

# **THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN**

**NUMBER 151**

**MARCH 2014**

# BACON'S Cycling County Maps WITH INDEX

Speedily necessary for Tourists, Cyclists, etc.

These Cycling Maps are in large letters, very clear and distinct—provided with directions, routes for road and country cyclists—distances—Climatic Details very full and distinct.

ALL ROUTES SPECIALLY COLOURED.

Printed in Great Britain.  
Reprinted and Bound in Great Britain, 1911.

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| Cheshire               | Cheshire               |
| Cornwall               | Cornwall               |
| Devonshire             | Devonshire             |
| Essex                  | Essex                  |
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| Lincolnshire           | Lincolnshire           |
| London & Home Counties | London & Home Counties |
| Northamptonshire       | Northamptonshire       |
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| Shropshire             | Shropshire             |
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| West Yorkshire         | West Yorkshire         |
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| Worcestershire         | Worcestershire         |
| Yorkshire              | Yorkshire              |

LONDON: E. W. BACON & CO., LTD., 117, STRAND.



BACON'S COUNTY MAPS

*Old Map*

# The Essex Family Historian

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*The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Committee and Officers of the Society.*

☆ ☆ ☆

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# EDITORIAL

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## ECONOMICS

There are those of you who will think this March edition of the *Historian* was delivered a month late. Not so! Among you might be those who did not recognise that this issue was thicker and was filled with more stories. Both these things are my responsibility and I will endeavour to explain. My last editorial did explain different thoughts about the finances of the society. Which, I might add, are very healthy and in the capable hands of Ron Knights. However, a concern has been that the constant “upping” of Post Office charges for mail has contributed to an argument which has differing sides to it.

**One** is that members outside Europe get a very good deal, because the cost of posting four issues each year to them well outweighs their subscriptions. Fair point, but what else do they get, being unable to attend meetings?

**Two** is that members in the United Kingdom pay a subscription which covers those four issues and they have an outside chance of being able to attend meetings. So, why should we put up subscriptions for them? They do not appear to deserve it.

**Three** is about the members who can and do attend meetings. We pay substantial amounts for premises to hold our meetings. We supply a constant stream of specialist and interesting speakers. And that costs money. Yet attendance at Chelmsford averages only about 50 members, many of whom are from other branches. At Southend it is about 75, but with rather less outlay. The other branches are smaller. Yes, these members get their money's worth! But what can we, or should we, do about it? That is a matter for the Executive Committee.

My business is to produce a journal, which I hope you like, and which is within the generous budget I am given. In almost a decade since I took this job I have so delivered, particularly the second part. But that will not go on for ever. With the welcome agreement of my wonderful Production Manager I am instituting



## *EDITORIAL*

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Continued.....

(as an experiment) the biggest change in the HISTORIAN that has occurred within the last forty years. From this issue on the HISTORIAN will be produced only three times a year, in exchange for which it will be bigger. We shall have to carefully weigh each issue to get the maximum number of pages that will keep us below the next Post Office charging band. This should provide enough capital (saving 25% of our present postage) to help in the fight to prevent any need for charging more for subscriptions. I shall advise the Executive Committee of your reaction (if there is one) to this move.

We started by taking eight pages out of each edition and providing you with an annual directory. So the covers, which we produce a year or so ahead to save money, may look slightly out of date in each of the next 3 issues. It will also give Ian and I more time to hopefully produce a better product. Those who take their computers to read in bed may also now receive the HISTORIAN digitally. I may not like the idea but I am gradually learning to live in the 21st century.

FRED FEATHER



## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

*Copy should reach the Editor not later than **Friday, 30th May, 2014** for the August edition of the Journal.*

### **SOCIETY WEB SITE**

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

### **MEMBERS' SURNAME INTERESTS**

*See page 85 for Members' new and changed Surname Interests up to and including 1st February, 2014.*

# County Calendar

A quick reference guide to Branch Meetings during the next quarter

## APRIL

|      |                                                                              |                 |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 5th  | An Island Story" by The Reverend David Tudor                                 | SOUTHEND        |
| 5th  | From Henham to the Himalayas by Mark Camp                                    | HARLOW          |
| 5th  | Using Google Maps for Family History Research by Ian Williamson              | COLCHESTER      |
| 10th | Electoral Registers with Eric Probert                                        | SAFFRON WALDEN  |
| 12th | The Magnificent Seven Cemeteries of London by Matthew Pridham                | CHELMSFORD (L)  |
| 12th | How to find out where your ancestor is buried or cremated by Matthew Pridham | CHELMSFORD (T)  |
| 12th | Windows 7 & 8 by Andrew Britter                                              | CH COMPUTER GRP |

## MAY

|      |                                                              |                 |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 3rd  | "London Peculiar" by Charlie Mead                            | SOUTHEND        |
| 3rd  | How my funny blood started my interest in FH by Ann Simmonds | HARLOW          |
| 8th  | Seaside resorts since 1750 by Tony Kirby                     | SAFFRON WALDEN  |
| 10th | My Titanic Connection by Pat Gilbey                          | COLCHESTER      |
| 17th | The Home Front in the Great War by William Tyler             | CHELMSFORD (L)  |
| 17th | Charities & Their Records by Simon Fowler                    | CHELMSFORD (T)  |
| 17th | Podcast                                                      | CH COMPUTER GRP |

## JUNE

|      |                                                                            |                 |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 7th  | "Writing Local History" by Frances Clamp                                   | SOUTHEND        |
| 7th  | Britain from above by John Pearson                                         | HARLOW          |
| 12th | Weavers, Higglers, and Hoze Makers by Michael Holland                      | SAFFRON WALDEN  |
| 14th | Open Day 10-4. A Military Theme – see website for details                  | COLCHESTER      |
| 21st | Marconi & Hoffman's Past - The Frederick Roberts Archive by Cathy Pearson. | CHELMSFORD (L)  |
| 21st | Register of Electors by Eric Probert                                       | CHELMSFORD (T)  |
| 21st | Workshop                                                                   | CH COMPUTER GRP |

## JULY

|      |                                                                                              |                 |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 5th  | "Make Do and Mend." by The Misses Elliott                                                    | SOUTHEND        |
| 5th  | Search for William – Liverpool to Oz to Lewes by Rob Parker                                  | HARLOW          |
| 10th | The duties of a Coroner by Dr George Hollis                                                  | SAFFRON WALDEN  |
| 12th | Genealogists' Question Time                                                                  | COLCHESTER      |
| 19th | The only remaining horse hair weavers in the UK - John Boyd Textiles by John Miners          | CHELMSFORD (L)  |
| 19th | The Western Front Association - Following Your Great War Relative's Footsteps by Bill Fulton | CHELMSFORD (T)  |
| 19th | Even more useful Websites by Eric Probert                                                    | CH COMPUTER GRP |

(L) Lecture; (T) Tutorial

**Please Refer to Pages 75-83 for further details.**

**(We have included Postcodes of the Branches to help those with SatNav find a venue)**

# LEGEND

**AMONGST** the papers that cross the Editor's desk are those which challenge him to establish the "Essex connection." Such was the file I found when I got home from the last meeting at the E.R.O. On the top page was a photocopied picture of a gravestone in America and standing out was the carved name "*Waller, Russian Order of St. George 1st class.*" Now I have long been a student of Russian Military History and am aware that the particular Czarist decoration was rarely issued (once every 20 years or so and then only to a Field Marshal or Royalty). So, I read on.

The file was the property of Jo West of Harlow and contained her attempts to obtain information about a distant relative James Herbert **Waller**. As the memorial showed him to be a Flight Sergeant with a Distinguished Conduct and a Military Medal, I believed that the 1917 Russian Award was probably the Medal of the Order of St. George 1st class rather than the Order which would have been covered in diamonds. But, I read on and found that this man, a member of the Royal Flying Corps (museum at Stow Maries – Essex connection), was credited as having shot down one of Germany's most prestigious pilots. One source said that Waller was born at Louth, Lincolnshire in 1881, another in High Holborn, London in 1886, but apparently moved to Bath where his sister Beatrice lived. At some stage he moved to the U.S.A. but, when the Great War came, he returned to this country and signed on as an Air Mechanic. In 1916 he was on the Western Front acting as gunner in an FE 2b plane 4272, piloted by an 18 years old George Reynolds **McCubbin**.

## Dogfight

Seven FE2b planes were aloft on the 18th June 1916, flying as observers over Annay in France. Two of them were attacked by a German Fokker E111,



OBERLEUTNANT MAX IMMELMANN

piloted by the German schoolboys' (and all Germany's) Hero and Air Ace, Oberleutnant Max **Immelmann**. The latter had completed a number of "kills" and already held the fabled medal "Pour le Merite" (or Blue Max). At some stage in their fight Immelmann's aircraft plummeted to the ground. The British contended that he was shot down by Corporal Waller, who was awarded medals by our government and later by our Russian allies. The German public did not believe that their





hero could have been shot down by the British army and put forward the theory that a mistimed machine gun had shot the engine away from its frame, causing the fatality. Immelman was awarded a state funeral and subsequently he was buried in Dresden in Saxony. His mantle later passed to *The Red Baron*, Manfred von Richthofen.

### **The Aftermath and how he became a legend**

The reward for McCubbin was that he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant and received the Distinguished Service Order at the age of 18, whilst the 30 year old Waller was promoted sergeant. He continued to serve with the air unit until



it became the Royal Air Force in 1918. After the war he was sent to Winchester to await repatriation to America and sailed on the S.S. *Imperador* on 16th June 1920. He became a butler in Long Island, New York, possibly following the entry on his army attestation as "Manservant." He died on 3rd November 1923. His place of burial was not clear from the photocopy.

### **What "Family History" is all about!**

I thought that some help with this enquiry would be necessary and put the problem to Elizabeth Cox of the Harlow Branch. As expected she responded vigorously and at the following meeting at the Essex Record Office handed me a sheaf of research she had undertaken. A family called "**White**" may also be part of his history. This included an extract from "Historical Newspapers, Birth, Marriage & Death Announcements 1851-2003" (American papers): "*Military Funeral for J.H. Waller. The British World War Veterans and Gordon Lodge of the Sons of St. George are to give a military funeral at 10 O'clock this morning to Sergeant Major James H. Waller, the former British aviator, who has been credited with bringing down Max Immelmann, the famous German ace. The services will be held in the parlors of Walter H. Williams at 331, West 121st Street. All British War Veterans are invited to attend.*" Then, another entry "*Taps for James H. Waller.*" "*Sergeant Major James H. Waller, hero of the British Air Forces, was buried yesterday in St. Michael's Cemetery, Astoria L.I. (Ed- Long Island, New York) with military honors. Taps were sounded and a squad of marines from the Brooklyn Navy Yard fired a volley across the grave as five airplanes from Mitchel Field circled over*

*the cemetery. Members of the British Great War Veterans and Gordon Lodge, Sons of St. George, attended the burial and the funeral services at 331 West 121st Street, which were conducted by the Rev. J. P. McComas, pastor of St. Paul's Chapel. Waller's death is attributed indirectly to his gas wound when his plane was brought down behind the German lines. He spent four months in a German prison camp and after the war worked as a butler for G.K.G. Billings, 820 Fifth Avenue.*"

We also learned from the papers Elizabeth provided that the gravestone was incorrect in that Waller's award (one of the last of Imperial Russia) of 13th February 1917 was in fact The Medal (1st Class) of the Order of Saint George, a soldier's medal rather than the rare Order itself. You can compare the latter award to the equivalent of a private soldier being made a Knight of the Garter.

### **What Now?**

We will publish what we have and hope for some response. There is a suggestion that he may have been illegitimate which might account for the two dates we have. We would hope that we have a member in New York in the USA and might get a decent picture of the grave. We could ask the RAF Museum at Hendon if they have any information which might help. We could see if our knowledgeable members could help. Questions will be asked of Roger Smith from the R.F.C. Museum at Stow Maries when he speaks at the January meeting of the Southend Branch.

E.T

# A Notorious Smuggler

William Blyth was born in 1753 at Paglesham (now known also as Church End), and became a prominent citizen until his death in 1830. He was an oysterman, shopkeeper, member of the Parish Council, constable and possibly even a magistrate, though also a notorious smuggler. From the village smugglers would cross to Dunkirk and bring back tea, gin and tobacco - but especially tea that would make the smuggler a handsome profit. Revenue officers were few and far between. One well known officer, Haggis, patrolled the eastern length of the county. Between Prittlewell and Rochford was ideal smuggling country, honeycombed as it was with creeks and rivulets which returned to mud when the tide was out. When the tide was in, boats came in as close to the treacherous offshore sands as they could and unloaded their cargo onto flat-bottomed boats which would quietly float up the creeks and then go inland. Blyth was known as *Hard Apple* and one story relates to him fighting a bull to the latter's death. The Blyth family is buried in Paglesham churchyard and even had an apocryphal relationship with the Thames River Police (formed in 1795).



THAMES RIVER POLICE PROTECTING THE ESCAPE OF A FUGITIVE FROM A RIOT.

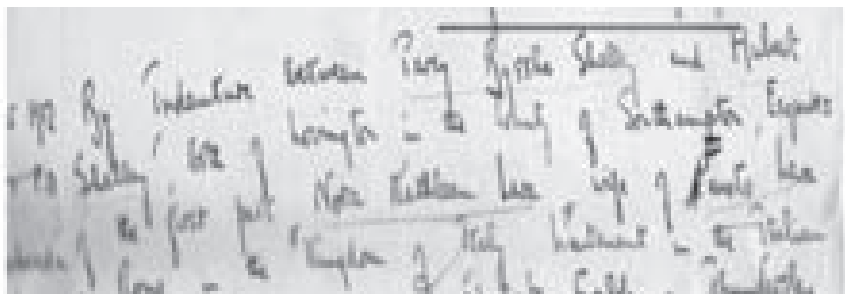
# A Mission Indeed

**My Dad, Tom Hursk, once observed that every house he had lived in had been demolished after he moved out. Annoying! But I'm sure he would be delighted to know that some of his ancestor's homes are now listed buildings so bricks and mortar from my father's past haven't always disappeared when he did.**

One on Colne Hill, Earls Colne, was where our **Wenden** ancestors had their butcher's shop from 1796 to the early 20th century. Another is the "Queens Head" and other buildings in Bures where our **Siggers** ancestors have lived; still there for all to see. Further away in Wotton Under Edge in Gloucestershire, Dad's great great grandfather was a stonemason who lived in "The Cloud" which is still there with its old buildings. This family, the **Wilks**, may have lived in "The Cloud" in 1871 but they ended their days in "The Gutter", Macclesfield many years later. Dad would have been amused that his ancestors had lived in "The Cloud" and died in "The Gutter." (That place is no more except in name) Dad's 1930's/40's childhood home in Russell Road, Laindon was knocked down to make way for new buildings and roads. Then the cottage where he started his married life and where my brother and I were born, "Lee Chapel Cottages" in Langdon Hills, had survived for over 150 years but when we moved out in 1964 someone set light to it and Basildon Corporation bulldozed it. The

only emotional compensation for this act of vandalism (by Basildon Corporation) is that the whole place is now part of Langdon Hills Country Park and will not be built on or destroyed and I can still go and stand on the spot where I was born, even though it is now in a bush.

My interest in ancestors' homes as an offshoot of family history was inspired by looking at my old house deeds. Curious, I looked up a few of the names going back to 1880 and found a family name and a connection to my local Manor House that I hadn't been aware of before. The enthusiasm gained momentum when I found not one but two family names connected to my house history, **Pulleine** and **Robson**. These two names are prolific in Yorkshire, where my ancestors came from, so why were they appearing on my doorstep in Thundersley, Essex in the 19th century, and, spookier, intimately connected to my insignificant, semi detached, Victorian house in Benfleet which I bought in 1982? I found out some very interesting people took part in the life of my house which was built around 1887. George Ernest **Shelley**



(1840-1910) retired from military service to devote himself to natural history and created some very expensive books (one sold for over £6000 at Christies). George was the great grandson of Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) English poet and writer of plays. When George died, his niece and nephews inherited my house together with lands and other messuages: Percy Bysshe Shelley (1872-1953) 7th Baronet of Castle Goring, Hubert Shelley (1887-1951) and Nora Kathleen **Leva** née Shelley (1877-1963) married to Admiral Fausto de Leva of Rome, Italy. I am not related to the Shelley's but my house is apparently. Another owner, although not quite so famous, was Charles Bertie Pulleine **Bosanquet** of "Rock Hall," Alnwick (Northumberland) who was lord of the manor of Thundersley (in Essex) and owned the land upon which my house was built. My 8x great grandfather was William **Pulleine** (1634-1713) of East Keswick, Yorks so Charles Bertie's third name grabbed my attention immediately. A random search for Bosanquet and Pulleine brought to light the family tree of William the Conqueror no less! Amongst its many branches I discovered a Frances Pulleine married Rev. Robert William Bosanquet in 1834 in Spen-nithorne, Yorkshire. They had one son Charles Bertie Pulleine Bosanquet who became the Lord of my manor! What a small world. On a related branch of William the Conqueror's tree, we found a Rev. Thomas **Robson** and his daughter Amy Caroline from Yorkshire marrying into the Conqueror's tree. Robson is another name in our family of the same branch as Pulleine and from Yorkshire too! I checked all the information against records and other sources to establish their credibility and all was in order.

So many coincidences tempted me to try and find a link between my Robsons

which go back to 1785 in Leeds, the Pulleine family in my tree going back before 1600 in Yorkshire, and the Bosanquet family which may slip into my family tree as well as my house history if I can find that connection. If I succeed, there's a good chance I'll have a link to William the Conqueror too.... Wish me luck!

Names connected to house history:

Bosanquet period 1800-1899

Dalbiac 1852-1906

Ellis / Hughes-Ellis period around 1889

Ellison period 1920

Grisbrooke period 1929

Grubb period 1920

Hill period 1934

Leva née Shelley 1877-1963

Mayn period 1871

Percival period 1931

Pulleine & variations period 1800-1880

Search (name) period 1945

Shelley 1840-1906; 1872-1953; 1881-1951

Upson period 1920

Varty 1835-1926

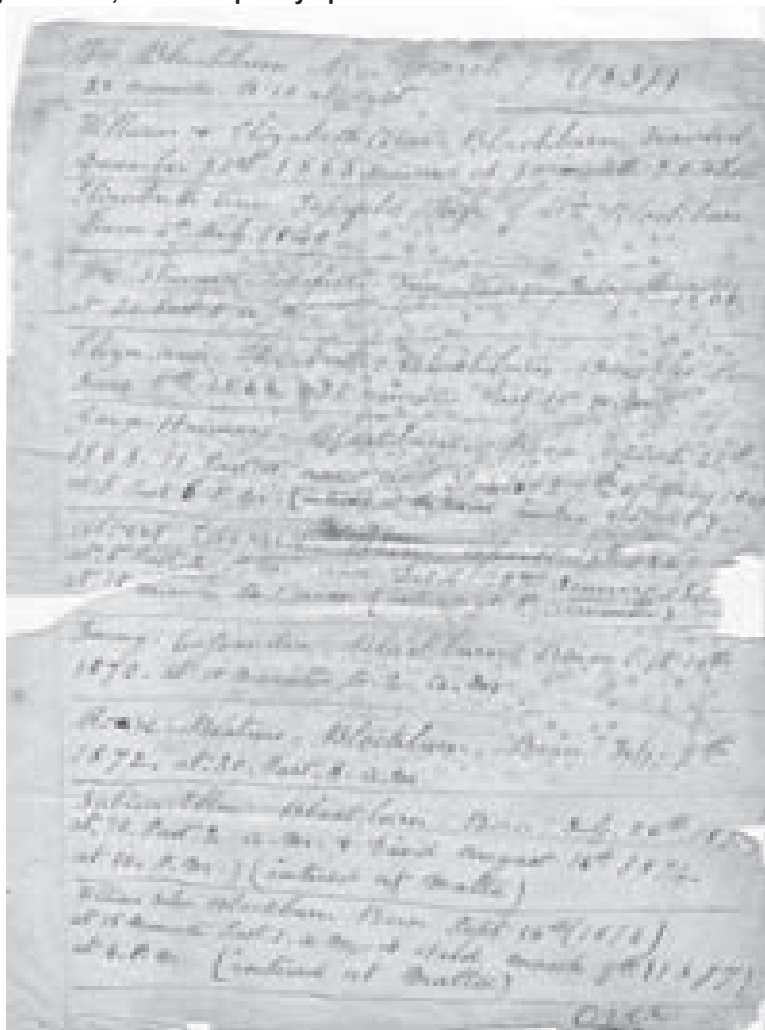
Wiggins period 1912

I am happy to share information from searches if members wish to contact me. Names that I need help with are Pulleine in Yorkshire for are the Pulleine's from Crakehall related to the Pulleine's in East Keswick? (source. The Pulleyns of Yorkshire by Catherine Pullein 1915). Also with Robson in London and Yorkshire, for I am stuck on confirming the birth place and parentage of Robert Robson 1785-1836 who married Elizabeth Shires in Leeds and had two children there but was living in Limehouse, London by 1827. There are many possibilities in Yorkshire and one possible in London.

CORINNE WHEELER (ESFH11030)

# A Scrap of Paper

It was, we recall, the November meeting of the Society at the Essex Record Office, and the usual group was gathered, gossiping and eating their lunch, when a new personage, later identified as John Rogers (ESFH10785) joined them. He produced a scrap of paper which he said that he had found in a book he had purchased in Norfolk. We think it was Norfolk, but it would be normal for Norfolk (in future shortened to N.F.N.) He offered it to the Society. It was written in a good hand, but often poorly spelled. With it was a short letter.



The paper read (sic):

"Wm. Blackburn Born March 9th (1837) 20 minutes to 10 at night.

William and Elizabeth Ann. Blackburn Married December 21st 1865. Married at Yarmouth I. O. White

Elizabeth Ann Topsfield . Wife of Wm. Blackburn Born 4th July 1840

Wm. Steward Topsfield. Sun Born Feby 9th 1861 at 30 Past 5 A.M

Eliza Ann Elizabeth . Blackburn Daughter Born June 5th 1866 at 20 minutes Past 10 A.M.

Garge Hennery. Blackburn. Born March 21st 1868. 10 Past 11am and Died 29th of May 1868 at 5 Past 6 P.M. (intered at the Navel cemetary Gosport)

Albert Edward Blackburn. Born Aprill 15th 1869 at 5 Past 2 P.M. and died 22nd January 187\_\_ at 15 minutes to 1 A.M. (Intered at Portsmouth)

Fanny Cassandra Blackburn. Born Oct. 10th 1870 at 10 minutes to 2 A.M.

Rose Beatrice Blackburn. Born Feby 9th 1872 at 30 Past 8.A.M.

Sabina Ellen Blackburn Born July 26th 1874 at 30.Past.2. A.M & Died August 16th 1874 at 10pm (intered at Malta)

William John Blackburn Born Sept 16th (1876) at 15 minutes Past 1.A.M. and died March 9th (1877) at 6.P.M. (intered at Malta)

OVER

Herbert (obscured) Herbert Dom (crossed out) - Herbert Donnell Steward Blackburn. Born May 10th (1882) at 20 Past 12.PM"

The letter read: "1902 - My Dear Husband Died 29 Day of August 1902 age 75 Was Buried in thomes Church yard on the first of September 1902 - Margaret Royston Sined Sept 9 1902"

### The Technical Search Begins

We later introduced the scrap to the computer and the internet and this story appeared:

Using FreeBMD we learned that Elizabeth Ann **Topsfield** was born in Rochford, so we had a county connection. So was William Steward Topsfield, whose birth seems to have preceded his mother's marriage by 4 years. And so was Eliza Ann Elizabeth **Blackburn**, for by then the marriage had taken place. Garge Hennery (cannot you taste the Essex accent

saying "George Henry"?) was born in Rochford but died a few weeks later in the Alverstoke, HAM, registration district and buried in nearby Gosport. Albert Edward was born in Portsea and "intered" at nearby Portsmouth. Fanny Cassandra was also born in Portsea. By 1872 the next named, Rose Beatrice, was being born in Plympton, Devon. The family is moving abroad as the next two children Sabina Ellen and William John were born and died in Malta. The birth, in 1883, and death, in 1884, of Herbert Donald Blackburn in Wakefield, YKS were traced.

## Next the Censuses (backwards to Essex)

We started with the 1871 census and found the family close to Point Barracks, Gunwharf Road, Portsea. William was 34, a Gunner born in Wakefield, Yorkshire. Elizabeth A. was 30, Eliza A. was 4, Fanny C was 5 months, all born in Rochford. He had married Elizabeth on the 21st December 1865 in Freshwater on the Isle of Wight. The marriage entry in Family Search gives her father's name as Samuel Topsfield. This took us to the Portsmouth area, possibly the Royal Garrison Artillery (A Malta connection).

The 1861 census took us back before the 1865 marriage. Elizabeth was 20 unmarried and with two month old William S. Topsfield. Also in South Street, Rochford, in a house of multiple-occupation, was apparently her mother Elizabeth Pery (sic), 41 and unmarried, Susan Topsfield aged 26 a dressmaker born in Prittlewell with her 3 year old son Henry, and other Topsfield residents.

Back in 1851 the census located in Market Square, Rochford, William Topsfield a widower aged 67, a Basket Maker Master born Rochford, with Elizabeth (his daughter) aged 31 a housekeeper and his granddaughter Elizabeth aged 10 a scholar, both born Rochford.

Finally 1841. Still in Market Square, William Topsfield was 53, a basket maker, Elizabeth was 21 and presumably had a brother William aged 19, no occupation, another called John aged 17, "shoe app" all born Essex. A sideways look at the 1850 Post Office Directory for Essex showed one Topsfield in Rochford, a basket maker called William. Kelly's Directory for Southend on Sea in 1914 showed that the Topsfield family were still in Rochford. Elizabeth was just 11 months. There are still some folks

named Topsfield living in the area.

In some of these early census records we found Samuel **Steward**, either living as a close neighbour to the Topsfield family or, at one time, in the same house. In 1861 he married Elizabeth Perry Topsfield (Elizabeth Ann's mother) and in subsequent censuses they have a grandson, William S. Topsfield with them. This has made me think that Samuel was Elizabeth Ann's father and she gave her son his grandfather's surname as one of his names. Is he the "Samuel Topsfield" of the marriage entry? It was an easy mistake for William or the vicar to make.

An overview of the Topsfield family in Rochford was undertaken. Pigot's Directory of 1823 showed a William Topsfield in the town as a basket maker, White's Directory of 1848 and the Post Office Directory for 1850 confirmed this and identified him as the Parish Clerk. Kelly's Directories in the 20th century showed there were still people of that name in Rochford and that one was the Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages. (Henry P. Topsfield was the registrar when my great, grandfather died in 1920)

## **The Censuses (forwards to Yorkshire)**

In 1881 the census made it clear that William **Blackburn's** military career had finished, for the family from Malta was now located in Providence Street, Wakefield (his home town). He was 44 and an army pensioner, with his wife Elizabeth, Eliza A. aged 14 a dressmaker, Fanny 10 and Rose 9, scholars.

By 1891 they had moved to 1, Market Street. William aged 54 was a Post Office Porter, Elizabeth and Rose, aged 19, were with him; the latter's Devon birthplace described as "Haddon Height."

In 1901 they were at the same address,

William was 64 and a "Resident Porter G.P.O." with Elizabeth and Rose, aged 29, also Eliza A. E. Ward, a 34 year old widow born in Rochford.

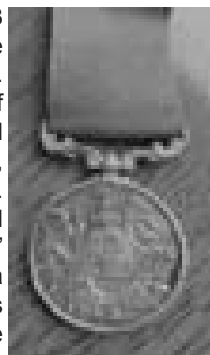
The 1911 census showed that they had had 8 children, only two of whom were still alive. The couple occupied 4 rooms at Hope Street, Wakefield, where he was a verger at Wakefield Cathedral. He is shown as an "army pensioner, gunner Royal Artillery" and "G.P.O. pensioned – porter."

We then looked again at FreeBMD which showed that they both died in that city: Elizabeth in the March quarter of 1919 aged 78 and William in the June quarter of 1921 aged 84. His pension of 1s-1d per day was stopped on 12th April 1921. Presumably, or rather perhaps, Margaret **Royston** took over the family bible and tore out a page, also reporting the death of her husband James Blackburn Royston (1828-1902) of Oakland House, Oxford Road, Wakefield. But how did it get to Norfolk and how are they connected to this family?

### In the Army

William's papers at Kew were easily accessed, four pages of them. We used the 1861 World Wide Index W.O.10.2802 and W.O.10 2533. He was 23 when he joined, a labourer, 5'9" tall, with fresh complexion and brown eyes, and Church of England. He was fit for service and signed on at Woolwich 2nd September 1859. He had previously left the 2nd West Yorkshire Militia and now joined the Royal Artillery. He spent 179 days in England and was then posted to Malta, where he served for 18 months. In 1861 he returned to England for over 12 years. In this time he married Elizabeth. It may be that he worked for a while at the gunnery unit at Shoeburyness, close by her home town. He was again posted

to Malta in 1873 and remained there for nearly 7 years. In the autumn of 1880 he completed his engagement, totalling 21 years. He was awarded the "Good Conduct" Medal and a gratuity of £5. His pension was to be paid at Northgate, Wakefield.



GOOD CONDUCT  
MEDAL

### **What now needs to be done?**

We could write to the Archivist at Wakefield Cathedral to see if there is a gravestone or records for the former verger and his wife. We have checked the Rochford Parish Registers for the Topsfield family entries. We could contact the five Topsfield telephone numbers brought up by 192.com. The SEAX catalogue for Essex Record Office lists a copy of a photograph of "Topsfield's House' at the bottom of West Street, Rochford". It may be possible to identify this building. We could send a copy to the Wakefield and District Family History Society. Or we might just run it as an article in the next Historian. After all, it was only a scrap of paper! Anyway, thank you John Rogers for donating it.

E.T. principally Heather Feather

### **Our sources were:**

familysearch.org  
www.freebmd.org.uk  
www.findmypast.co.uk  
Rochford parish registers  
Pigot's, Post Office and Kelly's  
Directories  
<http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk>

# Old Fobbing

I was interested to read the letter on page 51 of the March 2012 *HISTORIAN* from Gordon Mullings concerning Corringham Railway. In his letter he writes about visiting his grandmother who lived in the 'Old Bakehouse' at Fobbing and about two aunts who worked at Kynochs. I wonder whether one of his aunts was Eva Emma Mullings always known as Dinah? She lived in the Old Bakehouse until her death in 2002 and after her death Mrs Irene White wrote a piece which appeared in the Church Magazine: -



## The Bakehouse

So, it's for sale! The Bakehouse, or Dinah's house as many of us still call it, is for sale. It looks very different from the house that Dinah inhabited. The shape of the building has been retained, but what a face lift the old walls and windows have had! It is an attractive property, fitting very nicely into the ideas that many people have of what an old style village house is like. Dinah and all the previous occupants would be amazed at its present appearance, and absolutely stunned at the asking price, which is simply in accordance with present property prices. That fact too would astound them, especially those who were there before her.

Who were these people then, and what was life like for them? The building had been a bakehouse for years before 1885 when John Gentry **Shades** from Gravesend took over as baker in Fobbing. He was later succeeded by his son, Charles G. Shades, who was there until 1920 when he retired to live

in Vange. The living quarters were much the same as when Dinah was there. The work area consisted of the bakehouse itself and a flour room.

There were sheds for two carts and a stable for one pony. Two more ponies and another cart were kept opposite to the bakehouse in a stable by the black cottages, which used to be there. The horses grazed on the Vineyards. Two of the carts had tailboards for easier loading. On the sides and backs of the carts was painted "C G. Shades & Son". Their working day, or night, began at nine o'clock at night when the sponge, or leavened dough, was set in troughs and covered with lids. The furnace was lit and the dough left till five in the morning when it was kneaded, cut, weighed and shaped and placed straight on the oven bricks to bake. The oven held eighty or ninety loaves, which took three quarters of an hour to bake, using one and a half hundredweights of coal.



THE OLD BAKEHOUSE

Breakfast was eaten during the baking time. When cooked, the loaves were removed and drawn out by the peel, which held six or seven at a time. They were then put to cool while the ponies were brought round and harnessed to the carts, which were loaded for delivery. Thursday was usually the day for making self-raising flour. This was done in a special machine, which took twenty quarters of flour (80 lbs) and a raising agent. The machine had a handle and it was hard work and a two-handed job for his thirteen year old son to operate it. When the mixing was finished, the self-raising flour was put into yellow bags to be sold on the rounds. They covered three areas: two by horse and cart and the Fobbing and Corringham one on foot, carrying a laden basket on their backs. The carts were open with a canvas cloth cover for wet weather. Charles, on these occasions, wore oilskins, leggings and boots. It was half a mile to get to one particular home, a walk more dreaded than enjoyed, but undertaken because four or five loaves were needed each time.

The only hold ups encountered were not caused by traffic, but by the weights

and measures inspectors checking their scales, which had always to be carried. Dinner was eaten on the rounds as there wasn't enough time to return home. It consisted of bread and a very large ginger beer from a shop at the Five Bells roundabout, costing two old pennies. When they returned on Friday they brought back two trusses of hay from Farmer **Mott** in Billet Lane, paying for it with bread. This was a week's bedding for the horses.

The day's work was not finished till the horses were stabled, fed and watered and fresh hay put in the stables. The carts were scrubbed every day. What about wages for these long, hard working days? Mr. Shade paid his son, who worked with him from age thirteen to seventeen, three shillings and sixpence a week and full board.

There were three special occasions at the bakehouse. Starting at 7 p.m. on "Maundy Thursday," old Mr. Shade prepared the dough, let it prove for ten minutes then cut and shaped it, crossed each bun with a wooden stamp and baked them. They were painted with sugar water. The first customers on Good Friday morning arrived between six and seven o'clock. Saucer sized buns were one halfpenny and tea plate size were one penny. Harvest was the next, when Mr. Shades made, by hand, a magnificent sheaf of wheat, of which he was justly proud. The third big event was Christmas when some villagers brought their hams to the bakehouse, sometimes up to fifteen. For this service there was no charge. Those who lived in the bakehouse years ago had long days of hard work, but they seemed to have taken it for granted and got on with it. Many people did in those days. Are we lucky today?



THE OLD SCHOOL

Mrs Irene White also wrote the following which appeared in the Fobbing Parish Magazine:

### **The Old School**

The school stood beyond the churchyard and east of the church. It consisted of two rooms, the main room (29 feet x 18 feet) accommodated 52 children which were standards 1 to 6 and the infants had a separate room (18 feet square) which held 32 children. The infants had a separate cloakroom and the other six standards had one for all of them. The toilets were outside and the boys had a separate playground from the girls and infants. It seems incredible that in 1905 the school had 84 children. In 1907 13 year old Eva **Grover** was employed to help the teacher. In the January of that year the weather was so cold that the ink froze in the inkwells! The final day of the Church school was 22 December 1921. After it had closed as a school it became the church hall.

GWEN BROWN (ESFH6540) ●

## **Marriage Certificates**

It may not be generally known that Certificates produced by the General Register Office are in fact a transcription of a transcription and, as you may have noticed, all the writing on the certificate, including signatures, is in the same hand of a clerk. Therefore, if you are seeking authentic signatures of marriage partners and witnesses, you need to obtain a photocopy or scan of the original church or Registry Office register, held by the local Superintendent Registrar. Completed Church of England parish registers will also have been deposited in the Diocesan R.O. which is normally the County Record Office.

ERIC PROBERT

☆ ☆ ☆

## **Neolithic-style burials**

In August 2013 the Daily Telegraph reported that a Wiltshire farmer, Tom Daw, has applied to his local Council for permission to create a Neolithic-style long barrow in one of his fields. The ashes from the funerals of up to 300 families might be stored there. If granted, it will be sited at All Cannings near Devizes, close by the Kennet and Avon Canal. The 164 foot long structure would be positioned to relate to the sunrise at the Winter Solstice. The idea is to create a non-Christian alternative to a church.

# PICTURE GALLERY

Inside Cover – Bacon's Cycling Map of Essex. Original Price for the cloth edition was one shilling and three pence.

Page 21- The very rare George Medal, awarded posthumously to the late Constable Ian Dibell, who lost his life at Clacton on Sea whilst performing his police duty. This is the highest award for bravery that normally someone who is not a member of the Armed Forces in a war situation can receive. Only the George Cross ranks higher.

Page 22 –The Mint distributed 2013 solid silver “Lucky Pennies” to babies who were born on 22nd July 2013, the birth day of Prince George. Zoe Isabelle was born one hour before the Prince and received the penny in a pink velvet bag with cards which have been made into a collage by great grandad.

Page 41 – The village sign from Little Easton in the west of the county.

Page 42 –The arms of Queen Anne as shown in some Essex churches, such as the Black Chapel – Photo Evelyn Rafael/Phil Stepney.

Page 43 – The Black Chapel, on the former A130 road from Chelmsford to Great Dunmow. Not black but interesting. The internet gives but sparse details of its history and perhaps our readers know more. – Photo Phil Stepney.

Page 44 – This tapestry, one of eight in a local museum adjacent to Firepower in Woolwich Arsenal, was made by a local women's group and named for the Millennium Celebrations of Greenwich. It features images of the Princess Alice river disaster. – Photo Heather Feather

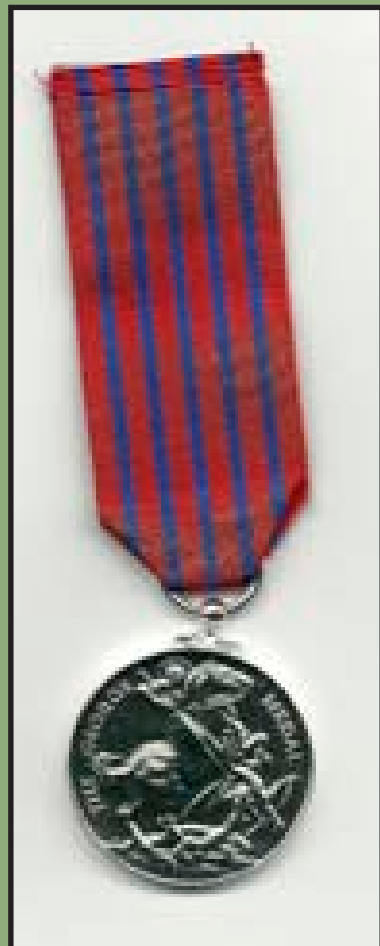
Page 63 – This Coronation Tin of 1911 was issued at the time of the Coronation of King George V and features portraits of that time. This was a photograph in an old scrapbook and the details of pictures on two of the sides are not known. Does anyone still own one?

Page 64 – On a visit to the pleasant Squires coffee house in High Street, Rayleigh we noticed this fine advertisement from the Great War and with the owner's permission copied it for you. Photo – Heather Feather.

On Page 70 there is the facsimile cartoon of the postcard issued by the Society of Friends (Quakers) to illustrate the treatment of Conscientious Objectors at the time of the Great War.

Inside Rear Page – Another picture from the Kelvedon 2012 Calendar. A Hot Air balloon is flying low over the adjacent village of Feering. Photograph by David Elsdon. Thanks to the local society.

Rear Page - An impressively restored Hylands Park, the Widford house near Chelmsford, which is surrounded by parkland and home to Festivals and Shows.



**THE LATE CONSTABLE IAN DIBELL**

**GEORGE MEDAL**

**1971-2012**

**ESSEX POLICE**

*Remember to a special lady  
The Debbie Foster*

*Make me love you so*

*The Best Remember Remember to a special lady*



*Every lady deserves  
a royal welcome*

*Lucky Silver Penny*

*Soft smiling lady  
Soft smiling lady  
Soft smiling lady  
Soft smiling lady  
Soft smiling lady*



*Each lady deserves  
a royal welcome*



*Remember to a special lady  
The Debbie Foster*

*Make me love you so*

*The Best Remember Remember to a special lady*

*Remember to a special lady  
The Debbie Foster*

*Make me love you so*

*The Best Remember Remember to a special lady*



*Remember to a special lady  
The Debbie Foster*

*Make me love you so*

*The Best Remember Remember to a special lady*

# TIDYING UP

The discovery of a bound set of 1855 newspapers amongst my badly arranged library has provided me with many new excellent line drawings of aspects of the Crimean War in that year. It also gave me a short article about how the British public saw the “Foreign Legion” upon which we have often reported in previous issues of the HISTORIAN. For new readers, in that year there were 5000 legionnaires stationed in Colchester and parading in Wivenhoe Park, a similar number at Maidstone. They did not take part in the war but many subsequently married locally and went to South Africa as emigrants. This old magazine/newspaper gives me the opportunity to show our readers how they dressed. I am still seeking the member who will provide us with a list of their Colchester marriages.



From left to right: German Legion Rifles, Swiss Infantry, German Horse

## THE FOREIGN LEGION

The Foreign or British German Legion has excited considerable interest, and some amount of controversy, in the public mind. We have had all sorts of arguments brought forward on both sides of the question; and while some have proceeded so far as to stigmatise the brave fellows as a band of hired assassins, others- and the very large majority- have regarded them as valuable auxiliaries to our army. Such service was not despised by Wellington, and again and again in his despatches he mentions the prompt and efficient service rendered by his auxiliary corps. The Russian journals have been striving very hard to laugh at the Foreign Legion and to represent them in comical paragraphs in the most despicable light; mayhap the Russian wits may have reason to alter their opinion. " *A merry light-hearted company, chiefly Swiss and German, are the men of the Foreign Legion; the bulk of the men are evidently old soldiers - men who know the smell of powder. They are placed exactly on the same footing as our own troops, both with regard to pay and rations. There is not the same air of rigid discipline about them as one notices with our men, for they sing as they march in a right hearty strain; old, new, quaint, simple, sad, joyous are the songs they sing, but all their songs are soul-stirring.*"

The accompanying sketch represents the uniform, of the men; - the German Legion rifles in dark-green; the Swiss wearing the scarlet uniform of the line, and the German Horse in blue coats with yellow facings.

*Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*  
1855

## A-Maz-Ing

The only time you will witness this phenomenon in your life.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

|    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

In 2014 the month of August will count :  
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5 Saturdays and  
5 Sundays.

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— *Rita Harris* —

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CM2 9BT



# A Mariner's Life

Alfred Eves was born in 1919 in London. His father came from Essex and indeed Alfred settled in Essex in the latter period of his life. He had an interesting life serving in the Royal Navy from 1934 to 1949 and the New Zealand Navy from 1952 to 1962. From 1962 to 1985 he lived in the USA. Alfred started to write his life story in a large pad but had not completed the task by the time of his death in 1997. The manuscript passed to his executor and now 16 years later I have had the chance to read it and share its contents with his daughter, who lives in New Zealand and from whom he had lost contact. His remarkable story is very personal in parts but I would like to share with you extracts of more general interest. Errors have been detected and every effort has been made to eliminate them but if your readers feel that further corrections are necessary I shall be delighted to hear from them.

The story starts in 1934 when, at the age of 15, he joined the Royal Navy and was trained at *HMS Ganges* the boys training establishment at Shotley. This unit has now closed and I believe it has been converted into a museum. He writes: -

*"One of the first physical tests that usually took place at 6 a.m. was to prove we could swim. The swimming bath was down on the foreshore and, as I was there in November, temperatures could be as low as freezing point. We had to swim in a duck suit to pass the test and the suits were then hung out to dry on a line in the open air. When we picked up the suits they were solid ice and stiff as boards. Until we knew better, by watching someone more experienced, we would gingerly slip the suit on and then make a rush for the water. The trick was to beat the clothes on the ground to remove the ice and then put the suit on. The suit was still very cold however. Fortunately I had only to go through this torture a few times as I could already swim. The non-*

*swimmers would be thrown into the pool by the instructors and kept away from the sides with long bamboo poles. In those days a man could not be promoted if he had not passed the swimming proficiency test"*

He goes on to describe a collective punishment: *"If a whole mess contravened the rules a punishment called the "Shotley Routine" was imposed. This entailed falling in on the quarterdeck at 6 a.m. and then being doubled up and down Faith Hope and Charity (three flights of stone steps 24ft wide and approximately 40 steps to each flight. This would be repeated several times a day for a period of 1 or 2 weeks".* Alfred duly passed his exams and became a Boy Telegraphist and eventually a Leading Telegraphist.

In 1938 he was drafted to *HMS Lupin* and his description of the vessel makes interesting reading, given that the Second World War was imminent: *"She was a coal burning ship and when we*

bunkered at Hull all hands had to carry buckets of coal and tip them down a chute into the engine room. The ship also had sails. The wireless came out of the ark – it was known as an arc transmitter. It had an engine that used methylated spirit as fuel. Once started the operator had to screw 2 carbon rods together until a steady arc of electricity was flowing between them and then he could transmit. When the carbons wore down the operator had to stop transmitting, readjust the rods and then carry on. The engine was water-cooled and the water was delivered through rubber tubing. A valve on each tube controlled the water flow.”

We move to the War and service on **HMS Pelican** in 1940. Alfred was having dinner at 1.30 p.m. when there was a loud report. He went to the Wireless Office and I will let him take up the story:

*“I arrived at the Wireless Office just in time to write down and transmit a report to the Admiralty saying that we were being attacked by Junkers 88 aircraft. They had caught us off guard and on their first turn had hit and disabled the Director. Now the guns had to be controlled manually. With the delay in getting away from the mess tables some of the gun crew were hit by machine gun fire as they emerged from the hatches. These planes had canon and the sides of our ship were not armour plated. As the planes raked us canon shells entered one side of the ship and exited the other. We looked like a colander. During the battle I had to go aft to open a compartment that was on fire. When I got there the*

*door had already been blown open and the fire was out. At around 2.30 p.m. the power went out; there was a vacuum, then the office filled with cordite fumes. We had 2 positions manned during action stations and the Chief and 2 other sparkers were squatting behind. I was in the chair nearest the door, but when I spun round to dash out, I found the others had gone so I stayed at my post, switched to emergency power and kept transmitting our position and seeking assistance. There was no ventilation and the cordite fumes were overpowering. I didn’t know that the aerials were down and my transmitting was to no avail. It transpired that a bomb had hit the depth charge tank. All the depth charges were primed and they blew up destroying the rear half of the ship, curling the deck plates up and over towards the funnel. Unbeknown to us the propeller shafts had been blown downwards like a pair of legs. All the crew aft and men in exposed positions were blown away and killed by the blast”*

The destroyer **HMS Fleetwood** took them in tow to Lerwick, the need to clear up the human remains and how the 30 or so survivors got roaring drunk when they went ashore at Lerwick. I, for one can’t blame them! Then to **HMS Verdun** engaged in escort duties. This was an old vessel and he describes the conditions on board:

*“These old destroyers carried no cold store or refrigeration, only open-air safes on the upper deck. Our meat consisted of a roast, stewing beef, liver, kidney and sausages. We’d eat the roast first day out, followed by stewing beef,*

*offal and sausages on the succeeding days. If we were still at sea, corned beef and biscuits became the diet. The bathroom had no hot or cold fresh water, only salt water. The cold fresh water tank was amidships and if you wanted any you would use a hand pump to fill a bucket. In rough weather getting fresh water whilst dodging waves coming inboard was quite a feat. For hot water you put the bucket on the galley stove. A hot bath was achieved by applying soap all over, and then pouring a bucket of water over your head. Clothes were washed in a bucket and dried in the engine room. It was quite a primitive existence but I think most of the crew enjoyed the ship“*



HMS UGANDA

In 1942 Alfred, now a Petty Officer is drafted to **HMS Uganda** operating in the Mediterranean. They were involved in landings in North Africa and then Sicily. After returning to Malta they sailed to support the American landings at Salerno.

*“On our way we heard of Italy’s surrender and we naturally thought the landing would be unopposed. What a surprise we were in for! It started on*

*the 9/9/1943 and the Germans knew exactly where and when we were going to land. This was not surprising, as the bar girls in Malta had told the sailors before we left Malta. We had been allocated a Forward Control Officer who was an American Ranger, similar to our Commando. He was situated in the front line and gave the ship the target and map reference. Contact was made by radio before daylight and was maintained until long after dark . The forward observation lines were manned from the Bridge Wireless Office known as the “suicide post”, all the other wireless posts being protected by armour plate. I elected to do duty up there with another Petty Officer. Officially we were supposed to do 4 hour shifts but we had discovered during the Sicily campaign that this did not work because neither of us got enough rest. We decided to work round the clock and shake each other when we were too tired to carry on. We missed a few meals but did get enough sleep. At midday on the 13th we had stopped dead, the sea was smooth, and we flashed a message to the HQ ship the Hilary. I had just sent a member of the crew to awake my colleague and had walked out of the office for a breath of fresh air. A lookout noticed an aircraft overhead but the Officer of the Day decided it was one of ours. It wasn’t and the aircraft was seen to drop something. I heard the swishing sound and threw myself into the signal house. As I did I turned my head to look out of the door to see the wireless aerials swinging wildly. The ship “bounced” half a dozen times and then started to turn on its side. I got up and rushed around the corner to*

*the Bridge Wireless Office, pushing my way through the door as my staff were coming out. It transpired that a one ton German radio controlled bomb with an 8ft wing span had homed on our radar, gone through the ship and out the other side, exploding underneath the ship. The Damage Control Party was well trained and on the spot in seconds and when the sea and oil reached a critical level slammed shut the hatch and secured it. The ship had sunk 15ft by that time."*

Alfred describes the rescue taking the damaged ship to Malta, on to Gibraltar and then to South Carolina for repairs. He explains that all seamen are aware that they must sacrifice their lives to save the ship and thus the majority of the crew. When the hatches were opened in Gibraltar 18 bodies were found at the base of the ladder, trapped by the closure of the hatches. In all 21 died in this incident. In January 1944 Alfred was drafted to the **HMS Ranee**. This was an American aircraft carrier handed temporarily to UK under the lend-lease arrangement. The Captain was from the Merchant Navy employed in peacetime by P&O who was serving in the Royal Navy under T146X articles, an arrangement (according to Alfred) greatly resented by regular Royal Navy personnel. They reached Cochin in Southern India and Alfred goes on: "Lord Louis Mountbatten was Supreme Commander South East Asia Command and also the foremost Wireless Officer in the Navy so three of us filed a complaint against the Captain. We considered that Lord Louis would give us a fair hearing. Under the King's Rules and

*Admiralty Instructions (KR and AI's) we were allowed to leave a filed complaint for 24 hours before it became final. Provided the complaint was bona fide and properly presented no action would be taken against the complainant, even if the complaint was not upheld. Once it was filed each complainant had to pick an officer as his "friend", to act as barrister and this is where there were complications. Firstly the captain said that KR and AI's did not apply to him and then the Navigator, who I had picked as my "friend" refused to represent me on the grounds that the Captain was his superior in P&O and could fire him when the war was over. I was sympathetic to his predicament but quoted KR and AI's and told him that he could not refuse to represent me. I went ashore to play football and as I returned to the ship, one of my fellow complainants met me and told me that the Paymaster had advised us to withdraw the complaints as the Captain was leaving the ship on our return to San Francisco. On hearing this we agreed to withdraw the complaint"*

In June 1945 Alfred was drafted to **HMS Loch More** operating in the Far East. The ship has reached Colombo and the war against Japan is still in progress. The memoir continues:

*"We were issued with our sailing orders and invasion instructions after a few days: There was no attempt to hide where and when as there had been in North Africa, Sicily and Salerno. They came straight out with the order; we were to invade Penang and then make a frontal assault on Singapore with the Indian Division. I was not too thrilled at*

*the prospect. I had visions of kamikazes wreaking havoc amongst us. Anyway we sailed with 36 landing craft and a half dozen frigates with the Indian sloop Indus as HQ ship. The trip to Penang was smooth and uneventful; we dropped the invasion force and proceeded towards Singapore. Fortunately for us the Americans had already dropped the atomic bombs on Japan and talks were in progress. Consequently we received orders, via General MacArthur that no more landings were to take place. We returned to Columbo and continued exercising in order to be ready to start again."*

Naturally they did not need to start again as Japan surrendered. Instead the ship sailed to Singapore to reinstate the Colonial administration.

JOHN LEWIS (ESFH7179)

Editor: On 13 September 1943 Uganda took a direct hit from a new German radio controlled 1.4 tonne Glide bomb. Damage control under Lieutenant Leslie Reed managed to get the ship moving with one engine. She was towed to Malta, where temporary repairs were made. There being no dry dock available in the European Theatre that could handle the repairs, Uganda was sent to the U.S. Navy shipyard at Charleston, South Carolina. The heavily damaged ship, with only one of her four propellers working, proceeded to Charleston, arriving on 27 November 1943.

☆ ☆ ☆

## A Puzzle

*From the Chelmsford Chronicle  
5th May 1797*

There is now living within a few miles of Oldham, in Lancashire, a family consisting of a grand-father, a grand-mother, two fathers, two mothers, two sisters, four brothers, a father-in-law, a mother-in-law, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, three sisters-in-law, three brothers-in-law, a stepfather, a stepmother, a step daughter, two step sons, a daughter, a niece, three nephews, two husbands, three sons, two uncles, two wives, an aunt, a great aunt, a great uncle, and a grandson – in all eight persons.

Editor – Here we set the puzzle. Let us suppose this is the Oswaldtwistle (a fine Lancashire name) Family. You can choose any forenames or maiden names for yourself and produce a family tree, which, if it works, we will publish.

**Go to it!**

☆ ☆ ☆

## What's in a name?

Our Programme Secretary, Meryl Rawlings should read "Where's Merrill" a genealogical thriller by Gearoid O'Neary.

Yes this really is the title and author's name!

ERIC PROBERT

# DID YOU KNOW ?



The First Railway Passenger Carriage,  
"EXPERIMENT" (1825)

**Stockton & Darlington  
Railway.**  
The Company's  
**«COACH»**  
CALLED THE  
**EXPERIMENT,**

Which commenced travelling on WEDNESDAY, the 25th, of OCTOBER, 1825, at 10 o'clock, and continued for one hour, terminating in Stockton, and returning to Darlington, on FRIDAY, the 27th, at 10 o'clock. The distance was 26 miles, and the time occupied 2 hours and 15 minutes. The fare was 1s. 6d. per passenger.

**ON MONDAY,**  
Two Coaches left for the Railway, and will reach Stockton at 10 o'clock, and return to Darlington at 10 o'clock.

**TUESDAY,**  
The Coaches will be in the Railway, and will reach Stockton at 10 o'clock.

On the following days, when  
**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY  
& FRIDAY,**  
Four Coaches will be in the Railway, and will reach Stockton at 10 o'clock, and return to Darlington at 10 o'clock.

**SATURDAY,**  
Four Coaches will be in the Railway, and will reach Stockton at 10 o'clock.

Passengers will be taken to and from the Railway, and will reach Stockton at 10 o'clock, and return to Darlington at 10 o'clock. The fare will be 1s. 6d. per passenger. The Company will not be responsible for the loss of goods, unless they are insured.

The STOCKTON & DARLINGTON RAILWAY, is situated in the County of North Yorkshire, and the line of the Railway, will be the greatest benefit to the Country and the People.

**WHAT IN 1825 THE  
CARRIAGE WAS A  
SELLING POINT  
ON THE EARLIEST  
RAILWAY AND HAD A  
NAME.  
GEORGE  
STEVENSON'S  
ENGINE WAS  
"POFFING BILLY."**

# Cupboard love!

In 1962, when I lived in Stroud, Gloucestershire, I purchased a beautiful carved oak cupboard from an antiques shop. The man who sold it to me told me that it had come from a



house sale in Claypits, in the woods near Thrupp. He showed me an inscription on the back of one of the drawers. I was mildly interested in this but had no way of discovering anything about Alfred Coe Suckling. However, with the advent of the internet and the tools which became available for searching records, I began my quest. It has taken me many years, and I have met and talked to a lot of people. I have travelled to many places and spent money on obtaining birth, marriage and death certificates.



I found that Alfred was born on 5th December 1874. He had seven siblings, all born in Great Coggeshall, Essex. I found that the “Coe” part of his name was the maiden name of his mother, Mary Suckling. This name was of enormous help in tracing him, since the name “Alfred” was very common at that time.

Alfred was born in Stoneham Street in Great Coggeshall, and when he left school I assume he then became an

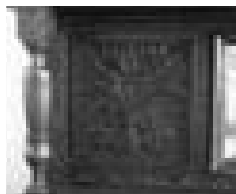
apprentice joiner. He moved to Cherry Hinton (Cambridge) where he married Sarah Helen **Tansley**, a school teacher from Coggeshall, on 22nd December 1900, in the newly-built church of St John’s, Cherry Hinton. This area was a newly developed suburb of Cambridge. They had one child, Edward. Edward married but had no children, for reasons I discovered later. Alfred carried out work on Ely Cathedral and was employed by Rattee & Kett in Cambridge. At some time he entered Fulbourne Hospital, latterly (unusually) on a voluntary basis, where he died on 17th October 1939. Fulbourne was a huge Mental Hospital, and sounds a very grim place. Alfred paid to stay there. When he died, he left a will which included several properties in Cherry Hinton. Sarah died on 29th May 1950 in a nursing home. I carried out hours of research on Alfred’s siblings which was not easy, and all the lines petered out; or they became too difficult to trace.

Alfred had a brother, William, and I returned to him because he had lived in Claypits with his wife, Annie, and child, Christina. William (aka George) was a groom and previously had lived in Kemble, where his daughter, Christina Lilian, was born. Annie died in 1905 when Christina was six years old. It was at this time I assume that William's sister, Mary Eliza Suckling, moved in with him to care for him and Christina. Mary had not married, but had had an illegitimate son, Percy Frederick Mason Suckling on 14th September 1898. No father is shown on his birth certificate but I wonder if his father was Mason, as this is an unusual Christian name? Christina died in Coney Hill Mental Hospital, Gloucester in December 1957, aged 58. The house they had lived in is still there, and I had a conversation with an elderly neighbour who remembered her. There is a pub nearby called "The Foresters" to which I sometimes went as a young woman. It has now closed. I found a war record for Percy from the Great War. He married at the end of 1928, to Beatrice **Fearne** and they had a child,

Sheila Suckling, born on 3rd September 1933. She married Charles **Ford** in 1956. At the time of Christina's death in 1957, Sheila was in America, and the cupboard was adopted by a neighbour who moved to Horns Road in Stroud. It was on her death that the cupboard found its way into the antiques shop in 1962. Now you may wonder why I have been searching since I bought my cupboard. The answer is that I absolutely love it. It came to live with me in Stroud, moved with me to Bisley, then to my mother's home in North Wales, then to Reading where I lived from 1978 till 2008. It now lives with me in Barrow. In all that time I have looked after it carefully and polished it with great respect. Many people have admired the carving and read the inscription, so there is a family interest in my searching.

### Cherry Hinton

I went to Cherry Hinton some years ago to find the house where Alfred and Sarah had lived. While wandering in the road, I was approached by a very helpful lady



DETAILS OF CARVING

called Jane. She lived in a house that had once been an ironmonger's shop, and which still looked like a shop. Jane kindly visited the Cambridge Records office and looked through street directories and discovered other addresses where Alfred and Edward had lived. With her help I found out more bits and pieces to fill in my puzzle. I now have photos of some of these residences and have seen them for myself. We decided that Alfred probably purchased his nails and screws from her "shop". It took a very long time to find out more and I visited Coggeshall, a charming little town, and walked about the streets to find out the sort of place where the Suckling and Tansley families had lived. Quite by chance, I contacted a researcher who helped me find where Alfred was buried. I had wrongly assumed that he would be buried at Fulbourne, but he was buried in the graveyard of St Peter ad Vincula in Coggeshall. I found the position of his grave and visited Coggeshall to lay flowers on his grave, then found that Sarah was buried in the same grave, and Kate Tansley in the adjacent plot. I believe Kate was her sister. In any case, they were closely related, and that is another story. It was a very exciting and moving moment to be so close to Alfred.

I did a little more research on his son, Edward, and had a conversation with a gentleman who had worked with Edward. He seems to have been an unusual man to say the least. He and his wife, Henrietta (née Coates), had not had children since he believed that his father "was mad". I think this is probably rather a strong statement, since Alfred

was a voluntary patient at Fulbourne, and I suspect he may have had some mental problems which, these days, would be treated in quite a different way. Edward ran a company called Tansley Typewriters, which was quite successful. Apparently Henrietta was always called "Miss Coates" by employees, and she sounds quite a formidable lady. I was told that Edward did not attend her funeral which was in January 1971. Edward died alone in hospital in Cherry Hinton on 10th October 1971. At this point I moved onto Alfred's siblings and created a huge tree, but nobody presented as an "heir".

### **Coggeshall**

I became distracted by the Tansley family and tried to find their residence in Coggeshall, but street names had changed and I got rather lost. So I returned to William and untangled the family at Claypits. I then found Sheila Suckling, wrote to her and awaited a response with baited breath. After some communications, Sheila and Charlie came to visit me in Barrow. They are



DIANA AND SHEILA 2012

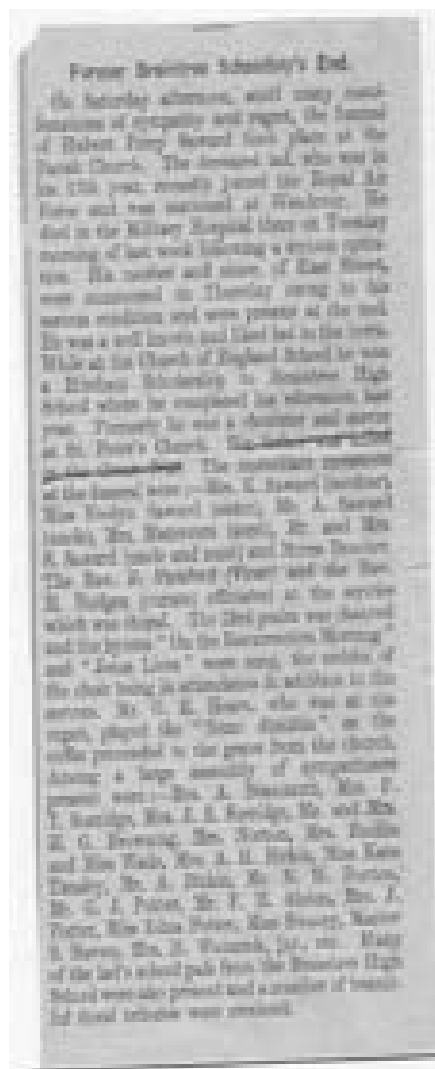
a wonderful couple and were thrilled to see the cupboard for the first time. We have kept in touch since then and I have photos of her family. I have never found a photo of Alfred. The only photo I found was of Kate Tansley, sister of Sarah, Alfred's wife. The Journey of the cupboard was this: In July 1892 Alfred finished it. In July 1962 I bought it – 70 years later, then in July 2012 Sheila saw it for the first time – 120 years after it was completed.

DIANA HUNT (ESFH8206)

### **A side issue** (*from the Editor*)

Amongst the papers Diana gathered is a newspaper cutting, which refers to the funeral of a 16 year old Aircraftsman Hubert Percy Saward, who died at R.A.F. Wendover in Buckinghamshire in April 1933. I cannot find a direct connection to her story, except that members of the family she was interested in were present. However, it does mention a number of people presumably mostly from Coggeshall and I know how much our readers enjoy lists. You write to me with details of long lost relatives that you have found in the HISTORIAN. It also shows how careful you must be relying on newspaper reports, for you will note that there is a crossing out, where someone has found that Hubert's father died, rather than was killed during the Great War. The original text could be a great disservice to a family historian. Whilst checking this we found that the boy's uncle was either the licensee or associated with the Orange Tree Public House in Chelmsford. This brought back

happy memories of the early days of this society, where, during the lunchtime break at Christchurch meetings, we would all troop down to the nearby pub and dine sumptuously, whilst enjoying fellowship and sharing information. Happy Days!



# THE TEMPLE IN ESSEX

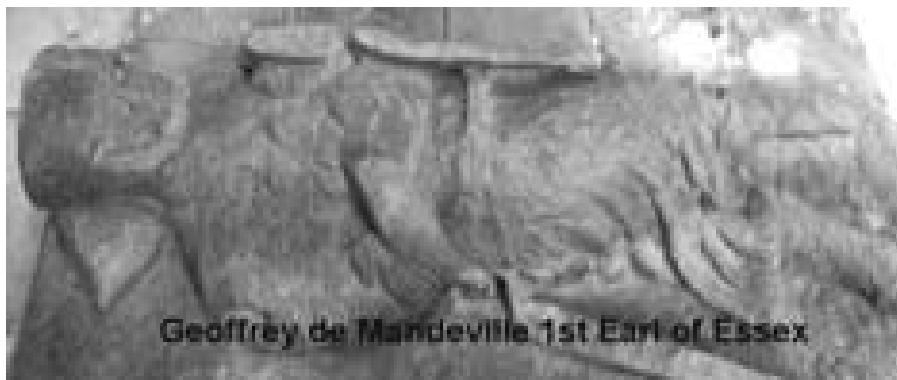
**A**ny brief study of the history and geography of our county will alert the enquirer to the fact that there are locations bearing the name Temple. It then becomes clear that there is some connection with the Order of Knights Templar. The best known example is Cressing Temple to the south-east of Braintree, but there is a slight misconception or doubt about the authenticity, as the two massive existing 13th century barns may not themselves guaranteed to be the sole property of that order. There was a Templar Commanderie or Headquarters at the site and some traces of it have been discovered, but the barns remain in many minds as the origin of the word Temple. Some few miles north of Southend is the hamlet of Temple Sutton, where only the name remains of the Templar presence.

## The Templars

The Order traced itself to a knight called Hugh **de Payens** who undertook military duties against the Saracens at Jerusalem in 1099. In 1128 it was reconstituted under the patronage of St. Bernard. There were Knights, Priests and Serving Brethren. To be a Knight Templar it was required that you had already received a knighthood. Their tabard was white with a red cross and it is said that Richard the Lionheart wore this insignia at the Siege of Acre in 1191. Soon after 1300 King Phillip of France, who allegedly coveted their wealth and property, persuaded Pope Clement V, then at Avignon, to institute an enquiry



into the Templar lifestyle and practises. French Templars were tortured into confessions then burned in a fire on an island in the River Seine in Paris in 1314. In England, Scotland and Ireland some 144 Templars were traced and arrested. Torture was not widely used and they made no confessions but were forced to abjure in ceremonies in 1311. Absolution returned them to the church. The Order in London was centred on a church called the Old Temple, then in 1148 the New Temple was built and still exists between Fleet Street and the River Thames. One Templar, Geoffrey de Mandeville, can still be seen there in a stone image placed there by his son. Geoffrey was made Earl in 1140 by King Stephen, but also supported his wife Matilda another claimant to the English throne. In revolt against the king he was killed by an arrow in battle. Having died excommunicate he could not be



**Geoffrey de Mandeville 1st Earl of Essex**

buried, but was wrapped in a lead sheet and taken to the Temple in London for interment. In England those absolved by the church were sent to monasteries and priories with a pension. The Order was dissolved by the Pope and their property was given to a rival military Order, the Knights Hospitallers (later of St. John).

### **Property at Cressing**

In 1136 either King Stephen, or his wife the Empress Matilda, gave land at Cressing, together with more at Witham and Hanningfield to the Order. In 1308 Roger de Norreis commanded there. After the trials he was sent to the Lincoln diocese to live out his pensioned life. Ralph of the Wolde was also alleged to be “of Essex” and old and decrepit. He was absolved 13th July 1311. The Templars property was despoiled in 1381 by Wat Tyler’s Peasant Revolt, Cressing was given to the Hospitallers in 1321, although they had to pay an annual £50 rent to Aylmer of Valence, the Earl of Pembroke.

### **Property at Sutton**

This estate was given to the Templars

in 1245 by Constance **Partridge** and the Order bought further land. In charge was the crippled John of Stoke, also known as John of Sutton. He abjured heresy on 12th July 1311 and it is possible that he then spent time in the nearby Cluniac Priory at Prittlewell. After the dissolution it was given to the Hospitallers by the Royal custodians and rented by William of Langford. ●

## **NEW SOUTH WALES AND EARLY AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH**

**Research in Australia by  
Experienced Researcher**

**Tony Jackson**

**23 Berallier Drive, Camden.  
NSW 2570. AUSTRALIA**

**Email: tjgenealogist@gmail.com**

# A Family Called Christmas

IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE the question was posed concerning the Vice-Admirals of Essex. I have been researching my **Christmas** family origins for almost 50 years and the trail has led me to Colchester. An excerpt from my notebook is given:

Back in the reign of Henry VIII I have George Christmas (1509-1565), from Colchester, who evidently had a strong maritime connection. In the Anglo-French War of 1542-1546 Henry VIII allied himself with Emperor Charles V who was at war with France (Anglo-Habsburg War 1542-1544). France on the other hand was allied with Scotland. English forces took Boulogne in 1544 and held on to it in the peace of 1546. In 1545 the English fleet prevented a French invasion. The War cost England £2 Million. During the following three years of peace numerous skirmishes took place near Boulogne. The French retook the port city in the next Anglo-French War 1549-50. George evidently played an important role and on 30th June 1546 William Lord Grey wrote to the Privy Council from Boulogne (Bulloigne – sic) “*Bearer, George Chrystemas, is now “cassyd” and repairs into England. His service has been so honest and forwards as to deserve advancement to the King.*”

He married in 1550 Bridget Forster with whom he had 3 children: John (1551) Elizabeth (1553) and Golding Rainsford (1555). He purchased Manor of Downe Hall from his father John in 1551 and this passed in turn to his son John in 1565 on his demise. George appeared on the Pardon Roll from Queen Mary in 1553. History of Parliament shows him as representing Colchester 1558. An

extract from Essex Recusants Vol. 7 The Privy Council and Recusants 1559-1598 is interesting as he is specifically mentioned: “*The next trouble with the Privy Council concerned his (Sir Edward Waldegrave) daughters. They had been sent to Flanders by Lady Frances Waldegrave to enter a convent. Lettre to George Christmas giving thanks for his diligence and travail in staying the two daughters of Lady Waldegrave which were passing over into Flanders.*” Footnote to the story is that the daughters later managed to effect their escape and became nuns abroad.

In 1565 he was appointed Vice-Admiral of Essex. Victoria County History of Suffolk states that in 1561 “*The coast was riddled with pirates, subjects of the queen, who had been robbing and spoiling honest merchants on the coasts and the sea.*” The question of piracy and wrecking had become more noticeable during the reign of Henry VIII, not because the offences were more prevalent – there were probably fewer cases than during previous centuries – but because suppression was taken in hand more seriously. Henry was determined to make his kingship feared and respected at sea as he had made it on land. It had been found that trial for piracy was nearly useless, the offender having to confess before he could be sentenced or his guilt having to be proved by two disinterested witnesses, who naturally could seldom be present at sea. It was deemed advisable to have round the coast permanent representatives of the Lord Admiral who should be of higher social standing and armed with greater authority than were the deputies

who had hitherto visited each county or district collecting the Lord Admiral's profits or maintaining his rights. The officers in question, the vice-admirals of the counties, were in their civil functions the successors historically of the keepers of the coast and the conservators of truces of 13C. and 14C. and there is not one of their duties which cannot be paralleled among those performed by the earlier officials stationed round the entire coast, backed by the power of the Tudor despotism and continued with any interruption during which their authority might diminish by intermission. The plague of piracy, and its first cousin privateering, continued to be virulent during Elizabeth's reign, although a number of cases that the sufferers called piracy were really seizures of property that the captors held to be enemy's goods and were justly questions for the judge of the Admiralty Court. That these so called pirates had friends, partners, agents and informants, in every county and in nearly every port is very certain; and there is sufficient incidental evidence to make it clear that they sometimes had patrons among the vice-admirals and magistrates whose duty it was to enforce the law against them."

In August 1565, two rovers made Harwich Haven their headquarters but, Vice-Admiral of Essex, George Christmas, professed to be doubtful about his powers to be able to set out ships to seize them, although at that time he must just have received a letter from the Council directing him to do this very thing - Acts of P.C. Aug. 1565.

I have many other good connections with Colchester.

PETER CHRISTMAS (ESFH 8760)

## An Unhappy Story.

The Church of Holy Trinity, Southchurch was visited by a team from the South East Branch of the society then under the leadership of Linda Medcalf. A full volume of their findings in the church yard was presented to the church and to the society's archives. Amongst the findings was this tragic family story.

Large box tomb on plinth lid:

This tomb is erected/to the dear and valuable memory /of MARY SAWARD, the viruous and / beloved wife of MICHAEL SAWARD, Gent / of Thorp Hall in this parish / She departed this life 13th of September 1809 / in the 42nd year / of her age / Worthy lamented by her / family and friends / As virtuous paths she trod, heaven's her sure reward / Also within this vault / are interred nine of her children, namely / MARY ANN, died the 9th September 1797, aged 8 years / CATHARINE, died the 26th of January 1800 aged 9 years / MARIA died the 7th of August 1800 aged 2 months / MARGARET died the 14th of October 1801 aged 2 months / STEPHEN died the 8th of March 1802 aged 3 years / AUGUSTA died the 7th of February 1803 aged 2 months / AMELIA died the 25th of April 1805 aged 2 years / ANN MATILDA died the 25th of December 1806 aged 8 months / JOHN died the 2nd of October 1809 aged 1 month / Also to the memory of the above / MICHAEL SAWARD, Gent / of Thorp Hall who departed this life / on the 21st of December 115 / aged 55 years / Also SOPHIA the daughter of MICHAEL SAWARD and his / wife who departed this life the 12th of July 1812 / aged one year eight months /

E. T.

# Eric Probert's Useful Web Sites



## The Genealogist – Essex Parish Register entries

**[www.thegenealogist.co.uk/nameindex/ai\\_content.phptype=diamond&show\\_cat=9#Essex](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/nameindex/ai_content.phptype=diamond&show_cat=9#Essex)**

Many Essex baptisms burials and marriages were added to the searchable database. Check out which registers over what time periods have been included at these pages. You can check other counties here also.

## WW1 Centenary Booklist

**[www.naval-military-press.com/download-the-latest-naval-amp-military\\_press-booklist.html](http://www.naval-military-press.com/download-the-latest-naval-amp-military_press-booklist.html)**

In this centenary year of the commencement of the Great War do you want to learn more of the conflict? If so the Naval and Military Press has produced a comprehensive book list which may be downloaded free.

## Soldier's Wills

**[www.gov.uk/probate-search](http://www.gov.uk/probate-search)**

HM Courts and Tribunal Service has digitised 230,000 personal wills which were completed by soldiers before they departed for the front line. In fact there are wills of all soldiers before they departed for the front-line who died in service between 1850 and 1986. The search is disappointingly limited in that although you can search on just a surname you can only search on a single year of death. The result of the search gives first name(s), date of death and regimental number but not regiment and there is a £6 fee to obtain a copy of the scan.

## Irish Ancestors

**[www.ancestryireland.com/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/irish-ancestors.pdf](http://www.ancestryireland.com/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/irish-ancestors.pdf)**

A really useful concise 30 page free guide to finding your Irish and Irish-Scots roots, published by the Ulster Historical Foundation, is available as a .pdf file to download from this website.

## Blackmore, Essex History

**[www.blackmorehistory.co.uk](http://www.blackmorehistory.co.uk)**

Do you have a historical interest in Blackmore or the surrounding parishes? If so, I am sure you will find some of the information on these pages useful. For family history in particular you will discover details of parish registers, war memorials, the names index, families and the transcript of the 1910 Electoral Roll.

## Finding London Burials

**<http://tinyurl.com/4suwfs>**

Although not updated in the last 3 years this is still a useful alphabetical listing and location of the major London cemeteries but not including most central London churchyards.

## Discovering Britain

**[www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/](http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/)**

Do you want to learn more of the landscapes and area in which your ancestors lived? This project by the Royal Geographical Society brings you interesting guided walks in a number of places in Britain. In Essex, for example, there are currently walks for Colchester, Harwich, Chelmsford and Leigh-on-Sea/Benfleet. You can download for free both written illustrated self-guided walks and audio guided tours.

### Mocavo

May have been mentioned previously in this column but now you can search or browse through thousands of scanned books with a genealogical content.

### Place Names of Scotland

**[www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/](http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/)**

So that you know I am not biased towards Ireland! Searchable databases of names from Scottish Historical Tax rolls, especially in the late 18th Century, and 19th Century Ordnance Survey Name Books are available at these pages on a subscription basis. However if you agree to do a modest amount of transcribing of these records you have free access to all the resources.

### Index to Online Digitised Newspapers

**<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/BritishandIrishNews.html>**

This is an index by Richard Heaton from over 20 online sources of newspaper titles split into England (excluding London), London, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Except for London, where it is arranged by title and date, it is arranged by County, City or town and date.

### Your Family Tree free resources

**[www.yourfamilytreemag.co.uk/category/downloads/](http://www.yourfamilytreemag.co.uk/category/downloads/)**

There are a host of free downloadable research guides in .pdf file format available from this website including YFT88 on Essex research, YFT03 – illegitimacy YFT112 -transport workers. See for yourself what is available which will help you.

### Australasian Really Useful Information

**[www.affho.org/news/useful%20websites.pdf](http://www.affho.org/news/useful%20websites.pdf)**

Do you have a family link with Australia or New Zealand? Then why not visit this website and download a 20 page guide to research in these two countries. There is a listing of useful web sites plus a host of other information.

### National Farm Survey

**<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/search/advanced-search>**

Was your ancestor employed on a farm during the 2nd World War? Then these individual farm surveys in TNA Class MAF32 may be useful. Although the records themselves are not online you can identify the document reference of the relevant parish by using the Advanced Search of the TNA Discovery catalogue and enter the parish name as a keyword and MAF 32 as the "Search within" reference. The records for Essex are held in MAF32/828 to /861 and the surveys of farms in Boreham are located in MAF 32/832/38 for instance.

### FamilySearch document & book page copies

**[https://lds.ualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9tdS7lqbTCW30kR](https://lds.ualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9tdS7lqbTCW30kR)**

Courtesy of Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter is news of this free service from the LDS Church Family History Library to provide digital images of specific information on book pages or microfilmed records held in the Family History Library (FHL) at Salt Lake City. Use Google Books (<http://books.google.com>) to find the page numbers of the information you need and then check that the book is included in the FHL catalogue (<https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>) and note the call number before completing the Photoduplication Request Form. Further advice at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/google-books-free-copies-pages-family-history-library-books/>



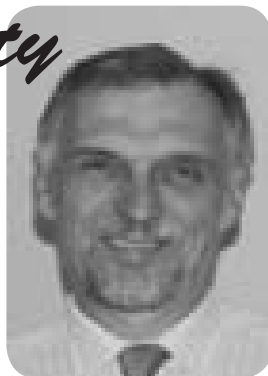


The Arms of Queen Ann  
as shown in some Essex churches





# *From the Society Chairman...*



David Eniffer

Around about the time this quarter's HISTORIAN lands on your doormats we should be passing out information on how to make good use of our new website. Colin Smith, our webmaster has worked tirelessly on this project surmounting many obstacles on the way. The end result should be worthwhile and help the society offer more in the way of online help than ever before. Times have changed so much that researchers who do not use IT are now in a minority. This contrasts so much with 33 years ago when I first caught the bug and 'armchair research' was something like science fiction. Please watch out for announcements about the new website. It will also be helpful if you could check that the society has your correct e-mail address recorded.

The Conference 2014 planning is now entering a more intensive stage and August will be here before we know it. There will be some excellent speakers over the conference weekend in Basildon so if you have not booked please do not leave it too late. The planning group have now carried out a site visit to the Holiday Inn to inspect the facilities and it promises to be a really good event.

As I have stated before we do need more volunteers to help in our research room. If you are able to help now or even in the future, please let us know. If it is a longer term aim we can always arrange some sessions so that you can work alongside current volunteers.

I am sure some of you had a similar new year's resolution to me. I am a terrible hoarder but I finally got round to recycling all my 33 year collection of old Historians and Family Tree Magazines. Most of the Historians were stored in A5 binders and I found myself wondering what to do with the empty ones. They are simply too good to throw away. I have been meaning to write up my family history in book form for many years but there is never a good time. Most modern commercial photocopiers are also printers and can be linked to a PC or laptop. They allow A4 documents to be printed as A5 page booklets (i.e. four pages, back to back). These will fit into the binders and I will be able to easily print copies for family members. If I break the story/ timeline into four page segments any amendments because of later discoveries can be made with a simple section replacement. Now all I need is to find the time to do it!

DAVID ENIFFER ●

# TO THE EDITOR

*Dear Sir...*



## Unusual Names

Beverley Drewitt's snippet regarding Melchisedeck Sucklin reminded me of some strange names I found for ancestors of my son-in-law. They all have the surname THOMPSON and were born in SWAFFHAM BULBECK, Cambs between 1839 and 1868. LUKE THOMPSON and REBECCA ROOK married Dec 1838 and produced 13 children. They named them :-

Ann 1839 - 1912

Namaan (aka Abraham) 1842 -1889

Athaliah 1845 - 1932

Gehazi 1846 -

Druscilla 1849 - 1908

Abigail 1850 -

Gylet Agabus 1851 - 1881

Jehosabeath Emma 1857 - 1947

Bakbukiah Amos 1859 - 1906

Priscilla 1861 -

Henry Alfred 1863 - 1911

Rebecca 1865 -

and ironically the last born was named simply 'Fred' 1868

I would be interested to learn the origin of some of the rarer names.

I take this opportunity to thank all

the officers of the Society for their interesting input and hard work and to wish you all the compliments of the season.

DAVID HOWES, Germany (ESFH1826)

## Anyone here seen Shelley?

I wonder if any members can help me. I have traced my solidly ag-lab ancestors back to the mid 18th century which is quite good going; however I was helped by the fact that they lived in the same place, Blackmore, for several generations. I discovered that my ancestor William **Sutton** married Sarah at St Peter's church, Shelley and lived at the White House Shelley in 1744 before it was disposed of under the will of Robert **Corney**. William and his family came to Blackmore, no doubt looking for agricultural work. Whilst in Essex recently I decided to pay the church and village of Shelley a visit and was disappointed to find that the church in which William and Sarah were married was demolished and rebuilt in the 19th century. Not

only that, but Shelley itself no longer seems to exist. I wonder if any readers possess information about the village of Shelley or are familiar with its boundaries? I would so much like to find out a bit more about the place and would be delighted to hear from anyone with any information.

I have now reached the brick wall phase as I can find no record of William being baptised in Shelley nor any other Suttons living there; although I have searched the records of surrounding villages I cannot identify his origins so have regretfully acknowledged that this is as far as I can go.

LIZ COLLINS (ESFH9074.)

## A Letter from America

Received my copy of "The Essex Family Historian" yesterday and read it from cover to cover. I have finally discovered that I need to read it immediately or it gets put in a pile unread. Was rewarded with my ancestor's name on page 71. John **Hutley**, a witness at the trial of John **Gooday**. Fun - these people were real.

I am sure my story is only of interest to my family but it leaves a lot of questions that I would love to have answered. Robert **Brand** (living in Middlesex in 1808 and dying there in 1848 age 73 - per the 1841 census he was not born in Middlesex) first came to notice as he and his wife, Ann, christened son, Robert William, in St George in the East, Middlesex, in 1808 and Joseph in 1812. Robert the elder is

listed as a cordwainer and his shop was on Ratcliff Highway across the street from the church. I find him in city directories etc. I do not find mention of Joseph again.

Robert had insurance policies on several pieces of property in Middlesex. He wrote his will in 1831 mentioning only his son Robert William and wife Ann so I assume Joseph died, though I have not found a burial record. In 1827 Robert William Brand married Mary Ann **Stacey** at Christchurch, Stepney. They are both listed as of this place but Mary Ann was actually from Rivenhall, Essex. Their 1st child was christened in 1829 at St Leonard's in Shoreditch. (He was later married at St Martin's in the Fields but think that was because of his wife's family.) That same year Robert William is listed in the directory in Shoreditch as a shoemaker.

Now the mystery starts. In 1831 a son William is christened in Kelvedon as are 7 more children born to Farmer Robert William Brand between 1831 and 1842. In 1842-43 two more children are born in Wethersfield to Robert William, a farmer. In later census records he is listed as a retired farmer. Mary Ann died at age 38, probably worn out having 10 kids in 16 years. I have not visited Robert William and Mary Ann's home in Kelvedon though have seen where it was located on a plate map. The home they lived in Wethersfield is Great Codham Hall, it is still there and not too shabby.

There were Staceys in Rivenhall who were shoemakers. To date, I have not attempted to tie them to Mary Ann

but believe there must be a tie. Mary Ann's father was Jenour Stacey who was a farmer as was his father William Stacey. Going back to Robert Brand the elder, he mentions wife Ann in his will written in 1831. He is a widower and of independent means in the 1841 census and a Gentleman on his death certificate. I understand the term gentleman means he had independent means! He is buried in the Tower Hamlets cemetery. Don't know if it is still there or not. I have not been able to find any more information on wife, Ann - thought I had found a death certificate but that Ann was married to a rope maker. On to Robert William, his son Robert took over Great Codham Hall and R W farmed lesser properties in the same area. Robert William died in 1888 in the Essex Lunatic Asylum in South Weald. He and Mary Ann are buried in Rivenhall. So my mystery is how did a shoemaker's son, born in Middlesex, end up a well to do farmer who died at age 80 in a lunatic asylum? There is a story here! Sure wish I knew it.

My relationship is through Robert William and Mary Ann's daughter, Elizabeth who married into the Hutley family. I believe John mentioned on page 71 in the Historian was an uncle. Elizabeth Brand, who married another John Hutley, was my 2nd great grandmother. Her son, Jonathan Stacey Hutley, migrated to the United States and became a fisherman. Another mystery, as his father was also a well to do farmer known for experimenting with fertilizer. On his mother's tomb in Rivenhall is a notation that he died in

the Colorado River. He actually died in the Columbia River a good thousand miles away from the Colorado but I don't know rivers in England other than the Thames so I understand. Other grandchildren of Robert William (with the Brand surname) also migrated to the United States and to Australia.

I have been to Essex four times and twice spent several lovely days at the ERO. I hope to return again but need to be able to "fund" a driver if I am to go where the train doesn't, as the left side of the road is not the right (correct) side for me and I am getting too old to learn new tricks. However if I can help with transcribing from California, I'm willing and hopefully able. I had family in Rivenhall, Bradwell (by Coggeshall), Little Coggeshall, Pattiswick, Cressing, Birch, Wethersfield, Sible Hedingham, Great Braxted, Kelvedon, Faulkbourne and other places in the general area. If helping means reading parish registers on the SEAX website don't think I can do it but let me know. I certainly appreciate the work the society and the ERO perform. I am researching Essex names Hutley/Brand/Stacey/Ardley/Lay or Lee or Ley/King/Humphrey/Fairhead/Collins/Orpen/Kendall and probably others I can't think of off-hand.

CARLEEN FOSTER (ESFH 8106)  
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550 Lemos Ct  
Hollister,

## A Son of Essex

I read with interest the article “A son of Harwich” in HISTORIAN 150, particularly the reference to the township of Blayney in the central west of New South Wales where some of my ancestors lived between the 1860’s and 1900. Samuel **Cooper**, my great great grandfather, was born in Essex about 1802. In 1826 he married Charlotte **Bones** in the village of Tendring. His occupation was a miller. They raised six children: Sophia, Samuel, Charles, Emily, Charlotte and Susanna. In 1842 the family migrated to New South Wales on the barque “*Spartan*” arriving in Sydney in October that year. Initially the family settled in Windsor on the Nepean River west of Sydney where Samuel operated a mill. By 1850 Samuel had moved the family back to Sydney where he went into business as a commercial agent.

Charles Cooper, Samuel’s second son, became a miller and operated a mill in Wollongong south of Sydney. In 1861 he married Mary Ann **Scott** an Irish immigrant from County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Largely due to problems associated with growing wheat on the coast and also the opening up of the drier western districts, Charles moved his family which included four children in 1870 to Blayney. He operated a steam mill there for many years for various business men and graziers. Charles and Mary Ann eventually had 11 children. Their sixth child, Frank Arthur Cooper was born in Blayney and eventually entered politics in

Queensland. He entered parliament, became Treasurer and was Premier of that State 1942-1946. A good description of the township today can be found by entering “Blayney, New South Wales” in Google or Wikipedia.

I also suggest that the reference to the town “Balkhurst” would be Bathurst New South Wales.

PETER COOPER (EFSH 10587)

## Essex Baptism Index

Could you please delete the word “index” from mentions of the Essex Baptism Index because it is not indexed. Here is an extract from a recent email from Peter Nutt.

Thanks,

TREVOR RIX (ESFH 126)

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The entry on the internet is headed Essex Baptisms 1780-1840 though the entry in the FHS magazine states Essex Baptism Index this is not strictly correct my wife Joan started transcribing the Essex baptism registers covering the period 1780-1840 and had completed 403 of the 406 ancient baptism registers and gleaned somewhere around 500-600.000 baptisms. Progress was slow in creating the index only 28 parishes are on a database unfortunately my Joan died in 2008 so the indexing came to a halt. Joan had begun indexing but due to the large amount of data progress was slow all 12 Colchester parishes plus a few in the area are on a database plus the Clavering Hundred on the west side of Essex near the

Herts border. To go through manually all the parish transcripts would take many many hours.

## How it all began

In view of the 40 years anniversary this year, I wondered if you would be interested in these notes. Perhaps they will prompt other people's memories, although I am afraid that there cannot be many of us left from the early years.

MONICA RAYMENT (ESFH5159)

*How it all started - some memories of the founder and first chairman, John Rayment, by his relict, Mon Rayment:*

John had begun to be interested in his forbears and had done a little research. Then in April 1974 he attended the first English Genealogical Congress at the University of Kent, mounted by the Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies. I can see him now when he came home all wide-eyed, "I've been asked to form an Essex Society!" Lots of letters were sent out to people who hopefully might be interested, and an inaugural meeting was held at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford later in the year. A steering committee was elected or volunteered with John as Chairman - a position he occupied for the next ten years, and then as President until his death in 1991. Two things stand out about that first meeting. Our daughter and I attended to make coffee and tea, and more people came than had been expected, and we ran out of milk! The second thing I remember was that it

took two days for John to recover after this first essay into public speaking. Another memory of the early days was the printing of the magazine. A second-hand offset litho printer had been acquired and was put in our garage. It was quite a sight during the printing operation - John and our son, and Fred Filby and his son, moving about in the gloom with ink everywhere! The finished product was then taken to our dining room table and another 'dance' began as we circled around the table collating and stapling. I wonder if any copies are still in existence? A far cry from today's product! Other highlights of those early years were the one day conference, and the the Society hosting the weekend conference at Writtle with the performance of "Costume Cavalcade."

May the society continue to progress and prosper in the next forty years!

*Editor – John is still remembered by many for his efforts in founding the Society. Should anyone write a history of the society his involvement will form a significant section.*

## Railway Children?

I am the Sales Officer for the Great Eastern Railway Society. Thank you for reviewing our double-DVD of the GER Magazine 1911-1926 in your December 2013 issue. Just one correction: the price for the pair of DVDs is £15 (£10 is what our own members pay), plus £1.20 for postage. This seems a good opportunity also to pass on a few more bits of information

which some of your members may find helpful. For a start, as a continuation we also offer at the same price a double-DVD of the similar LNER Magazine 1927-1947.

Any orders can be placed on-line and paid for by PayPal or a card. Just go to our website ([www.gersociety.org.uk](http://www.gersociety.org.uk)), select 'Sales' and then 'Files Emporium'.

An alternative service we provide is accessed via 'Information' then 'Genealogy'. Our webmaster is also a genealogist and he is willing to search those DVDs for you in return for a donation to the Society, and provide a limited number of 'hits'. This may be the more cost-effective way if your ancestor has a particularly distinctive surname - you may then purchase from me just the files of the annual volume(s) of the magazines in which the name features.

BARRY JACKSON

Email: [sales@gersociety.org.uk](mailto:sales@gersociety.org.uk)

## Is Mildred also Millicent Sams?

According to the church register of St. John the Baptist at Finchingfield, John **Digby** and his wife Mildred had ten children baptised there between 1788 and 1812. But, there is no record of them getting married anywhere that I can find. There is however a marriage record for a John **Digby** to a Millicent **Sams** in 1787 just down the road at Great Bardfield (*Essex, England; Collection: Marriage Transcripts; Date Range: 1754 - 1837; Film Number: 990406. England & Wales Marriages,*

*1538-1940*).

The Finchingfield register lists the baptism of just one son, also named John, to John Digby and Millicent on 2nd September 1792. On the face of it, the bald facts seem to show two different man named John Digby, married to two different ladies: one called Millicent Sams and the other called Mildred, maiden name unknown! Several people on Ancestry have listed all ten of Mildred's children under Millicent which is not what the register entries say. Can anyone throw more light on this thorny issue please? Millie is of course short for Millicent, and I believe the names Millie and Mildred are sometimes interchangeable but this may be stretching things a bit. Has anyone any factual knowledge of a marriage between John Digby and Mildred, probably in the Finchingfield area of Essex please? Or does anyone have information about Mildred also being the same person as Millicent Sams?

PETER DAWSON (ESFH11084)

## Difficulty finding Recommended Website

I have tried the website stated on page 60 of December's Family HISTORIAN, relating to British Fishermen and Merchant Seamen imprisoned in the Great War. However, amongst the various links I was informed that the actual website was unknown. I would appreciate your advice on how to overcome this problem.

JOHN SCOGING (ESFH 6413)

Reply from Eric:

*Hello John,  
The web site is correct in EFH. If you  
enter the surname in the box next to  
the "Submit" button at the bottom  
of the page and then click "Submit"  
you can scroll down to the results of  
the search*

ERIC PROBERT

## Forgotten membership numbers

Thank you to all of you who have already sent your renewal forms and payment for 2014-15. Many of you did not include your membership number or said you had forgotten it. Some made a stab at including a number but got it completely wrong. There is a way of remembering your number as every quarter when you get your magazine, the address label has your number on it. If you look at the label you will see a number in brackets after your name. That is your membership number. Ignore any other numbers you see on the label. They are to do with the Post Office sorting system.

So now you need to go to the recycling bin and recover the address label of this magazine to get your membership number and keep it safe. It is needed for all sorts of services that the Society offers and also makes the job of membership secretary easier if you can quote the correct number.

ANN TURNER,  
Membership Secretary ESFH

## My Saviour!

One may ask "who is my saviour?" I became a member of E.S.F.H. in

January 1983; but, did not have any Essex ancestors, so only having been here since 1939, I was a foreigner – well, not quite! I was born in the Lady Ozanne Maternity Home, St. Peter Port, Guernsey and lived on the Island of Herm, where I was christened at St. Tuqual's Chapel thereon. My wife is from the LEWIN and CROSIER families, Essex through and through! Lewin appears in the Domesday Book for Essex as Leofwin(e). As yet I have been unable to achieve this magic target. In my earliest searching I was trying to find various clues and it was proving difficult. Therefore, who was my saviour? Of course it was stalwart Jack Baxter, who rebuked me about my earlier enquiries, perhaps because of my ramblings! He has also helped me with many other names and on many occasions found the answers, also the entries which I had missed.

I have only met Jack twice, once at a lecture at Colchester and the other time in the former Essex Record Office at Chelmsford. Over the years of our correspondence we have achieved a certain rapport. In recent years I addressed him as "Old Faithful," as I had recently visited Yellowstone Park in America (*Ed – Old Faithful – A famous and reliable geyser*). By the nature of his reply this seemed to amuse him. Several years ago I transcribed the marriages prior to 1837 for Bures Saint Mary in Suffolk, which also covers Bures Hamlet in this county and forwarded them to him for his use.

As far as I am concerned he is still "Old Faithful" for his service to the

society and his general service to the community.

JOHN BAYLISS (ESFH1298)

*Editor's wife - For many years, (probably more than he would like to count!) Jack Baxter has been transcribing the marriage and burial records from the parish registers of Essex churches. His generosity has made the results of this mammoth task available to family history researchers world wide. Bound copies of his work are available for searching in the Essex Record Office, in the library of the Society of Genealogists and in our own search room. Until recently Jack was also willing to search his indices for those who contacted him by post. We understand for Society Members this means he will not continue the service as previously done. I'm sure that many of you are grateful to Jack for his efforts on your behalf. HLF ESFH366*

## Mead Family

I read with interest the recent articles about the Mead family burial ground and Waples Mill. My GGG Grandfather, John Esnigh **Maylen** and his son John Maylen (my GG Grandfather), were millers at Waples Mill and Willingale Mill for several decades in the 1800s. John (senior) was born in 1806 in South Ockendon and died in 1868. He is (I believe) buried in Margaret Roding churchyard. His son John died in 1884 in The London Hospital of erysipelas (infection), caused by a mill stone injury to his foot. He is buried with his wife in Shelley churchyard. I have found out some details about

their history at the mills from a Millwrights book but am interested in any other information regarding their occupations and any personal data, readers of THE HISTORIAN may have.

JEANETTE MACDONALD (ESFH 7359)

Email: ja.mac@tiscali.co.uk

## Help Please!

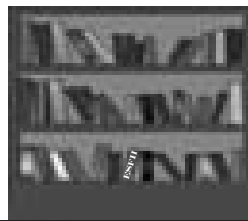
I would like to know about the people who came out of London and paid £1 for a plot of land on what I believe was the outskirts of Epping Forest and Theydon Mount, Theydon Garnon etc. A lot of the **Meriday** family seem to originate from there and as there were London connections, I wondered! I have a real problem with my branch of the family and seem to have hit a brick wall with my Great Great Great Grandfather, **Thomas Merriday**, born 1791. He appears to have been the only one in Coggeshall and founded his dynasty from there. It has been suggested that this may have been a miss-spelling of Meredith, as his wife Ruth (née Abbott) was buried in that name in 1838. I really need to check settlement papers but cannot, due to injury, get to the E.R.O. and I am not computer literate. Is there anyone who could help me? There were **Meredith** names who owned land in Coggeshall, but never lived there. I have also found a Thomas Merriday born to William and Elizabeth in 1897, at one of the Theydon villages.

JULIE DEAL (ESFH11093)

5, Crowsfield Cottages,  
West Hanningfield, Chelmsford,  
CM2 8UH

# ERIC'S BOOKCASE

## A REVIEW OF BOOKS AND CD'S FOR THE GENEALOGIST



### **How to Archive Family Keepsakes**

This is Californian Denise May Levenick's guide on how to preserve family memorabilia and genealogy records. The family keepsakes will range widely to include newspaper cuttings, baptismal and education certificates, notes in a family bible, licences, address books, letters, diaries, pension records, trophies, video and audio clips, photographs, slides and commemorative plates. The first part of the book details the basic care, organisation and safe storage procedures for the most commonly inherited family history items and concentrates on simple inexpensive solutions. There are ten checkpoints for the archive from

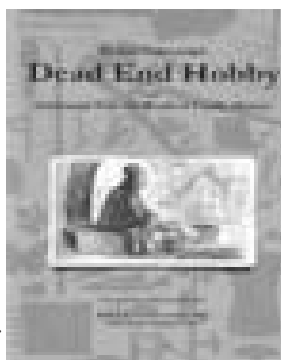
setting objectives through making an inventory, cataloguing and locating a home to planning donations and bequests. Part 2 is all about learning how to preserve your archive with safely creating digital copies by scanning documents and photos etc and then creating a practical personalised filing system with consistent filenames, folder structures and a back up plan. The third part of the book is all about organising your research using effective strategies, resource checklists, source citations and using IT solutions for archiving both web-based and on your own computer. The final chapter explains how online connections to social media, blogs, forums, bulletin boards and mailing lists can be used to extend your family history research.

Here is a 192 page book full of practical inexpensive ideas on how to organise, distribute and preserve your family ephemera and artifacts so that it is available to future generations. Published by Family Tree Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA at £16.99, available from [Shopfamilytree.com](http://Shopfamilytree.com) (Web: [www.shopfamilytree.com/](http://www.shopfamilytree.com/) and distributed in the UK by F&W Media International Ltd, Brunel House, Forde Close, Newton Abbot TQ 12 4PU (Tel: 01626 323700, Email: [enquiries@fwmedia.com](mailto:enquiries@fwmedia.com)).

### **Dead End Hobby**

This 72 page booklet is compiled by Tyneside's Mick Southwick who ran the British and Ireland Genealogy Blog. The author describes the contents as "Oddments from the World of Family History". Within the pages are unusual and erroneous PR entries, witty memorial inscriptions, unusual occupations, sarcastic record entries, appalling living and working conditions, weird traditions, tall stories, coincidences, longevity, strange deaths, last wills, wishes & words, quotes plus other quirks of history.

So, as taste of what's in store for the reader, here are a few titles and brief extracts. Quote - "He who has nothing to boast of but his ancestry is like a potato; the only good belonging to him is underground": Question. What's the penalty for bigamy? Answer. Two mothers-in-law!: the story of the Norfolk Giant, Richard Hales: Charles Chaplin's remains go "walkabout": known as a "Nob Thatcher" he was a wig maker and a "Necessary Woman" cleaned chamber pots!: an advertisement – Pregnant Ladies may be accommodated with attention and secrecy, their infants nursed and humanely cared for: a tale of Abduction for Love: from parish registers – burial of John Brooks, mason who did acrobatic feats on steeples on Fair days but broke his neck descending stairs by the church – baptism of Jacob son of Mathew Salter on 9 Jan 1680, being the 30th child of his!



If you want to be inexpensively entertained and amused (only £2.75 including p&p as a special heavily discounted price to Essex Family Historian readers) or just need some humour to inject into family history then this booklet is for you. £sterling cheques only payable to "M. Southwick" to, 20 California, Winlaton, Blaydon on Tyne, NE21 6LY

(Email: [micksouthwick@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:micksouthwick@blueyonder.co.uk) Web: [www.bi-gen.blogspot.com](http://www.bi-gen.blogspot.com)).



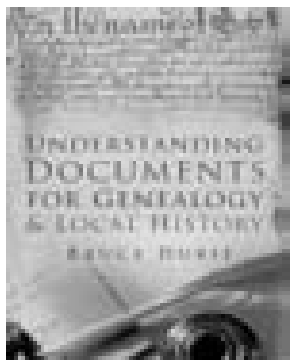
### **Family History at your fingertips**

Recently produced "bookazine" - a book in A4 magazine format – written by Helen Tovey, Karen Clare and Belinda Griffin of Family Tree Magazine, and comes complete with a CD containing version 7 of Family Tree Builder software from My Heritage. The subtitle "Genealogy in the Digital Age" prepares you for the contents to enable you to fully benefit from the potential of the Internet as a resource. The use of basic records is explained then you are shown how to build a family tree and exploit the information on the MyHeritage web pages before being guided in the use of family history forums, Youtube and the social media -Facebook, Twitter and Blogs. A host

of other sources including FamilySearch, directories, passenger lists, newspapers, memorials and military records are then examined and whole chapters are devoted to genetics and photographs. Next it is revealed how your knowledge and experience can be improved with courses and how libraries, archives and specialist societies and their on-line catalogues can be of use to progress your family history. Finally there are suggestions as to how to organise your family history and share it with others on the internet and in other various ways. Throughout the lavishly illustrated text "tips,

tricks and pitfalls” or “checklists” are highlighted and the recommended web site addresses printed in bold type.

This publication is not just for beginners as every reader will surely learn a great deal. It is a simple, practical, easy to read and understand guide to take you down paths to discover the riches of the lives of your ancestors, document your history and share it. Available at £7.99 from ABM Publishing, 61 Great Whyte, Ramsey, Huntingdon PE26 1HJ Tel: 0845 5190228, Email: [info@abmpublishing.co.uk](mailto:info@abmpublishing.co.uk), Web: [www.abmpublishing.co.uk](http://www.abmpublishing.co.uk) and also in bookshops.



### **Understanding Documents for Genealogy & Local History**

This is a book aimed at family historians who have exhausted the use of life event, census and other records online and wish to progress to using other sources of the mid 19th century and earlier. So within the 448 illustrated pages of this paperback is guidance on reading and understanding manuscript documents including wills, indentures, land records, personal letters, church papers and deeds. The experienced author, Dr Bruce Durie, has lectured at Scottish Universities and as a result the book is slanted towards Scottish research.

The book is in three parts, the first of which is concerned with reading documents. Transcribing old handwriting in secretary hand is explained, a latin primer introduces you to translation of this language with the aid of many tables and an explanation of dates, calendars, weights and measures, memorial inscriptions and heraldic documents follows plus a discussion of gaelic words in Scots and English. Part II concentrates on the documents themselves, particularly those of Scotland, and explains and interprets by means of examples. For Scotland you learn about Old Parish Registers; Wills and Testaments; Trust Dispositions and Settlements, Sasines, Retours, Tacks, Assedations and Maills and Kirk Sessions. English and Welsh records featured include parish registers; entails – male inheritance only; wills; fines; manorial documents; indentures and deeds. Part III, which is a massive 40 % of the book, comprises a Latin and Scots legal and genealogical alphabetical glossary of over 4,000 terms to be found in records, a dictionary of Latin forenames and surnames plus a glossary of Latin place names.

This reference book is not for the faint-hearted and could be said to be a toolkit for family historians to extend their research. Priced at £20, historians tracing ancestors in Scotland and unfamiliar with the records of this country will find it especially useful. It is available from The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud GL5 2QG Tel: 01453 883300,

(Email: [web@thehistorypress.co.uk](mailto:web@thehistorypress.co.uk), Web: [thehistorypress.co.uk](http://thehistorypress.co.uk)).

From Bloomsbury Publishing two books. Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 50 Bedford Square, LONDON WC1B 3DP Tel: 0207 631 5600,  
Email: [contact@bloomsbury.com](mailto:contact@bloomsbury.com), Web: [www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com)

### **The Genealogists Internet 5th Edition**

This is a June 2012 paperback edition of the best selling guide by the popular, experienced and respected author, Peter Christian, whom I have known since the 1980s. The previous (4th) edition was published in 2009 and the 5th Edition has been fully updated to a total of 430 pages which is a near 10% increase. Every aspect of family history is covered from online starting points with tips for using online resources, both free and commercial, for census returns, civil registration, church records, property, wills & taxation and occupations as well as the armed forces, newspapers, directories books, electoral registers and migration. No stone is left unturned



with an detailed exploration of how to make the most of archives, history centres museums and libraries and their catalogues. As if this wasn't sufficient, the author considers surnames, pedigrees and families including DNA testing, history in all its guises, geography involving gazetteers and maps, collections and preservation of photographs. The effectiveness of mailing lists, forums, discussion groups, blogs and social networking is discussed before tips for formulating criteria to make the best use of search engines are presented. There is an explanation of how to publish your family history online before Peter Christian presents the current world of family history in which we find ourselves and then considers issues which may be of concern to online genealogists such as privacy, copyright and data quality.

An authoritative comprehensive yet practical guide for family history beginners and more experienced researchers which will enable you to fully realise the potential of both free and commercial online genealogical records to progress your family history, share it with others and discover living relatives. One really useful feature is the website associated with the book ( [www.spub.co.uk/tgi5/](http://www.spub.co.uk/tgi5/)) with hyperlinks for the web addresses quoted. Produced in association with The National Archives and published by Bloomsbury at around £12.

### **Easy Family History 2nd Edition**

A second edition (2012) of the book first published in 2005 and written by David Annal formerly a family history "expert" at the Family Records Centre and The National Archives. Subtitled "The stress-free guide to starting your research", this 190 page illustrated small book is just that, as it leads readers in a logical manner through the most important UK sources for basic family history research. Thus we explore information from relatives and documents, ephemera and artifacts within the



family followed by records of births, the census returns, deaths and wills. Subsequently parish and non-conformists registers and other sources including newspapers, military service records and lists, maps, criminal proceedings and passenger lists are examined. The final chapter deals with the use of all aspects of the Internet for progressing your family history. There is also a beneficial glossary of terms and lists of useful addresses, useful websites and further reading. Most chapters include helpful summary checklists, “Did you know?” and advice panels. A basic, easy to understand and inexpensive (£7.99) guide for those starting their family history.

### **Succeeding in Family History**

Here we have helpful hints and time-saving tips from experienced author and family historian, John Titford. The author points out that researching a family tree can be frustrating and lengthy because in the past records have been misfiled, deliberately falsified, misrecorded, miscopied and mistranscribed. The more so because many people in the 19th Century and earlier were unable to read or write. So within the 112 pages of this illustrated paperback you will find nearly half the book devoted to names. Firstly surnames, with an explanation and examples of naming patterns, variants, aliases, changes and surname dictionaries. Nicknames are considered too and there is discussion on forenames, especially on variants and the reasons for changes. The remainder of the content is centred on firstly the civil registration of births marriages and deaths when the author details the errors and omissions that may occur in the records, suggests strategies to follow when an expected event is not found and explains how to interpret the resulting certificates following registration. The final part of the book examines the census returns and explains what to do when people are not where you expect them, offers words of caution on stated relationships, considers the accuracy of information and warns to anticipate greater mobility than you thought.

Although first published in 2001, the content is as valid now as it was then. This is a comprehensive, yet inexpensive (£6.95), guide presented in an easily read and sometimes amusing way to inspire those both beginning, and also extending, their family history research to avoid pitfalls and climb over brick walls.

Available from Countryside Books, Highfield House, 2 Highfield Avenue, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5DS (Tel: 01635 43816, Email: [info@countrysidebooks.co.uk](mailto:info@countrysidebooks.co.uk), Web: [www.countrysidebooks.co.uk](http://www.countrysidebooks.co.uk)).



Four books from Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church St, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS (Tel: 01226 734555, Email: [enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk), Web: [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk) ).

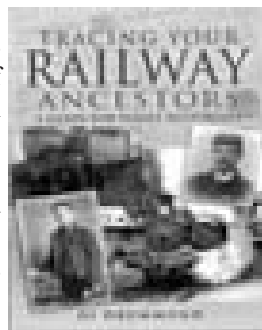


### **Tracing Your Merchant Navy Ancestors**

This is written by Dr Simon Wills, a maritime genealogist and author, as a practical guide for family historians on seafaring ancestors. The 180 page illustrated book commences with a brief introduction to Britain's Merchant Fleet including sailing ships and power driven (engined) ships for carrying both cargo and passengers. This is followed by a historical description of what life in the merchant navy entailed in terms of careers, roles fulfilled, uniforms, health & illness, retirement and charities that serviced seamen. The author then explains how to find descriptions of ships, including pictures, and their voyages using registers and lists. The bulk of the book, of course, focuses firstly on tracing seamen through census returns, apprenticeships, training schemes, national registration, musters, crew lists and agreements and ships logs. Secondly the officers who fulfilled positions as captains, mates, engineers, telegraphers, radio operators and cooks are considered with the additional record sources specifically for these officers mentioned. Losses at sea, awards for bravery and punishment are examined as is the Merchant Navy in wartime and associated records. Finally there is a series of case studies of typical research scenarios plus a reference section with details of useful maritime archives, museums and heritage sites together with a bibliography and index. Records of The National Archive are particularly important for the Merchant Navy and throughout the text the author highlights those records available on the internet and elsewhere together with the reference and relevant web addresses. A really useful concise reference book with a wealth of information on Merchant Navy records, priced at £12.99, which will enable you to put together interesting stories on the lives of ancestors who went to sea.

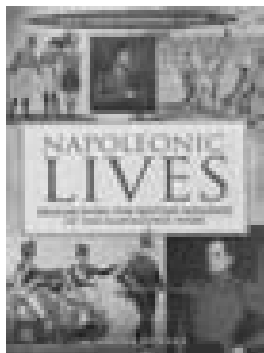
### **Tracing Your Railway Ancestors**

Author and railway historian, Dr Di Drummond, presents here a precise, yet informative account, of the history of Britain's railways which describes the lives of the men and women who worked on the railways. The 272 page A5 sized illustrated book is also a guide to the archives, records and websites for railway companies, nationalised railways and unions involved in the railways too. The book is arranged in three sections, the first of which aims to provide the reader with background information to the



world of transport in which their ancestors were employed, described chronologically from the birth of railways to privatisation in the 1990s. The second part of the book concentrates on all aspects of the operation of the railways, by a workforce that included civil engineers, contractors and navvies, station, booking office, signalling, cleaning and locomotive shed and workshop staff as well as the perhaps more familiar engine drivers, firemen and guards. The final and largest part of the book, of course, deals with the research needed to trace the lives and careers of railway ancestors. The author explores in detail the use of the records of railway companies at TNA, the lesser known published British Parliamentary Papers – especially for railway accidents, trade union records, plus collections at the National Railway Museum and in libraries and local archives. There is reference too to the use of publications such as newspapers, railway magazines and house journals as well as railway guides and directories.

A comprehensive and practical reference guide to sources for discovering the lives of railway ancestors from Pen & sword books priced at £14.99.



### **Napoleonic Lives**

This 188 page black and white illustrated paperback is in the How Our Ancestors Lived series from Pen & Sword Books. Author, Carole Divell, describes how to research British soldiers in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars from 1792 to 1815. Using contemporary military records, correspondence, diaries, memoirs and newspapers from archives, libraries and museums, Carole reconstructs the lives during war service of a representative group of those involved in the wars through a series of case studies. Amongst others, for instance, you learn of the life of a marine in the Mediterranean Fleet, a Gordon Highlander

taken prisoner, a rifleman who served in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo, artillerymen, a Family of officers and two remarkable women who went to war with their men. Throughout the text the author refers to the information sources and their location and there is a time line summarising events as well as suggestions for further reading.

A useful guide at £12.99 for anyone researching the military history of this period providing an insight into the lives of those in the wars.

### **Family Matters**

The subtitle “A History of Genealogy” advises you that this is not a book on how to research your family history but is the view of the author, Michael Sharpe - a family historian of 30 years standing - on how the pursuit of English genealogy has mushroomed over the years to the present day. The history is written from research in archives and interviews with leading figures in organisations involved



in British Genealogy. It is shown how a minority activity of gentleman and scholars has become a mainstream occupation of millions. Along the way the author reveals the landmark events and the personalities behind them, such as Percival Boyd, Anthony Camp and the Essex County Archivist, Frederick Emmison, that have contributed to this remarkable change. The explosion of indexed sources following the introduction of personal computers in the 1970s is described as is how the world wide web has transformed family history research since its introduction in the 1990s and the rise in popularity of the hobby due to the advent of WDYTIA in all its forms in 2004. The final

chapter considers the implications of the current widespread use of digitised sources in genealogical databases and DNA tests. There is a bibliography and comprehensive notes and references for each chapter.

If you want to learn how our, now popular, recreational activity has evolved over the years or wish to explore the role of public information and archives in the current economic and cultural climate then you will find that, at £19.99, this 278 page illustrated hardback is an interesting read.

### **Evacuees – Growing up in Wartime Britain**

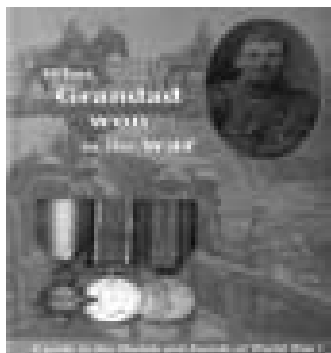
Geoffrey Lee Williams, has written this memoir of his and his twin brother's first evacuation in the early days of September 1939 from SE London to a Kent village and three subsequent evacuations. It is a personal account of their adventures and misfortunes during the Battle of Britain, the London Blitz, D-Day, flying bombs and V2 rockets. Within the 158 pages of this small paperback is the fascinating story of the events of the second world war which not only impinged on their lives but actually forged the future interests and careers of author and brother. They returned from Kent to SE London to daylight bombing raids and life in shelters before traveling to Edinburgh for a brief respite. Another return to Blackheath was traumatic due to a landmine falling on their street bringing havoc and death which resulted in their evacuation again to experience life with their elder sister in South Devon. Early in 1942 they returned home and by 1944 they were army, then air, cadets in wartime enthralled by the preparations for D-day. Then the buzz bombs descending in profusion on London forced their evacuation again, this time to Nottingham where as 14 year old boys they experienced romance with "curvaceous adolescent girls"! They returned again to London and joined the National Fire Service directly participating in the war as excited but sometimes frightened part-time messengers. Whilst



apprentice lightermen on the Thames they had a lucky escape when a V2 rocket struck a wharf and then witnessed at first hand the end of the war before turning to politics.

Many of us will have ancestors, who as women and children, were affected by evacuation and so here is the opportunity to learn how it might have impinged on their lives. An entertaining and informative book available at £9.99 from Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Merrywalks, Stroud GL5 4EP (Tel:01453 847800, Web: [www.amberleybooks.com](http://www.amberleybooks.com)).

## **DVDS**



### **What Grandad Won in the War**

This is a 30 minute plus video presentation interspersed with photographs and video clips of contemporary film from the Great War. It is produced in conjunction with Medal News Magazine and Battlefield History TV with presenters Major Tim Saunders, Phil Mussell and Terry Bishop.

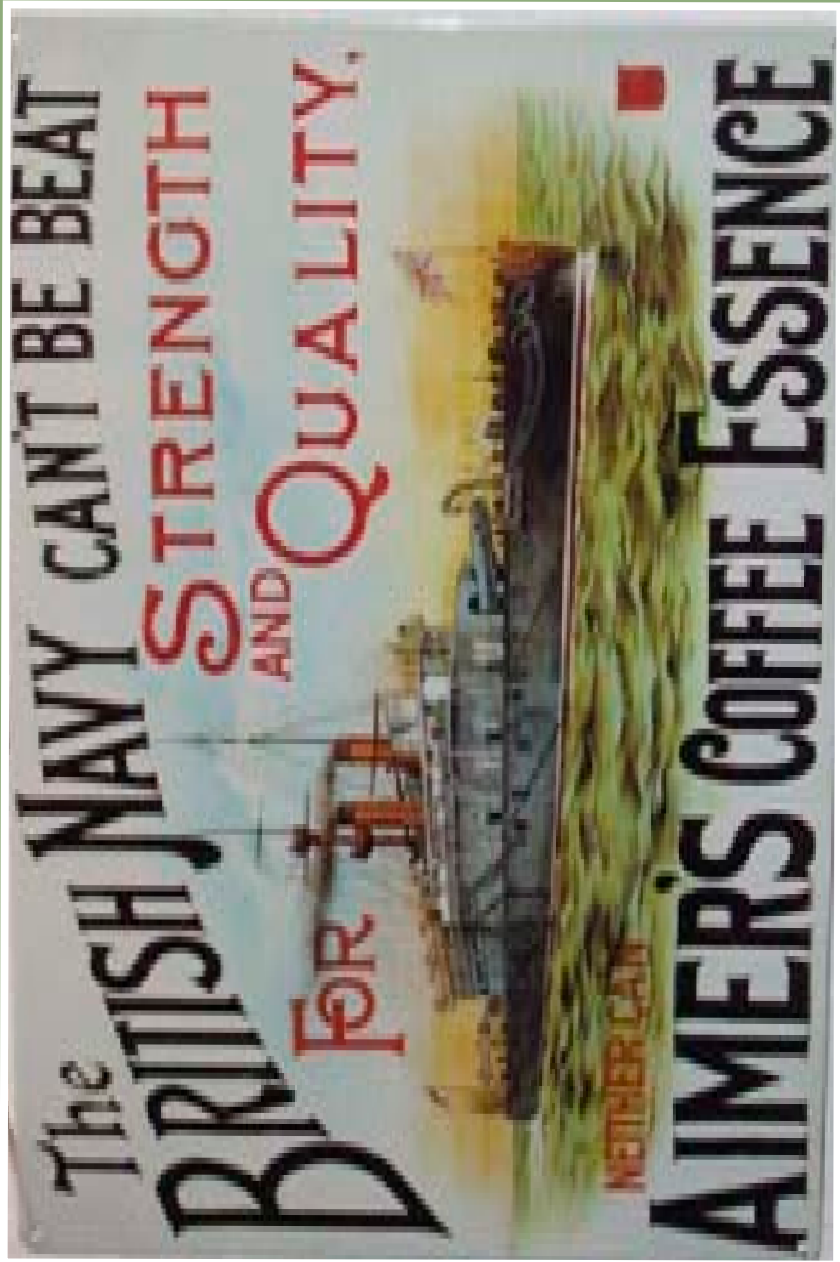
It is an introductory guide to the medals and awards participants in the Great War may have received. Following background information on the war, it is explained that there are 5 categories of medals that may be found in First World War medal groups

and these are (1) Honours such as the Order of the British Empire, (2) Bravery and Gallantry awards such as the Military Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal, (3) Campaign medals such as the 1914-15 star, the British War Medal and the Victory medal, (4) Foreign medals such as the Croix de Guerre and (5) all other medals which include Long Service and Good Conduct and commemorative medals. There is a section on Family Research which advises starting your research with the WW1 Medal Index cards which have been scanned, are searchable by name online at the TNA website and viewed for a modest fee. Details are given as to how to research all armed services personnel involved in the Great War including territorials, reserves and the RFC. Mention is also made of miniature medals and ribbon bars, death plaques, memorial scrolls, correspondence and silver war badges and you are advised to use regimental museums and medal auction houses for information.

An interesting approach to guiding family historians in the basic research into medals received by WW1 combatants. Available at £9.99 from Token Publishing Ltd, Orchard House, Duchy Road, Heathpark, Honiton EX14 1YD (Tel: 01404 46972, Email: [phil@tokenpublishing.com](mailto:phil@tokenpublishing.com) and Web: [www.tokenpublishing.com](http://www.tokenpublishing.com)).

ERIC PROBERT ●





*From societies everywhere*

## *Barbara Harpin's News Roundup*

*E-mail: [beemail2@hotmail.com](mailto:beemail2@hotmail.com)*

*To avoid disappointment, always check before visiting an archive or library as many have implemented changes or temporary closures. Some have limited spaces available.*

### **FAIRS & OPEN DAYS**

Saturday 15 March

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Open Day at Poole. WW1 Centenary theme.  
**<http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/>**

Saturday 15 March

NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY DAY The Pavilions of Harrogate on the Great Yorkshire show ground. Entrance £2  
**<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/archives>**

Saturday 22 March

MARITIME HISTORY DAY at Valence House Archives and Local Studies Centre, Barking & Dagenham **<http://www.lbdd.gov.uk/valence>**

Saturday 29 March

CITY OF YORK & DISTRICT FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY FAIR **<http://www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk/>**

Saturday 31 May

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY FAIR in the 1867 Lounge at Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, Hillsborough Sheffield. **<http://www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk/>**

### **TALKS**

SOG weekly calendar of talks on a variety of topics in London. Everyone invited. Charges apply Up-to-date information at **<http://www.sog.org.uk>**

### **CONFERENCES**

Saturday 8 March 2014 –

IHGS The Professional Approach

If you wish to develop your hobby into a part or full time occupation then this seminar day will provide advice and assistance. All genealogists, whether practising or not, are invited to join in discussion of research and business practices. Cost £40.00, or £35.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students. The

closing date for bookings is 6th March 2014.

**<http://www.ihgs.ac.uk/courses>**

Saturday 15 March to Saturday 22 March Peter Calver of LOST COUSINS has organized a "Genealogy in the Sunshine" Week near Carvolero, on the Algarve, the southern coast of Portugal. An excellent line-up of speakers in the warm spring sunshine, planned for about 40 attendees, to include an end-of-course dinner. Sounds great.

Saturday 12 April

SUSSEX FHS AGM & Conference Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath **<http://www.sfhg.org.uk/>**

Saturday 26 April

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF FHS 25th Anniversary Conference The Carnegie Conference Centre in Scotland's ancient capital, Dunfermline. Many of the leading figures and societies in Family History in Scotland. **<http://www.safhs.org.uk>**

Sunday 27 April

"Tudor England" Conference. This event will take place in the distinguished surroundings of the Cambridge University Union Debating Chamber, and will feature Dr David Starkey, Britain's most distinguished historian. You will be entertained by the Scholars of King's College Choir, who will sing from their Tudor repertoire. Professor John Morrill, of Cambridge University, will also address the gathering, and a charismatic actor will transport our guests back to Shakespeare's England. The price is £89. To see a full schedule of the event, or to book a place, visit our website: **<http://www.aimconferences.co.uk/tudors-with-starkey-ideal-gift/>**

Friday 29 to Sunday 31 August -

ESFH on behalf of FFHS and East Anglia

Group of FHS celebrating both 40th anniversaries, to be held at Holiday Inn, Basildon, Essex. Check website for latest details [www.esfh.org.uk](http://www.esfh.org.uk)

#### NEWS

ANCESTRY [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

10 million Electoral Registers for Surrey (1918-1945) and West Yorkshire (1840-1962)

FAMILY SEARCH [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Recently added Electoral Records for Norfolk (1844-1952)

FIND MY PAST [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

19 million Rates Books online

Royal Tank Corps Enlistment Records 1919-1934

Parish Records for Northumberland & Durham, Devon & Thames Medway

Free Reg [www.FreeReg.org.uk](http://www.FreeReg.org.uk)

contains 4,366,163 Marriages, 13,154,614 Baptisms and 9,076,502 Burials. Still Seeking volunteers

Probate Registry High Holborn, London

As the Probate Registers are available online, I understand hard copies of probate calendars have been moved to Court 38 in the Royal Courts of Justice between 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm.

#### Regional News

Support your Local Record Office, Archive and Local Studies! Most family history researchers have benefited from the large amount of data which has gone online in recent years. However convenient this has been, there is a flip side and that is the decrease in visitors to record offices, archives, museums and libraries. Many house vast amounts of information between them and much of this isn't online, yet it is relevant and important for family history researchers and local historians. In the current economic climate, these are all facing cuts or in some cases closure. However, if they can provide proof of their purpose and popularity they have a stronger case and more power to fight cuts and closures. One of the main ways of monitoring use is by footfall so it is a case of 'use it or lose it!' If you want to see your local record office, archive, museum or library continue to provide such a valuable contribution to your local area, then use

it! You can learn more about the variety of records held by archives and how they contribute to every aspect of our lives at <http://www.exploreyourarchive.org>

SAD NEWS FROM THE NORTH WEST - The Bishop of Lancaster has decided that the Talbot Library in Preston, which has been a much-prized repository of Roman Catholic literature and artefacts for more than 20 years, closed in December. The loss will be greatly felt by many people researching Catholic history and by students from the nearby University of Central Lancashire. It also had a significant collection of Irish material.

Essex Records Office - SEAX Online catalogue progressing with excellent images available. Free to search but view by subscription [www.essex.gov.uk/Libraries-Archives/Record-Office](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Libraries-Archives/Record-Office)

Search Room tour Wednesday 19 March, 10.30am-11.15am. This 45-minute tour will show you how to get the best from the record office's search room and is ideal if you are just starting your research. The tour includes an introduction to Seax and Essex Ancestors, microfiche and microfilm, maps, the Essex Sound and Video Archive and the ERO library. Free but please book in advance on 01245 244 614

Valence House Archives and Local Studies Centre, Dagenham have monthly free Family History helpdesks, run by the East of London Family History Society on a first-come, first-served basis. Next date is Saturday 29th March

Bedford & Luton Archives & Records Service (previously known as The Bedfordshire Record Office - the first County Record Office in England) has celebrated its centenary this year. Visit the the Riverside Building at Borough Hall, Bedford or their website <http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/>

The Federation of Family History Societies AGM at The National Archives (TNA), Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU. Saturday 22 March 1.30pm

BARBARA HARPIN

# The Bug that (Nearly) Didn't Bite

**Do you remember the Millennium Bug? Did it scare you? Worry you? Or were you completely indifferent? Come to that, do you even remember it? No? Then let us recap: -**

Once upon a time, clever old Mankind invented the computer. From limited beginnings it developed until it was decided that it was capable of taking over many of Mankind's more mundane tasks, such as controlling production lines, issuing invoices, paying people - staff as well as suppliers, etc. At this stage (say early 1960s) apart from any difficulty of use, they had three problems: A) They were expensive. B) By today's standards, they were enormous. I had some vicarious, experience of this as I was put in charge of the design and build of two factories and an associated office block. Being told to make provision for a computer, the architect assigned a whole floor (out of five), complete with air conditioning, as usual in Stratford as a labourer wearing a silk shirt, and a sprung floor, like a dance floor, which he insisted were prime requisites for a computer! C) (This is where the bug came in). They had a very limited capacity and much use was made of abbreviations. An abbreviation which was very common and caused all the kerfuffle was the omission of the first two figures of the year. i.e. 19. It was realised that the twentieth century was coming to an end and the question of what the computers would do at the close of business on 31 12 1999 reared its ugly head. Here, I divert to show the effect of this omission. A supplier had the audacity to sue us for late payment. As their terms of payment had been truncated (to suit the computer) to "payment due twentieth month following", the judge accepted that

payment wasn't due. The law will only read what is before it and wouldn't add in the obvious words "of the". I even got costs! . .

The first day of 2000 was a Saturday, whereas the first of January 1900 had been a Monday. Add in that 2000 was a leap year and 1900 wasn't, (Centennial years have to be divisible by 400, not 4, remember) and what the computers would do at the close of business 31 12 1999 was totally unknown. Would it go forward to 01 01 00 or, more likely, would it revert to 01 01 1900? (Or, indeed, would it just give up?) Nobody knew. It had never happened before! Can you imagine the panic? Committees were formed and one trillion U.S. dollars spent worldwide!! Work started early in the '90s (Anglia Water are on record as starting in 1994). Trillions (and similar number names) are a variable feast if, as one would expect, an American trillion was meant, this would be ten to the power of twelve (10<sup>12</sup>). That is 10 followed by twelve noughts. If it was a European one it would be ten to the power of eighteen (10<sup>18</sup>) i.e. ten followed by eighteen noughts.

Large organisations were allocated a red status (Severe risk.), Amber (Some Risk) or Blue (No risk identified). In a newspaper advertisement of July 19th 1999, only two were red, both Local Government. England and Wales, 1% and Scotland 11%. An American trillion, let alone a European one, was a hell of a lot to spend on my betes noirs, computers, even if it did cure the problem! By the way, there were one or two, minor, residual problems. Hence the "nearly" in the title of this article.

M.W.BACK (ESFH6769) ●

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## GILL BLANCHARD

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A GUIDE FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS" and also  
"TRACING YOUR HOUSE HISTORY"**

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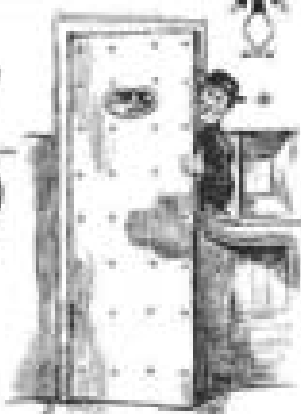


Some time before my Aunt died, she gave me a photograph and said the people were "Aunt Rebecca, Uncle Daniel and their children". Unfortunately she could not name the children; however she was convinced they lived in Essex "on a farm." Whilst researching my **REDINGTON** family in Essex, I found that my 2x great-grandfather John **REDINGTON** was the miller at Moreton and that his first daughter Hannah **REDINGTON** married a Daniel **SURRIDGE** on 24th September 1863 in St Mary Abbot, Kensington. Daniel was also a miller and censuses show him at Little Laver Mill in 1861 and at Toot Hill Mill, Stanford Rivers in 1871 and 1881. He died on 5th September 1882 at Toot Hill Mill. Further research indicates they had four children; Daniel born about 1866, John born about 1868, Ernest born about 1869 and Anna born about 1870. This fits in with the children in the photo and I estimate the year to be about 1876 or 1877.

So far, so good! However, "Rebecca" does not appear to be Daniel's wife on either the 1871 or 1881 censuses! Several possibilities for this: my Aunt was mistaken about the name; or the photograph has nothing to do with my Essex family; or Hannah was known as Rebecca and not by her given name, possibly because both her mother Hannah **CROUCHMAN** and step-mother Hannah **HEARD** had that name! I would very much appreciate any help in identifying the people in the attached photograph. I hope that perhaps another Society Member has this photo in their album and knows precisely who the people are. Thank you.

JOHN BIGGS (ESFH 7629)  
Email: [john.biggs@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:john.biggs@blueyonder.co.uk)

THE · C.O. · IN · PRISON.



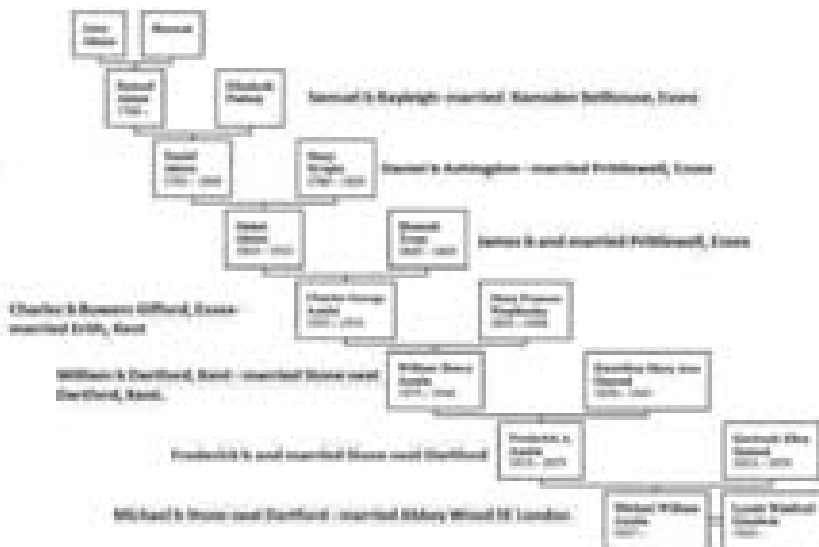
# Five Surprises

When my late sister, Barbara **Tinker** 1939-2000, and I began researching our family history in 1996, we had very little information to go on. We were both born at Stone next Dartford, Kent - in the same street as our father, Frederick Alfred Charles **Austin** 1915-1975, and we knew that his father, William Henry Austin 1874-1946 was born in Dartford. Our mother, Gertrude Ellen **Outred** 1913-1975 spoke of living in Woolwich- and swimming in the Thames! That's all we knew. We had no idea who our great grandparents were. A copy of our paternal grandparents' marriage certificate revealed that grandfather's parents were Charles George Austin 1853- 1913 and Mary Frances **Weatherley** 1855-1924.

Surprise 1. A copy of Charles George's birth certificate revealed that his birthday was 9th March-so is mine.

Surprise 2. He was born in Bowers Gifford, Essex. By 1875 he had moved to Erith, Kent, where he married Mary. The following year he had moved his home to Dartford. He was the son of James Austin 1824-1912 and Hannah **Truss** 1829-1869. The 1871 census found Charles George living in Fobbing, Essex with his widowed father James and his sister Martha who was born in 1856 at Vange. Charles is recorded using his second name, George. Now, living next door is Isaac and Sophia Church, and on census night they had with them a three year old visitor, Charles Austin.

## Ancestors of Michael William Austin



Surprise 3. I later discovered he was James's son and his birth certificate recorded his name as Charles James Austin born in Fobbing 1868. Both sons were called Charles!!! When the second Charles married he used his second name, James. But, on all subsequent censuses he calls himself Charles. His brother, my great-grandfather, seemed quite confused because, on his children's birth certificates, he was sometimes Charles, Charles George, Charles James or George.'

Surprise 4. James was born in 1824 in Prittlewell (Southend) the son of Daniel **Alston** 1793-1848 and Mary **Wright** 1789-1839. So my surname should be Alston not Austin.

Baptisms of Daniel and Mary's children at Prittlewell.

Mary Austin-1817. Betsy Alston-1819. Susanna Alston-1822 James Alston-1824

Eleanor Austin -1826. Abigail Alston-1828. Catherine Austin-1832.

My 2x great-grandfather was baptised James Alston, but married as James Austin.

So I don't have any Austin blood in my veins. Well, actually I do, but on my maternal tree.

Surprise 5. I have a 3x great-grandmother Sarah Austen who married Peter **Williams** in Rochester, Kent in 1801. She was the grandmother of my great-grandmother Sarah Ann Austin Outred.

MICHAEL AUSTIN. (ESFH6494)



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## The Great War Roll of Honour

### St Mary's Church, Great Baddow

Lieutenant Stanley Breach **Callingham**  
 Gunner Frederick John **Bundock** -  
 Sergeant Major Frederick John **Bush** MM  
 Lance Corporal George **Clark**  
 Private Henry Charles **Coller**  
 Private Francis Henry **Cook**  
 Sergeant William Charles **Cook**  
 Gunner Leonard **Day**  
 Lance Corporal Frederick Albert **Devonish**  
 Sergeant William James **Devonish** MM  
 Private Edward Cecil **Dowse**  
 Private Albert Charles **Ellis**  
 CPO First Class Charles Arthur **Freeman** RN  
 Private Herbert Henry Claude **Hawkes**  
 Private Bertram John **Hazell**  
 Private Alfred Harry **Hymas**  
 Private John **Hymas**  
 Corporal Charles William **Lord**  
 Private Frederick Thomas **Matthams**  
 Private John William **Parish**  
 Private Charles **Perkins**  
 Lance Corporal Charles **Pitts**  
 Driver William Charles Frederick **Poulson**  
 Company QMSergeant Frank Marshall **Reddington**  
 Private William John **Rice**  
 Corporal Herbert Henry **Richell**  
 Gunner Alfred **Stebbing**  
 Private Edward John **Stebbing**  
 Private Arthur John **Steward**  
 Gunner Frederick William **Stock**  
 Private William Charles **Cass**

Norfolk Regiment  
 Royal Field Artillery  
 Essex Regiment  
 Royal Sussex Regiment  
 Essex Regiment  
 Essex Regiment  
 Canadian Engineers  
 Royal Field Artillery  
 Essex Regiment  
 Essex Regiment  
 Notts & Derby Regiment  
 Middlesex Regiment  
 H.M. Destroyer "Phoenix"  
 Wiltshire Regiment  
 Middlesex Regiment  
 Kings Royal Rifle Corps  
 Kings Royal Rifle Corps  
 Royal Engineers  
 Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry  
 Essex Regiment  
 Essex Regiment  
 Essex Regiment  
 Royal Army Service  
 Coldstream Guards  
 Royal West Kent Regiment  
 Essex Regiment  
 Royal Field Artillery  
 Essex Regiment  
 Royal Fusiliers  
 Royal Field Artillery  
 Royal Lancaster Regiment



Private E C Dowse

There are also two men buried with Commonwealth War Grave headstones in St Mary's churchyard who do not appear on the Roll of Honour: They are Frederick Hooker and Robert Moore. But remembering the casualties of war is not easy with just a list of names. Who were these men? I have found a little information about them, but have a photo of only one----Edward Cecil Dowse, courtesy of a relative. If anyone can trace a photo of any of the other men or if anyone would like more information about them please contact me: 01245 250499 or [wendy.gf@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:wendy.gf@blueyonder.co.uk)

WENDY CUMMIN (ESFH7091)

TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE  
MEN FROM THE PARISH OF GREAT BADDOW WHO GAVE  
THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914 — 1919.

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED.

LIEUT. STANLEY BREACH CALLINGHAM, NORFOLK REG<sup>t</sup>.  
CAPT. FREDERICK JOHN BENDOCK, R. F. A.  
S. M. FREDERICK JOHN BUSH, M. M. ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
L/CP. GEORGE CLARK, ROYAL SUSSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. HENRY CHARLES COLLIER, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. FRANCIS HENRY COOK, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
SGT. WILLIAM CHARLES COOK, CANADIAN ENGINEERS.  
CAPT. LEONARD DAY, R. F. A.  
L/CP. FREDERICK ALBERT DEVONISH, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
SGT. WILLIAM JAMES DEVONISH, M. M. ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. EDWARD CECIL DOWSE, NOTTS & DERRY REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. ALBERT CHARLES ELLIS, MIDDLESEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
P/CPO CHARLES ARTHUR FREEMAN, R. N. R. M. DESTROYER FLUKE.  
PT. HERBERT HARRY CLAUDE HAWKES, WILTSHIRE REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. BERTRAM JOHN HAZELL, MIDDLESEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. ALFRED HARRY HYNES, K. R. R. CORPS.  
PT. JOHN HYNES, K. R. R. CORPS.  
CAPT. CHARLES WILLIAM LORD, R. E.  
PT. FREDERICK THOMAS MATTHAMS, OXFORD & BUCKS. L. I.  
PT. JOHN WILLIAM PARISH, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. CHARLES PERRINS, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
L/CP. CHARLES PITTS, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
DN. WILLIAM CHARLES FREDERICK POULSON, R. A. S. C.  
C. Q. M. S. FRANK MARSHALL REDDINGTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.  
PT. WILLIAM JOHN RICE, ROYAL WEST BERT REG<sup>t</sup>.  
CP. HERBERT HENRY RICHELL, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
CAPT. ALFRED STERRING, R. F. A.  
PT. EDWARD JOHN STERRING, ESSEX REG<sup>t</sup>.  
PT. ARTHUR JOHN STEWARD, ROYAL FusILIERS.  
CAPT. FREDERICK WILLIAM STOCK, R. F. A.  
PT. WILLIAM CHARLES CASS, ROYAL LANCASTER REG<sup>t</sup>.  
*FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.*

# Branch Meeting News and Reviews

*Forthcoming events and reports from around the County*

**CHELMSFORD**

*Headquarters*

Postcode: CM2 6YD

Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford. Meetings are on a Saturday and start in the Lecture Theatre at: 10.30 a.m. (*Computer Group*), 12.30 p.m. (*Tutorial*) and 2.30 p.m. (*Lecture*).

## What's On .....

**Tutorials** - aimed particularly at beginners as well as the less experienced.

|            |                                                                                              |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12th April | How to find out where your ancestor is buried or cremated by Matthew Pridham                 |
| 17th May   | Charities & Their Records by Simon Fowler                                                    |
| 21st June  | Register of Electors by Eric Probert                                                         |
| 19th July  | The Western Front Association - Following Your Great War Relative's Footsteps by Bill Fulton |

## **Lectures**

|            |                                                                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12th April | The Magnificent Seven Cemeteries of London by Matthew Pridham                       |
| 17th May   | The Home Front in the Great War by William Tyler                                    |
| 21st June  | Marconi & Hoffman's Past - The Frederick Roberts Archive by Cathy Pearson           |
| 19th July  | The only remaining horse hair weavers in the UK - John Boyd Textiles by John Miners |

## What's Gone ....

**OCTOBER MEETING** - We decided to try something different and asked Riotous Assembly to perform 'The Norwich Times' recreating the journey of a stage coach in the early 1800s from Norwich to London with narrative, music and song. We heard from the Guard, Coach Driver, Inside and Outside Passengers, each describing their job, why they were travelling, as well as adding interesting anecdotes. The narratives were all followed by a song. To quote one of our members: 'It was a lively performance by a group of professionals all highly motivated which drew the audience into the 'reality' of coach travel almost two centuries ago.' An excellent performance enjoyed by all who attended.

**NOVEMBER TUTORIAL - Public Servants – Was Your Ancestor a Civil Servant by Alan Rushton**

The number of sources varied from department to department, in some it is like

looking for a needle in a haystack in others there is very little available. There are records available for the Government Offices, Home Office, Post Office, Tax Department and Customs & Excise, including Salt Office. The Royal Calendar became the British Imperial Calendar and can be found in major libraries. Oaths of Allegiance, signed by all new employees, can be found at the National Archives. Pre 1890 Board of Trade disposed of all records; however, others like the Customs kept everything. In the 18th century there were 17,000 men in the Civil Service (women did not appear before the Great War) employed with 14,000 of these being in the Tax Office. The first lady employed was as a housekeeper and listed as “the necessary woman.” The Post Office Archive is maintained at Mount Pleasant Post Office, when researching you need the employees date of superannuation. Postmen are not necessarily in the archives especially in the country, as Postmasters used ‘tinkers’ as occasional postmen and paid them out of local funds. Alan recommended J C Sainty’s Book – Office Holders in Modern Britain, which is in 7 volumes.

### **NOVEMBER LECTURE - Inconvenient People by Sarah Wise**

It was surprisingly easy to declare someone insane in the 19th century and Sarah covered the following topics: Insanity in highly questionable circumstances, Stories of triumph, The mechanism required for someone to be declared insane, Set right some of the myths.

We were given many examples and case studies just a few of which I show. In the first sixty years of 19th century more men than women were declared insane as women had more to gain, it was far better and easier to declare a rich violent drunken man insane than get rid of him by separation or divorce. Wealthy people were often kept at home with or without a keeper as in the case of Mrs Rochester in Jane Eyre. Women who gave birth to illegitimate children were not put into Asylums in the 19th century. County Asylums were paid for by the Public Purse and were expensive places in which to lock someone up.

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## **ESSEX RESEARCH**



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## **DECEMBER TUTORIAL - Family History Quiz by Barbara Harpin.**

A very enjoyable quiz undertaken by approximately eight teams of six, there was much laughter and our knowledge was enhanced. Thank you Barbara for all your work in arranging this.

## **DECEMBER LECTURE – History of New Hall by Tony Tuckwell**

Tony talked us through the history of New Hall in its various forms from the 14th century manor which was Waltham Abbey's summer residence via Henry VIII's Beaulieu Palace to today's school. Henry VIII brought the house from the Boleyn's for £17k (equates to £70m today) having visited it in 1510 and 1515, promptly knocked it down and built his first new palace. It took 4/5 years to build, had nine courtyards to take the whole Court of approximately 2,500 including servants although it is not known if a full Court was ever held there. Henry was there when he made the decision to break with Rome; it was a semi permanent home for Mary Tudor and Elizabeth 1 visited. Elizabeth gave the Palace to Thomas Radcliff in 1573. Other owners included George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham and General Monk. Tony talked about the Time Team excavation where they found evidence of the 14th century house, the Tudor Gateway, the Royal Apartments (the rooms had bigger windows) and in the Chapel examined the old Coat of Arms. Tony gives tours of New Hall weekdays during the school holidays and I am hoping to arrange one for us on either a Tuesday or Friday during the Easter holidays. Once arranged full details will be available on our website.

MERYL RAWLINGS

### **COMPUTER GROUP**

*Chelmsford*

Postcode: CM2 6YD

Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford. Meetings are on a Saturday and start in the Lecture Theatre at: 10.30 a.m.

### **What's On .....**

|            |                                           |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 12th April | Windows 7 & 8 by Andrew Britter           |
| 17th May   | Podcast                                   |
| 21st June  | Workshop                                  |
| 19th July  | Even more useful Websites by Eric Probert |

### **What's Gone ....**

## **OCTOBER TALK- Workshop**

The Computer group held an extended workshop with most members bringing their laptops, and others able to pair up to sit and watch first hand. Andrew started off the morning with a discussion and answering a few queries, demonstrating a few sites suggested by members. This was very useful, as by using the projector and big screen, we could all follow the exploration of some sites and share information.

We also worked in small groups, with those more able to answer questions and demonstrate programs to those less experienced.

### **NOVEMBER TALK- Family History using a smartphone by Charlie Mead.**

We thank Charlie who gave a very informative presentation on Smartphones - pocket computers, not just mobile phones. Their advantages (portable pocket sized, built-in camera, GPS and SatNav, Internet access and a variety of communication methods) outweigh their limitations (small screen size, limited keyboard and memory, and can have expensive internet charges, especially abroad). There are several operating systems to choose from, numerous Apps, as well as the camera, voice recorder and mapping. Charlie explained in detail pros and cons, and how useful it is to have some of the genealogy apps on our phone in our pocket at all times. He gave brief information on many popular family history apps. And he supplied a very helpful handout.

### **DECEMBER TALK- Google – Not just a search engine by Steve Cordery**

Steve gave a very thought-provoking talk on the many uses of the Google site. He talked us through a brief history, searching capabilities (web pages, images, videos, blogs, news, academic papers) better searching, Tools (googlemail, storage, spam filtering, labels, Calendar, Google plus, drive, Chrome Browser), Sharing (making your own web site) Blogs, Useful Information (Picasa, Panoramio, You Tube, Google Maps, Earth, Books) and Utilities (Toolbar, Translator, Currency convertor, Unit convertor, calculator). So much information available that we have decided to use our next Workshop session exploring this amazing site. Many thanks to Steve for opening our eyes.

BARBARA HARPIN

**COLCHESTER**

*North East Essex*

Postcode: CO1 2QB

*Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory Street, Colchester. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month. Doors open 2.00 p.m. and meetings commence at 2.15 p.m.*

### **What's On .....**

|           |                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5th April | Using Google Maps for Family History Research by Ian Williamson |
| 8th May   | Seaside resorts since 1750 by Tony Kirby                        |
| 14th June | Open Day 10-4. A Military Theme – see website for details       |
| 12th July | Genealogists' Question Time                                     |

**See Page 6 for confirmation of dates**

### **What's Gone ....**

### **OCTOBER TALK - Protestant non-Conformity by Mari Alderman.**

This was a very detailed description of the reasons for the split from the Catholic Church and all the different sects that evolved over time. Mari showed us some of

the ways in which they changed and how we can find the records. This was a very interesting and well presented talk.

### **NOVEMBER TALK - *The Defences of Harwich by David Whittle from The Harwich Society.***

David told us the history of the Redoubt's origins and how it had been used over the years. He went on to describe and show pictures of the state it was in before the restoration; explaining the work that had to be done. Finally showing us how it is today and some of the events that take place there. This was a fascinating talk which made me want to visit, something that I hope to do soon.

### **DECEMBER TALK - *Christmas Social.***

David Eniffer entertained us with a quiz, 20 photos of famous people. We had to find their names, age [just the decade] and whether they were born in Essex. This caused a great deal of laughter as we knew the faces but couldn't always think of the name. As to their age and place of birth, there were many surprises. After this Paul taxed us with Anagrams of Family History Sources. One team did very well but the rest of us managed about 7 or 8 out of 20; this too caused a lot of laughter as well as groans of 'of course' as soon as we had the answers. As usual there was far too much food! But a happy and relaxing afternoon was had by all.

GILL PEREGRINE

**HARLOW**

**West Essex**

Postcode: CM17 0AJ

St. John's Arts and Recreation Centre, Market Street, Old Harlow. Meetings are on a Saturday and start at 2.45 p.m. Doors open at 2.00 p.m.

### **What's On .....**

|           |                                                              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5th April | From Henham to the Himalayas by Mark Camp                    |
| 3rd May   | How my funny blood started my interest in FH by Ann Simmonds |
| 7th June  | Britain from above by John Pearson                           |
| 5th July  | Search for William – Liverpool to Oz to Lewes by Rob Parker  |

### **What's Gone ....**

### **OCTOBER TALK - *London in the 1880's by Jef Page.***

A warm welcome to Jef, an experienced lecturer, Chairman and Programme Secretary of Ilford Historical Society [HYPERLINK "http://ilfordhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/"](http://ilfordhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/) and worked for many years at the National Gallery in London. A thoroughly engrossing afternoon on the subject of events that took place mainly in the decade of 1880's with an array of paintings, drawings and images from that era. From Jack the Ripper, Match Girls, Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the Docklands

strike to the scandal of Cleveland Street. Jef took us back in time to appreciate the life and times of our ancestors.

### **NOVEMBER TALK - The Riley Family of Netteswell by David Devine**

David, previously Harlow archivist for the town's records for many years, explained his research from the 1980's – before online aids- initiated after spotting a gravestone in proximity to his workplace and the Monumental Inscription at Netteswell Cross featuring Riley names. Arthur Riley, the local Postmaster at Burnt Mill in the early 1900's, sadly lost 3 of his four sons in the Great War. With lots of information previously prepared for a display telling the story, David explained how they were helped by a newspaper article at the time, and how the pieces of information were gathered and able to tell the story. This prompted recollections of old Burnt Mill before the new town station was built, from the members present which



NETTESWELL CROSS

included a friend of the daughter (now living abroad), of the only surviving son. We Members were also invited to bring mementos and examples of their research along to share. This being so successful, it is being included each meeting.

### **DECEMBER TALK - Bygone Items by Ian Torrence**

We were invited to bring in old items to share with members. Several people had lovely items, a delight to see. Ian had a collection of magazines and memorabilia many of us remembered. Then a large box of various items used in many households during the last century were passed round. This was turned into a quiz with members asked to name items. A great fun afternoon, with members reminiscing then Mince Pies and tea or coffee.

BARBARA HARPIN

### **SAFFRON WALDEN**

*North West Essex*

Postcode: CB11 3HD

Meetings are held in Saffron Walden Baptist Church Hall (Audley Road entrance) High Street, on the second Thursday, at 8.00 p.m.

### **What's On .....**

|            |                                                       |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 10th April | Electoral Registers with Eric Probert                 |
| 8th May    | Seaside resorts since 1750 by Tony Kirby              |
| 12th June  | Weavers, Higglers, and Hoze Makers by Michael Holland |
| 10th July  | The duties of a Coroner by Dr George Hollis           |

### **What's Gone ....**

### **OCTOBER TALK - Post Office Archives by Chris Taft**

Chris Taft is Head of Collections at the British Postal Archives & Museum which

looks after a vast collection going back to the 1635 Proclamation by Charles I to open up the postal service to the public – a means of raising money. Letters were charged for by the number of sheets and the distance travelled hence no envelopes as these would have meant extra sheets. The recipient was required to pay for the letter on the basis that the distance required to deliver the letter was not known until it arrived at its destination. This was a very expensive process. One post boy would take letters on horseback to another post for another post boy to take them on to the next post. By the 1820s letter carriers were employed by the post office and the term postman did not come into existence until 1882 when the Post Office began to deliver parcels as well as letters. After the introduction of postage stamps in 1840 with a fixed price for delivery of an item anywhere in the country, many more letters were written and the Post Office expanded massively. The Post Office encouraged their employees to enlist for the First World War and women joined the Post Office to replace them. After the Armistice many of the women continued to work for the Post Office. The Museum and Archive are a rich source for family history and has a huge philatelic collection. Mr. Taft stated that the Appointment Records are on Ancestry (but the Chairman cannot find her great-great-grandfather on those records). He outlined the many sources for family history and they would welcome any researchers at their premises in Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

### **NOVEMBER TALK - 1000 years of English Churches by *Chloe Cockerill***

Chloe Cockerill told us about the long and intriguing history of the Parish Churches in East Anglia. Having spent many years working for the Churches Conservation Trust, Mrs. Cockerill brought a wealth of knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm to the subject and her talk ranged over the many styles of building and ornament in East Anglian Churches. Many churches were built more for the glory of the patron than the convenience or wishes of the congregation. The lack of stone in East Anglia means that many churches are built using flint, clunch or sometimes brick. They were altered many times during the centuries reflecting changes in styles and wealth. One exception is a church at Guyhirne in Cambridgeshire which was newly built in the 1650's and has narrow, hard pews so the congregation cannot kneel, reflecting the views current at the time. The interiors are very varied with stained glass from medieval to modern; amazing wall paintings, and remarkable bench ends and rood screens with carving of the highest quality.

### **DECEMBER TALK – Members Christmas Evening**

The meeting was a seasonal social with the usual fiendish quiz.

MARTIN FOREMAN ●

Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. Meetings are on the first Saturday of the month and start at 2.30 p.m. Doors open at 12.00 p.m. for members to conduct research.

### What's On .....

|           |                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 5th April | "An Island Story" by The Reverend David Tudor |
| 3rd May   | "London Peculiar" by Charlie Mead             |
| 7th June  | "Writing Local History" by Frances Clamp      |
| 5th July  | "Make Do and Mend." by The Misses Elliott     |

### What's Gone ....

#### **OCTOBER TALK - Southend Then And Now by *Simon Deacon***

A glimpse at the history of Southend as seen through the work of artists and photographers. Among them was our guest Simon Deacon. His late father, Norman Deacon, shared the same interest and Simon included several of his pictures as part of his talk. From its Regency phase, when it first began to develop as a seaside town, through the 64 years of Victoria's reign and up to the present day, Southend has undergone more changes than at any other time.

By 1856 it had its own railway station with links to London. The age of tourism had come and Southend was quick to realise how important this was. It had already outgrown its elder relative Prittlewell and would continue to expand. The boom years from 1870 to 1880 saw an increase in the number of houses being built as more people were now living here. By 1892 it had become a Borough. Many local councillors felt proud that Southend had gained such status. All was looking good. Much of that success was down to the entrepreneurs and businessmen who made it happen. Names like Ramuz, Brightwell, Dowsett, Burrows, Jones, Garon, Keddie, most of whom held important positions within the Borough.

What remains from the Regency period is minimal. The Victorians liked to overdress and we see it in those buildings that have managed to survive. Simon showcased everything on a like-for-like (then and now) basis. Passionate about keeping what we have, Simon and a number of friends are currently working on a scheme to do just that. As some might say, "Fings ain't what they used to be" and that progress has come at a price. "The Hammerson Development should never have happened". What's followed since, I'll leave you to decide. Times past to time as it is now, this was a journey worth taking.

#### **NOVEMBER TALK - Westcliff And Leigh by *Simon Deacon***

Owing to a change in schedule from our listed programme, Simon Deacon kindly offered to step in at the last moment, this time giving a talk on Westcliff and Leigh

past and present. Simon began by exploring the origins of Chalkwell Hall, which we'll stay with as it's so interesting. There has been a building on the site since medieval times, the present hall being the third, which is Georgian. Chalkwell Hall with its 26 acres of land (part of which went south as far as the Estuary) was sold to Southend Council in 1901. The cost was around £20,000. Soon afterwards the area was developed for housing. The Chalkwell Hall Estate was what followed. The Council wisely decided to keep the Hall and the land immediately surrounding with the intention of opening the grounds for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. That policy still applies today.

The opening of the Barking-Pitsea section of the London, Tilbury & Southend Railway in the early years of the 1890s was also a time of growth for one area in particular and Chalkwell Park played its part in what would eventually become a new town. All that existed between Southend and Leigh was Eastwood to the north and the ancient hamlet of Milton to the south. "So what shall we call this burgeoning suburb?" Choices ranged from 'The Hamlet', after the farm that was demolished in the 19th century, to Kensington-on-Sea and Westcliff-on-Sea, which of course was taken up. Further expansion followed. Westcliff soon gained a reputation. It had all the right ingredients. There was plenty of choice in the style of buildings and its location counted a great deal, including seafront views for those who could afford it.

### **DECEMBER TALK - Dick Turpin And The Gregory Gang by *Martyn Lockwood***

There was nothing Knight of the Road about this man. That was a myth dreamed up by authors like the Victorian pen pusher William Harrison Ainsworth who really hyped things up. Turpin was a villain and a particularly vicious one. It was during his time as a butcher at Buckhurst Hill that he met and fell in with the Gregory Gang, an equally notorious group of individuals whose speciality was breaking into people's homes and threatening them. Justice won out when most of the gang were finally captured and dealt with accordingly. Turpin, and possibly two other members of the gang, one of whom was probably Tom King, escaped capture. Turpin later accidentally shot and killed King, fled the scene and killed again, this time whilst trying to resist arrest. With a price on his head, he left Essex for Yorkshire under the alias of John Palmer. It was during his time at an inn that someone had doubts as to who he was. Arrest wasn't long in coming. Imprisoned for a time at York Gaol, Turpin wrote a letter to his brother-in-law which the authorities manage to intercept, and so his true identity was finally uncovered. He was sentenced to death, though not for taking the lives of those previously mentioned. Turpin was found guilty of two charges of horse theft and was executed on 7 April 1739.

MARTYN HAYDN ROBERTS ●

# Snippets From The Past

## Religious preferments.

Mr **Wilson**, fellow of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, collated by the Bishop of London to the Rectory of Halstead. Mr Christopher Wilson, presented to the Rect of Willing (Willingale?) 1744.

Rev. Mr **Holland** to High Easter 1744.

Sam. **Meacham**, M.A. to Little Waking in room of Mr **Sheepshanks** 1744.

Wm **Gibson**, 2<sup>nd</sup> son to the Bishop of London, collated by his father to the Arch-deaconry of Essex, Feb 1747.

Mr **Jackson** of Ardley, Prebendary of Lincoln 1747.

Rev. Dr **Rooke** Master of Christs College, Cambridge appointed Rector of Great Horsley, £300 p.a. (Present Day value £26,000) 1747.

Henry **Herring** M.A. was appointed Rector of Toppesfield (squire der.) 1750.

John **Griffith** M.A. was appointed to two livings, Rector of Hatfield Peverell and Vicar of Little Waltham 1750.

Maurice **Gough** C.L. appointed to the living of Frinton as Rector 1750.

**From the Gentleman's Magazine 1744-1750**

## Bankruptcy

1745: George **Tryner** of Waltham Cross, chapman, James **Smith** of Stisted, shopkeeper, Jonathan **May** of Colchester, vintner, Geo. **Day** of Coggeshall, shopkeeper, Stephen **Rogers** of Stratford, bricklayer, Rich. **Johnson** of Grays, linen draper and Jn. **Stock** of Little Waltham, shopkeeper.

1747: John **Croxon** of Southminster, grocer. Wm **Simons** of Elmstead, chapman,

Wm **French** of Abridge, innkeeper.

1749: John **Renall** of Mundon, grocer, John **Ingold** of Chelmsford, salesman and Charles **Huggett** of Witham, grocer.

1750: Stephen **Glade** of Thorpe, chapman.

*Editor - A Chapman is a dealer in small objects (from cheap man).*

**From the Gentleman's Magazine 1744-1750**

## Leigh-on-Sea

The following entries mostly relate to Leigh on Sea.

A marriage in November 1732 between Dr John **Cook** to Miss Elizabeth **Bradley**, both of Leigh.

Ten years later in 1742, Mr Jo. **Camphhire** near Lee to Miss Polly **Wright** with £15000 .

In July 1745 " A young man at Lee in Essex, diverting himself with some flounders, put one alive into his mouth, which slipt down his throat, and tho' all endeavours were used to force it up again, he died soon after."

Though not in that town the following adds weight to consideration of what you swallow;

"In July 1748 Mr **Morrice** of Berkeley Square, of St.Vitus's dance, after eating half a pound of cherries."

In January that same year "Mr **Hall**, a farmer of Lee, Essex, died from the bite of his own dog that ran mad."

GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE

## SURNAME INTERESTS

THIS LIST shows new and changed entries to our Members' Surname Interests up to and including February 1st, 2014. For further details please check the Society's web site at: [www.esfh.org.uk](http://www.esfh.org.uk). If you do not have access to the Web, please use the *Surname Interests Response Service* to make contact with the member identified by their number. Each line gives Interest Name, County Code, Parish, Date Range, & Member's Number.

The service works as follows: A letter to a possible contact is written in the usual way except that it should be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed (in the top left corner) to "Member No....." where the membership number is taken from the journal or web site. It is vital that this number is copied correctly otherwise the letter cannot be delivered.

The sealed letter must then be enclosed in a covering envelope and sent to *Surname Interests Forwarding Service, ESFH Research Centre, c/o Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6YT*. Your enquiry will then be forwarded to the relevant member who can reply and establish contact or not, as before.

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|                                                      |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ABBOTT</b> , ESS, Great Dunmow, 1700-1840, 11093  | 11097                                               |
| ADAMS, MDX, Shoreditch, 1833-1900, 11097             | BRITTON, ALL, All, All Years, 11117                 |
| <b>BAKER</b> , ESS, Little Easton, 1800-1940, 11095  | BROWN, ESS, Birdbrook, Bef. 1875, 10703             |
| BAKER, ESS, Great Dunmow, 1800-1940, 11095           | BROWN, ESS, Gosfield, Bef. 1905, 10703              |
| BALLS, ESS, Purleigh, 1795-1840, 11094               | <b>CATTAMULL</b> , SFK, Leiston, 1756-1816, 11097   |
| BARBER, ESS, Theydon Mount, All Years, 11122         | CHALLIS, ESS, Braintree, 1750-1850, 11110           |
| BARNARD, ESS, Braintree, 1675-1775, 2554             | CHALLIS, ESS, Witham, 1750-1900, 11110              |
| BAX, KEN, Chillenden, 1764-1790, 11097               | CHALLIS, ESS, Bocking, 1600-1750, 11110             |
| BAX, ESS, All, 1764-1790, 11097                      | CHALLIS, ESS, Black Notley, 1600-1850, 11110        |
| BEARD, ESS, South Ockendon, 1766-1862, 11097         | CHALLIS, ESS, White Notley, 1650-1800, 11110        |
| BLOMFIELD, ESS, Lawford, 1700-1803, 11111            | CLAMPIN, ESS, Chappel, All Years, 10703             |
| BLOMFIELD, SFK, Bury St Edmunds, 1760-1850, 11111    | CLAY, MDX, Shoreditch, 1823-1881, 11097             |
| BRIDGE, ESS, Great Waltham, 1600-1899, 8929          | <b>DAKIN</b> , MDX, Chelsea, 1827-1874, 11097       |
| BRIDGE, ESS, South Woodham Ferrers, 1900-2000, 11094 | DEEKS, ESS, South Woodham Ferrers, 1850-1925, 11094 |
| BRIST, MDX, Shoreditch, 1786-1809,                   | <b>EDWARDS</b> , ESS, All, 1800-1900,               |

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11074

**FEAKINS**, KEN, Canterbury, 1695-1900, 11097

**FLICK**, ESS, Burnham On Crouch, All Years, 11122

**GARRETT**, MDX, East London, All Years, 11122

**GEISLER**, MDX, East London, All Years, 11122

**GLOVER**, MDX, Shoreditch, 1809-1852, 11097

**GREEN**, ESS, Great Horkesley, 1700-1900, 11067

**GROVES**, ESS, Chapel, 1851-1900, 5134

**GROVES**, ESS, Wakes Colne, 1821-1882, 5134

**HARRINGTON**, ESS, Toppesfield, All Years, 10703

**HARVEY**, ESS, All, 1700-1900, 10998

**KNAPPING**, ESS, All, All Years, 7160

**KNIGHT**, ESS, Bobbingworth, All Years, 11115

**LINDSEY**, OXF, All, All Years, 11117

**LITTLEJOHN**, HAM, Portsea, All Years, 11122

**LITTLEJOHN**, HAM, Portsmouth, All Years, 11122

**MEREDITH**, MDX, Marylebone, 1700-1820, 11093

**MERRIDAY**, ALL, All, All Years, 11093

**MERRIDAY**, ESS, Coggeshall, 1800-2000, 11093

**MIXER**, ESS, Halstead, All Years, 10703

**MUSKETT**, LND, City Of London, All Years, 11122

**NEVARDE**, ESS, Boxted, 1800-2000, 11095

**NEVARDE**, SRY, Penge, 1800-1930,

11095

**NORRIS**, ESS, Ongar, 1800-1920, 11115

**PHILPOTT**, ESS, East Ham, 1850-1930, 11093

**PHILPOTT**, ESS, West Ham, 1850-1930, 11093

**PHILPOTT**, ESS, Leyton, 1850-1930, 11093

**PLUNKETT**, ALL, All, 1750-1950, 10998

**POTTER**, ESS, All, Bef. 1800, 7160

**PRIEST**, ESS, Littlebury, 1700-1900, 10967

**PUXLEY**, ESS, Harwich, All Years, 11122

**RAWLINSON**, ESS, Barking, All Years, 11122

**REEVE**, NFK, Thetford, 1850-1960, 11095

**ROLFE**, SFK, Sudbury, All Years, 11122

**RUMSEY**, ESS, Woodham Ferrers, 1820-1890, 11094

**SMEE**, ESS, Bocking, All Years, 11122

**SMEE**, ESS, Braintree, All Years, 11122

**TABOR**, ESS, Manuden, 1700-1920, 11098

**VANDERSLUYS**, ALL, All, 1752-1913, 11097

**WALDEN**, ESS, Shenfield, All Years, 10998

**WALFORD**, ESS, All, 1700-1800, 11110

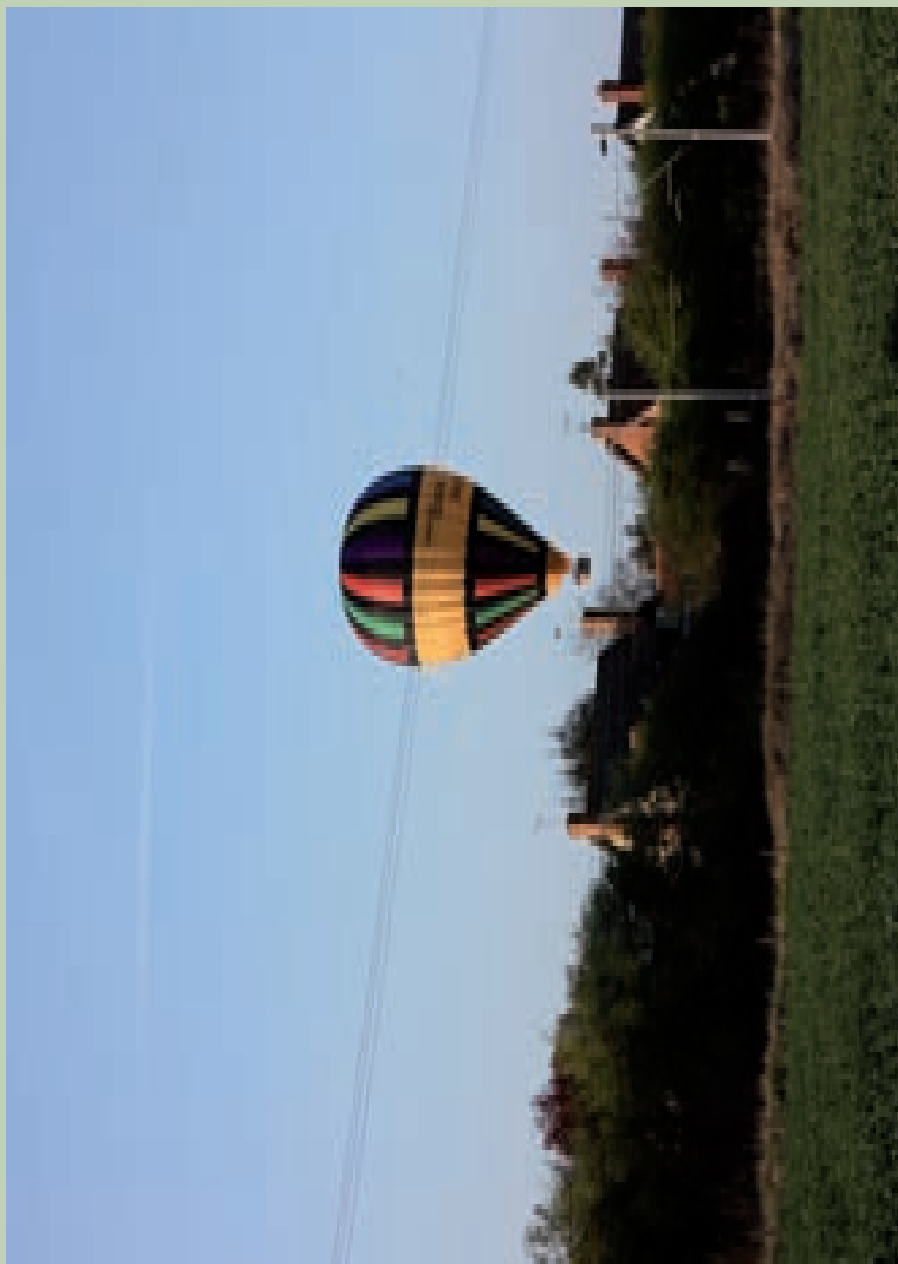
**WARD**, ESS, Little Canfield, 1800-1940, 11095

**WEST**, ESS, Epping, All Years, 11122

**WHITE**, DOR, Corfe Castle, 1822-1900, 11097

**WILLIS**, ESS, Loughton, 1750-1850, 11110





*Flying low over Feering - David Elsdon*



HYLANDS PARK, CHELMSFORD