



East Surrey

Family History Society

Report of the Society AGM

plus

Society accounts for the year 2023

Journal

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June 2024

East Surrey Family History Society

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Registered Charity No. 286659

PRESIDENT

Paul Blake FSG

VICE PRESIDENTS

Maureen O'Sullivan, Rita Russell

COMMITTEE

Chairman

Hilary Blanford
chairman@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Secretary

(statutory correspondence)

Alan Essex
secretary03@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Assistant Secretary

(routine correspondence)

Anne Ramon
secretary@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Treasurer

Tamsin Abbey
treasurer@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Committee members

Sue Adams Marda Dixon Geoff Fairbairn Lynn Gunter
June Hayles

OTHER POSTS

Membership Secretary

June Hayles membership@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk
12 Dryden Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8SG

Journal Editor

Chris Green editor@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Webmaster

Rob Cambridge webmaster@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Marda Dixon safeguarding@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Members' interests

Rita Russell membersinterests@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Searches

Rita Russell rjr28@btinternet.com

Research and advice

1 Rose Cottages, Plaistow Street, Lingfield RH7 6AU

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVE

Canada

Ms Kathy Baker
camembership@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Members must quote their Membership Number in all correspondence

The Society **Research & Advice centre** is at Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield. It is open every month (except August and December) on the second Saturday from 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., and on the fourth Wednesday from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Journal of the

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The deadline for the October 2024 Journal is 10.00 a.m. on 1 September

All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite

From the chairman

Hilary Blanford

Another AGM and Study Day is behind us, and another first for the Society. We held our AGM as a hybrid meeting on Zoom, thanks to the excellent facilities at North Cheam Baptist Church and the assistance of Marda Dixon, Alan Essex and Geoff Fairbairn. Running hybrid Zoom meetings is equipment-intensive and we were fortunate that the church had its own built-in camera and sound desk as well as microphones, but having tried it we are now looking at ways to achieve another first by running the whole of the Study Day as a hybrid Zoom meeting. Watch this space.

We have also submitted a proposal to run a virtual help desk as part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival in September. Again, this will be a first for the Society but we are confident that our experience in running the virtual family history fair will enable us to manage this new venture with ease. Additionally, we are waiting for a response to our offer to run a family history day for Sutton Archives.

The minutes of the AGM are on page 24, and we welcome Sue

Adams back on to the committee. You will also see on the opposite page that we will be moving the publication date of the journal on by one month, so your next journal will be published for October.

Looking at our regular activities, our bookstall/help desk will be in evidence at Nunhead Open Day and Lambeth Heritage Festival as well as fairs at Kempton Park and Woking. Why not drop in to see us. Better still, why not offer to help for an hour or so?

Our next *Talk with Tea* is advertised on page 11. This is an excellent way to combine some personal research with the opportunity to see and handle original documents at the end of the talk. When did you last consult the Surrey History Centre's catalogue to see if your family name is included? You never know what you might find.

Our Zoom speakers are booked until the end of the year, so do look at page 4 and on our website to see what's on offer. I hope to see you at one of the meetings.



Future Provision of the Society's Trustees' Annual Report, Accounts and Journals

At the Society's AGM earlier this year a question was raised about the Trustees' Annual Report, often referred to as the TAR. Historically, the Society has provided copies at AGMs, but this is not required under the terms of our constitution. Additionally, it uses a lot of paper, which does not help us to reduce our carbon footprint, so this year we did not offer copies at the AGM. The TAR, as was said at the meeting, sets out the aims of the Society with its objectives and evidence that these objectives have been achieved. The format of the document is set out by the Charity Commission, who may request a copy; and it is available to members in the members' area of the Society's website.

What our constitution does require at an AGM is a report from the committee, and this is reproduced in the minutes of the AGM (these are published elsewhere in this journal). The committee's report fulfils our legal obligation to demonstrate that the Society is achieving its charitable objects.

Additionally, a request was made at the AGM for prior circulation of the Society's accounts. The Society's accounting year runs from January to December and the accounts must be agreed by the Trustees before being sent to the Examiner, who checks them before they are published. As the copy date for the March journal is 1 February this does not give much time to complete the work and previous committee members are to be commended for achieving this. However, the process can easily be upset by factors outside our control, as happened this year, so we have looked at alternative methods of distributing the accounts in advance of the AGM.

Eventually, we decided that the simplest method would be to move the publication dates of our journals. So after this edition the journals will be produced for October, January, April and July, with copy dates falling on 1 September, 1 December, 1 March and 1 June.



Zoom meetings

June: Tue 11, 8.00 p.m. (*Recording played Wed 12, 10.00 a.m.*)

Emigration from Britain at the end of the 19th century and the age of the ocean liner
Judy Hill

Members enjoyed Judy's well researched talk on earlier emigration so requested this follow up talk.

July: Mon 8, 10.00 a.m. (*Recording played Mon 8, 8.00 p.m.*)

A Freemason in the Family?
Susan Snell

Join us to enjoy this beautifully illustrated talk on the records and artefacts of the Freemasons and learn how to access more of these records.

August: Tue 13, 8.00 p.m. (*Recording played Wed 14, 10.00 a.m.*)

Scanning your Physical Family History Photos
Ann Larkham

This talk may be thought as being one for the 'techies' but is presented in an easy-to-understand manner. Ann will discuss various scanners and methods, including photography, to help you preserve your precious images.

September: Tue 10, 8.00 p.m. (*Recording played Wed 11, 10.00 a.m.*)

Discovering the Story of your Home
Julian Pooley

Yet another offering from the indefatigable Julian with plenty of images and maps to show us how to discover more about our homes and those of our ancestors.

October: Tue 8, 8.00 p.m. and Wed 9, 10.00 a.m.

Fact or Fiction: those Online Trees
Hilary Blanford

How do you identify a 'wrong 'un'? What strategies can you use to confirm or refute some of the assumptions made by your fellow researchers?

November: Mon 11, 10.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.

DNA and Ethnicity
Hilary Hartigan

This talk comes as highly recommended by those who have heard it. Well-illustrated with easy to follow diagrams, Hilary presents the subject with clarity and humour.

Please check the Society website for future meetings and last-minute alterations.

Group meetings

Lingfield Group

- Jun 26 Bridging the Gap Jackie Depelle
Before the 1921 census there are plenty of records to cross-reference and roll back family research. What material can we use to go back to 1921 from more recent years? (Jackie will be speaking via Zoom)
- Jul 24 Commonwealth War Graves Commission Archives speaker TBA
The presentation will begin by introducing why the CWGC was founded, with particular focus on the contents of our archives during the conception of the commission. It will then explore the contents of their archives today and how they are accessible to anyone wishing to research the casualties we care for. We will then round the things off by showing you some of the incredibly special items stored in our archives that provide a fascinating insight into the task of ensuring casualties of both world wars are never forgotten

Southwark Group

- Jun 10* Walk around Camberwell, with a café stop Len Reilly
- Jul 22* Walk around Clerkenwell, with a café stop
- Aug 12 Film and Sound Archives for Family Historians Kathy Chater
Another rich source for finding your famous and not so famous ancestors
- Sep 9* Visit to the Tower Lifeboat Station *tbz*; optional visit to the Savoy Chapel
- Oct 14 Jones and Higgins Department store Lisa Soverall
Rearranged from April because of the rail strikes. Lisa will also be setting out some of the Jones and Higgins records for us to view after her talk.
- Dec* Christmas Lunch at the George, Borough High Street
** Places are limited. Please book with the Southwark secretary*

Group details

Lingfield: Secretary: Rita Russell 01342 834648 {lingfield@eastsurreyfh.org.uk}
Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB

Southwark: Secretary: Hilary Blanford 01634 685219 {southwark@eastsurreyfh.org.uk}
John Harvard Library (211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JA)

Beware the Ides of March

Hilary Blanford

Earlier this year *MyHeritage* launched its latest product stating:

‘AI Biographer™ is an exciting new feature that’s exclusive to *MyHeritage*. With a single click, it automatically compiles a Wikipedia-style biography article about a person’s life. It uses details from matching historical records and family tree profiles, and curates the information into a beautiful, well-written article that will make you proud.’

Around mid-March I decided to try this feature and selected my 3xgt-grandfather, Henry William Ambross, as the subject. Below is the outline history produced by artificial intelligence. The names of his parents and wife are taken from the skeleton tree that I posted on *MyHeritage*, as is his date of birth. So far, so good. However, his baptism has been taken from other records and repeats the error in the spelling of Magdalen in Bermondsey used in several online records; and for some reason the place of Henry’s marriage to Jane is not included.

Biography

Henry William Ambross was born on March 17, 1805^{[1][2]}, in Bermondsey, Surrey, England^[1]. He was the son of William Ambross^{[1][2]} and Frances Ambross (born Candling)^[1]. His mother, Frances, was born in 1769 in Sculcoates, Yorkshire, England^[1]. Henry was baptized on September 1, 1805, at Saint Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, London, England^[2].

He married Jane Martin, who was born in 1810 in City of London, England^[1]. Together they had two sons: Henry William Ambross, born in 1827, and John Ambrose, born in 1832^[1].

In 1851, Henry lived in Chequers Yard, Uxbridge, Middlesex, England, where he worked as a cooper^[3].

Henry passed away in 1856 at the age of 51 in Bermondsey, Surrey, England^[1]. He was buried in Blewberry, Berkshire, England^[4].

Beware the Ides of March

Nor does the history mention that in the 1851 census Henry is described as a widower, yet there is no mention of a death for his wife.

Moreover, his wife Jane Ambross, described as a widow, and Robert Plyer, a widower, had their banns read at St Mary Lambeth in 1852. Henry had deserted his wife and family who became reliant on outdoor poor relief in 1826. Did Jane and Henry really believe that the other was dead or were Jane and Robert taking a chance? They were recorded as a couple in the 1841 and 1851 census returns and it was thanks to the knowledge of a member of staff at Southwark Local Archives that I discovered they were living round the corner from Jane's son, another Henry.

Possibly somebody knew something because Jane and Robert were not married for another five years, after the death of Henry. He

actually died in Tanner Street Workhouse in Bermondsey, which is not mentioned, and he had a pauper's burial in the Old Camberwell Burial Ground. So where has the burial in Blewberry come from? The only Henry Ambross I could find associated with Blewberry was baptised there in 1725 so this Henry is a somewhat improbable candidate.

So was this a fruitless exercise? Well, not quite, because when I was checking sources used by AI I found another entry for Henry, showing that he was in Stepney Workhouse between March and June in the year of his death – so that was a bonus.

I believe I found more information from using local archives than I found online, but if you want to use artificial intelligence to write your family history, I would say *caveat emptor!*



Meeting Report

Lorna Thomas

Identifying Military Ancestors in Photographs

Paul Nixon

12 February 2024

Paul's talk focused on three areas:

- where to find photographs
- reading photographs
- improving your chances of success at finding a photograph of your military ancestor

The good and the bad news: millions of photographs of soldiers have been taken over the years but unfortunately the vast majority of these photographs are unnamed. The photographs were not part of the attestation or enlistment process.

Many photos were reproduced as cabinet cards (the photo is mounted on card approx. 108 x 165mm, widely used after 1870): cartes des visites (CDV)(cards approx. 54 x 105mm, patented in France in 1854, in wide usage from 1859); plus postcards, and prints. Some images were published in newspapers, regimental chronicles and books.

You stand more chance of finding a photo if your military ancestor was one of the following:

1. A recipient of the Victoria Cross
2. A dead officer who attended a public school
3. A dead officer
4. A dead 'other rank' gallantry medal recipient
5. A dead 'other rank' who happened to live in an area where the local newspaper published soldier photos
6. An officer or senior NCO who had been an original member of an Expeditionary Force Battalion or New Army Battalion (and who may have appeared in group photos).

An essential tool for pin-pointing information on photos is a good magnifying glass!

If you do have military photos Paul's advice was to scan them to a high resolution: 300 dpi to 600 dpi. This will make clues such as regimental badges much clearer and easier to identify.

The clues may be there but possibly obscured by age, deterioration, or both. Nonetheless,

Identifying Military Ancestors in Photographs

to the observant eye they can yield much information. Of particular interest are the following: collar badges; jacket pattern; cloth badges; accoutrements (additional items of dress or equipment such as webbing, helmets, whistles, etc.); facings colour (a piece of additional cloth, usually of a different colour on the collar, cuffs, etc. of a jacket of military uniform used to denote a regiment); cap style and cap badges; trouser pattern and stripes.

The photographer's name and location may be included in a corner or at the bottom of a photo – and don't forget to look for information on the back of the photograph!

Facings on uniforms vary depending on the regiment. Some examples are as follows: Royal regiments have blue facings; English and Welsh line infantry have (mostly) white facings. Scottish regiments have yellow facings; Irish regiments have green facings (except those which are 'Royal' regiments). Rifle Brigade wear

green/black, and KRRC (Kings Royal Rifle Corps) wear green/scarlet.

Even where you have a group photograph of men from a variety of regiments, it is worth looking at the photo using a magnifying glass to pick out the various regimental badges.

Tunic sleeves are particularly interesting. Look for chevrons denoting rank of non-commissioned men (lance-corporal, etc.) on upper-arms of sleeves on a tunic. Chevrons above the cuff can denote length of service (e.g. two chevrons denote at least six years service (this was changed to five years from 1906)). 'Jam-pot' cuffs (of a contrasting colour) on a tunic. Pointed cuffs from 1902 to 1913. Also look for proficiency badges (e.g. crossed rifles denotes a marksman; crossed swords denotes a sergeant instructor in the gym; crossed flags show a signaller).

In group photos of officers individuals are usually named below the photograph.

Identifying Military Ancestors in Photographs

Use photographs in combination with other sources such as the census and newspapers. Newspapers are a very useful source of additional information and photographs, particularly obituaries (and especially during WW1).

Particular styles of dress in photographs also give clues to overseas service: for example, tropical kit is a good clue to overseas service!

Paul uses several websites dedicated to military photographs, and he passed these on to us:

<https://www.britisharmyancestors.co.uk>

<https://www.britisharmyancestors.co.uk/soldiers-photos-sought>

The Great War Forum: <https://www.greatwarforum.org/>

WW2 Talk: <http://ww2talk.com/index.php>

Historic Records Ltd – Paul Dixon

Eagle eyes and a lot of patience are needed but the results can be very rewarding!



Stanfords' London maps, 1890

This collection contains indexes of maps of London published in 1890. Indexes in the collection were taken from a series of composite maps, which when pieced together created a highly detailed map of London.

The original maps were created using the 1:10,560 scale, which means every six inches of map were equal to one mile.

Published on Ancestry. There are 24 maps and Surrey is shown from map 10 onwards.

Lloyd George Domesday Survey

The Lloyd George Domesday Survey for Surrey is exclusively available on *TheGenealogist*. This invaluable resource provides detailed insights into property ownership and occupation in Surrey in the lead up to the First World War.

Surrey Land Tax Records Now Online

26th April 2024

We have released over 225,000 heads of households and property owners from the 1910-1915 Lloyd George Domesday Survey, covering the county of Surrey.

This boosts our ever-growing Landowner and Occupier records from this period to a total of over 2.6 million. The coverage of these IR 58 records now includes all the boroughs of Greater London plus Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire and with this release, Surrey.

Fully searchable and added to our powerful Map Explorer™, this resource allows researchers to find ancestors' property from all of Surrey's parishes.



Preserving the Past for the Future

Talk with Tea — 10 October at Surrey History Centre

Surrey History Centre holds over a million manuscripts, maps, engravings and drawings recording Surrey's history from the middle ages to the digital age. This talk describes the work we do in locating, preserving and making this wonderful range of information accessible to anyone interested in the history of our county. It will highlight gems in our collections.

Please book at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/events> or by telephone (01483 518737).

Surrey History Centre is at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 6ND. Use GU21 6NU as your SatNav destination.

Meeting Report

Lorna Thomas

Women on the Railways

9 April 2024

This was a return visit by Richard, whose knowledge of the railways in Britain is encyclopedic! We were not disappointed.

Richard revealed that, perhaps contrary to possible expectation, there was no particular restriction against women on the Victorian railways. The Trades Unions had issues – but that was because women were not accepted as members! Some jobs were, not surprisingly, male-dominated, for example engineering and mechanics, but that had more to do with social expectations of the time: jobs such as working in the boiler shop or foundry, locomotive cleaning, shed foreman, locomotive driver or fireman (the last involving shoveling three or four tons of coal into a firebox in a day) were extremely physically demanding! These were not jobs society considered suitable for women. Thus they were male-dominated, at least until very recent times.

In contrast, women were often working in clerical jobs such as the Booking Office, Pay Clerks and customer-facing roles. They worked

Richard Marks

in Refreshment Rooms and, as at Swindon, held managerial positions. Sometimes the supply of refreshments was tendered out to other companies and these smaller companies would be run by women. They were also employed as delivery drivers both directly by the Rail Companies and sometimes by the sub-contractors, such as at Newbury.

The First World War had tremendous impact for women. As men were called up into the Services, women filled the gaps. By 1917 women cleaned locomotives, which occasionally required them to move the engines. They would also do safety checks on locomotives, which necessitated shunting the engines. However, many were released at the end of the War as the Covenant of Conscription guaranteed that anyone called up into the Armed Services would have their jobs protected for when they returned.

The Second World War brought many technological developments that created many new roles for women that didn't exist in 1938.

Women on the Railways

They became involved in Station maintenance and worked in the Accounts Office, where they would be given training that qualified them as account keepers.

The Railways offered the equivalent of modern career development and was very much a meritocracy, with courses available to women (and men) for career advancement: for example, in General Office Management through to Superintendent grades in traffic, goods, engineering and locomotives. Women worked as Welfare workers; Trolley Drivers; Messengers; Painters; Lift Attendants; Van Guards; Dining Car Attendants; Coil Workers; Assistant Train Lighting Examiners and many more. Bertha Allen became a Stationmaster in 1942.

Women were also involved in less obvious occupations as doctors, surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists, nutritionists, and chemists; in education at school level and in technical training at Mechanical Institutes.

Another big change came with the nationalization of the railways in

1948 into British Rail, where women entered further managerial roles such as those in Blacksmiths' shops and Upholstery Workshops. Some of us may well remember Prue Leith as the new Director responsible for "Traveller Fair" and "Upper Crust".

Richard also gave many examples of what to search for at the National Archives, where all railway records are under "RAIL" (with the exception of those which were Ministry of Transport where records are under "MT"). Employment records are under "AN" and indexed by surname. Special collections are under "ZSPC". There are many examples of British Rail departments (Pay and Pensions – AN18 ; Personnel – AN 174; Trade Unions (under individual abbreviations e.g. ASLEF) and associated units such as Sea Link.

Richard's book contains even more information, not only about women but the railways in general: "A History of British Railways Engineering Ltd" (History Press; Pen & Sword 2024).



Meeting Report

Christine Peel

Tracing the Smith family of London: a Genealogist's nightmare

Janet Few

11 March

Janet sympathised with the inward groan felt at the discovery of an ancestor named Smith or some other common surname (Jones in Wales). While still a problem in the countryside, it is multiplied significantly in a large city. Janet summarized the search for her mother's family Smith, highlighting the techniques she used to progress and potential traps to avoid. Some matter particular to Janet's family has been omitted as anecdotal, and for want of space.

Forty-seven years ago, armed with several photographs and documents, and the rumour of a connection with Smith's Crisps, Janet started her search through her mother's family in the crowded East London parish of Hackney, which had a population of nearly 95,000 in 1851 and 374, 000 by 1900. In 1881 there were 2,481 Smiths in Hackney, some of them Janet's family. In the family album are photographs of several Smiths. These were her mother, Gwendolen Catherine Smith, her grandfather, Frederick

Herbert, his father, Herbert Havet, and Janet's great-great grandfather William Joseph Smith. Janet's grandfather died before she was two, so she had no contact with the older generations and is the only descendent of her generation from her great grandparents. There is thus no one with whom to share memories and provide other clues, which can help greatly. On the other hand, she is the custodian of all surviving photographs, paperwork and artefacts. Disappointingly, five generations of information only amounted to the story that the Smith family were grocers and corn merchants and may have been offered a half share in Smith's Crisps for £50, turning it down on the presumption that the idea would not catch on. Nabisco, owners of Smith's Crisps in the 1980's, provided only the name of the founder, a Frank Smith. Janet could get no further.

In 1977 Janet travelled from her then home in the Isle of Wight in search of more family history, purchasing certificates and studying

Tracing the Smith family of London: a Genealogist's nightmare

the census. In the 1871 census, Herbert Havet appears as a four-year old, with the birthplace of his father, William Joseph (J.) Smith given as Hammersmith circa 1825. He was a fruiterer and florist living in 374 Kingsland Road. This property is elsewhere called 1 Prospect Place. It was common in cities with long roads for a series of terraced houses to be given a separate name and be numbered independently. (A useful hint, which can resolve confusion.) In Booth's property map, this area was marked as middle class or well-to-do. Notebooks relating to these maps are available in book form.

The 1910 Valuation Office Survey, covering the whole country, is shown on large-scale Ordnance Survey maps. The numbers on the maps lead to field books with further information. Maps for Greater London are available on the Layers of London website and from these Janet got a full description of the corner shop property in Hackney previously owned by her family.

Of course, it is easy to make mistakes; one cannot assume that the first record seeming to match is the correct one. Each step must be verified. At the time, an online search for the baptismal entry of

William Joseph Smith born in Hammersmith in 1825 was not available, nor was Janet able to visit the London Metropolitan Archive. Instead, she purchased Herbert Havet's birth certificate, which showed his mother's maiden name, Eliza Seear. From the information Janet had, and from Herbert's marriage certificate, she knew that his wife was also born Seear. A less common surname can often be a way forward in one's research. Herbert and his wife Catherine were thus first cousins. This information led to Eliza Seear's marriage certificate to William Joseph Smith, from which Janet got his father's name, John Jeremiah Smith, together with other family members as witnesses, one being Elizabeth Mary Smith. She appears in the 1851 census, living with Eliza Seear's brother and described as a cousin and born in Ipswich, Suffolk. More inter-cousin marriage ensued and it transpired that a William Seear was Janet's four times great grandfather three times over.

Janet was fortunate in that John Jeremiah Smith was listed as a Thames waterman on his death certificate, a trade with detailed records of apprenticeship, etc. More

Tracing the Smith family of London: a Genealogist's nightmare

information is to be found in James W Legon's book *My ancestors were Thames Watermen*. From his baptismal record, his father, John, was also a waterman, who died in 1813, just when John Jeremiah transferred his apprenticeship from a John Smith (probably his father) to a Robert Clements. His mother's name was Elizabeth, but searching for a marriage of John and Elizabeth and for siblings of John Jeremiah proved tricky and fraught with traps for the unwary. A Prerogative Court of Canterbury will for a John Smith who died in 1813 was for a waterman of Ham, with a suitable age at death from his burial record, but gave no clue in bequests. Baptisms for potential siblings also proved elusive.

It can be useful to set a problem aside for a while and even work through one's reasoning with an outsider. It is also essential to look at originals, with signatures, as soon as possible. Doing this, Janet realised she had missed three clues, including one rookie mistake. On the marriage certificate for a possible sibling Edward Smith, she found a clear signature of John Smith, together those of Ann and John Bell, presumably his sister and brother-in-

law, from the identical signature on Ann's marriage certificate. A Maria and an Abigail also appeared as siblings to John Jeremiah. These were the missed clues; and the mistake:

The wife of the husband is not necessarily the mother of all or any of his children.

An Elizabeth, wife of John, was buried in 1807, so a listed Sarah could have been the John's second wife, married between 1807 and the will of 1813, but no likely marriage has been found. A further clue Janet had missed was that young Joseph was apprenticed to an Edward Smith after his father's death and this would probably be his oldest brother. Janet's DNA bears out his supposition.

Although one might not be able to go further back, one can put the people already identified in context, looking at less obvious sources, for example freemasonry and army records. The Bomb Sight website, showing where incendiary devices fell in WWII is tricky to use but can give interesting information. The index of passport applications at the National Archives, available through FindMyPast, shows applications before passports were mandatory,

Tracing the Smith family of London: a Genealogist's nightmare

but only to 1903. Newspaper articles, particularly if a Smith ancestor has an unusual middle name, can provide information of legal proceedings. In the previous generation, the Medical Officer of Health Reports covering towns and London boroughs can give clues about living conditions. Most of the records are from the 1880s to the 1920s, but those up to 1972 are available on the Wellcome Institute website. They record the prevalence of fever, but a death certificate might prove this was not the cause of a child's death: "failure to thrive" was all too common.

Make full use of any family albums, documents, or other memorabilia, which might be in the hands of your siblings or cousins. The London Lives 1690 to 1800 website has an eclectic mix of information. Here Janet found the will of a member of the Seear family that led her to identify her three times great grandparents and the writer of the will as the brother of her "brick wall" ancestor. It is possible that the legacy to John Jeremiah Smith enabled him to start a new business, but his accounts in the Suffolk Records Office show he was declared bankrupt in 1840. He is

buried in Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington with his father and wife. There is an online index of burials.

After 40 years' research, Janet has succeeded in extending her Smith family line back two generations and been able to glean much more information about the individuals and the lives they led. Although not as exciting as adding further generations, it is probably more important. Land Tax Returns for 1789 are available on Ancestry through the National Archives. There are annual returns from 1780 to 1832, which should be in county records offices. Many similar records for the country are held, counterintuitively, on the National Library of Scotland website. What Janet calls her "red line" Smiths – direct ancestors – left Kingston by the time of the 1842 tithe map (held in the Surrey History Centre and online at *The Genealogist*), but John Jeremiah's sister-in-law, Susanne, was still there with property in Kingston and Ham. Some of Susanne's property is close to a Hampton Court bridge. Did Smith watermen ferry passengers to Hampton Court?

Tracing the Smith family of London: a Genealogist's nightmare

There are many books with information about the localities and occupations of one's ancestors and much can be gained by researching the history of the siblings and cousins of one's direct ancestors, leading to more interesting stories than theirs. For instance Janet's grandfather's first cousin, William Minchin Smith, was a performer in the Bob Pender Troupe, another member of which was Archie Leach, later Cary Grant.

Janet finally returned to the Smith's Crisps rumour. In 1999 having researched her family for 20

years, she met Jill Valentine, who also had Smith ancestors. Usual joke about being related! Some years later, still before online access to records, they discovered that they both had reported links to Smith's Crisps. Jill had a private letter, not known of or available to Janet, from which it transpired that the founder of Smith's Crisps was the first cousin of Janet's great grandfather. Whether the latter turned down a half share for £50 is not recorded.

Janet concluded by hoping that her experience would help us in our research, which it is sure to do.

A useful handout pdf for this talk, with an extensive list of website links, can be found at Janet's website: <https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com> Click 'Talks and Presentations', then click on 'Handouts'.



Talk with Tea at Surrey History Centre

Paula Burger [7284]

25 April each year is 'DNA Day'. Southwark Group thought this was ideal for a Tea and Talk day including DNA and how you might use the information it reveals, how to navigate your way around the

websites, and how best to investigate the data and maps on both Ancestry and MyHeritage. Our speaker was Anne Ramon (ESFHS Committee member) who left us with plenty of knowledge on how to

Talk with Tea at Surrey History Centre

explore and a handout to prompt our memories.

Next to speak was Jane Lewis, genealogist at Surrey History Centre (SHC) who described what information might be gleaned from Land Tax Returns. This includes the amount of tax charged, which is a good indicator of wealth and land holdings. These and other land records of the 17th to 19th centuries add meat to the bones of your ancestor. SHC has a treasure chest of such documentation, which is increasingly being digitised. You have only to ask!

Following on, Julian Pooley (Public Services and Engagement Manager at SHC) talked about information available with regards to mental health and patient admission into hospitals, of which Surrey has had many. There is a large collection of records at SHC, some digitised (including by East Surrey Family History Society – Netherne Hospital Burial Register – perhaps you took

part in the Transcription by Zoom exercise in October 2023). This information is available for your research, subject to the usual Privacy restrictions.

As an example, we followed the ‘ins and outs’ of a female patient over a period of time, seeing what detail was available in each entry, evidencing the patient’s ‘health journey’ through the system and through the hospitals.

We enjoyed refreshments throughout the talks, finishing with the opportunity to view some of the original documents we had heard about in the Research Room.

Keep a look-out in the Journal and on the ESFHS website for future ‘Tea and Talk’ events. You can rest assured they will be both entertaining and educational, and we look forward to your company next time. Any suggestions for topics will be gratefully received. Well worth a fiver!



Note: ESFHS members can join the Society io group (free) to read further articles and items about using DNA in their family research, and other items of news. It's easy to join: just send a blank email message to **eastsurreyfhso+subscribe@groups.io**

A Group Photograph - before, now & in-between

Lesley Plant [10659]

A History & Art Project by Andrew Tatham

Published 2015 by Arvo Veritas & In Flanders Fields Museum

ISBN: 978-0-9935302-0-3

While watching the excellent presentation by Paul Nixon "Identifying your military ancestor from photographs" on 13 and 14 February, I was reminded of this book; and it turned out that not everyone knew of it.

In 1994 Andrew Tatham saw a WW1 photograph, with his great-grandfather in the centre. William Walton was the C.O. of the 8th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, and the photograph, taken in May 1915, shows a group of 46 men, who were from all over the UK, during a training camp.

Andrew wondered who they all were and what had happened to them. He ended up spending 21 years finding out, and creating an exhibition, an animated film – and the book.

For each man, he hunted out all possible information to find out more about the man, the soldier, his family, what happened to him, and how he has been remembered and commemorated. Andrew is an artist, and he used his discoveries to create a personal, pertinent artwork for each man, as well as gathering more photographs and artefacts. Many of the families became involved in the project (and still are).

This is a beautiful, moving and inspirational book, full of humanity in the small details that often go unremarked; it's vastly more than a book on WW1.

Andrew has continued with a second wonderful book, *I Shall Not Be Away Long – the First World War Letters of Lt Col Charles Bartlett...* but read *A Group Photograph* first.

Links:

<https://www.groupphoto.co.uk>

<http://www.andrewtatham.org.uk/index.htm>

<https://www.groupphoto.co.uk/2nd-book/>



A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

BEFORE, NOW & IN-BETWEEN



A History & Art Project
by Andrew Tatham

Handy Tip 2 – allow for inflation

Robin Brand [10684] {robin@nfel.co.uk}

Handy Research Tip no. 2 – allow for monetary inflation, especially WAGE inflation!

This ‘Handy Research Tip no. 2’ is the second of an occasional series based on the author’s practical experience in researching and writing his family history.

Background: Quite often, the family history researcher will come across sums of money left in wills, etc., where it is clear that because of monetary inflation, the sums do not correspond with today’s values. So, to make these more meaningful for the modern reader, but perhaps more importantly to understand what those amounts must have meant to the recipients at the time, and how their lives might have been affected, it is necessary to allow for that inflation.

Problem: Most inflation indexes calculate the relative worth of ‘goods and services’ only, a narrow measure of inflation. This can be most misleading from a family history point of view because it may ignore context, for instance ‘wage’ inflation since the 1700s has been at least ten times greater than ‘goods’ inflation, and so using only a goods or RPI index can severely underestimate the equivalent worth of, say, a legacy or inheritance.

The reason why ‘wage’ inflation has been much greater than ‘goods and services’ inflation requires a little thought, but is basically because our present-day standard of living is so much higher than that of most of our ancestors. For instance, in 1750 our ancestor might have had to work all week just to put food on the table, but 200 years later our ancestor might have had to work only one day a week for the same result. So, as in this simple example, the relative worth of food and wages has diverged over time.

Solution: Use a comparator that converts an historical sum of money into its present-day relative worth, and provides results for ‘wage’ inflation as well as ‘goods and services’ inflation. An online version this writer has found very useful for this task is on the ‘Measuring Worth’ website “Five Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a UK Pound Amount, 1270 to Present”. It is at

Handy Tip 2 – allow for inflation

<https://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/ukcompare/>

Worked example 1 (small sum): In May 1762 John Palmer of Walton-on-Thames died, and his PCC will includes “...to my Niece Jane Palmer of Creaton in Northamptonshire an Annuity of six pounds six shillings yearly during her Life...”. Allowing for inflation, an annuity of £6 6s (i.e., six guineas or £6.30) p.a. in 1762 would, by 2022 (the latest year available), be worth:

(i) using a ‘goods and services’ index based on the RPI, **£1,116**, a rather modest amount.

(ii) however, using a ‘wage index’, **£13,680**, a much more useful annuity, and a figure which reveals a truer picture of his niece’s legacy.

Worked example 2 (large sum): In 1769 the sister of one of the author’s direct ancestors from Walton-on-Thames in Surrey married relatively late in life a successful farmer in the village of Writtle near Chelmsford in Essex; and before their marriage he placed £650 in bank annuities into a

marriage settlement trust for her eventual benefit. At first sight, £650 seems a reasonable amount, but only when wage inflation is allowed for, do the implications become clear. Thus, £650 in 1769 would by 2022 have been worth some **£107,000** in terms of purchasing power (RPI linked), but **£1,371,000** in terms of labour value (wage indexed). So, we realise that our ‘successful’ farmer appears to have been a cash millionaire! How many others in this rural community would have been in the same position? The social and economic implications of this marriage suddenly become much more apparent!

Conclusion: the writer appreciates that the discussion above is rather simplistic in economic terms, but hopes that a useful point has been made, i.e., that there is never one answer to what is the relative worth of something, either today or in the past. The best measure depends on the context. For a fuller explanation visit for example <https://www.measuringworth.com>.

East Surrey Family History Society

46th Annual General Meeting held online by Zoom and in person on
23 March 2024 at 12.00 p.m. at North Cheam Baptist Church

President:	Paul Blake
Chairman:	Hilary Blanford
Minutes Secretary:	Anne Ramon

1. Our President, Paul Blake, welcomed us to the 46th AGM. 37 members attended in person; 22 members attended by Zoom. Total attendance of 61. Voting was possible in person, as usual, and via Polls for those online. Our Constitution requires only a simple voting majority.
2. **Apologies** were received, and noted, from the following Members: Brenda Hawkins, Ann Turnor, Marda Dixon, Rita Russell, Malcolm Scriven, Nigel Turner.
3. The Minutes of the last AGM dated 1st April 2023 were approved *nem con*.
4. **Committee Report.** Our Chairman, Hilary Blanford, reported on a busy year.

The Lingfield group has been in full operation this year for in-person meetings and runs a number of on-going transcription projects. The Southwark group met again in person in February 2024 following extended renovations at the John Harvard Library and in the interim they have enjoyed visits to the Wellcome and British Libraries, and guided walks in Bermondsey and Peckham. At a Christmas Lunch at the historic George Inn on Borough High Street, the group was joined by some of the trustees and post-holders. Hilary emphasised that these activities were open to all members of the Society, space permitting.

There were 24 meetings on Zoom this year, attended by a total of 941 people, giving an average of about 39 per meeting. Hilary thanked Christine Peel, Lorna Thomas and Marda Dixon for writing up these events for the Journal as well as Chris Green, our Journal Editor, and Rob Cambridge, our Webmaster, for publishing our programme of events.

We ran a Writers' Course last year with Gill Blanchard and we are reaping the rewards now in our Journal.

Surrey History Centre is making good use of the camera we donated last year, having filmed 23 out of the 29 books from the Royal Philanthropic Society, which is a project we agreed to support.

We ran our second Virtual Fair in January 2023, hosting 25 groups in separate breakout rooms, and at the completion of the event we enjoyed a useful 'wash-up' session where attending societies shared their experience of the day. The

46th Annual General Meeting

comments were all favourable and we were thanked for providing such a simple and useful avenue for family historians to meet a number of Society representatives, and importantly, each other. The next Virtual Fair, hosted again by East Surrey FHS, will be on 25 January 2025.

We organised a highly successful on-line transcription event, where pairs of members, each in their own breakout room, transcribed and checked a range of burial records for patients of Netherne Hospital. Hilary thanked all those who took part and plans to finish checking the transcriptions prior to our joint Talk with Tea event on 25 April 2024, to be held at Surrey History Centre. We are looking out for another similar project.

The Society attended six Fairs in the year to December 2023, and Hilary thanked all those members who helped transport and man the bookstall and Help Desk.

Future events in 2025. We should like to run an online Help Desk as part of the Lambeth Local History Fair in September, and we hope to participate in a Family History Day event with Sutton Archives, possibly in conjunction with Open House events, in the hope of finding new audiences from whom we hope to recruit new members.

Hilary said she hoped we had provided something for everyone and that members would continue to support the Society. There were no questions from the Floor or from the Zoom attendees. The latter group sent a number of messages thanking the committee for providing access via Zoom and for their overall work in running the Society.

5. The **Treasurer's Report.** Our Treasurer, Tamsin Abbey, started by noting a couple of corrections that will be made to the figures that you have seen. The debtors should be £868 rather than £1,095 for the balance sheet to balance with the fund carried forward, and the split of the subscriptions should be £6,965 UK and £597 overseas with the same total of £7,562.

We have made a surplus of £1,694 in 2023, following a deficit in 2022 of £1,351, that was after a donation of £2,800 to the Surrey History Centre. Without that donation in 2022, the surplus would have been £1,449.

Comparing 2023 to 2022, the income has dropped by £550, from £10,542 to £9,992: the main reduction is from the drop in subscription income over the year.

The Expenditure has dropped by £3,594, from £11,893 to £8,299, the largest part due to the donation of £2,800 that we made in 2022 and not this year. The journal costs have reduced this year, due to the reduction in packing & mailing of over £400. The cost of fairs and events has reduced by over £600. Over 2024, this is likely to increase due to the opening up of the Southwark Group talks and

46th Annual General Meeting

the need to increase the budget for meetings due to the rise in costs generally.

In preparing these accounts, she thanked Monica and June for taking over the book stall and membership during 2023 and providing her with the book stall and gift aid information for the accounts for the first time. She also thanked Sue Adams for having to provide a breakdown of the Parish Chest statements from the individual orders for the second half of 2023 as they stopped sending us the monthly summary statements. Lesley Barker has been our independent examiner for these accounts and was able to review them with her usual efficiency, for which Tamsin thanked her.

Tamsin then asked for questions:

Question from Peter Heather: The annual accounts were not published in the March Journal last year or this year, as requested. Can this be addressed?

Tamsin agreed that this would be ideal, but the timeline is fine and there have been problems and delays in compiling the accounts such as incomplete statements from Parish Chest-

There were no further questions.

The President asked for members to adopt the accounts. Proposer: Dennis Hepworth. Seconder: Janet Smith. Votes in favour: 43. Adopted.

6. **Matters Arising not already covered in the reports**

Peter Heather asked if there had been updates to online records by Nick McDonald as mentioned in last year's Minutes. Hilary advised No.

Sue Adams enquired about progress on the Croydon Parish booklet. She offered her help, which was noted.

There were no further Matters Arising.

7. **Appointment of Examiner.**

The meeting proposed that Lesley Barker continue as Examiner, with our grateful thanks. Proposer: Tamsin Abbey; Seconder: Sue Adams. Votes in favour: 47. Carried.

8. **Change to Constitution to Reduce the Quorum for EGMs and AGMs**

This change has been advertised in the last two Journals and discussed with the Charity Commission. This meeting resolves to change section 8 of the constitution from:

'c) A quorum at an AGM or EGM shall be 25 of the Members present or one third of the paid up membership eligible to vote, whichever is the least', to

'c) A quorum at an AGM or EGM shall be 20 of the Members present or one third of the paid up membership eligible to vote, whichever is the least,'

The voting majority will remain unchanged as a simple majority.

46th Annual General Meeting

Proposer: The Trustees. Seconded: Mary Bristow. Votes in favour: 44. Carried

9. **Change to Bank Mandate for the Society's Virgin Accounts**

The meeting resolves to remove Peter Heather, Liz Moss, Monica Polley and Joanna Reynolds and to appoint Tamsin Abbey, Hilary Blanford and Anne Ramon as signatories to the above accounts.

Proposer: The Trustees. Seconded: Emma Cox. Votes in favour 46. Carried

10. **Election of Officers and Members of Executive Committee**

Post	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Years eligible
Chairman	Hilary Blanford	Nick McDonald	Jane Beeley	2
Secretary	Alan Essex	Marda Dixon	Anne Ramon	2
Treasurer	Tamsin Abbey	Brenda Hawkins	June Hayles	2
Committee Members	Marda Dixon	Lesley Barker	June Hayles	2
	Anne Ramon	Liz Craig	Nick McDonald	2
	Geoff Fairbairn	Russ Barnett	Marion Attew	3
	June Hayles	Rob Cambridge	Marda Dixon	4
	Lynn Gunter	June Hayles	Lorna Thomas	5
	Sue Adams	Peter Heather	Rita Russell	5

The Chairman. Hilary Blanford. Votes in favour: 43. Carried.

Other Committee Members as listed above were voted on *en bloc*. Votes in favour 48. Carried

That completed the formal business of the Meeting. The President thanked Stephen Dixon for his help with the venue, and all those members who had given their time this year in support of the Society. The President thanked those attending this AGM in person, and those attending over Zoom.

11. **Any Other Business.**

Monica Polley reported that the Society leaflet was in urgent need of revision.

Monica expressed concern that members had not been provided with a written copy of the Trustees Annual Report (TAR). Hilary replied that our Constitution does not require it to be presented at our AGM and said that it will be posted, in due course, on the Society website at www.eastsurreyfhfs.org.uk. The treasurer added that the TAR was a matter for the Charity Commission.

The meeting finished at 12.50 p.m.

Recent Accessions at Surrey History Centre

10201add4

John SL Pulford, local historian, of Walton and Weybridge Local History Society: additional records, comprising papers relating to 60 Normanhurst Road, Walton on Thames; other property and local businesses in the Walton on Thames area, and other collected items, 1948-1993

10567

Frank James Bridger (1831-1900), tailor of Charlwood: diary, 29 Mar 1850-5 Jul 1850

10570

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898) otherwise Lewis Carroll, and the Dodgson family of Guildford and elsewhere, including the Revd Skeffington Dodgson (1836-1919): family records, and records relating to the heritage of Lewis Carroll, including research by Philip Jaques, grandson of Skeffington Dodgson, 18th cent. to 21st cent.

10571

Arnold, Bird and Knight families of Reigate, Leigh and Banstead: deeds, wills, sale particulars and other papers, including 1766 Window Tax assessment for Reigate Foreign, 1608-1897

10581

Map of the new ecclesiastical district of Sidlow Bridge, c.1861

10582

National Rifle Association: glass plate negatives of meeting on Wimbledon Common, c.1880

10583

Views of people and buildings of Reigate, Redhill, Oxted and other Surrey places: glass plate and film negatives and photographic prints, 1900s-1950s

10584

St Matthew's, Surbiton: additional parish records, comprising plans by Charles Lock Luck (1874), and anniversary brochure of Pathfinders (1973)

10587

Deeds and papers relating to property in Smith Road, South Park, Reigate, 1866-1905

Recent Accessions at SHC

10588

Christ Church Infant School, Nutfield: log book, Jan 1902-Mar 1969; Royal Philanthropic Society School, Redhill: master's report books for Gladstone's House, 1880-1909, and for Waterlands (formerly Queen's) House, 1923-1951

10589

Farnham United Breweries Football Club: photographs, 1910-?1920s

10592

Fairmile Marine Company Ltd, Cobham: records of engineer HL Bing, including relating to Admiralty work during the Second World War, comprising photographs plans, papers and correspondence, 1941-1986

SP/add14

Littleton Estate, Littleton, near Shepperton: sale particulars (second portion of estate), 4 May 1894

Z/768

Albury church and parish: photographs, late 19th cent-1939

Z/769

Egham rate books: digital copies of original records held at Egham Museum and Surrey History Centre, 1834-1900



News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley (Public Services and Engagement Manager)

I'm pleased to report that recent months have been busier than usual for us all at Surrey History Centre. Lots of enquiries about family history and other topics from people around the world with an interest in Surrey's history, and an increase in the number of people visiting our searchroom to consult our collections. Topics explored have

included 16th century costume history, publicity and promotion of Victorian asylums, the Wey Navigation, the links between 20th century migration and mental health and studies of Surrey's early poor law records.

We have also welcomed a film crew from the BBC *Fake or Fortune* programme, who have used our

News from Surrey Heritage

collection of Broadwood piano records for a programme in their next series due to be shown later this summer (keep an eye on our social media for the broadcast date) and we are working with a team from Royal Holloway College (University of London) in a pilot project called 'Hidden Histories of Disability' that will explore the archives of Surrey's schools for deaf and hearing-impaired children at Nutfield Priory and Burwood Park.

In the first three months of the year we gave nearly twenty talks to groups across Surrey and Hampshire, hosted online talks, gave tours and displays about our work to student groups and local societies and welcomed the Surrey Hills Society for an enjoyable Tea and Talk event that looked at our records of Surrey's landscape and gardens.

Our volunteers are continuing to make excellent progress in their many projects. The amazing research carried out by Martin Stilwell and his team to research the bombs, rockets and aircraft that fell into Surrey during the Second World War can be seen on our Exploring Surrey's Past website at Surrey World War Two Bomb Incident Map (exploringsurreypast.org.uk). Huge

thanks are due to Diane Sanderson for indexing the pupil registers and case registers of the Chertsey School of Handicrafts, 1887-1920. These indexes, arranged alphabetically by boys' surname, can be viewed online at Index to registers of boys at the Chertsey School of Handicrafts – Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk).

The School of Handicrafts for Destitute Boys in Eastworth Road, Chertsey, was founded in 1885 by Dr Thomas Hawksley with a view to rescuing poverty-stricken boys from a life of begging or crime by teaching them to earn their livelihood by learning a trade. The pupil registers, 1892 to 1917 (reference 647/3/1-3) and case registers, 1887 to 1920 (reference 647/3/5-7), are a wonderful resource for researchers. They generally give the name, age, health and home address of the pupil; details of parents and siblings; whether the pupil has previously been to school, or in a workhouse or prison; the sum promised for his upkeep and who will pay it; and a general section for 'history and character assessment'. There are sometimes notes on a boy's progress after leaving school.

News from Surrey Heritage

We must also thank Diane for unearthing fascinating stories of individual pupils within the registers, some of which feature in Jane's *Seeking Surrey Ancestors* blog.

Our volunteer Brenda Oates is also making great progress in her meticulous work to digitise the glass-plate negative photographs of patients from the Manor Hospital in Epsom. These poignant images are steadily being linked to the case books in the archive so that we can enable family historians seeking information about their ancestors in the hospital records to find a portrait of them as well.

At the beginning of April we said farewell to our colleague Matthew Piggott, who has taken a well-earned retirement. Matt first joined us as a Document Assistant 23 years ago, but quickly qualified as an archivist via the remote learning course offered by the University of Aberystwyth. After covering various maternity leaves, he became one of our Modern Records Officers,

responsible for overseeing the records of Surrey County Council itself, but also for processing the many requests that we receive every week from people wishing to access the very sensitive information in the records of Surrey's coroner, reform schools and mental or learning disability hospitals in our collections. His meticulous research and concern to help every enquiry to a successful conclusion earned him the heartfelt thanks of many of our customers and we will miss him very much. But, as one door closes another opens, and we are delighted to welcome back Lauren Simmons, our Events and Promotions Officer, who has been on maternity leave. We owe thanks to many colleagues for helping to cover her duties while she has been away, but her post is essential in helping us to organise and deliver the events that showcase our collections and promote our work and it is great to have her back.

Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2024

Surrey History Trust AGM followed by a talk by Judith Nesbitt 'Searching for Mr Robinson: Gardener and Collaborator with Gertrude Jekyll'.

Wednesday 26 June 2024, refreshments from 6.30 p.m., AGM and talk 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. at Surrey History Centre. Tickets are free but booking is essential. Please book a place via www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

Irishman William Robinson (1838-1935), acclaimed as the original 'wild gardener', had a profound influence on gardening in Britain and beyond in the late 19th century, and his ideas still resonate today. Gardener, journalist, editor, publisher, author of *The Wild Garden* and *The English Flower Garden*, he was a natural disrupter who made enemies as easily as he made influential friends. A trenchant critic of the gaudy, geometric, designs of Victorian formal bedding, he led a movement towards naturalism and became known as the father of the English flower garden. Gertrude Jekyll was his friend, collaborator and kindred spirit; Vita Sackville-West said: 'he did more to alter the fashions of English gardening than any man of his time.' Angered by the waste of resources and human potential, he wanted to get the nation growing food. In his heart he was an artist intent on getting 'as near the visible beauty of things as it is possible for

the artist to go'. He acquired immense wealth and fame, and lived through a century of enormous change, yet this very public, pugnacious, figure was a deeply private man. His silence about the first 23 years of his life in Ireland left many questions unanswered. Whilst researching her biography, Judith Nesbitt read some revelatory letters in the Surrey History Centre.

Living in Sussex, Judith became fascinated by William Robinson's story through visiting Gravetye Manor, his home and estate for fifty years, and gave up her museum career to research a new biography. As Chief Curator at Tate Britain (2000-2010) and Director of National & International Partnerships (2010-2020) she curated and programmed exhibitions at Tate and across the world. Her curiosity about creative lives and personalities brings insight to Robinson's visual approach to the world around him.

Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2024

Victorian Memorials

An event organised by Surrey Arts and Humanities Network Research, University of Surrey, in collaboration with Surrey Heritage.

Saturday 8 June 11.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. at Surrey History Centre.

Come along to Surrey History Centre for a day of talks and crafterevenings, where you can learn about how the Victorians engaged in memorialisation practices and create fun crafts to take home.

11.15 a.m.

Julian Pooley, 'A Printed Mausoleum: Memorials and Anecdotes in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1780-1850'

11.30 a.m.

Dr Danielle Dove, 'Dead Fashionable: Victorian Mourning dress'

12.00 p.m.

15 minute talk by Dr Liz Bahs on her book of poetry, 'Stay Bones'

From 1.45 p.m.: explore the display of Victorian letters and *in memoriam* cards from the archives, as well as crafterevening activities including mourning handkerchief embroidery and poetry writing with Dr Liz Bahs. Tickets are free, but please book a place via www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

A celebration of the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark* and its connection to Guildford.

Online talk with Isabel Sullivan, Wednesday 17 July.

For full details, please see the Heritage Events page on our website.

Surrey History Centre is at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 6ND

Recordings of many of our talks are also available for purchase via our online shop and there is a list of them, with a link to the shop, on the Heritage Events page.

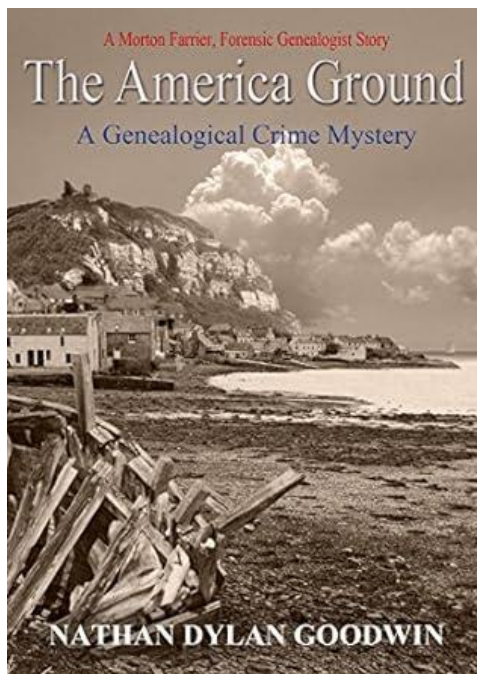
Book review

Emma Cox {emma@emmacox.co.uk}

Nathan Dylan Goodwin's series about genealogist Morton Farrier is set in southern England. In this book, *The America Ground*, it's 180 years ago near Hastings in Sussex, and there is an old crime mystery to be solved.

An area next to the beach near Hastings, now part of the town itself, was declared to be independent of England and part of America, hence the name *The America Ground*. A woman had been murdered there in the 1800s – actually, several murders, as Morton discovers and he himself is threatened when long-held secrets come to light.

Nathan is excellent at bringing to life the characters and situations of whatever period he writes about, and this is no exception. He weaves together the story of the murder and Morton's experiences of researching it with archive visits, clashes with villains and kidnapping. There are also descriptions of what it would have been like for people who lost everything and had to travel from one parish to another, poor laws, removal orders and Morton's own story of looking for his biological father. There are definite 'goodies' and 'baddies' in each book; the historical characters speak the



language and vocabulary of the day, and it really gives an impression of what life was like at the time.

Morton's research leads to dangerous situations for him, not something that's common amongst us today! However, I do recognise the many rabbit holes he ends up going down . . . and the highs and lows of finding answers and getting stuck with brick walls.

Some people are very helpful; others don't like him. Juliette, his policewoman wife-to-be, sometimes skates a tricky line between

Book review

supporting him and keeping within the law.

I particularly enjoy reading these books as I live fairly close to Hastings and have visited many of the places described: I've walked past the fifteenth-century 'House With Two Front Doors' in Rye, where Morton lives, many times. If you haven't ventured to Rye I recommend choosing a sunny day to make the most of the surroundings. I didn't know about the background

to *The America Ground* in Hastings, and found myself looking on the internet to discover more about it. Next time I visit I will look at it with fresh eyes.

There are 13 books in this series, plus two in his US-based genetic genealogy series. Each Morton book has a separate theme and Nathan spends a long time on research and it really shows in his writing. I recommend reading all of them.



Society accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

The following four pages show the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA) and the Balance Sheet, together with the notes.

Following approval at the AGM, a number of items under the accruals basis were found to have been incorrectly allocated between years and line items. The Trustees have reviewed the revised figures and have approved the updates.

The Charity Commission was contacted about the revisions required to the accounts after they had been presented to the AGM. The Charity Commission clarified that this was a matter for the Trustees and that the accounts could be presented back to the membership with a note to the accounts to this effect.

Society accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

East Surrey Family History Society Statement Of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023	2022
INCOME			
Subscriptions	2	7,574	8,129
Gift aid tax rebate		1,119	1,185
Bookstall & publications	3	502	373
Donations		838	564
Pay per view & searches		50	62
Journal sales & advertising		0	0
Misc.		118	88
Bank interest		214	141
		<u>10,415</u>	<u>10,542</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Bookstall & publications	3	159	0
Journal costs	4	4,075	4,485
Meetings & events		2,331	3,106
Projects		0	0
Research centre		788	821
Website, cd-rom & software		170	50
General running costs:			
Secretarial, stationery	87	0	
Equipment repairs and renewals	68	0	
Advertising	0	0	
Insurance	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
		155	0
Affiliation fees, royalties	5	140	361
Independent examiner's fee		0	0
Depreciation		117	107
Donations	6	0	2,800
Misc.		308	163
		<u>8,243</u>	<u>11,893</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		2,172	(1,351)
General fund brought forward		59,527	60,879
General fund carried forward		<u>61,699</u>	<u>59,527</u>

Society accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

East Surrey Family History Society BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
<u>Fixed assets</u>			
Tangible assets	7	241	358
 Current assets			
Publication stock	8	853	949
Debtors	9	1,347	1,179
Bank and cash	10	60,374	57,875
		<u>62,574</u>	<u>60,003</u>
 Creditors: falling due within one year	11	<u>1,116</u>	<u>833</u>
 Net current assets		61,458	59,169
 Net assets		<u>61,699</u>	<u>60,879</u>
 <u>Unrestricted funds</u>			
General fund:			
Balance brought forward		59,527	60,879
Excess of income over expenditure for the year		2,172	(1,351)
 Balance carried forward		<u>61,699</u>	<u>59,527</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 22 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee:..... *Tamsin Abbey*

Tamsin Abbey

Treasurer

Trustee:..... *Alan Essex*

Alan Essex

Secretary

Society accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

East Surrey Family History Society

NOTES to the Statement Of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting:

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

Income recognition:

Subscriptions, sales, fees, donations and other similar types of income are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income. Tax claims on donations are included in the SOFA in the same accounting period as the donation.

Expenditure and liabilities:

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Tangible fixed assets:

Depreciation is provided at the following rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life: Equipment, fixtures & fittings - 20% on a straight line basis.

Stock:

Publication stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items.

2	Subscriptions	2023	2022
	United Kingdom	6,977	7,564
	Overseas	597	566
		<u>7,574</u>	<u>8,129</u>

3	Bookstall publications	2023	2022
	Sales and on-line publications	502	530
	Less: Purchases and costs	64	0
	Less: Stock movement	95	157
		<u>159</u>	<u>157</u>
	Bookstall profit	<u>343</u>	<u>373</u>

4	Journal costs	2023	2022
	Printing	2,723	2,725
	Packing & mailing	1,352	1,760
		<u>4,075</u>	<u>4,485</u>
	Less: sales and advertising income	0	0
		<u>4,075</u>	<u>4,485</u>

Society accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

5	Affiliation fees and insurance	2023	2022
	Insurance	0	0
	Subscription	140	361
		<u>140</u>	<u>361</u>
6	Donations	2023	2022
	Surrey Record Centre	0	2,800
		<u>0</u>	<u>2,800</u>
7	Tangible fixed assets	2023	2022
	Equipment, fixtures & fittings		
	Cost at 1/01	3,294	3,740
	Additions	0	54
	Disposals	0	500
	Cost at 31/12	<u>3,294</u>	<u>3,294</u>
	Depreciation		
	At 1/01	2,936	3,329
	Eliminated on disposal	0	500
	Charge for the year	117	107
	At 31/12	<u>3,053</u>	<u>2,936</u>
	Net book value at 31/12/23	<u>241</u>	<u>358</u>
	Net book value at 31/12/22	<u>358</u>	<u>411</u>
8	Publication stock	2023	2022
	Books, publications	<u>853</u>	<u>949</u>
9	Debtors	2023	2022
	Prepayments	252	0
	Gift Aid	1,119	1,185
		<u>1,370</u>	<u>1,185</u>
10	Bank and cash	2023	2022
	Bank current account	13,749	11,464
	Cash floats	235	235
	Bank deposit accounts	46,389	46,176
		<u>60,374</u>	<u>57,875</u>
11	Creditors due within one year	2023	2022
	Subscription prepayments	1,116	682
	Sundry creditor	0	151
		<u>1,116</u>	<u>833</u>

Membership

New members

10762	Jill Beard – jacken1@bigpond.com
10763	Fiona Ranger – fiona.ranger58@gmail.com
10764	Lesley Blackman – lesleyruthb@gmail.com
10765	Stephen Dixon
10766	Anne Luciw – akluciw@gmail.com
10767	Alison Armstrong – alisona@netspace.net.au
10768	Mary Pitt – marypitt@yahoo.co.uk
10769	Eileen Trenchard – lee.trenchard@yahoo.com
10770	Graham Pink – graham.pink@sky.com
10771	Jennifer Crawford – jenfullick@btinternet.com
10772	Tiffany Gregory - marigoldvw@btinternet.com
10773	Maureen Turner - mo.monty@hotmail.co.uk
10774	Christine Green – chris.green3@hotmail.co.uk
10775	Paul Crooks – prlcrooks@hotmail.com
10776	Jane Copping – kentishbookworm@aol.com
10777	Karen Prowse – Karenprose@btinternet.com

Change to email address

691	Malcolm Bown – norfolkwanderers@talktalk.net
6602	Ronald Gardner – rendragon@gmail.com
10189	Elizabeth Owen – etowencc@btopenworld.com

Deaths

We are sorry to report that we have been made aware of the death of the following members. We extend our sympathies to their family and friends.

8	Jean Tooke	3865	Patricia Howard
7763	John Whitehorn	9376	Roland Green
6029	Pat Briggs	10270	Frances Rogers
6861	Dorothy Bradbury		

East Surrey Monumental Inscriptions Collection no. 1

Full monumental inscriptions for 10 churches/chapels in East Surrey

The 6,256 names are indexed by surname and forename. Each entry has a unique reference number and layouts of each churchyard annotated with the MI reference are included, as well as brief details and a picture of each church or chapel. Includes:

Bletchingley, St Mary 1559-1942
Charlwood, Providence Chapel 1832-1974
Horne, St Mary 1618-1961
Leigh, St Bartholomew 1646-1983
Lowfield Heath, St Michael 1846-1874
Newdigate, St Peter 1634-1978
Nutfield, St Peter & St Paul 1631-1979
Outwood, St John 1819-1984
Redhill, St John 1807-1981
Reigate, Friends Meeting House 1802-1982

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