne during the siege of Paris in 1870.

Career

All this helped him become assistant to Sir John Fowler working on the Forth Bridge. Then in 1872 he obtained in open competition the position of County Surveyor to Co. Longford, the start of a long connection to Ireland. After 2 years he transferred to the eastern division of Co. Cork where he was based until returning to England in 1911. In addition to his duties ►

as County Surveyor he had a private practice. He built the Kinsale and Youghal bridges (the largest then in Ireland), light railways, waterworks, harbour extensions, and seawalls. The Kinsale bridge was 1273 ft long and included a swing bridge. On a visit to Ireland, we found one of his bridges and on a much painted-over plaque on which you can still read "re-erected by the Grand Jury of the County of Cork 1876 S.A. Kirkby CEMI, County Surveyor"

Unfortunately, the political atmosphere in Cork worsened, and with a growing family he came back to England at age 66 having served in Ireland for over 40 years, encouraged by the IRA nailing a coffin to his office door.

He was elected a Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers in 1903.

Samuel's own family

Samuel married twice, a German widow then an Irish nurse. First, Augusta Agnes Faust widow of Francis Woodley. They married in September 1886 and had 2 children Gladys Marion and Agnes Muriel. Augusta Agnes Kirkby had been born in 1850 and died on 16th February 1896. She was nursed by Eleanor Rubie Young, matron of Cork Hospital whom Samuel married as his second wife the following year 1897. Eleanor was born in 1865 in Shadwell Gloucestershire, daughter of Charles Montgomery Young and granddaughter of the Revd. Thomas Montgomery Young (who had married in 1794 "a Scotch lady" Ann Watson and died aged 90 in 1843). Eleanor's mother Jane Rubie came from a local family with land at Donaghmore and Pluckanes. Irish pre-famine families are notoriously difficult to trace, but an uncle was Colonel Rubie of the Indian Army.

My wife's father Samuel Alexander Holwell Kirkby was born 10th December 1898, Colonel MC of the Royal Sussex Regiment, killed 28th May 1943. On 19th August 1933 he married Doreen Mary daughter of a neighbour Arthur Percy Kimber; at only 19 she had to become the wife of an Army officer sent out to become ADC to the Governor of Malaya. His sister Marion Olive born the following year 1899 married a solicitor Ranald Macdonald.

In the Irish census 1901 at Spring Hill Queenstown (now Cobh) we find Samuel 56, Eleanor 33, daughter Agnes Muriel 11, SAHK 2, Marion Olive 1 living with Eleanor's sister Alice Margaret Young 44. Luckily the family still appears in the 1911 Irish census at York Terrace Cork. Samuel 65, Eleanor 42, Agnes Muriel 22, SAHK 12 and Marion Olive 11. It states that he was married in March 1897 and was MICE, MA Cantab.

By the 1921 census the family were safely at 11 Alleyn Park Dulwich. He died on 29th January 1927. There were good obituaries in the Times and engineering journals. Probate was given to his widow on 3rd March, leaving £920.6s.1d. Eleanor lived on until 4th October 1949 at 109 College Road Dulwich. Probate was given to Ranald and Marion but this time leaving £5,206.1s.6d.

Anne does remember her, a disabled lady known in the family as Motherling. Eleanor and Samuel now have great-grandchildren. The descendants I have met are delightful people but fall outside the scope of this article. ►

P.S 1 We have a beautifully written birth certificate for Anne's father SAHK born 10th December 1898 at Miramar, Queenstown stamped by the Irish Free State from the General Register Office Dublin but still referring to the British "Act 26 Vic. Cap.11".

P.S 2 "Philadelphia Passengers 1800-1850" includes a Sophia Kirkby born 1842 arriving from Liverpool on 3rd June 1845. It shows the Kirkbys were not strangers to the Atlantic, but I now have no energy left to follow her up!

Some references

Apart from census (British and Irish) and registers and wills I consulted

Alumni Cantab. 1261-1900

Burke's Peerage 1940 and Extinct Peerages 1883

Irish Tithe Applotment books

Upper Chapel Record Sheffield

Ashover Parish Church ■

Ancestry Adventures

by Cliff Webb

More Ancestry Rubbish

I have become inured to finding gross and grotesque errors in Ancestry's transcriptions. However, occasionally their ignorance can raise a smile.

Lydia Jepps a widow of Whitechapel died in the Great Plague of 1665. She left a will which was duly proved in the Commissary Court of London.

However, the Ancestry transcriber obviously had no idea and seized on the word 'Testament' (of 'Will and Testament') and gave that as the surname (under which Ancestry list the wills in each year). Unfortunately, s/he couldn't even read that correctly, so poor Lydia is filed under Jestament. Jest does seem appropriate!

In Extremis, Check the Ancestry Index

Having for many years complained about Ancestry's unrivalled ability to mangle names, I am amazed at having to recommend, in certain very special circumstances, using their index.

I was checking a transcript of St Mary Ealing burials. The transcriber had pointed out that four entries where the names had been obscured by a piece of paper in the original register which was still in place in the only picture of the page. I had just added it to my (long) list of things needing checking at The London Archives, when I thought the unthinkable.

To the right of the page number at the bottom of the digitised page is an icon of two superimposed heads. On clicking this an index of names appears. I had always ignored this, but the ►

register was very well written at this point, so I clicked, and, lo and behold, the entries were there. Ever cautious (sensibly so where Ancestry is concerned) I checked the entries against FreeBMD and found they were correct.

So, the moral is obvious. If you find an entry that is physically obscured on a film, it may still be retrievable from the digital index.

Sweet Baby

I often think I must have come across every surname in the country, but still ones turn up that I have never previously seen.

So, it was not so surprising when I came across Gregory Appeltart who was baptised at St Olave Southwark in 1618. A quick look online showed a small concentration of them in urban south London, though Ancestry (inevitably) rendered most of them Appletast or Appletaft.

Serendipity

Coincidences can be quite astonishing. One of my retirement hobbies is buying up old bundles of documents and distributing anything of archival value to the appropriate record office. Recently, I came across an early 18th century will in one of these collections, proved in London. However, try as I might, I couldn't find an index reference to it, which seemed strange. So, I sent it off to The London Archives with a query.

Now, I am currently preparing an index to the wills of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's which had an odd jurisdiction over various parishes in Essex, Hertfordshire, London, Middlesex. The day after posting off the will and getting to 1707 in my indexing work, I recognised our testator and his will. I don't think one could calculate the odds of that; they must be astronomic.

How had I missed it? Well, it will be no surprise to anyone to learn it was dear old Ancestry at it again. The person indexing the 1707 filed wills (they have not yet filmed the registers) had listed all of them under their **Christian** names, so my Bartlett will had been listed under William. ■

Tales from Green Lane Cemetery

By Jenny Mukerji

Ethel WILDEBLOOD nee GRANT (1873-1933)

In the December 2017 issue of *Root & Branch* I wrote about Alexander GRANT (c1846-1927) who was known as the Seafeld Claimant. He is buried in Plot A16 of Green Lane Cemetery. In the next row and right behind him is Plot 40, where his daughter Ethel is buried.

Ethel was born in Petersham, Surrey and was baptised at Richmond on 24 September 1873. Her mother was Fanny Letitia, nee GODBY and Ethel had at least five siblings. During the ►

time that her father was a schoolmaster, the family lived in Alsager, Cheshire, the birthplace of Ethel's husband, John Peake WILDEBLOOD (1868-1956). However, Ethel's family were living in Llandrillo yn rhos, near Colwyn Bay when she married John in 1901.

John was the son of Seddon WILDEBLOOD (1841-1936), the artist and art master. Like his father, he also painted, but he was better known for his work as an engineer. He was working in the Indian Public Works Department as an Assistant Engineer in the Punjab in 1890 and transferred to North-Western Provinces and Oudh in 1892. His papers covering 1893-1911 are in the Cambridge South Asian Archive and were donated by their daughter, Mrs Daphne ADAMS.

After their marriage, Ethel and John travelled to India where their two daughters were born. Joan (born c1905) who married Ronald N M MURRAY in 1957 and Daphne Elspeth (24 August 1909 – 20 November 1986). Daphne's first husband was Major James Lang GOLDNEY whom she married at The Bourne Church on 5 September 1934. They had a son born in Dalhousie, India on 2 August 1935. Another son, John P GOLDNEY was born in 1939. Major GOLDNEY was killed on 11 May 1944 whilst serving in the 2nd Battalion, 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles and was buried in Imphal, north-east India. Daphne then married Lt Col Maxwell ADAMS of the Royal Signals in Rawalpindi, India in 1946.

In 1911 Ethel, Joan and Daphne were living in Stevenage and had two female servants. During the Great War, Ethel's husband, John served in the Infantry Branch of the Indian Army Reserve as a 2nd Lieutenant and then as an acting major. Back in civilian life, John retired in about 1926 and they came to live in Farnham.

By the time of her death, Ethel and John were living at Eversley, Great Austins, Farnham. The *Surrey & Hants News* of 10 August 1933 reported Ethel's death, which occurred on 4 August and announced in *The Times*. She died following a collapse in the witness box at Camberley Police Court. She attended the court to give evidence in the case of a girl alleged to have obtained money from her with intent to cheat and defraud. Whilst in the witness box she was affected by the heat and collapsed. She was taken home by car and passed away the following afternoon.

As we have seen, her daughter Daphne was married just over a year after her mother's death. At the time her father was still in Farnham. In 1940 Major William Lawrence FARMAR, Royal Artillery was living at Eversley, Great Austins when he died and was buried in Plot B875 in Green Lane Cemetery. In 1950, the major's widow was still living at the address.

On February 1936 John Peake WILDEBLOOD married Effie Maude BRIGGS (1893-1973) at St Thomas's Church, Winchelsea, Sussex. When he died on 15 May 1956 John's home was at The Knoll, Rye, Sussex. Some websites erroneously give his death as being in 1936. Another mistake appears on the gravestone of his father Seddon WILDEBLOOD in Winchelsea which says that he was born on 26 May 1842 when his birth was registered in 1841. <https://findagrave.com/memorial/141216050>

The name WILDEBLOOD may seem familiar and when I originally found Ethel's grave I felt sure that she was in some way connected to Peter WILDEBLOOD (1923-1999), the ►

journalist who appeared in court accused of conspiring to commit indecent acts. His case led to the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 that finally decriminalised homosexuality. There have been two dramatisations of his story on television: *A Very British Sex Scandal* (Channel 4 on 21 July 2007) and *Against The Law* (BBC2 26 July 2017). It took me over 12 years to prove the link between Peter and Ethel because Peter was born in Italy and died in Canada; also because of the sensitivity of his case. Happily, this website confirms other research that I had carried out: <https://findagrave.com/memorial/161163363>. Peter was the nephew of John Peake WILDEBLOOD and, by marriage Ethel, with Joan and Daphne being his cousins.

John Peake WILDEBLOOD's second wife, Effie's death was announced in *The Times* on 11 September 1973. She died at St Leonards-on-Sea on 10 September. The announcement also tells us that John had been, at one time, the mayor of Winchelsea. She was cremated at Hastings. Her address in the Probate Search Index was given as 5 Five Houses, Winchelsea.

Throughout this article I have kept the spelling of WILDEBLOOD consistent. Some times it is WILDBLOOD and other times it is WILDEBLOOD. I feel that the E had crept in during the lifetime of Seddon but not adopted by all of the family.

Bertrand ROBERTS (1867-1941)

As promised when writing about Sydney Ernest LORD (1899-1962), here is the story of Bertrand ROBERTS (1867-1941, his father-in-law who is buried in Green Lane Cemetery in Plot C1405. Bertrand's wife, Gertrude Mary ROBERTS, nee PHILLIPS (1872-1947) is buried nearby in Plot C1429. Also not too far away in Plot 1441 is Bertrand's son William Bertrand John ROBERTS (1904-1965) and in Plot C1428 is his daughter Beatrice Marion SPENCE (1908-1943).

Bertrand was the son of William ROBERTS and his wife Amelia, née CARPENTER. He was born in Penalt in the Wye Valley in Monmouthshire and his father was a carpenter and a farmer. Bertram had five sisters and two brothers. By 1871 the family had moved to Llandogo in Monmouthshire where his father ran a mixed farm. Bertrand remained on the farm until he married Gertrude PHILLIPS at the Wesleyan Chapel in Monmouth in 1901. Gertrude was the daughter of Farmer John PHILLIPS and his wife, Mary and was born in Llandogo. In 1891 she was a general domestic servant with the Wesleyan Minister in Trelleck, Monmouthshire, but just before her marriage she was back living with her parents at Maryland, Trelleck. In 1911 Bertrand and Gertrude were living in Landogo with their four children and he was a farmer.

The circumstances surrounding Bertrand's move from Monmouthshire to Farnham are unknown to me and I would appreciate any help in understanding it. Whilst in Farnham he attended The Brotherhood and Farnham Methodist Church and when he died his home was at Mannacott, Ridgeway Road, Farnham. He was buried on 4 December 1941.

Of his four children, Gertrude Irene (1902-1983) was born in Trelleck, Monmouthshire and in 1925 she married Sydney Ernest LORD (1899-1962) whose story appeared in *Root & Branch* in September 2018. As their marriage took place in Monmouth, this may have been the ►

connection that triggered Bertrand's move to Farnham: to be near his daughter? However, it does not explain why Sydney was in Monmouth in the first place. As mentioned last time, Sydney and Gertrude went on to have two children, Joan Mary and Alwyn.

Bertrand's son, William Bertrand John ROBERTS (1904-1965) was also born in Trelleck. During the Second World War he served in the RAF. When he died in Trimmer's Hospital, Farnham on 21 February 1965 his home was at 64 Greenfield Road, Farnham and he was described as a gardener. He does not appear to have married and his sister Gertrude LORD was the executor of his Will. He was buried in Green Lane Cemetery on 25 February. (Plot C1441). Bertrand's daughter Dorothy Lilian (1906-1976?) was born in Llandogo and appears to have moved to London.

His youngest child was Beatrice Marion (1908-1943) who was also born in Llandogo. She had lived in Farnham for about nine years prior to her death. She had married William Croley SPENCE (1907-1994) who came from South Shields and had worked at Kingham's (the large wholesalers in Lion & Lamb Yard/The Hart) from about 1940 as a grocer's warehouseman. The marriage took place in 1940, probably in the Methodist Church in Farnham. Their first child, Gillian was born in 1941 but when their second child, David was born in 1943, both Beatrice and the baby died. At the time Beatrice was living with her mother at Mannacott, Ridgeway Road and she died in the Warren Road Hospital in Guildford. Beatrice was buried in Green Lane Cemetery on 20 October 1943 in Plot C1428 after a service in the Farnham Methodist Church. After Beatrice's death, William SPENCE took his daughter, Gillian back to South Shields where they remained.

Caroline ALSTON (1861-1940)

Caroline ALSTON is buried in Plot A518 of Green Lane Cemetery and when she died her home was at The Clearing, Pine Ridge, Farnham, Surrey. The address is the same as that of Helen Maria WIGHT who died there on 29 September 1932. The two ladies' stories are very much entwined.

Caroline was the youngest child and only daughter of Percival John ALSTON (1822-1903) and his wife Caroline, née ORTON (c1819-1893). She was born on 25 July 1861 in Shoreditch, London and was baptised there in St John the Baptist Church on 11 June 1862. Caroline's father was a builder and she had three older brothers who were all in the building trade: Edward (1846-1935), Thomas (1848-1921) and Percival (1854-1929).

Caroline does not appear to have been recorded in the 1871 census. In 1881 she was visiting Margaret Elizabeth MacKAY (1845-1912), the principal of a girls' college at 78 Kennington Park Road in Lambeth. Margaret was born in Windsor and the daughter of Angus and Mary MacKAY and in 1871 she was a schoolmistress living in Lambeth with her widowed mother and two brothers. Like Helen WIGHT, she seems to have remained a close friend of Caroline's. In 1891 Margaret and Caroline were in Bishopswood Road, Edmonton where Margaret was still a girls' school principal and Caroline was living on her own means.

Caroline's mother died in 1893 and her father married Laretta Ann TURNER née NEVITT (c1833-1898) in 1894. When Percival John ALSTON died on 5 June 1903, his home was at ►

32 Fairholt Road, Stoke Newington. Caroline, in 1901 was living nearby in Woodberry Down, Stoke Newington with Helen M WIGHT visiting her. In 1901 Margaret MacKAY was living with her sister Jessie PELLATT, (c1842-1901), widow of solicitor Daniel Parker PELLATT (c1838-1886)) at 6 Bardwell Road, Oxford. However, Jessie, a boarding house keeper, died shortly after the 1901 census was taken and it is possible that Margaret was nursing her through her final illness. Jessie's story is interesting in so much that she was the governess to Daniel's children when his wife, Hannah (c1833-1878) was alive.

With the death of Percival John ALSTON in 1903 it appears that Caroline inherited the rights over a considerable amount of property in the London area. Caroline acted as one of his executors. Why Caroline should inherit over her three older brothers is perhaps a topic for the descendants of her brothers Thomas and Percival to research. Brother Edward, who had married Emily Elizabeth LEES (c1841-1926) in 1871 does not appear to have had any children and died at Rhododendron Bank, Colgate near Horsham, Sussex leaving over sixty-five thousand pounds, with solicitors acting as his executors.

When in 1911 Caroline was the head of the household at Hathewolden Grange, High Halden, near Ashford, Kent Margaret and Helen were her visitors. They were all living on private means and they had two servants. Margaret was living at Hathewolden Grange when she died on 20 September 1912. Caroline acted as her executor.

Helen and Caroline had moved to The Clearing, Pine Ridge, Farnham by 29 September 1932 when Helen died. When the forms for the 1939 Register were sent out on 7 September, Caroline completed it by saying that she was born on 25 July 1861 and living at The Clearing, Boundstone. She was single and living on private means. Her housekeeper was Elizabeth FRANKLIN, a single women born on 23 September 1876.

When Caroline died on 3 December 1940 at The Clearing, her executors were Irving Blanchard GANE, captain in the Army and George Herbert Samuel KING, an electrical engineer. Irving GANE (1893-1972) was a partner in Messrs GANE & Son of 2 Temple Gardens, London, EC4. *The Times* 29 April 1941 published details of her will. She left £43,686 (resworn as £43561.3s.5d) net with the residue after bequests to be divided equally between The London Missionary Society; Hospital and Home for Incurables; the Free Home for the Dying, Clapham Common; the Royal Blind Pension Society; the RSPCA and the NSPCC.

On 26 November 1941 *The Times* announced that Messrs GANE & Son jointly with the Auctioneers PENNINGTONs Ltd (23 The Quadrant, Richmond), were offering for sale the Freehold Ground Rents amounting to £582.18s 9d per annum secured on 91 houses and 4 shops by order of the Executors of Miss Caroline ALSTON, deceased. Were these properties that her father had built or invested his money? They may even have become Caroline's by way of her builder brother Edward. All the same, it showed that Caroline was a very capable and wealthy woman. Caroline was buried in Plot A518 in Green Lane Cemetery on 6 December 1940 with the vicar of Bourne Church officiating. The grave has a memorial.

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Zoom and Centre Talk Reviews and Schedule

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

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

Co-ordinator: Sue Turner

Email: camberley@wsfhs.org

In **April** we welcomed Bill Lindsay, who gave a very interesting talk that arose from the discovery of the detailed dairies of '*William Schaw Lindsay*' (his 2xgreat grandfather), which he had transcribed. William was a Victorian entrepreneur becoming a ship owner and later a Member of Parliament meeting many famous Victorians and writing anecdotes about them in his dairies.

William was born in Scotland in 1815, was orphaned at the age of 10 and went to live with his uncle, William Schaw. He ran away to sea at 16, becoming a stoker on a ship as he had no money, voyaging to Canada and Demerara (now in Guyana, South America) and back to Liverpool. By the age of 25, he was a Captain, but following an encounter with a pirate and a difficult voyage around the Cape of Good Hope, he left the sea in 1841 and became a Coal agent in Hartlepool. Whilst there he witnessed a shipwreck and organised the building of a lighthouse.

He moved to London and became a shipbroker, the middleman between ship owners and those who had cargo to be sent around Britain and overseas. He also moved into building ships, his first was the 'W.S Lindsay' in 1852 which was about the same size as the Cutty Sark. His ships were involved in the Crimean War including transporting Florence Nightingale and her nurses, in emigration to Australia in association with Caroline Chisholm (of the Family Loan and Colonization Society) and in emigration to British Columbia in Canada, where there were too few women. He became a Member of Parliament for Tynemouth in 1854 and was involved in protecting maritime interests in Parliament. He visited the United States in 1860, touring the Northern States to talk about the laws of the sea during which he met Abraham Lincoln. He supported the Southern States during the American Civil War raising money for their Navy.

In 1856 he had bought Shepperton Manor and its estate, in Surrey, for £26,000 so that he could easily commute into London. His wife was Helen Stewart (married 1843), the sister of the Lord Provost of Glasgow and they had one son, William Stewart Lindsay. William had a stroke in 1864 at the age of 49 and was confined to a wheelchair. He ceased to be a Member of Parliament, sold his ships and started to write books, including the four-volume 'History of Merchant Shipping and Ancient Commerce'. William died in 1877 and is buried with his wife and grandson, William Herbert Lindsay in Shepperton New Cemetery. Bill has written a ►

book based on the diaries 'William Schaw Lindsay - Victorian Entrepreneur' which contains much more information than I can record here.

In **May** there was a very interesting talk on the Basingstoke Canal – '*Back from the Dead*' by Neil Barton. The Basingstoke Canal ran from Basingstoke to a junction with the River Wey at Woodham near Byfleet, allowing access to many of the other canals around the country. Neil explained that it was a unique canal for many reasons. Most of the canals were built for industrial reasons - moving coal from the mining areas to the industrial centres and then moving the products to the cities. The Basingstoke Canal however was built for moving agricultural products into London.

Neil showed us a map from the survey of 1777 showing the route that was originally intended, but Earl Tylney did not want it cutting through his estate near Rotherwick, so instead they had to tunnel under Greywell Hill. Construction started in 1788 by John Pinkerton and opened in 1794. The cost was expected to be £74,000 but the actual cost was £153,000. To make it pay, there needed to be about 30,000 tons of goods moved per year, paid by tolls along the canal, but it never reached that amount. There were peaks in the traffic, during the Napoleonic War it was used for the transit of goods to Southampton, when the railways were being built to move their supplies and in the 1860s for the construction of the Army camp at Aldershot.

Another unique aspect was that the Canal was privately owned. It stopped being used for commercial traffic after 1910, but in 1913 Alex Harmsworth managed to take a boat as far as Mapledurwell to show that the Canal was still navigable because the Railway and Canal Traffic Act of 1854 had stated that if a canal was not used for 5 years, the land would revert to its former owners. In the end it was found that the Canal was not covered by the Act. All the other canals had been bought by the Railway companies, as the former were undercutting them by their tolls and in 1947 when the railways were nationalised so were the canals; all except the Basingstoke Canal. It was bought in 1923 by Alex Harmsworth, sold by his family after his death in 1949 and then bought by Joan Marshall of Fleet. Unfortunately, the Canal suffered several serious problems both financially and physically - they lost the contract to supply water to the Royal Aircraft Establishment and there was a breach in 1968 which flooded Farnborough Airfield - and by the late 1960s the canal had become derelict. However, by 1976, the canal had been acquired by Hampshire and Surrey County councils through the prompting of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society (formed in 1966 and now known as the Basingstoke Canal Society). Restoration of the canal began with the locks at Deepcut and the canal was reopened in 1991 after 18 years of volunteer effort. It now only goes as far as Greywell as the tunnel collapsed in 1932 and the land beyond was sold off for housing and industry. The Bus Station in Basingstoke is built on the site of the terminal wharf.

The Canal is now an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) due to its biodiversity, which includes the Greywell Tunnel which is now the largest roost of bats in the country, with 8 different species there. It still has challenges - signal crayfish are breeding out of control, mink eat mice, voles and ducklings and trees can fall down blocking the Navigation. Also not many boats visit from the rest of the canal network as it requires navigation of the Rivers Thames and Wey and the bottom lock uses 80,000 gallons of water each time it is used which while not a ►

problem in winter and spring, it can be in summer. Happily, the Canal is still a quiet and peaceful oasis, accessible to walkers and boaters. For further information about the canal, Neil recommended 'London's Lost Route to Basingstoke' by Paul Vine.

In **June**, Sarah Pettyfer gave a talk about '*Researching in Archives*'. Sarah's talk covered why we should search in archives, what you should do when visiting an archive for the first time and then gave examples of the types of records that can be found at Surrey History Centre.

She explained that only 10 to 15% of records are online and only 5% of what is held by The National Archives (TNA) is available digitally. Local authorities have to make available the records in their custody, including items from the 'Acquired via Acceptance in Lieu' scheme and covers their local archives, museums and libraries. Surrey Records may be found at Surrey History Centre, The London Archives and at Hampshire Record Office as Surrey was in the diocese of Winchester. There are also Local Heritage and Local History libraries that may also have relevant records.

When visiting an archive for the first time you should check their online catalogue and the TNA Discovery website for what they have. Check their website for opening times (reduced since 2020), pre-booking (some items are stored off-site or you may need to book a computer or desk), photography permits, their facilities (lockers, cafes and eating areas) and what you can take in with you (laptop, pencils, notebooks, camera, clear plastic bags). When you get there, let them know if it is your first time as they will often give you a quick tour. You will need the details of the documents you want to look at and they will show you how to order them. If you are taking photographs, don't forget to buy the permit. Usually they will only allow you to access one document at a time and you may need to use weights and book supports. You could also take a local researcher with you!

Sarah told us the type of records stored at Surrey History Centre including Parish Chest records (vestry and overseers records as well as the parish registers), Quarter Sessions records, Deeds, Manorial records, Tax records and Rate books, Electoral Registers, Family Estate Records, Original wills, apprentice records, asylum records include some for early private asylums, etc. Two of the items she showed us were the Cranleigh Poor Rate Assessment which included how it was calculated, and the midwifery book of John Ellery.

It was a very useful talk and gave much impetus for visiting archives rather than just using computers.

Reports by Sue Turner

Forthcoming Meetings

Sept 17 Wednesday 7.30pm. Stephen Cranstone - '*Sidney Sime, Artist and Unwitting Historian*'. Stephen's interest in family history began around the mid 1990s following the death of his mother. She left a few books dated to the 19th century bearing inscriptions to people and events that had meant a lot to her. A hunch led to the reference section of Guildford library and Burkes Peerage. Therein he found a key to unlock some of the mystery, and he was hooked. Around 2007 he learned ►

there was an art gallery at Worplesdon in Surrey, a well kept secret at the time. The gallery is dedicated to the life and work of artist Sidney Herbert Sime. Sidney had lived in the village from 1904 until his death in 1941. Born in 1865, from a poor background he studied art and earned some fame, chiefly for his work as an illustrator. A habitu   of the local pub, in 1926, for the amusement of his fellow drinkers, Sidney drew caricatures of them. Some 30 of the caricatures survive. The caricatures reveal the character of the men that a photograph never could. Sidney's art is a window into a world of just on one hundred years ago.

- Oct 15 Wednesday 7.30pm. Alan Taylor - '*Gutta Percha in Glasgow*'. This talk is about the history of gutta percha manufacture and its impact on two families in Glasgow. Alan is a retired civil servant and a keen family historian since his teens. He is a member of the Society, having been Editor of Root and Branch 1978-1985 and Chairman of the Society 1974-1987.
- Nov 19 Wednesday 7.30pm. Judith Hill - '*Letters Home - Emigrant Letters*'. Recently historians have been exploring the personal correspondence of emigrants who left Britain in the nineteenth century. These personal letters provide not only unique evidence of the hopes and fears of emigrants and their journey but are also an important avenue for exploring local culture. The letters she has used are the 144 published letters written between the years 1832 and 1837 by the Petworth emigrants (which include the Dorking emigrant letters). The letters were written by those who lived and worked in southern England at the beginning of the nineteenth century and had emigrated because of economic difficulties. Although there is a great body of scholarship about nineteenth century poverty the voices of the rural poor are seldom heard. These letters provide a valuable source especially as they contain testimonies from people who do not normally leave archival residue for posterity. These letters reflect on life in England from a different perspective. As they were no longer dependent on the parish for relief, the writers did not have to be so constrained.

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 **May** Julian Pooley, Manager of Surrey History Centre, gave a talk to the Walton on Thames group on '*The Gentleman's Magazine*'. This magazine was founded by Edward Cave in January 1731 and published monthly. Edward was the first to use the title "magazine" ►

(meaning storehouse) for a periodical. On the front of the cover was an illustration of St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, which depicted Edward's home and the magazine's office.

The magazine contained information and news of a general nature, including poetry, historical chronicles, foreign affairs, births, marriages and deaths, bankrupts, social gossip and a meteorological diary. At the time it was forbidden to publish reports from Parliament so these were written as "Debates of the Senate of Lilliputia". Samuel Johnson's first regular employment as a writer was with The Gentleman's Magazine. This magazine was read throughout the world but ceased trading in 1907, although four pages of the magazine were published between 1907 and 1922 to keep the title formally "in print".

Surrey History Centre is transcribing any information that has reference to Surrey so articles can be searched in this way.

In **June**, Walton on Thames group hosted an informal meeting titled '*Where in the World did you find them*'.

Lesley Cowing spoke about the story of her father's foster family whose children were sent to Ontario when their mother died and their father could not cope with them. This system was known as "Home Children". Unfortunately children were often badly treated.

Tim William's ancestors came from County Down, Ireland. When the father, a farmer, died his daughters, Elizabeth and Anne Adamson, inherited some money. They both emigrated to Winnipeg in 1906 where they set up a boarding house. The Canadian Pacific Railway had arrived recently so the population of 241 on the 1871 Census increased to 42,000 in 1901 and 136,000 in 1911. These included French fur trappers. Anne and Elizabeth both died there in the 1940s, unmarried with no children.

Sue Turner spoke about her search for Joseph Scott Haresceugh born in Rochdale. He disappeared owing money. Sue eventually found a notice in the Police Gazette in 1887 stating he had been accused of fraud. He disappeared, married bigamously in Chicago, but has no death or burial record. Sue also researched a Mary Dickson who was on the 1871 Census but not there in 1861. It appears she emigrated to Australia. Mary returned when she inherited money from her father. Sue also traced an Edward Weigh, a marine steward, who was on the Lusitania when it sank and survived.

Val Tarbitt told us about her relatives that came from Alnwick, a very pretty town. She showed us photos of the many places they lived.

John Luker believed his relatives were from Walton, Farringdon (Oxon), Chobham and Weybridge. From further research he found relatives in Ballarat Australia, where one gravestone actually says "of Walton on Thames".

Philip Langston found his GGG grandfather while he was in the army. He left for Bermuda in 1827. He married a local lady, they had a daughter born there. He then moved to Nova Scotia where another daughter was born. He returned to England and died at a young age. His wife then married an army man and they were posted to South Africa where she died aged 81. ►

Forthcoming Meetings

- Sept 23 7.30pm Sally Gardiner - *‘Using newspapers in researching family history. What can you find and how to find it.’*
- Oct 28 7.30pm Dr Simon Brown - *‘Walton on Thames film studios, last part of the history of The film studios’.*
- Nov 25 7.30pm Hilary Brooks and Susie Pearce - *‘The people on Hersham War Memorial’*
- Dec 23 NO MEETING

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

Co-ordinator: Chris Leech

Email: woking@wsfhs.org

Unfortunately, due to a problem accessing the hall, we were unable to have our planned **April** meeting. We do apologise to those of you who turned up on the evening and were disappointed to not hear the talk on Romany ancestors.

We had an enjoyable informal meeting in **May** when members were asked to share any ‘*Skeletons*’ they had found in their family history research. It is often these unexpected findings that broaden our research. We had an interesting range of accounts of ancestors discovered as patients in Brookwood Lunatic Asylum, being imprisoned for receiving stolen goods, serving one month’s labour for child neglect, stealing and sent to the Reformatory, suffering from epilepsy and dying in a mental hospital as well as a number of other stories of illegitimacy and controversy.

Our speaker in **June** was Dr Geoffrey Mead whose talk was entitled *‘The South at Work’*. This interesting illustrated talk gave a good overview of many of the jobs our ancestors, in the South of England particularly, could have been involved in up to the 20th century. Looking at the historical approach many jobs existed in the past because of the limitations of transport before the building of roads and railways. Cattle were fattened up in the home counties before being herded into London where they were slaughtered for meat production and the hides were the resource for the tanning of leather to be used to make various articles such as shoes and gloves. The lower Thames was a big provider of fish for the area and there was a major fishing fleet at Barking in Essex with much of the fish being sold through Billingsgate market in London. The chalk areas were dug for cement production; Surrey Heaths provided sandstone, sand and conifers. Areas of clay soil were used to make handmade bricks as far back as pre-Roman times until the 1920s. Some work was seasonal so people often had more than one job. Many occupations have changed over the centuries and some no longer exist such as the boldermen who did shingle collection on the coast. Transport has evolved as well with horse buses from ►

1850 of which there were nearly 4,000 in 1902 but were very soon after replaced by trams and as grass areas for horses were no longer needed so much the land was often built on for housing. This talk was wide ranging and much appreciated.

Reports by Chris Leech

Forthcoming Meetings

- Sept 11 Simon Fowler – *‘Researching ancestors who fought in the two World Wars’*. Almost everyone has ancestors who fought in the two world wars. This talk looks at the key records and how to make the best use of them in your research.
- Sept 27 **AGM Saturday at 2.00 pm.** Talk by Nick Barratt – *‘The Forgotten Spy: the secret life of Ernest Oldham’*. Using a real case study, the talk explores how to research and write your family history to publication standard.
- Nov 13 *‘My WW1 and WW2 Ancestors’*. An informal meeting following on from our talk in September, come and share about your ancestors from the world wars and what, if any, further information you have found about them. Bring your information on a memory stick, photographs or paper, just come and talk or enjoy listening to others’ stories.
- Dec 11 Jane Lewis – *‘Crofts, Castles, Trades and Professions’*. Explore available resources that show what our ancestors did and how they earned their living. Learn how to use maps, local directories, rate books and more to explore the homes and places where your ancestors lived.

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 apply to the webmaster. There are different days and times for the talks. 'Doors' open 30 mins before the talk. The meeting starts 10 mins before the hour.

Co-ordinator: Jane Thomas

Email: secretary@wsfhs.org

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

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

Following my message in the last R&B I have received one offer of help but not to do with the actual meeting, but as yet have no more details. ►

I have planned up to March 2026 with April 2026 pencilled in, so presumably these meetings will happen. The January meeting is a workshop. It can be a real workshop with interaction and NOT recorded or a more managed one with more attendees and can be recorded. The subject is not finalised – let me know any ideas.

In **April**, Julie Goucher presented her talk '*Researching Displaced People*' "why and when and how and where and who?". Not necessarily in Kipling's order but they are all essential to researching displaced people.

Why? - War, hostile treatment and persecution/genocide, natural disaster and famine - all can cause migration either internally or externally (refugees) into another country. Genealogists would list the known essentials first.

Who? - Surname - consider variations and how different nationalities would hear it. Could it have been translated?

Where were they from? Not liable to change (unless politic). Where did they start from and where did they end up and points in between? Research their original life. Study local maps.

What was their occupation? What was their religion and what were their political leanings?

When did the journey start and when did it end?

How did they travel? You may not know the latter and will need to search globally perhaps.

As well as what you know Julie suggest you list what you do not know, which might aid your research.

Julie illustrated her talk with three case studies. First she looked at French and American Prisoners of war 1803-1815. The latter tended to be from ships. They were held at Porchester Castle, Dartmoor Prison and Esk Mills. The second case concerned the displaced people in Europe at the end of WW2 - prisoners of war, internees and refugees. The last case considered the Far East at the end of WW2 with prisoners of war military and civilians.

In all, three cases she quoted from the records she found and gave us sources - which are too numerous to list. The talk was recorded and, with the very detailed handout, was available in the members' area for seven days.

In **May**, Richard Holt gave us a fact-laden but fascinating talk on '*Freedom of Information Requests for Genealogy*'.

What is the Freedom of Information Act 2000? www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents.

"Right of access to recorded information held by public authorities irrespective of its date, unless an exemption applies." It does not replace other legislation governing disclosure of information. Anyone can make an FOI request and any information provided is considered to be in the open domain. There are numerous exemptions (e.g. cost above £600 for ►

government and £425 for others). The request should be made in writing (letter/email), to the address given on the public authority's website and provide name and contact details and be clear about what information you are requesting. This can include written and printed documents, computer files, letters, emails, photographs, and sound/video recordings. It "does not have to be an 'official document' or produced by the public authority ... including draft documents and correspondence received by the authority, recordings of telephone conversations and CCTV recordings." <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/making-a-freedom-of-information-request/>

The response should be within 20 working days but it may take longer in some circumstances. If you think the public authority has not complied with the FOIA you can write to the public authority asking for clarification. This can be followed by asking for an internal review, then a complaint to Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO will assign a case officer and review your complaint. Once reviewed, a Decision Notice will be issued.

If still unsatisfied, you can appeal to the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights). It could be referred to the Upper Tribunal, where appeals against the First Tier Tribunal are also heard. Appeals against the Upper Tribunal are heard in the Court of Appeal. In all cases state the reasons why the authority has not complied with the FOIA. As you can see the process may need patience and you should keep all communications. Emails are less likely to be lost!

Richard then illustrated the various stages with case studies:

Case 1 involved a burial committee whose responses caused concerns over management and storage of the records and a lack of clear fee structure for info. So the committee were asked for copies of policies about storage, a list or breakdown of all burial registers and maps together with meeting minutes and correspondence relating to charging of fees for searches of burial registers. They were also asked for an up to date charging policy since the published charges in August 2017 together with any recent searches with details of hours spent and charges. Some info was provided. Maps would have to be charged for copying but they could be viewed in person. In 2016 one burial search had been made but no fee details were given, but the committee added it had started a project to digitise all the records and maps to be available on line. The burial record transcription are online but images were available on application. Another enquiry also involved burial records. Bucks records were on a database so Richard asked for all Holt burials. The reply was they needed exact details and this might be above the cost allowance. He replied asking for a simple search of all Holt records which should be very simple and fast with a working database. He then used the facts to find not only new family graves but a current relation.

Case 2: The 1939 register (originally for the production of Identity Cards and Ration Books, but also used by the new NHS). This was maintained and updated by them from 1952, at the end of rationing, until a computerised system was adopted in 1991. The NHS England holds 1939 registers (TNA have the digitised images). There are other registers to cover armed forces and people out of the country in Sept 1939. Everybody born since then will be in later registers. All info is on individual cards, with all updates and sometimes more information not added ►

to the register pages. These cards use the identity/medical card number to file it. The birth certificate number was used later. So, these will be needed to find the record. The info on the left-hand page: col 11 (see instructions) 12 (posting) also the death code giving district etc, is available. The image should be in colour, as the on-line version. A microfilm one, in grey tones, is awful - not clear.

Case 3 involved the Passport Office. Richard tried to find details of his great-grandmother's passports as she had travelled to USA, Israel, Spain and Greece in 1960s and 70s. He asked for his step-great grandfather's first, and eventually saw the card with all the details which showed his wife was not on his passport. He gave her names (including all three surnames) and received a reply that she did not have a passport. He replied that he was certain that she had visited Israel, USA and some European countries. He also said she sometimes reversed her first two forenames, and gave the dates for her surnames. They replied that they could not find her and she could have used a British Visitors Passport (BVP) from the Post Office. The BVP was a simplified version. It was intended solely for a holiday or similar private visits not exceeding three months of duration to specified European countries. Richard reiterated that USA and Israel were not in Europe so she must have had a full passport. Eventually they gave him a list of her passports with her forenames reversed and her former married surname listed as her maiden name. He asked for her card which gave a few more details but her maiden name was given as her previous married name and the maiden name was not noted.

Richard is also going through the tribunal system to see an image of a John Smith's signature to see if it is the one he is searching for – not possible from transcription.

So, know where you are going to ask, have all the relevant names, places and dates in all communications and keep all copies. Be dogged in your responses and have PATIENCE.

In **June** Chris Hewis gave us '*Wedding Customs and Nursery Rhymes*' in a well-illustrated and thought-provoking talk. Wedding traditions can be traced (via statuary) to ancient Rome, with Saxon and Norman customs being absorbed. Pagan (non-Christian) ceremonies involved handfasting, with the bride and groom having their hands tied together - the bride's right and the groom's left to leave the groom's sword hand free if necessary!

The word wedding itself comes from the Saxon wæger or barter. Marriage was a contract. In 860 AD, Pope Nicholas declared that a valid engagement required something of value to be exchanged, symbolised by a ring. Early versions were plain, but as time passed, stones began to adorn rings, with Maximilian I giving Mary of Burgundy an engagement ring with a stone (in a contemporary portrait). Romans believed that the third finger of the left hand had a direct link to the heart – hence the ring finger. Eastern Europe was not overrun by the Romans, so their tradition is to use the right hand.

Many customs had practical (or even supernatural) origins. Bridesmaids once wore identical dresses to the bride—not to flatter her, but to thwart the Devil. Likewise, the best man originally served as a bodyguard to protect the couple from feuding families. The tradition of a veiled bride with her face revealed only after vows were exchanged was certainly around in ancient times. A white dress can be traced back to Anne of Brittany's marriage in 1499, ►

though blue was once the favoured hue symbolising purity. A horseshoe: a token of luck and fertility dating back to Roman times, was especially powerful taken from the left hind hoof of a grey mare. Open side up of course.

Cakes and confectionary in feasts have always been around. The tiered design, introduced by a French chef of Charles II, was inspired by St. Bride's Church tower in London. Confetti (Italian confectionary) has roots in ancient Rome when cakes sprinkled over the couple for prosperity - eventually evolving via petals to modern versions. The honeymoon too had practical origins: couples were once tied together (Saxon handfasting) and escorted to bed and kept there for a month, fed by friends - a literal moon of honey.

Nursery rhymes apparently offer a whimsical lens on social history. Many, cheerful-sounding ditties (if tinkered with by the Victorians), carry darker meanings. Most began as a protest or satirical view, even seditious on handbills.

"Ring a Ring o' Roses": thought to be linked to the Black Death, its lines about rings and falling down are thought to reference symptoms and sudden death.

Pop Goes the Weasel: the first verse was originally about pawning ("pop") silk workers' spinning tool ("weasel"), involving the Huguenots in the East End when thrown out of France.

"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary": a veiled commentary on Queen Mary I's ardent Catholic reign, referencing instruments of torture used on leading Protestant including priests.

"Humpty Dumpty": this rhyme may refer to a powerful cannon used in the English Civil War that shot down from Colchester's St Mary's church tower.

"Jack and Jill": is thought to comment the execution of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette during the French Revolution.

"Old Mother Hubbard" and **"Baa, Baa Black Sheep"** used the symbolism of the mother church. The former refers to Cardinal Wolsey's failure to obtain a ruling on Henry VIII's first marriage from the Vatican whilst the latter was a protest about tithes (thirds) - one to the king, one to the church and one to the provider and their employees.

Little Miss Muffet (about 1600) was a real girl -the daughter of Dr Thomas Moffet who was an expert on all sorts of "mini beasts". She may not have shared his interest.

The Rhymes were taken from Tommy Thumb's pretty song book. Vol, II. (approximately 1744). <https://catalog.princeton.edu/catalog/9947131563506421>. The earlier version has some interesting comment and ideas and from Tommy Thumb's Song Book for all little Masters and Misses Copied and printed in USA. <https://archive.org/details/tommythumbssongb00loveiala>

(This report used both Open Source Books (March) and AI (Feb) to help write this!).

This talk was also recorded and available for 7 days.

Reports by Jane Thomas



Forthcoming Meetings

- Sept 2 Tuesday 7.30 pm for 7.50 pm. Dr Colin Chapman – *‘Migration’* Dr Chapman has first-hand working experience of migration in North and South America, Africa, India, Japan, China, Australasia and across Europe. He began family history research at the age of seven and has been closely involved with many FHSs as well as SOG and FHF. The movement of ancestors from place to place is one of the most fascinating yet challenging aspects of genealogical research. Colin will explain some reasons for migration and methods used by individuals, families and communities. He will recommend online and tangible sources of migration records.
- Oct 22 Wednesday 7.30 pm for 7.50 pm. JJ Heath-Caldwell – *‘A light overview of the English in India from the early 1600s through to 1947’* JJ is a Chartered Engineer and has spent much of his life in the electronics industry however these days he has an internet business running a commercial website and also a personal family history website - running for over 20 years. Lots of young British men went to India to make money. As a result the East India company grew and took over the Indian subcontinent although there was probably never an intention to do so.
- Nov 4 Tuesday 7.30 pm for 7.50 pm. Jef Page – *‘Art of World War II’*. Jef has had a varied career in management, finally working in the British Library and the National Gallery. He is a freelance lecturer and gallery guide and gives talks on a large range of historical subjects. The talk will give us a view of paintings of World War II.
- Dec 3 Wednesday 7.30 pm for 7.50 pm. Chris Broom – *‘Humour in Genealogy’*. Chris is a tutor at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Canterbury, and runs a genealogical research and education business from Suffolk. The talk is a light-hearted walk through a variety of genealogical records, reinforcing the value of scrutinising original documents.
- NB January meeting is at 10am. Early warning!

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

REMINDERS

- Please attend our AGM on afternoon of Saturday 27th September
- Our ‘Surrey Family History Fair’ is taking place at Woking Leisure Centre on Saturday 8th November. See outside back cover for more details!
- Please renew your Members Interests using form on page 63
- Root and Branch is dependent on a ready supply of articles submitted by our readers on any aspect of family history. Please tell us a family story

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.

September

Tuesday 2	7.30pm	Zoom	Dr Colin Chapman	Migration
Thursday 11	7.45pm	Woking	Simon Fowler	Researching Ancestors who fought in the two World Wars
Wednesday 17	7.00pm	Camberley	Stephen Cranstone	Sidney Sime, Artist and unwitting historian
Tuesday 23	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Sally Gardiner	Using newspapers in researching family history
Saturday 27	1.30pm	AGM at Woking	Nick Barratt	The Forgotten Spy: the secret life of Ernest Oldham

October

Thursday 9	7.45pm	Woking		NO MEETING
Wednesday 15	7.00pm	Camberley	Alan Taylor	Gutta Percha in Glasgow
Wednesday 22	7.30pm	Zoom	JJ Heath-Caldwell	A light overview of the English in India from the early 1600s through to 1947
Tuesday 28	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Dr Simon Brown	Walton on Thames film studios, last part of the history of The film studios

November

Tuesday 4	7.30pm	Zoom	Jef Page	Art of World War II
Thursday 13	7.45pm	Woking	Informal Meeting	My WWI and WWII Ancestors
Wednesday 19	7.00pm	Camberley	Judith Hill	Letters Home – Emigrant Letters
Tuesday 25	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Hilary Brooks and Susie Pearce	The people on Hersham War Memorial

December

Wednesday 3	7.30pm	Zoom	Chris Broom	Humour in Genealogy
Thursday 11	7.45pm	Woking	Jane Lewis	Crofts, Castles, Trades and Professions’
Wednesday 17		Camberley		NO MEETING
Tuesday 23		Walton on Thames		NO MEETING

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.

SURREY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday 8th November 2025

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

West Surrey Family History Society invite you to Woking Leisure
Centre for the 2025 Family History Fair.

Just curious? There are free workshops to assist and guide you.

Doors open at 10 a.m. for a full day of discovering family and local history, researching some finer points with our team of experts or browsing and maybe buying from the range of family history bookstalls and commercial enterprises.

Help tables will be available for general enquiries nationwide as well as specialist researchers: **Capt. Graham Bandy** for **Army**; **Brian Swann** for **DNA**; and **Kathy Chater** for Huguenot and Afro-Caribbean related questions. *[Where possible please bring original documents]*

The **Reference Library** will have many items relating to Surrey, parts of London and Middlesex, including the Victorian A-Z of London and a copy of Phillimore's Atlas of Parish Registers.

The Society's **Bookstall** will have a full range of our publications, together with many family and local history books.

Entry to the Surrey Family History Fair is **FREE**

As usual there will be plenty of necessary tasks for volunteers, no previous experience needed. Please contact your Centre Coordinator or bookstall@wsfhs.org if you could help for an hour (or more).

[For current details please refer to the website www.wsfhs.co.uk]