



# East Surrey

## Family History Society



## Journal

Volume 47  
number 3  
October 2024

# East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977

Registered Charity No. 286659

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Rita Russell

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**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

# East Surrey Family History Society

[www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)



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The deadline for the January 2025 Journal is 10.00 a.m. on 1 December

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

# From the chairman

*Hilary Blanford*

It seems that life for East Surrey has just moved into the fast lane! We put in a bid to the Society of Genealogists to be one of 12 Societies picked for their 2025 series 'Researching in . . .' and to our delight we have been accepted. We will be featuring our own research centre and research services as well as involving Surrey History Centre and Sutton, Southwark and possibly Lambeth Archives. In essence, the aim is to produce a Zoom programme that will show what East Surrey has to offer family history researchers. We may ask some of you to take part and we would also like to include pictures of Society activities. If any of you have specialist knowledge about your locality or a Surrey name please contact me so we can arrange for your 15 seconds of fame. At the moment the final format is all in the melting pot but we have been given an evening time slot on 17 November 2025.

No sooner had we received the exciting news that we were one of the successful 12 applicants than we heard that The National Archives were prepared to offer their facilities, with full technical support, for us to run our 2025 AGM and

Study Day at Kew as a hybrid meeting, with free car parking. The front cover of the Journal shows the auditorium at TNA. Again, this is in the planning stages but the theme will be 'Letters from Life'. One collection we shall definitely be including is from the MH 12 series – the correspondence between the Poor Law Guardians and the Poor Law Commissioners. These letters are bound by Union and include all the letters from the Guardians and the drafts for the replies that were crafted by the Commissioners' clerks. Some of the full replies have survived and may be found in county record offices. Other letters that may be included in the day are from ships' crews and possibly later letters from WWI and II but all is yet to be confirmed. However, what TNA is also offering us is their latest cutting-edge technology that they are developing for us. We asked for a document display and they are now working on the ways and means to share this curated display with remote participants on the day.

If you have any suggestions or requests for the display, please contact me. Perhaps there is a tithe map you would like to see, or an original will from a Surrey family, a

## From the chairman

specific hospital record, the captain's or chief mate's log from a ship in the Royal Navy or even a Chancery document. The National Archives is your oyster.

If that isn't enough for you, we will be holding our next *Talk with Tea* at Surrey History Centre on 10 October (see below) and our virtual family history fair on 25 January. Do join us as we are once again involving Societies from across the UK and you will have the opportunity to obtain local knowledge from the various help teams.

Please take a minute or two to consider how you might help the Society, as suggested on page 17.

Rob is working on a re-vamp for the website, so please bear with him if you find it offline for short periods or if there are some teething problems. Fingers crossed.

Lastly, because of the changes to our journal publication dates, it just remains to remind you to renew your subscriptions and to wish you a very merry Christmas and a Covid-free New Year.

*Hilary*

### Talk with Tea: 10 October at Surrey History Centre

#### 'Preserving the Past for the Future'

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: 130 GOLDSWORTH RD, WOKING GU21 6ND

*If driving, please use GU21 6NU in your SatNav*

# Zoom meetings

**October: Tuesday 8, 8.00 p.m. and Wednesday 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: Monday 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*

**January: Monday 13, 10.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.**

The history of prostitution 1780-1930

Janet Few

*Always a popular speaker, Janet presents her carefully researched talks, laced with her practical sense of humour. Always entertaining.*

**February: Tuesday 11 8.00 pm and Wednesday 12 10.00 am**

Exploring the impact of illegitimacy on family history research

Dave Annal

*Another popular speaker whose presentation will be relevant to most of us and hopefully might help us knock down a brick wall or two.*

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

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## Documents for the ESFHS 2025 AGM

Links to AGM documents, including minutes of the 2024 AGM, the accounts, and other reports, will be made available in the members' section of the society's website in the weeks prior to the meeting – they will not be distributed as email attachments. The AGM papers webpage will be accessible at <https://bit.ly/3zexbuh> (if you are not logged-in to the website you will be prompted to do so).

# Group meetings

## Lingfield Group

### Sep 25 Group meeting

*Members are encouraged to bring along interesting heirlooms and tell their story, talk about one of their ancestors plus there will be question and answer session for those stuck in their research.*

### Oct 23 The remarkable story of Ranald MacDonell CBE      Helen Baggott

*This talk will be via Zoom. It reveals the real-life exploits of a man who became embroiled in the tumultuous years of the early 20th century when the East battled with the West, when oil became the ultimate prize. From the oilfields of Baku to semi-retirement in the 1930s as a grocer by the sea in Dorset, the story of the 21st Chief of Glengarry is an adventurous and incredible tale. It continues into the next generation with West End theatre roles and distinguished war-time service. The talk is fully illustrated and provides an insight into the life and times of a man and his family that reaches around the UK and the world.*

### Nov 27 Cemeteries in London      Kathy Chater

*The London area has over one hundred cemeteries and other burial grounds. Kathy will explain how we can track down an elusive grave.*

## Southwark Group

### 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 18 Christmas Lunch at the George, Borough High Street

### Feb 10\* Workshop on Inheritance Tax Records & use of Family Search Records

*This will take place at the Hyde Park Family Search Centre*

*\* Places are limited. Please book with the Southwark secretary*

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## Group details

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

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

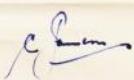
# Maureen O'Sullivan

Rita Russell

Maureen O'Sullivan, who died on 26 June, was one of our early members and was a prolific transcriber of records, especially from the London Metropolitan Archives. She often worked with Sheila Gallagher, who passed away a few years ago. Maureen was born in 1929 and baptised in St Luke's, Whyteleafe. She lived in the area for all her life

and spent the last few years in a care home in Croydon.

She studied Theory and Practice of Education at Garnett College, together with the professional business qualifications of A.C.C.A and A.C.I.S. A letter from the Principal of the College, dated September 1966, also confirms her

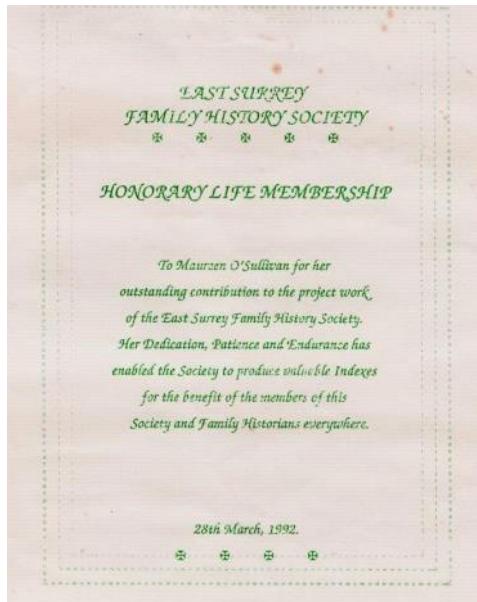
Inner London Education Authority		
<b>Garnett College</b> College of Education for Teachers in Further Education Principal C Jameson B Sc M Ed		
Downshire House Roehampton Lane London SW 15 Telephone Putney 2586	our reference  your reference  date	CJ/PS  September 1966
<u>Miss M.P. O'Sullivan</u>		
Miss O'Sullivan has satisfactorily completed a full-time course in the Theory and Practice of Education at this College during the academic year 1965-66. The course had particular reference to Further Education, including studies in general and special method related to the teaching of Business Studies - Professional.		
She made excellent progress on the course. Her understanding of educational principles has developed very well. In seminars her contributions were thoughtful and based on sound reasoning. Her written work has been thorough, interesting and comprehensive.		
She is well qualified in Accountancy and allied subjects, including Costing. Her valuable business training complements her professional qualifications of A.C.C.A. and A.C.I.S. Added to this, she has a number of outside interests including geography, archaeology and architecture, as well as country dancing. Her teaching practice revealed her sensitivity and careful attention to detail. She has great patience in explaining difficulties to students and made a thorough job of her preparation and planning. Her blackboard work was neat and imaginative.		
She is a careful, conscientious person with sound ideas of what she wants to achieve. She gets on well with her colleagues and should prove a most loyal and co-operative member of staff. She can be strongly recommended for a responsible post in a technical college.		
		
Principal		

## Maureen O'Sullivan

enjoyment in country dancing, something she did for many years.

Maureen was a regular at our group meetings, especially Croydon and Sutton, even travelling quite often to Lingfield. She was a quiet, intelligent lady with a good sense of humour and always a twinkle in the eye.

It is impossible to quantify the amount of time and effort Maureen put into transcribing records for the Society. I'm sure the LMA had a special desk for her. Reams of handwritten foolscap and A4 pages have been scanned and indexed for our Name Index (with still a fair



amount still to do). It never ceased to amaze us how much she crammed on to each sheet of paper, even writing up the sides if necessary to complete an entry. It was only right and fitting that she became an Honorary Life Member in March 1992 in recognition of her outstanding project work for the Society. Later, she also became one of the Society's Vice-Presidents.

Despite her health problems in recent years she remained interested in ESFHS and always looked forward to receiving the Journal.

# With whom did your ancestors meet?

*Colin Chapman*

## A report by Marda Dixon of the talk given on 21 May 2024

Colin began by giving us his reason for writing this talk: people tended to write their family histories about people in isolation, not taking into account others in their lives, particularly in the national and

international scene. We need to consider the bigger picture. He then outlined various sources to be considered with many illustrations from his own life and some postcard cartoon pictures.

### Post 19<sup>th</sup> century

#### a) Family Sources

Birth, baptism, marriage and death records. We need to look at all the details, not just the date and name of the subject. Was the father's name recorded? Who was the vicar or celebrant? Did the same person conduct the baptisms of other siblings? Did he come from this parish or was he brought in? Who were the witnesses at weddings? Who was the informant?

#### Photographs and portraits.

Hopefully names were recorded on the back but, if not, are there hints to identifying the subjects? What is the relationship between the people shown? Are the photos dated or do you need to research the costumes? Are the details of the photographer noted? Did he live locally?

Autograph books. These have probably gone out of fashion now

but used to be very popular. Did the names reflect the interests of the owner (for instance music or film celebrities, sportsmen)? Was there a page for friends and fellow scholars?

Diaries. Entries reflect the activities that the owners were involved in. Did they also write up their reflections on the days' events? They might include specific invitations to events.

Residences. Before the internet, there were so many personal books that people held – of bank or savings accounts, friendly societies, insurance payments – which all showed their residence. Was the business nearby or in the next town? Did they have membership cards for organisations?

Employment. There were various records of people's employment history. Have you kept

## With whom did your ancestors meet?

past pay slips or have a CV of your employment history?

Health. Did they have an NHS card or, pre-1948, information from a doctor or details of time spent in hospitals? What was the cause of their eventual death?

Awards. Did they keep any certificates of their achievements? Did they achieve educationally? Were they in any winning sports' teams? Or participate in local music or drama events?

Add to these: shop receipts, transport tickets, minutes of meetings attended. They all help to build the bigger picture.

### b) Public Sources

Education Records. School reports show names of teachers and the Head as well as saying how the person applied themselves and performed. Online records often give admission dates at particular schools (many of which have subsequently changed names). School log books.

Street and trade directories. Who lived nearby and what services did they provide?

Electoral rolls. Was your ancestor eligible to vote? Who from the local area was?

Census returns. We use these to find details of our own ancestors, but who was living nearby? Often other family members were not far away and can add to our knowledge.

Newspapers and magazines. It is not just the well-to do who were written about in the papers, but ordinary people too – maybe your ancestors. Did they advertise their services or were they caught up in the criminal justice system? Were they called to act on the jury for court cases?

Probate. Not easy to read, but they contain a wealth of information and relationships and the status of the testator. But who were the witnesses and who was the solicitor or legal signatory?

ID or ration cards. Issued during the wars, they contained the names of the shopkeepers you could buy your limited provisions from.

War memorials. Most towns and villages had one to remember local men who gave their lives in the war. Often they were grouped by regiment or by local associations.

Councillors. Did your ancestor serve on a local council. There would be minutes of their meetings.

## With whom did your ancestors meet?

### In the 19<sup>th</sup> century

There are many overlaps with the previous list, but also other things to consider.

BMD records. Sometimes a whole family were baptised on the same day by the same vicar. You look for one person and get a bonus. Witnesses and names of informants can be revealing.

Censuses. It is interesting to compare the changes each ten years. Did your ancestors stay in the same house or move around? Had children died or moved away in between? Did their jobs change regularly?

Religious records. Did your ancestor belong to the established Church of England or were they non-conformists? How far did they travel to the church or chapel they attended?

Tithe maps and schedules. You get the names of not only the occupants but also the landlords.

Poll Books. These might contain lists of people called up to serve in the Militia.

Assizes records. Who were the Justices of the Peace? What sort of crimes did they hear?

Theatre programmes. Was your ancestor involved in amateur dramatics? Did their names appear on programmes or advertisements?

Fairs and markets. Was there one in your local town or did your ancestor have to travel? How frequently were they held and on which days? Might they have met their future spouse there? Often they were used for the hiring of workers – perhaps for a year and a day or, maybe, for only 364 days as this made it easier to sack them (and then it was difficult to claim poor relief locally).

Funeral providers and obituaries. These can give a lot of previously unknown connections.

Freemason records. Was your ancestor a freemason? What did that entail for him?

## With whom did your ancestors meet?

### Pre 19<sup>th</sup> century

Go further back in time and there are still many records to consult.

Parish registers. These often gave more information than the post-1837 records. It varied a lot between parishes dependent on the efficiency of the vicar. There is also the Parish Chest containing vestry minutes and lists of attendees.

Probate. These would contain inventories and legal acknowledgments.

Militia Lists. Few could avoid being called up or press-ganged in times of war.

War tax. Taxes are nothing new in our day. And records would be kept.

Petty Sessions. Transcripts are often available.

Apprenticeship indentures. Boys were often signed up for seven years from the age of 14 (or younger). Who did your ancestor work for? What was his trade?

Guild records.

Visitations. Who were the heralds who made these visits?

### Summary

While some of these records were specific to set eras others were available throughout.

Use your local Record Offices. Join local history societies as well as family history groups. There are many local publications available if you look for them.

Colin finished by telling us to “Keep searching and making our family histories more interesting by adding extra information”. Hilary encouraged us to “Poke around a bit”.

# Brides Wanted! but what happened next?

Graham Webster {overswavesey@gmail.com}

In April 2024 Jane Lewis, a genealogist at the Surrey History Centre, published in her *Seeking Surrey Ancestors* blog an entry about a letter in 1911 to the Board of Guardians for Kingston [upon Thames] Poor Law Union from a man in South Africa seeking a bride.

The reason that prompted this search may have been a need for a less masculine dominated society in the province:

*... now that Rhodesia is being satisfactorily opened up, is (says the Daily Graphic) anxious for active colonisation. For many years the Chartered Company has discountenanced marriage among the mounted police, civil servants, and other employees, measure for which Mr Cecil Rhodes, whose misogynist views are well known, has been held responsible. But this policy has been entirely reversed, and edict set forth among the Chartered Company's officials promising that preference in promotion will be given to married men, and advising all who can do to enter forthwith into the bonds of matrimony.*

The Kingston story piqued my interest, despite having no connection to any of the *dramatis personae*. So the minutes of 26 September 1911 recorded that '... a Mr E Ballam, a resident of Rhodesia, wrote on 25th September 1911 to the Board of Guardians asking to be recommended to a girl who would go out to South Africa and marry him.' The letter read:

*Sawmills, Victoria Falls Line B.M. [Beira and Mashonaland] Railway, Rhodesia, S.A. — To the Master of Kingston Workhouse — Sir, Being a native of Kingston, I wish you to let me know*

*if you could recommend a girl who wishes to come out her as a wife. My age is 28 last birthday, wage £15 per month, and cottage. If possible would you please forward photograph, and oblige. Yours faithfully, E Ballam.*

In modern parlance, the newspaper item went viral. A girl from Devon wrote:

*Dear Sir, Seeing in the papers as how a man wants a wife, would not mind in carrying on respond with him. Address partickleys [sic] later...If you decide not taking any action, don't send letter back to me.*

Another, from a girl in Bognor, said:

*Dear Madam, Could you send me the address of the railway worker that wrote to you. I should very much like to write to him. Also, if it would be better, I will go out there to be his wife. I will send my photo if you will write. Please let me have an answer by return of post.*

A few weeks later the minutes of Board of Guardians of 10 October 1911 recorded:

*The Clerk reported that as a result of the Press notice of the letter received from the above man, resident in Rhodesia, he had received three letters from young women who wished to be placed in communication with him, and stated that he would attend to same*

The Board of Guardian, it is recorded, took no action. More letters were received; one from Nuneaton, Warwickshire said:

## Brides Wanted! but what happened next?

*Having seen the advertisement from the young man in Rhodesia, Africa, who wants a wife, I wish to be placed in communication with same, as I would greatly wish to go there to live. I have no parents, so I would be extremely pleased to do something for someone, if no young lady is not already chosen*

**Another, from Exminster (Devon):**

*In answer to your advertisement for a wife, I am applying. I am a general servant, been in this employment three years this coming November. My age is twenty-one last birthday. I have only two sisters – no mother or father. I will forward my photo if needed. I can do almost anything a working man desires – mend, clean, cook, and wash. Hope my terms will suit you. I hope you will not think I am applying to you because of your money or your home, because an empty toom and a kind husband is all I need*

**A young woman, writing from Blackwater, Scorrier (in Cornwall), enclosed with the letter a photograph of herself. She wrote:**

*I have just seen the advertisement of the young man in Rhodesia, South Africa, wanting a wife and I am writing to ask you if you will kindly send him enclosed photo of myself. My age is twenty-two years the fourth of January. The photo I am sending was taken a few months ago. It is only a cheap photo, but it is all I have to send at present.*

The article stated that the Clerk of the Guardians would forward all the letters and the photos to the young man in Rhodesia.

The story seems to continue in 1913 where there is a record of an Ernest William Ballam, aged 29 (born

c1884), 'a ganger with the South African Railways', named in the marriage register for 3 July 1913, in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, South Africa. The bride was Alice Henrietta Martin, of Teddington, Middlesex, aged 25 years (born c1888). The register is unsigned and the entry crossed through, leading to a suggestion that the marriage did not take place.

It is at this point that a degree of speculation takes over. First the bride: there is an Alice Henrietta Martin in the 1891 census at 116 Milkwood Road, Lambeth born in Q2 1889, registered in Lambeth, Surrey; she was born on 11 May 1889 to father James Melville Martin (born c1860 – a railway ticket collector) and Clarissa Isabel (née Grant, born ca 1862) who were married at St George's, Hanover Square on 19 April 1884. She was baptised on 20 July 1890 at St Paul, Herne Hill, Surrey. In the following 1901 census, she was recorded as Henrietta, and the family were living at 89 New Clive Road, Lambeth; father was a railway clerk. But by the 1911 census, the family was living at 13 Somerset Gardens, Teddington, Middlesex, and Alice Henrietta was the eldest daughter (at 21 years old)

## Brides Wanted! but what happened next?

of eight children; father was now a 'traveller (book-keeper)'.

No specific records for Alice have been found after 1913 except that in the 1921 census there is a grandson, James, in the household of Alice's father, James, recorded as having been born in Benoni, South Africa – it is noted he was three years and nine months old (born c1917). Interestingly, delving in the records brings up an Annie Henrietta Ballam marrying Frank Sydney Plank at Holy Trinity, Aldershot on 12 May 1923. What makes this an outside possibility is that her age is given as 34 (born c1889) and a father James, with one of the witnesses a Dorothy K Martin (Alice had a younger sister, Dorothy Kate, born 1903); against this possibility is that Annie is stated to be a widow. This Alice turns up in the 1939 Register (under a date of birth of 11 May 1888) as an 'incapacitated patient' in Queens Road Homes, Queens Road, Croydon. It is quite likely that it was here, 66a Queens Road, Croydon, that she died on 2 August 1944 from cancer of the cervix. Her husband is recorded as a former sergeant in the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC). This tallies with the marriage certificate where he is recorded as

'ex Service'; a private (service number 19506) in the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment for World War I, later an acting sergeant probably for World War II, service number EMT/57813. Further intrigue extends to a Frank Plank, leaving Cape Colony, South Africa, for Southampton, on 10 February 1910 on Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company Ltd's *German*.

As for Ernest Ballam, a record of his birth, etc, cannot be found. Details of his occupation, however, can be traced. Railway gangers led a sedentary, routine and dull life, and had the humbler task of maintaining and repairing railway track.

*Semi-skilled men worked in small groups along designated stretches of line...In Mashonaland (Rhodesia) gangs were spaced 16 km apart. Like most railway work, ganging was organised hierarchically, albeit that grading (and wages) differed from one railway to another. Before the amalgamation of the colonial railway systems in South Africa, the Cape and the Natal Government Railways each classified gangers (known as platelayers in Natal) into three tiers. On the Central South African Railways there were four grades of ganger. By 1913 the 1,885 gangers employed on the unified South African Railways were divided into eight grades, ranging from Special Ganger (fifty-nine men) and Second-class Gangers (the biggest grade, with 602 men), to Second Class Sub-gangers (309 men) and Apprentice Gangers (thirty-three men).*

## Brides Wanted! but what happened next?

Referring to Ernest Ballam's original letter, gangers were accommodated in railway camps with other railway workers. At many more smaller stations there might be only three railway houses in a village. In the open veld between hamlets, modest collections of gangers' cottages or huts stood entirely alone.

There is a record of a person of the same name as Ernest appearing in the South African medal musters, having served in the German East Africa theatre in World War I. He is recorded initially as a Private, service number 1172, in the 2nd Rhodesian Regiment, 'embarking' on October 1915. He then appears as a Lance Corporal, transferred to the South African Infantry in September 1917. There is, however, little doubt that he then appears in the South African church records marrying Susanna Gertruida MEYER/MEIER on 13 July 1927 in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia now Zambia. He was described as a platelayer, 47 years old (born c1880) bachelor, living in Bwana Mkubwa (a town to the north of Lusaka), with a father William, a retired platelayer. She was a widow, 44 years old (born c1883), also living in Bwana Mkubwa, father Joachim Petrus van Tonder, a farmer. Records show that

she was born on 5 April 1883 and baptised (as Susanna Gertruida Christina Van Tonder) on 20 May 1883 at Culembeeck, Transvaal to Joachim and Margaretha Christina Pelser (née Voslo or Vosloo). Susanna's previous husband was Daniel Johannes Martinus/ Martinhus (born c1875) whom she married 15 May 1899 at Zeerust, Marico, Transvaal, South Africa; they appear to have had at least two children. Bwana Mkubwa held the oldest mine in the country's copperbelt and it is significant that there was a surge in the development of railways in its area to exploit both copper extraction and timber, extending the railways northwards built from Victoria Falls to Bulawayo for example. No records have been found suggesting the later lives of Ernest (or Susanna).

It is a pity not more is known about Alice and Ernest. It was a bold move on the part of Ernest to make the approach to the Kingston Board, and equally almost scandalous of Alice to travel out to Rhodesia (presumably alone) to answer his call. Did things not pan out for Ernest, and was Alice left disappointed? Later records can only hint at how things turned out!

# What can your society do for you?

*Hilary Blanford*

For many of you the live and online meetings, organised by a very small number of members, form the main face of the Society. Currently, I make it two people managing the bookings plus the chair-movers, the tea-makers, the provisions-purchasers and the washers-up. In addition to the regular meetings at Lingfield, those in and around Southwark, and the talks on Zoom, the Society organises an annual Study Day and other events such as the virtual Family History Fair and online transcription sessions.

However, we also have other services, such as the online shops on GenFair and Parish Chest, managed by Sue. Have you ever looked at these? You will find downloadable datasets at very reasonable prices, varying from memorial inscriptions to poor law records – records that can not be found on commercial websites – as well as the very popular commercial directory reprints produced by Peter.

Many of these datasets have been assembled by members over

the years and a small team meets regularly at the Research Centre in Lingfield to continue this work. All new names and references are added to the Society's master data set.

The same team helps with research assistance, both from members as well as from the general public. Additionally, Rita manages the members' special interest service, or surname match list, where any member may contact other members who share an interest in any surname.

If all this isn't enough, we also have a physical bookstall that is taken to a number of family history fairs and other events by several members.

And for those of you who prefer an instant online connection, we have an io group that is managed by Anne. She also keeps a weather eye on our Facebook group.

Are you making full use of all these wonderful facilities?

# What can you do for your society?

I think by now you will have realised that a lot of work is done by very few people, who would appreciate some assistance. We need help with the tasks below.

- ◊ It would be a great help if somebody could manage the bookstall for us – see the job advertisement on page 23 for further details
- ◊ Post details of meetings – live and online - on the Family History Federation website
- ◊ Write pieces for the journal
- ◊ Manage our Facebook page - you don't have to go overboard on this!
- ◊ A committee meetings minute secretary would be a wonderful asset. Our regular meetings are held online four times a year. They last two hours so this is not a huge undertaking
- ◊ Transcribe records, either at Lingfield, at home or online
- ◊ Volunteer to do a specific job or be an 'as and when needed' helper.

Next April Alan will be standing down from the committee and he acts as our secretary to fulfil the legal requirements for us to function as a charity. We have to find a replacement, or the Society cannot continue. We also need some people to stand for the committee as four of us will have completed our five-year terms of office in 2026 and it would be sensible to have some handover.

Don't be shy. Please contact me at [chairman@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

# Emigration from Britain towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the age of steam

**Talk given by Dr Judy Hill on 11 June**

Dr Hill is lecturer of history at the University of Surrey and researcher in Surrey history. Many members enjoyed her talk last year on emigration from Britain at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Her latest talk takes the story forward to the end of the century and into the age of steam. Judy set out to describe both similarities and differences between these periods.

The first difference is the increased number of destinations to which people moved. Although the US and Canada still figured, emigration at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, from data for 1880, also took people to the Cape, Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, Australia proving less popular. The character of emigration was also different in that it was industrial in nature, often subsidised by emigration clubs and trade unions. In the 1850s emigration increased from the German states, Scandinavia and Ireland (prompted by the potato famine), and in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century this movement was replaced by those leaving Italy, southern and eastern Europe and

the Russian states. Fluctuation in numbers was driven by domestic conditions – agricultural depression being the chief driver – rather than a utopian desire to form colonies.

The type of emigrant changed from family units with equal numbers of adult males and females to being largely unattached males. The employment being sought was also different; from being agricultural labour, it moved to being industrial work. The third factor was the nature of the emigration – from being a permanent movement with no plan for return, it became possible to think of a temporary move for economic reasons with a plan finally to come home with one's fortune made. Richard Cobden (1804-1865) the liberal politician and free trade advocate stressed that the emigrants were not exiled, but could return if they wished. Alternatively, one might be joining family members already settled. The artwork associated with emigration reflected this. Ford Madox Brown's 1855 painting *The last of England*, showing a poor, regretful, fearful

## Emigration from Britain towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

and despairing family was replaced a quarter of a century later by the poster depicting a smiling and confident young woman.

The coming of steam as the power driving the vessels brought huge changes, which were promoted in the advertising by the many shipping lines. The first factor was the increased speed of travel, the second was the safety of the journey and the third was the comfort of the passage both in timetabling and in facilities, as well as increased passenger numbers. Sailings that had taken 12 weeks could now be done in three. Australia could be reached in six weeks as opposed to 17 and the USA in seven to ten days. This was not only faster, but cheaper. Safety was not immediately improved, however, in that the early steamships were narrow and rather unstable as well as being prone to boiler explosions. Comfort took a similar time to improve with Dickens complaining about the discomfort of his voyage to the USA in 1842. Later ships, however, accommodated 115 passengers in two-berth cabins.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel designed three steamships; the Great Western in 1837, a wooden paddle steamer, the Great Britain in

1843, an iron propeller-driven vessel, which was very influential in its design, and the Great Eastern in 1859, steam-powered and propeller-driven but also with paddle wheels and sails. This last was designed for non-stop voyages to Australia but was damaged by an explosion on its maiden voyage, killing six firemen. After passages to the US, she was diverted to cable-laying, before being broken up in 1889 as too large for most ports. The Great Britain is of course preserved in Bristol harbour.

Another factor making emigration more feasible was the development of the railways, linking passengers to the ports. At first Cunard and other shipping lines (apart from the Inman Line) did not want economic migrants as passengers, but this changed towards the end of the nineteenth century when the other companies, like the White Star Line, could see that there was money to be made and steerage class was introduced and advertised. Gradually conditions and food for such passengers were improved, dormitories being replaced by cabins and third-class passengers had their own dining room. In 1911 better cabins for

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steerage were provided and they were even waited on at table by stewards.

By 1860 the British government's attitude to emigrants was that if the receiving colonies wanted workers, they would have to pay for them and the emigrants should pay for their own passage. More colonies were becoming self-governing and the colonial commissioners were losing control over immigration, amongst other issues. By 1873 the colonies were responsible for their own policy. There were civil service and trading jobs attracting immigrants. By the turn of the century the colonies were overtaking the US as the emigrants' choice. P&O were offering passages to Australia for 15 guineas. The reduced price of passage encouraged single men to go out for 5-7 years before returning. Bulk import of frozen meat from New Zealand was a big trade and these ships also took some passengers. The Marconi system and the submarine cables opened up communications as did the contracts of mail shipments, which formed the basis of Cunard's success.

Passenger safety was finally addressed in 1855 when a standard was introduced for sustenance, sanitation, and space. The "coffin ships" of the early part of the century, with overcrowded, insanitary, and dangerous conditions, where it was more profitable to scuttle the ship with the loss of life than to make it to port, were a thing of the past, although not forgotten. The Irish seeking new lives in 1846 were so desperate to leave that they risked all to get to the US. In fact, this desire continued to the 1920s. The numbers dying on Gross Island near Quebec run into many thousands. Safety on board was not good with the number of lifeboats too few and "Women, children and 1<sup>st</sup> class passengers first" being the rule. The Titanic had only 20, 44 being removed so that the 1<sup>st</sup> class passengers could walk freely on deck. After 1912 collapsible lifeboats were introduced. Lifejackets had not been so necessary on wooden ships where there was always flotsam to hang on to, but with iron vessels there was none. Legislation on cork vests did not come in until 1913.

Embarkation at Liverpool, the chief port for emigration, was

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chaotic with passengers having nowhere to go while waiting up to 10 days for departure day during which they were cheated and robbed. By the 1860s, Southampton, London and Plymouth had emerged as ports of departure, but Liverpool was still the favoured port for emigrants from Scandinavia, Russia and Poland, arriving via Hull. Until steam ships and timetables came in passengers could not embark until the day of departure, which was not fixed. Now the companies had their own lodging houses and the Germans for example started vetting the passengers, fumigating their luggage, etc., so that when they arrived in the US they would not be sent back.

Judy mentioned that the colonies sent agents to certain parts of the UK to recruit people for immigration, building up agricultural communities. Another factor was the Australian gold rush, together with the hope that the health benefits of the climate would alleviate tuberculosis, for instance. Other draws were the professional posts available, but also the possibility of making a fortune or redeeming oneself after a questionable life. Charlotte Godley

(1821-1907), wife of the founder of the Canterbury colony in New Zealand in 1851 wrote extensively about this. Not all immigrants to Australia were welcome – agricultural workers were needed and those who arrived instead were single men from urban areas with no relevant skills. Miners from Wales and Cornwall were better received in the US, the former going particularly to Pennsylvania. Scottish miners also went, but there were complaints about the long hours and the lack of safety standards, so many of them returned.

There were also female emigrants and a Women's Emigration Society was formed in 1880 by Louisa Hubbard (1836-1906) and Caroline Blanchard to encourage single women to emigrate with the possibility of finding husbands. It folded, however, four years later. In 1861 Maria Rye (1829-1903) had founded the Female Middle Class Emigration Society, absorbed in 1884 into the United British Women's Emigration Society. Girls of the middle and domestic servant classes were sent to Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Maria was disillusioned when she travelled around New Zealand and saw the

## Emigration from Britain towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

conditions the girls found themselves in. She was much criticised for her actions, but continued sending girls to Canada. Servants were needed in New Zealand and Lady Barker (Mary Anne Barker, 1831-1911) reported that ships were besieged by those looking for domestics. Lady Barker criticised the arrivals for being no use, with the nice tidy ones being snapped up as wives.

Many charities, for example Dr Barnardo and the Salvation Army, became involved with sending orphaned children abroad, hopefully for a better life. As an example, we saw a photograph of the Dr Barnardo's Girls' School in Canada. Many of the children were not orphans, however, and their movement abroad amounted to philanthropic abduction. There were accusations of sexual abuse and some of the children disappeared once they went to work on farms, no records being kept. In 1890 Sir Charles Wenworth Dilke (1843-

1911), the liberal and radical politician, expressed his doubts about the procedure, but the imperialist views of John A. Hobson (1858-1940) had by then gained currency and the British Empire's influence in every country of the world was seen in a purely positive light.

To conclude Judy spoke of the floating palaces that were the Victorian and Edwardian passenger ships. The change from Dickens' experience in 1842 to that of Arthur Davis in 1914 was extreme. Steel ships could be lighter and more spacious, and fast cheap travel was available for flexible migrants. Middle class travel expanded and US millionaires travelled to Europe in luxurious liners up to Ritz Hotel standard. Interior designs were based on Louis XIV, Renaissance, Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts styles. From the 1890s, there were Board of Trade passenger lists, of use to researchers.

## Meet the Bookstall and Help Desk Team



Every year the team are present at fairs and events, mainly in Surrey but sometimes further afield. This year they will have represented ESFHS at Woking, Kempton Park, Nunhead Cemetery, Hampshire FHS 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration, Lambeth Heritage Festival and Merton Heritage Discovery Day. Could you spare an hour or so to join them? It's a great way

to meet like-minded people, learn more about family history and promote your Society.

ESFHS members are our best resource. No need to be an expert on everything! Along with the maps and books on the stall, we have a box of useful research information and Peter frequently brings the laptop

with our transcribed data, to help enquirers with their research.



Monica holds the stock and arranges to get it to fairs. We have a trolley, and tables are provided for us, so there is not too much lifting and carrying.

Several members help at fairs and events regularly, others occasionally, including Sue, Geoff, Lesley and Marda. There are always at least two members manning our stand, and at the larger fairs many more, so that everyone has a break. **More volunteers always welcome!**

The missing link in the team is somebody to complete the booking forms for each event, liaise with the treasurer for payment of the pitch and co-ordinate the helpers for the day. It is not too time-consuming nor necessary to attend the event or even to be resident in the UK.

Could you be this person? Interested?

Please email [chairman@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

# The London Archives

Anne Ramon [4730]

The London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has had a name change to 'The London Archives'. There's a new colour scheme and logo, but the record collection itself is unchanged. I understand that this is because the old name was confusing, and I agree wholeheartedly! The word 'Metropolitan' had a more precise and useful definition in the past – there were 'metropolitan' boroughs, for instance. Wikipedia explains these:

*Metropolitan boroughs were subdivisions of the County of London from 1900 to 1965.*

*The 28 boroughs were created by the London Government Act 1899.*

*In 1965 they were abolished and replaced by larger London boroughs within the new area of Greater London.*



Since 1965 we have had 'Inner London' boroughs, and those relevant to ESFHS are (from west to east) Wandsworth, Lambeth and Southwark. These coincide broadly with the former metropolitan boroughs but there were some significant shifts: for example, parts of Streatham were transferred from Wandsworth to Lambeth in 1965.

Beyond them we have 'Outer London' boroughs (again, west to east): Richmond-upon-Thames (part), Kingston-upon-Thames, Merton, Sutton, and Croydon.

The territory beyond Outer London is Surrey proper and its archives are at the Surrey History Centre at Woking.

The newly badged 'London Archives' is at the same address as

Monday	1000–1630
Tuesday	1000–1630
Wednesday	1000–1900
Thursday	1000–1630
Friday	closed
Saturday	1000–1630 on one Saturday each month (14 September, 12 October, 16 November, 14 December)
Sunday	closed

# The London Archives

previously: 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB (the nearest Underground station is Farringdon) and the opening times are shown in the box on the previous page.

The website has been revamped and is at [www.thelondonarchives.org/your-research/researching-the-collections/family-history](http://www.thelondonarchives.org/your-research/researching-the-collections/family-history). The Catalogue web page has been much improved and you access it at <https://www.thelondonarchives.org/your-research/search-the-catalogue>

When you select 'Search the Catalogue' you will see the familiar

input boxes but the Help Guides are listed underneath. I entered a search for insurance details for an 'Insured' party named 'Smith' where the insured properties included the word Lambeth i.e. 'Other Lambeth'.

The Archives have an excellent exhibition and lecture programme on site in Farringdon with optional Zoom streaming for some talks, as well as occasional guided walks and a book group. You can follow them on Eventbrite via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-london-archives-2913691059>

The screenshot shows the homepage of The London Archives Collections Catalogue. The main title is '1000 Years of London's History in Documents, Photos, Maps and Films'. Below the title is a search bar with the query 'Insured Smith Other Lambeth'. The search results page displays a table with the following data:

Title	Insured: John Powell Smith, Canterbury Place, Lambeth, gent
Scope	Other Property / Occupiers Mentioned: 114 (Joseph Hugginson, esq), 115 (Messrs Oppenham), 116 (Messrs Copeland and Galley, linen drapers) Aldersgate Street; 1 Long Lane near Aldersgate Street (Marshall)
Reference Code	CLC/B/192/F/001/MS11936/409/668711
Level	Item
Date	1797 Jul 21
From Collection	ROYAL AND SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

# A Freemason in the family?

*Susan Snell*

## **A report by Christine Peel on the talk given on 8 July 2024**

Susan Snell, archivist and records manager at the Museum of Freemasonry (see the website at [museumfreemasonry.org.uk](http://museumfreemasonry.org.uk)), described in her talk what information was available about individual freemasons, as well as some surprising facts and possible mistaken assumptions.

Susan began by showing photographs of three individuals closely involved with Freemasonry. The first was Prosonno Coomar Dutt, a barrister from Mumbai (then Bombay), who submitted a petition to the Grand Master in London, leading the way for many Indian Freemasons, previously members of Scottish Constitution Lodges in India, to join the English constitution. The badges on his robes, are called 'jewels' in Masonry terminology. The second was a gentleman closely associated with the formation of the Red Cross in London who became a very decorated Grand Officer in the order, as witnessed by his apron. The third was the Worshipful Brother (*sic*) Ethel Allen, Grand Pursuivant of one of the two remaining women's Grand Lodges.

These lodges have existed for over 100 years, some members being suffragettes.

Freemasonry originated in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries when working masons met in lodges and created an apprenticeship scheme, at the end of which prospective masons answered questions related to their trade. The governance of the lodges was formalised; by the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a split between operative members, involved in the skill of building, and speculative members more interested in the philosophical side and Enlightenment ideas. In 1717 the first Grand Lodge was formed, incorporating four London lodges. They called themselves the Moderns as opposed to the Ancients, who formed their own Grand Lodge in 1751. This division was resolved in 1813 when the Duke of Sussex founded the United Grand Lodge of England. A Grand Lodge of Scotland was founded in 1736 and of Ireland in 1725. All had satellite lodges overseas. The Order of Women Freemasons was founded in 1908. There is also an order known as Co-

## A Freemason in the family?

Masonry (Le Droit Humain) including both men and women, not recognised by either main order.

Why might one suspect a family member was a Freemason? Gravestones might carry masonic symbols: rule, compasses, level and square, or there might be a Grand Lodge Certificate. Until the 1960s these were in English and Latin, but subsequently in English only. There might be 'jewels', summonses, an apron, porcelain and glassware (the last being heavy-bottomed glasses, banged on the table after supper to create 'masonic fire').

Red herrings that could mislead one occur because of the multitude of 18<sup>th</sup> century friendly societies, e.g. Temperance Societies, the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, the Oddfellows, most with similar regalia (aprons, jewels, etc.). Masonic symbolism might occur in other contexts promoting a moral lifestyle. Freemasonry is also practised overseas.

On entering the Museum of Freemasonry website, selecting the **Research** tab reveals a page with links to pages concerning research visits, access to the catalogue, the identification service, etc. Ancestry holds details of members prior to

1921 (for data protection reasons), but one can register as a reader with the library and access details free during a visit. The route into information in Ancestry is via their Card Catalogue by entering the title "Grand Lodge", from where one can access the English or Irish record set. With information of the lodge number from the Museum website (using Lane's Masonic Records) one can limit the Ancestry search. The *Research Guides* Museum page can also be useful. As membership practices are organized by lodge number rather than name, a charge is made for any search carried out by museum staff. This is initiated from the 'Request a search today' link on the *Family History* page of the website. A search of paper records, which may take from four to six weeks, can be requested for £31. This is particularly useful for information after 1921, as well as for chapter membership and offices held.

Information for James Owen Wilkinson of Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire shows he was a member from 1913 until his death in 1951. Available details increased with time, being more restricted in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The various

## A Freemason in the family?

positions that James held are shown, that he founded a lodge in 1930 and was, over time, a member of two lodges. Worth remembering is that the provinces of lodges align with the old counties. James was also a member of a Royal Arch Chapter, being exalted (accepted) within a chapter in 1920. The three principals of a lodge are the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, but in a Chapter these are called Zerubbabel, Haggai and Joshua. James held each position in turn. He also held a position in the Supreme Grand Chapter (equivalent to the United Grand Lodge of England). For active members there is much information, less for the less active.

Information available from the *Research Resources* page includes Lane's Masonic Records (covering the lodges: when they were formed, when they were consecrated – an elaborate ceremony – and where they met), Masonic Periodicals Online (searchable digitised versions of all key magazines before 1905) and Volume 10 of *Antigrapha* (1723, 1725, 1730), an indexed Members' List. This last is accessed via the link to the resources of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge (the leading research

lodge, No. 2076). Some lodge and chapter minutes are available and other resources are Petitions (e.g. for the founding of a lodge), annual returns, lodge files, biographical files and Board of Benevolence papers, recording the grants of funds to individuals. There is a link to art works showing famous members past and present, and in the online catalogue one can see biographical information about many members. There are also images of Masonic jewels and information on who received them.

Personal visits are possible on Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10.00-17.00; a time should be booked three days in advance. It is useful to email first to ask specific questions, but the registration form, requiring photographic identification and proof of address, can be filled in on arrival. The museum is on the corner of Great Queens Street and Longacre, near Covent Garden and Holborn tube stations.

Information exists on pupils attending Royal Masonic Institution schools, but restricted for those still living. The girls' school is at Rickmansworth (earlier Clapham Junction) and the boys' was at Abbots Langley (earlier Woodford

## A Freemason in the family?

Green) until it closed in the 1977. These were for supported pupils, and although boys could always choose a local school instead, girls got that permission only from 1908. All girls previously boarded but most are now day pupils.

Overseas members can join lodges in any of the three countries, England Scotland or Ireland. Lodges have relevant symbols incorporated in their badges. In 1799, with fear of the effect of the French revolution, an attempt was made to stop local meetings, but a dispensation from William Pitt allowed them to continue, provided lists of members were sent to the Clerk of the Peace. These lists were sometimes recorded at Quarter Sessions as 'Lawful Society Returns'.

Susan's first case study was of Joseph David Langton, born 1858 in Stoke Newington. He rose to be Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Surrey, then Grand Master of Surrey, then Provincial Grand Master, with ever more impressive bling! He was a solicitor with *Stunham and Passmore*, sadly dying at a performance at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in 1918. In 1877 he was initiated in Welcome Lodge, London, a Grand Master's Lodge, so one of

the leading lodges. He joined several other lodges. He was also a Royal Arch Freemason and was exalted in the Prudent Brethren Chapter, subsequently founding the George Price Chapter in Croydon. Langton continued a very distinguished career in Freemasonry, as was witnessed by related documents, including petitions for forming the George Price Chapter.

The second case study was of Charles Henry Rayner. While Langton's record shows that those of less elite backgrounds can rise through the ranks, Rayner's history as a Freemason is different. Born in 1880, he was a clerk living in Croydon, later moving to Beddington, and he died in 1950. He was initiated in the Old England Lodge in Croydon, appearing in the Lodge history as CH Rayner. He was Worshipful Master in another lodge and founder member of the temperance Waddon Lodge in 1928, serving as Worshipful Master. The petition gives interesting social details about the Waddon area. There are several more pieces of documentation about Charles, but he resigned from most of his masonic involvement in 1933.

# News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley

I've always been fascinated by samplers. My parents-in-law had several on the walls of their cottage that they had picked up at sales over the years, and I found myself wondering about the lives of the young ladies who had so carefully preserved their names in thread over a century ago. What happened to them after the sampler was finished, framed, and admired by family and friends? Did they marry? Have children? Did they experience upheavals, wars, illness?

Many years ago, as a newly qualified archivist, I briefly thought what a nice project it would be to research a selection of samplers from across the country and produce an illustrated book telling the life stories of their makers, so you will understand how excited I was to hear that Woking Area U3A Genealogy group have chosen to research the back story of an embroidered sampler bought at auction. They have used their collective knowledge and skills to uncover an extraordinary amount of information about the girl who made the sampler and her family, and the results of their research will be on display in our foyer at Surrey History Centre in November and December,

with a launch event and talk on Wednesday 6 November. Though not a Surrey family, some of the records in our collections have been able to fill important gaps in the young lady's later story, showing just how vital the archives preserved by us and by record offices across the country are for learning about the lives, experiences and varying fortunes of our ancestors. These are often the archives that are *not* on family history websites, and though briefly and accurately described in the online finding aids of the record office can only begin to give up the many stories they contain when you contact or visit the archive and draw on the knowledge of staff, volunteers and fellow researchers.

If you have not visited a record office before, it can appear quite daunting, with rules about readers' tickets, putting your stuff in a locker, security doors and a hushed search room where people look as if they know far more than you do. If you have visited one, then hopefully you will know that it is not like that, and that staff and volunteers are only too happy to make you welcome and help you find what you are looking for. That's why I'm so pleased that one of our regular visitors, Sarah

## News from Surrey Heritage

Pettyfer, will be sharing her experiences of researching in archives in the first of our autumn series of online talks, listed below. I'm also pleased that, in partnership with the East Surrey Family History Society, we are holding another of our successful 'Tea and Talk' events, this time to showcase the work that we do and the range of archives that we hold. These give people the opportunity to hear a talk, ask questions, discuss their interests and learn about parts of our collections that might be of use to their family history research. And for those who

cannot visit us, I hope that the online talks that we have planned will allow you to learn more about the skills that enable us to preserve archives and the topics that other researchers are working on.

Finally, for anyone interested in researching their Georgian ancestors, you may be interested in a conversation about the *Gentleman's Magazine* which I have recently recorded with Emma Cox for her 'Journeys into Genealogy' podcast, available at <http://emmacox.co.uk/journeys-into-genealogy-podcast/>

## Recent Accessions at Surrey History Centre

### **101175 add**

St Peter's church, Woodmansterne: additional parish records, including baptism registers, 1912-1989; marriage registers, 1946-2019; burial register, 1942-1979; and papers of the Mothers' Union, 1960s-1990s

### **10594**

Pirbright Parish Council and predecessors: additional records (as listed on schedule prepared by Mr and Mrs J Foster, Pirbright Historians), 1799-1995

## Recent Accessions at Surrey History Centre

### **10595**

Mr E J Davies, senior ARP warden, Division I, sector 8, Guildford: papers relating to civil defence duties in World War II, 1939-1944

### **10596**

Horace Faithful, lighterman at Coxes Lock, Chertsey: photographs and papers, including relating to Byfleet Village Football Club and Surrey Home Guard, 1919-1944

### **10598**

Weller and Son, auctioneers, valuers, surveyors, land and estate agents of Cranleigh: client correspondence and papers, including relating to the estates of Lord Abinger, c.1900-1910

### **10600**

Lt Col R F C Oxley-Boyle, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: personal papers and photographs, 1934-1946

### **10601**

Lance Corporal Harry Robinson, 8th Battalion, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: papers and photographs, c.1914-1964

### **10602**

CSM Thomas Bird Blatch (1884-1962), 2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: papers and photographs, 1902-1962

### **10603**

Private Harold Geoffrey Palmer Standen, Queen's Royal Regiment: papers, including correspondence while a prisoner of war, 1940s

### **10604**

Second Lieutenant Norman Charles Bunch (1927-1976), East Surrey Regiment Territorials: papers, including commission certificates and soldier's pay books, 1945-1946

### **10605**

Ken and Kathleen Bulled of Banstead, and Christine Hayes, nee Bulled: correspondence, principally from former German POWs at Banstead Wood Camp, and related publications, 1944-2023

### **10606**

Captain Francis Thomas Noah (1911-1953), Queen's Royal Regiment: service papers and photographs, 1930s-1950s

## Recent Accessions at Surrey History Centre

### **10607**

Private William Gwynne (d.1915), 2nd Battalion, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: papers relating to his death at the Battle of Festubert, France, 1915-2014

### **10608**

Lance Corporal Richard James Hearnden (1890-1916), 23rd London Regiment: papers and photographs, 1916-1951

### **10609**

Dorking and Horley Rural District Council: miscellaneous records, including council year books, 1925-1973; peace time emergency plan, and; and drainage scheme map, 1955

### **10611**

Collected postcards relating to World War I, 1914-1918

### **10616**

Pte Ernest Swift, 1/5th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: army papers, correspondence and photographs, 1916-1919

### **10617**

St Mary Magdalene, South Holmwood: additional parish records including registers of marriages, 2014-2018, and burials, 1993-2013, parish magazines and other publications and printed material, plans of vicarage and photographs, 1863-2023

### **10618**

Mann family of Wanborough and Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, USA: letters, 1864-1891

### **10619**

Pte C Edwards, 1st Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: training notebook, c.1918

### **10621**

Major R E H Hadingham (1915-2004), CBE, MC and Bar TD, 167 Brigade, 67th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regiment: papers including diaries, personal reminiscences, correspondence and photographs, 1930s-2000s

### **10624**

St Mary's, Send: additional parish records, comprising baptism registers, 1963-1999, marriage registers, 1977-2014, banns of marriage registers, 1978-2012, and service registers, 1978-2017

# Forthcoming events

## **The History of Surrey's Mental Hospitals:** a talk by Julian Pooley

The Horton Arts Centre, Epsom, on Saturday 7 September, 2.00 p.m. Tickets £10.

*To book a place, go to {<https://theHortonEpsom.org>} and click on their 'What's On' page*

This talk presents medical records to uncover the hidden stories of patients and the care regime they experienced and draws on photographs, and other records

rescued when these vast hospitals finally closed to explore daily life in a psychiatric institution over the course of three centuries.

## **Researching in Archives:** a talk by Sarah Pettyfer

Wednesday 18 September, 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. on Zoom. Tickets £6.00

*Please book a place at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents)*

Taking that first step into an archive can be daunting, so this talk offers an introduction to visiting an archive, offering tips and advice to prepare for that first visit and explores some of the records you can find which can help you take your research beyond the limits of online resources.

Sarah Pettyfer is a professional family and house historian and holds the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies (IHGS) Diploma in Genealogy. She is the current Vice Chair of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA). She is also a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG).

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.

## Forthcoming events

### **From Patient to Professor:** a talk by Dr Dan Jacobson

Wednesday 9 October 2024, 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. on Zoom. Tickets £6.00.

*Please book a place at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents)*

Dan Jacobson was a teenage inpatient at Long Grove Psychiatric Hospital for four months in the years just before its closure in the 1990s. This talk will explore the geography and history of the Epsom Cluster of psychiatric hospitals, weaving together his personal and professional journey – from a patient to becoming a professor.

What was it like on the wards of the

hospital? Dan is going to discuss negotiation and treatment for mental illness. These experiences will be used to reflect on his ongoing research into the changes to the landscape within and surrounding the former hospital sites.

Dan Jacobson, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Calgary, Canada.

### **Preserving the Past for the Future: The Work of Surrey Heritage** presented by East Surrey Family History Society and Surrey Heritage' A Tea and Talk with Julian Pooley and Jane Lewis.

Thursday 10 October, 2.00-4.30 at Surrey History Centre. Tickets £6.00.

*Places are limited to 30. For details of how to book, please see our Heritage Events page.*

After the talk there will be an opportunity to see a display of some

of our most iconic archives in our searchroom.

## Forthcoming events

### **Medieval Surrey:** Autumn meeting of Surrey Local History Committee

Saturday 12 October 2024, Surrey History Centre, 9.55 am to 4.15 pm Tickets £15.00.

*Coffee or tea are included. Please make your own arrangements for lunch. It is recommended to bring a packed lunch as there are few cafés near Surrey History Centre. Please book online at Local History Symposium - Save the Date | Surrey Archaeological Society ([surreyarchaeology.org.uk](http://surreyarchaeology.org.uk)) Payment can be made by credit card as a guest. Confirmation will be sent by e-mail and your name added to the register of attendees. It is advisable to book early as places are limited.*

*Tickets on the day will be £18.00, payable in cash only.*

Speakers include:

- ◊ Rob Briggs (Chair SAS Medieval Studies Forum) *Insights from Early Medieval Charters: Farnham as a Case Study?*
- ◊ Dr Michael Shapland (University College London/Archaeology South-East) *The Dragon's Hill: A Medieval Rock-Cut Shrine and Regional Assembly Site near Guildford*
- ◊ Mike Page (Surrey County Archivist) *Conflicted loyalties: researching Surrey's gentry in the Wars of the Roses*
- ◊ Dr David Stone (Head of History and Politics, Torquay Boys' Grammar School) *Medieval Surrey through the lens of manorial accounts*
- ◊ Madeline Hutchins (Chaldon History Group) *Chaldon Court 1366: a Medieval Mystery*
- ◊ Lucy Quinnell (Independent) *The Steward's Tale: Resolving Rowhurst*

### **Behind the Scenes in Conservation**

Wednesday 30 October, 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. on Zoom. Tickets £6.00.

*Please book a place via [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents)*

Join our Conservator, Rachel Marsh, as she talks through the conservation of a Tithe Map, which

has proved a lengthy and challenging map repair.

## Forthcoming events

### **Highclere Castle and its archive:** a talk by David Rymill

Wednesday 23 October, 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. on Zoom. Tickets £6.00.

*Please book a place via [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents)*

Highclere Castle, on the Hampshire-Berkshire border, has been home to the Earls and Countesses of Carnarvon and their ancestors since 1678, and it has a varied and fascinating history.

A substantial archive remains *in situ* at the Castle, giving insights into the Castle, the family, the indoor and outdoor staff who have kept the Castle and its estate functioning, and the officers who were treated there when it became a First World War

hospital and children evacuated there in the Second World War.

David Rymill grew up in Surrey and back in 1991-2 was an Archives Assistant at Surrey Record Office in Kingston. He has been an archivist at Hampshire Record Office since 1993 and part-time archivist at the Castle since 2009. He will share with us a little of the story of the Castle and the people who have lived there, and some of the gems within the archive.

### **Surrey Writers:** a talk by Joanna Murtagh

Wednesday 13 November, 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. on Zoom. Tickets £6.00.

*Please book a place via [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents)*

Did you know that some of the best loved and most influential books of recent centuries have come from writers with links to Surrey? Daniel Defoe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie and Lewis Carroll, to name but a few, have all been inspired by

Surrey to write some of the most enduring literature of all time.

To find out more, join us as we take a look at the lives and inspirations of some of these writers and explore the themes and topics that put them on the map.

## Forthcoming events

### **The afterlives of executed bodies from Kennington Common: a talk by Dr Anna Cusack**

Wednesday 27 November, 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. on Zoom. Tickets £6.00.

*Please book a place via [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents)*

This talk is supported  
by Surrey History Trust

The Surrey Gallows stood on Kennington Common, not far from where Oval Tube Station is today. It was the south London equivalent of Tyburn and a place where, during the 17th and 18th centuries, many individuals were put to death.

This talk uncovers some of the stories of these individuals and follows them past the point of execution. Who was buried where, who was sent for anatomy, and who was subjected to further exhibition in the form of being displayed in gibbets or having body parts placed at strategic points across the county as a grisly warning against a life of

crime? Join Dr Anna Cusack as she uncovers the afterlife of the criminal corpse.

Anna is a historian of crime, execution, death, and burial in the wider London area. She lectures at Canterbury Christ Church University, the University of Oxford, and Birkbeck, University of London. As an early modern social historian Anna seeks out the untold human stories of everyday people in her research and is currently involved with a project about the History of Smallpox run out of Australia National University.

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## Membership Secretary's report

Have you changed your preferred email address since joining the Society? We send out emails once a month notifying you of our Zoom lectures and any other planned activities. If you ever notice you are

no longer receiving these, please feel able to contact me ([membership@eastsurreyfhs.org](mailto:membership@eastsurreyfhs.org)) and I will check the email address we hold for you.

# Merton Heritage Discovery Day

Monica Polley [9928]

ESFHS was invited to have a stand at this annual event, held in Morden Library at the Merton Civic Centre in August.

Lesley, Marda and I had a very good day, the ESFHS Book Stall created a lot of interest in genealogy, and we had some interesting discussions with several people resulting in new membership and sales of our publications and maps. It was good to meet some ESFHS members too.

There was a wide range of other exhibitors of interest from the area, featuring the industries and workers of the Wandle, Wimbledon Museum and Windmill, the history of Merton Priory, the connection of William Morris (Arts & Crafts movement)

and John Innes (of compost fame) to that region of Surrey, to name a few. Community initiatives were also represented and there was a wonderful exhibition by Mitcham Camera Club showing the diverse creatures and habitats that can be found around the area.

One highlight of the day was cake! In celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Merton Heritage Service the deputy Mayor was present and, after speeches by herself and Sarah Gould, the Heritage Officer, she cut the cake, which was enjoyed by all staff and stallholders. It was excellent.

All in all, an interesting and informative day, with good public transport links.

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The next issue of the journal will be January 2025. Next year's subscriptions are due for renewal on 1 January; so you will find a renewal form in the middle pages of this issue. Sending your renewal subscription before January is a great help to me, as it spreads my workload.

Please remember this is your society. Your suggestions are always welcome to help set the future programme. Please feel able to contact me, or any of my colleagues, with any queries you have. If we do not know the answer, we can help you find someone who will be able to point you in the right direction.

# Membership

## New members

10778	John Pullinger - johnpullinger@hotmail.com
10779	Ivan Asford - ivan@camberwell.me.uk
10780	Janette Teachout – janetteaustin99@hotmail.com
10781	Greg Hampson – gregory.hampson@gmail.com
10782	Julie Wyeth – wyeth500@btinternet.com
10783	Brian Minns – bminns1983@gmail.com
10784	Nigel Norris - n.norris@uea.ac.uk

## Change to email address

10081	Bryan Howell – howellbp10@gmail.com
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## 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.*

262 – Maureen O’Sullivan

9756 – John Penfold

9779 – Anthony Leach

7216 – Joyce Harper

8179 – Jeanette Day

## Merstham Collection

### Census, parish records and monumental inscriptions

This comprises transcriptions and indexes of the Merstham censuses (1841-1901), parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials (1538-1855) and monumental inscriptions, both inside and outside the church (1487-2006) at St Katharine's church, Merstham.

**£4.00** Available to buy online

via Parish Chest

{[www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com)} or

GenFair {[www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)}.



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#### **SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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**The annual subscription is £12.00 sterling for UK and Europe**

The overseas rate is the sterling equivalent of £12 if the Journal is taken electronically; if a paper copy of the Journal is preferred the rate is £18.

The membership covers two or more related persons living at the same address, although only one copy of the Journal will be sent

All records of membership, including names, addresses, and subscription details, are held on computer.

Please inform the Membership Secretary if you do not wish your details to be held on computer and special arrangements will be made.

#### **JOURNAL ADVERTISING RATES**

whole page £35.00, half page £18.00, quarter page £10.00

less 10% for four or more consecutive issues.

*Copy should be sent to the Editor and a cheque payable to "East Surrey FHS" sent to the Treasurer.*



# **EAST SURREY**

## Family History Society

