

THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN

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Saint Mary and All Saints, Rivenhall

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

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Copy should reach the Editor not later than

Sunday, 31st May, 2015

for the next edition of the Journal.

SOCIETY WEB SITE

www.esfh.org.uk

MEMBERS' SURNAME INTERESTS

As a result of ongoing work with the new website it has not been possible to produce a list of Surname Interests for this edition of the Journal.



Just A Thought

Our Production Manager advises me that he now has a half page to be filled close to the front of each new HISTORIAN. Together we came up with the thought that this 200 words could be offered to the membership as a means of getting over their idea or complaints about the HISTORIAN and our Society. I get first go!

When it was decided to produce 3 issues per year an unexpected problem arose. We had ordered four covers in advance at some expense and two of these were no longer viable. Since the Society started in 1974 they had been numbered consecutively. We managed to use those numbered 152 and 154 for the 2014-2015 issues. Discussion with the Membership Secretary produced the idea that for each calendar year in future there would be 3 issues (or 4 if the Executive changed its mind). So, in 2015 there will be three issues numbered One, Two and Three of 2015. Alan Berris of the Printing Place has adjusted the previously printed covers for No.153 (to Issue Two) and No.155 (to Issue Three) and the new Issue One you are looking at. Sometimes saving your money is less than easy!

FRED FEATHER



EDITORIAL

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I have now introduced a new system of numbering for the *Historian* based on the year in which it is produced, to replace the consecutive numbering, which effort has got me into one of my usual scrapes. I am sure that you will by now have realised that, in addition to commissioning and accepting articles and reports, there is an economic facet to my job. In order to fight off the ravages involved in ever increasing postal charges, balanced by the brilliant job our printers do in keeping the price down, I have to contend with (as many family history societies are doing) falling membership and the internet. One theory about falling membership is that so many people think that our societies are an irrelevance and "they can do it all on the net." I, as a blatant dinosaur, have spent much effort, trying to tell them that they cannot, because what is on the net is often put there by those who did not fully understand what they were exposing other researchers to. Now, a case has occurred (see the discussion on a storm at Colchester in 1852) which has blown me out of the water.

Always use original sources, I opined. But, my beloved *Illustrated London News* magazine (the 1852 volume I just bought at a Rayleigh auction), has got facts wrong. Shall I fall on my sword?

However, I will still go on mentioning the Norfolk born census enumerator who had a few drinks on his round and came to a block of flats in East London, where the occupants were a Geordie (imagine the interplay of accents) and several Frenchmen who admitted that they shared accommodation with their wives. The inebriated Anglian asked "Who else lives here?", then came the answer "Ma Femme" and thus began the introduction of the Christian name "Femmie" into census records. I still recall in my wife's family, that an early search of the 1901 census revealed, after much digging, that the name "Nellie" was unknown to the Sub-Continental transcribers and appeared as the name they did know - "Kellie." More understandable was the transcription of "Pilkinton" as "Pickington." Then on Ancestry a nice American had posted a family tree similar to that of a member, but "Shooters Hill" in Kent was now in Australia and the other Kentish places were scattered around the rest of the globe. Caveat Emptor or Buyer Beware! Other than that, a New Year, a new start. I had better get on with it!

FRED FEATHER ●

County Calendar

A quick reference guide to Branch Meetings during the next quarter

APRIL

4th	Shoebury Garrison by Bob Delgarno	SOUTHEND
4th	Life and Death in Essex Workhouses with Mark Carroll	HARLOW
9th	The Freeman Collection of images of Americans in the UK in WW2 by Jenny Cousins	SAFFRON WALDEN
11th	Cholera and Conflict: The 1832 Cholera Pandemic by Michael Holland	COLCHESTER
18th	Manorial Records & Customs by Katherine Schofield	CHELMSFORD (T)
18th	Dot Dash to Dot Com – History of Telecommunications by Andrew Wheen	CHELMSFORD (L)
18th	Question Time	CH COMPUTER GRP

MAY

2nd	The Flow of History (The Thames) by David Williams	SOUTHEND
2nd	The Great Exhibition in London 1850 by Jeff Page	HARLOW
14th	A Walk with the Admiral by Richard Thomas	SAFFRON WALDEN
9th	History of Essex Police by Fred Feather	COLCHESTER
16th	What Stories would your Ancestors tell by Rob Parker	CHELMSFORD (T)
16th	Working River 1900s – 1950s by John Neal	CHELMSFORD (L)
16th	Electronic Family History (websites and how to use them) by Rob Parker	CH COMPUTER GRP

JUNE

6th	An afternoon at the Pictures by Mr D Simpson	SOUTHEND
6th	Life in the 18th Century with Ken Sneath	HARLOW
11th	Collections at the Bishopsgate Institute by Stefan Dickers	SAFFRON WALDEN
13th	TBA	COLCHESTER
20th	Dr. Williams' Library – early non-conformist birth registry	CHELMSFORD (T)
20th	Daisy, Countess of Warwick - from Royal Mistress to Political Activist by John Gyford	CHELMSFORD (L)
20th	Members sharing session	CH COMPUTER GRP

JULY

4th	Edwardian Music Hall (mainly) by Fred Feather	SOUTHEND
4th	What Granny didn't tell me with Stephen Manning	HARLOW
9th	The Flow of History (River Thames) by David Williams	SAFFRON WALDEN
11th	Genealogists Question Time	COLCHESTER
18th	Transport for London Corporate Archives: thinking outside the box	CHELMSFORD (T)
18th	Local Canals by Charles Phillips	CHELMSFORD (L)
18th	Workshop	CH COMPUTER GRP

(L) Lecture; (T) Tutorial

Please Refer to Pages 85 - 94 for further details.

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

A Small Part Of The Weight Family History

By Eva Grace Kirby (Née Weight) 1920-1994

IN THE EARLY 1900s, there lived a family of six girls, one boy and their parents Martha and James **Purdue**, in Notting Hill, London. They were a happy family, their father owned a rag and bone business. When James retired he took his family to Ashingdon, near Rochford and bought a grocer's shop. They belonged to The Salvation Army, Martha being a founder member, she had marched through Notting Hill Gate and had rotten tomatoes thrown at her. The second youngest daughter Maud used to sell the "War Cry" outside a Rochford public house dressed in the army's uniform. A young man, Percy Edward **Weight**, frequenter of local pubs, took a great interest in her and started talking. He asked her for a date and this was the start of their romance and courtship. Percy's father was a wealthy man, he had been left money by his own mother and had a flourishing greengrocer's business. On his retirement he (Charles Weight), bought a large house with extensive grounds and a tennis court, also in Ashingdon. His family moved there from Kentish Town, where they had lived in a large house with several servants. I learned that the sons of the family used to chase after those girls, if they got a chance. Needless to say Charles Weight did not approve of his youngest son courting a young lady whose father owned a rag and bone business, but he reluctantly agreed to an engagement.

Soon afterwards Mr Weight sent his son Percy out to Vancouver in British Columbia to join his brothers and make his fortune, possibly hoping that he would forget his love. However after being in



MAUD WEIGHT

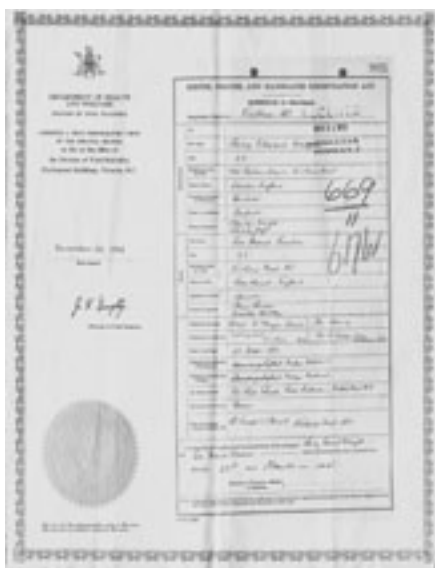
Canada for some months, living with his brothers, he decided to send for his bride-to-be. He built and furnished a house for her, so it appeared that there was nothing to stop them getting married. There was no air travel, so it meant a long sea and rail journey taking up to three months. It would have been very difficult to find the fare, however Martha Purdue was determined to raise the money somehow and eventually succeeded by selling some of her possessions. It would have been a great surprise to Charles Weight to find that they were able to do it.

The big day came, when the boat sailed, and for a twenty-one year old girl, it was a big adventure and the chance of a lifetime. I learned that she was very frightened and homesick at leaving all her family behind on the dockside. Everyone was in tears and it took great courage to leave them all behind. The boat trip was long and tedious, but, on board were an elderly couple who took her under their wing. She was grateful for their company.

When the boat docked in Canada they saw her on to a train bound for Vancouver. They made sure that her young man was waiting for her at the end of the journey. Unfortunately, as money was short, she had to travel Third Class and this meant that the carriages were like cattle trucks. They had straight backs, hard wooden seats and it was a bumpy ride. An incident occurred that frightened her. A large Indian sitting opposite her during the journey took out a large ham bone and started gnawing it. She told everyone that she found that unpleasant. When the train pulled into Vancouver, Percy was standing right opposite the carriage, this was a marvellous relief for her, having travelled thousands of miles on her own.

They were married in a friend's house on November 22nd 1911. This was the custom in Canada at that time and they were very happy. A son Edward was "born to them" on September 17th 1912, after a difficult birth. During 1913-1914 things were very bad in the building trade and work was hard to find. They fell on

hard times, mainly due to the rumours of war in Europe, money was short and they had to sell some of their home. They lived mainly on fresh salmon, caught in a river near their house. They eventually wrote home to England, to find out how bad things were there and the Weight and Purdue families had a meeting to decide if they should advise them to return to England. In 1916 they sold their home and booked a passage home on the liner Lithuania, (*Editor - Was this the Lusitania, sunk in 1915?*). They waited for her to dock, but alas she had been sunk by a U Boat, so eventually they boarded a sister ship the Aquitania. It was a very tense and nerves-racking journey, for they were chased by U boats several times, and were wearing life-jackets. They eventually arrived in England and went to stay with Percy's parents, Maud's parents were invited to the homecoming and there was quite a family gathering. A sort of truce was called. Percy had very little money, so he joined the army, in the Canadian Service Corps and drove supply lorries. While he was stationed in England, Maud went with him, staying in apartments with their young son Edward (Ted). Eventually the time came for Percy to go to France and Maud went home to her parents. He came through the war safely, but suffered shell shock for some time afterwards. When he was de-mobbed from the Army he was given a small amount of cash. With this he bought an ex-army hut in Ashington. Now known as Ted, as he was called in the army (not Percy as before) he became a builder and converted the hut into a home. Unfortunately it was very near his parent's house and, as Ted and his family were "hard up", Father Weight bought the weeks grocery for them. He also paid their oil and fuel bills, so they were under a great obligation to him. This did not please Maud at all, as she





times spent there, but also some difficult ones. Charles Weight died in 1924 leaving £27,000 in his will, so he was considered a wealthy man. Although his son Ted had been brought up by a wealthy father, who had made his money out of greengrocery and was an astute business man, he did not know how to handle money himself. His own business almost

was a very independent person and she knew how the Weight family viewed her. Father Weight would call round at 9pm in the evening to see if they were still up and burning lamp oil. If they were he would order them to put the light out, as he was paying for the paraffin. They also had a dog and he thought that this was an extravagance. It was a lovely animal. When it heard the old man coming, he would hide under the hut and would not come out until he had gone. Eventually Weight ordered it to be destroyed, as he refused to pay for its food. The fact that it was company for their young son and his wife, did not matter. It broke their hearts! Eventually they started to get on their feet and built up the Builder & Decorator business. Seven years after their son was born, they had a daughter Eva. She was born on March 18th 1920, in the old army hut in Ashingdon. In the meantime there had been a lot of bad feeling between the two families, this resulted in Ted's mother keeping away when the baby was born, which added to the bad feeling and upset every one.

When Eva was four years old, Ted and Maud decided to move into a rented house that he had built for his sister Flo **Colenutt**. It was on the main road in Ashingdon and they named it "*Shawnigon*," after the lake of that name in Canada. There were some happy

went bankrupt! It was his wife Maud who kept things going. Otherwise they would have lost everything. Ted (Percy) had big ideas, due to his upbringing, but he had no money to fulfil them. He always promised Maud wonderful things, such as a large house on "The Front" at Westcliff, but she never got them. When Eva was twelve years old, they bought a small sweet and tobacconist shop in Ashingdon called "The Mascot." The idea was that she would have it when she was old enough to run it herself, but being rather protected by doting parents and grandparents and aunties, she was rather young for her age and it did not work out. So they sold it! . At that time, you had no say in the matter, whether you wanted to run a shop or not.

A further part of the Weight family History by Eva Grace Kirby (née Weight).

In 1904 my Grandfather Charles Weight talked with two of his farmer friends and decided to buy a plot of land and build a small church in Ashingdon. This became known as The United Free Church. The plot was situated opposite the village school, which unfortunately was far from the centre of the village and made it difficult to attract people to it. This was before the buses started running. In the early days a horse and trap was the answer for those people

who could afford to own one. The church thrived and there were several families that took an active part in it. These were the **Crawfords, Jollys, Mewers, Marshalls. Chalks, Bartons, Walls, Cattons, Barrs, Muggletons** and later the **Wardells**. All these families had children who went through the church. In 1931 a Girls Brigade was formed and later a Boys Brigade, Mrs Flo Colenutt (née Weight) ran The Life Boys and Miss Muriel Weight was Captain of The Girls Brigade, Miss Gladys Wall was the Lieutenant.

In 1934 Mr Marshall, who ran the village Post Office, started a youth club for the boys and girls. By this time a small hall had been built at the back of the church and they had a billiard table, darts and table tennis table in it. Tea and biscuits were available. This was open three nights a. week, manned by a rota of volunteers, and was a great success. There was also a large Sunday School and Bible Class. The young people of the church used to have concerts and raised quite a bit of money for church work. In the very early years they had "Magic Lantern" shows. Soon after the new hall was built it was struck by lightning and so badly damaged that it had to be rebuilt. While they were doing this they needed to enlarge it. This was done and it was let out to people for a fee. Ashington School hired it for a class while the school was being extended. In 1904 my Grandma, Sarah Weight, started a women's meeting on Thursday afternoons. This was then taken over by her daughter, Muriel Weight. My mother Maud Weight played the piano for them.

The church is run by a committee of trustees, one of whom is my cousin Rev. Burnett **Binnington** (now deceased). Descendants of the original families still keep contact with the church, Mr and Mrs Eric **Chalk** are doing a fine job in

keeping the church going, helped by some young people from Southend. In 1965 my Uncle Arthur came for a holiday from Vancouver. He decided to stay for a while and built a new room on the church, which has proved useful. He also Improved the kitchen and toilets and a new organ was installed. The church owns a mini bus which is used to collect the boys and girls from long distances. During the 1960s they decided to start a Family Church on Sunday mornings, instead of the afternoon Sunday School and this has proved very successful. The church has just held its 80th Anniversary when the services were conducted by Rev. Binnington. Let us hope and pray that it will reach its Centenary.

Compiled by Eva Kirby in 1985.

She died on Sunday 21st August 1994. Miss Muriel Weight, died on June 28th 1987 aged 91 years.

Transcribed 12th November 1994.

ANNE AND TONY WEIGHT (ESFH10373)

Editor – With the family's permission Eva's text has been adopted into our "House Style" to make it slightly more modern in appearance.

The Whitechapel Body Train - True or False?

Disease in Victorian and Edwardian London was rife and an underground train supposedly operated in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries connecting the Royal London Hospital with Whitechapel Tube station. The train is said to have transferred bodies from the overflowing morgues and hospitals, though no-one knows where they were going to.

ERIC PROBERT

GERMAN LEGIONNAIRES AND THEIR BRIDES

Almost 150 years ago the people of Colchester braced themselves for the arrival of thousands of German soldiers, moving to Colchester after being involved in a pitched battle at Aldershot with British troops.

The Germans were part of the British Foreign Legion (consisting of soldiers from several other European countries) which 'had been formed to assist in the Crimean War'. By the time they arrived at Scutari peace had been declared and the Legions were shipped back to England. It seemed that wherever they camped trouble flared with the local troops; in Sept 1855 at Gosport with Royal Marines, March 1856 at Plymouth the 3rd Regiment mutinied and in June and July at Aldershot that year they had battled with the Rifle Brigade and the Guards. Shortly after this they were included in a Royal Review of the Troops by Queen Victoria. But there was more trouble to follow and a pitched battle took place on the 17th July, starting in a local pub, the fighting went across the road and into the camp grounds escalating all the time. Several serious injuries were inflicted on both sides before it was finally brought under control. Shortly afterwards the German Legion, under the command of Baron Richard Charles von Stutterheim left for Colchester. It had been decided that the Legions were to be disbanded and sent home via Harwich, so it was no wonder that the citizens of Colchester were somewhat concerned. There are no known records, as far as I know, of any serious outbreaks of fighting, no doubt due to the fact that the troops knew they were on their way home, or at least those that could or would go. Quite a number had reasons for not wanting to go back to Germany

and several states did not want them back. Another aspect was the closeness of the camps to the local silk mills, mainly staffed by young girls.

The Officers were entertained at a local house where the grounds were so big the Legion Band was taken along to play. The son of the owner collected signatures from some of the officers present, plus their regiment and place of birth or home. Repatriation through Harwich was a slow procedure with the numbers sent being decided by spare berths available. It was at this stage a special offer was made to the German Legion - volunteers for a Frontier Defence Corps were required for the developing Cape Colony of South Africa where, after completion of their contract, the volunteers would be given a grant of land. One big snag - the volunteers had to be married. Suddenly the girls at the silk factory and the surrounding districts of Colchester were very popular and large numbers of marriages were arranged.

Nearly 150 marriages, it is alleged, were blessed in one fortnight. There is a plaque in the Garrison church which states that on Sunday 20th October 1856 no less than 64 marriages were conducted by the Lutheran Priest, Rev. Wilmans, surely a record for an English church. There was just one problem, and a big one - no one had checked to see if the church was licensed to have marriages performed there - it was not! In fact the church was not licensed until 1932 so the happy couples set sail for the Cape Colony not realising their marriages were illegal. At some time shortly afterwards the terrible oversight was discovered and on 31st July 1857 a special Proclamation was issued under

Act 13 of that year, by the Governor Sir George Grey and published in the Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette. This declared that all the marriages entered into by the German Legionnaires and their brides in good faith were valid on the date they took place, this included those that had taken place on the transport ships. The Cape Gazette lists the majority of the marriages as having taken place on the 19th October 1856. This surely indicates the scramble to find brides for the trip - they couldn't even remember the day they got married. No records survive in the UK of the marriages that took place at Colchester Garrison Church, but there is a copy of the Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette, which lists all the soldiers and their brides together with details of where and when the marriages took place. It will be noticed that several of the brides have Germanic names, which suggests that at least some of the legionnaires had time to send home for their girl friends, or had married daughters of the many German workers that were at Colchester. It will be noticed that marriages took place at Gosport, so it was not all fighting there. There are at least five ships mentioned in the Gazette where marriages took place: HMS Vulcan, Ships Britannia, Covenanter, Mersey and Stamboul. Other marriages took place within the Colony in March and April 1857, which gives an indication of when and where the ships must have arrived. Two of the legionnaires had made it back to Germany and were married at Potsdam. According to a local paper dated 24th October 1856, a large number of officers were going to accompany the military settlers to the Colony. None of these appear in the lists in the Gazette, so it would seem that they either were not required to be married or they were not expected to stay. The newspaper went

on to say that the numbers of the troops left at Colchester had been reduced to 3500 men and 147 officers, but daily discharges of those wishing to go home or seeking some other destination other than the Cape were gradually getting the numbers down. This seems to suggest that not all the legionnaires went to the Cape Colony, so if your ancestor disappears at Colchester, it could well be that he went to somewhere other than the Colony - where to look next?

Notes

The Garrison Church at Colchester still acts as the church for the troops and local civilians but, with the redevelopment of the Garrison further away from the church, its links could be finally severed. Marriages of soldiers and civilians still take place - but these are now legal. A further twist to the tale - the Garrison Church, which is of wooden construction, was completely updated in 1988-1989. The whole of the wooden outside replaced by cedar cladding; supplied by the company I worked for at that time, Jewsons. The local paper dated 24th October 1856 stated that on Monday 21st a further 1,000 men and 16 officers, volunteers from the German Legion, left Colchester to join the 600 already at the embarkation camp. They were accompanied to the station by Major-General Gascoigne and Major-General Baron von Stutterheim. There is a complete list of all the Germans who went to the Cape Colony as military settlers, at the National Archive under WO15/1.

KEN CHILVERS

Member 2168 of the AGFHS, also ESFH 5047 until his recent death. Submitted by his widow Joyce.

Reprinted with permission from "Mitteilungsblatt 60" the Journal of the Anglo-German Family History Society, dated June 2002.

A COMMUNITY AT WAR

On Friday August 13th 1920, the Essex Chronicle reported that a large congregation had been present for a Memorial Service that had taken place in St. Margaret's Church, Margaret Roding, Essex, on the evening of Wednesday 11th. A beautiful coloured window erected in the church was dedicated by a U.S. Bishop to the memory of the eight men of the parish who fell in the Great War: Francis J Lodge, Horace Lodge, Henry Stevenson, Willie M Wilkin, Arthur Wilkin, Leonard Perry, Jeffrey Gunn, and Leonard Dunmow. The window is a replica of the painting by James Clark in 1914 titled 'The Great Sacrifice'. It depicts Christ on the Cross, with a cloud surrounding the crucified body, and a dead soldier lying at the foot, with his rifle by his side. The cost of the memorial had been raised by church offertories during the war and after and by the proceeds of a fête held the previous year. The article also stated that "the village has a population of only 200, and nearly 30 served in H.M. Forces, the percentage of killed being very high".

I found this article whilst researching my grandmother's uncle Jeffrey **Gunn**, one of the eight mentioned. It helps to illustrate the extent to which small communities were affected by the Great War. Earlier this year The Imperial War Museum launched its 'Lives of the First World War' website. The aim of which is to create a permanent digital memorial to all who contributed to the Great War. I am in the process of creating a community for Margaret Roding, of people who were born or lived in the village and served in some capacity during the war. I started initially with Lance Corporal Jeffrey Gunn. He was a Grenadier Guard in the 5th Battalion when he died on 14th December 1916 age 25. He is buried at Margaret Roding along with his friend Edward **Perry**. Their graves are marked with a white Portland headstone, as used by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the only two in the churchyard. Jeff Gunn was one of the twelve children



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

of Moses and Emily Gunn and his mother is noted as next of kin on a headstone schedule when the Imperial War Graves Commission (now CWGC) ordered the headstone. Emily had chosen 'Peace Perfect Peace' to be inscribed on her son's headstone. No service records survive for Jeffrey Gunn but he is mentioned in the Essex County Chronicle on Friday November



HEADSTONE OF L/CPL J.GUNN

3rd 1916 "Grenadier Guards – L-Cpl J Gunn, Dunmow reported wounded October 31st 1916". I was also able to obtain his death certificate which gives the following information:

Date of death 14th December 1916 at the 2nd Northern General Hospital, Becketts Park, Leeds. Cause of death "Heart failure under administration of Chloroform for extraction of seven teeth to relieve lock jaw and due to enlarged spleen, liver and heart the operation being necessarily and skilfully performed. Misadventure".

The informant was the coroner for Leeds with the inquest having been held on the 15th December and the death registered on the 19th. I wondered if his wounds had become infected with Tetanus or whether he had some type of facial injury as the 2nd Northern General Hospital opened a department specifically for injuries to jaws and face in May 1916. Interestingly, Jeffrey is described as a farm labourer from Dunmow. Apart from the fact that he died in a military hospital there is nothing on the Death



HEADSTONE OF E.PERRY

Certificate to indicate he was a serving soldier. Although I can't help feeling that it would probably have been better for him to have been killed outright in France, the fact that he survived long enough to get back to England did allow his family to have him buried in his own parish churchyard. I have the framed scroll, but sadly no photograph of Jeffery. If you are one of the many descendents of Moses and Emily Gunn and have a photograph I could copy, or that you could load onto Jeff Gunn's life page at livesofthefirstworldwar.org, I would be very grateful.

Although Edward Perry also has a CWGC headstone at St. Margaret's he is not mentioned in the 1920 memorial. His date of death is recorded as 1st July 1921, nearly a year after the memorial service. Edward had enlisted into the 5th Battalion, Essex Regiment on the 17th May 1915. His Medal Roll index card indicates he had served in the Balkans from the 10th December 1915. The Protection Certificate issued when Edward was discharged on the 6th March 1919 gives his Theatre of war as Egypt and his service number as 250859. He had



PROTECTION CERTIFICATE FOR EDWARD PERRY

been employed as a Batman and upon discharge was given a good character reference being described as “A thoroughly trustworthy man, with plenty of common sense.” The Grave Registration Register (CWGC) records that Edward died of Phthisis (Tuberculosis) age 28, and was the son of George and Elizabeth Perry of Margaret Roding. In 1901 the Perrys were living at Marks Hall Lane, Margaret Roding and George Perry was working on a farm as a Horseman. Leonard Perry recorded on the memorial was the elder brother of Edward and in 1901 is listed as ten years old living with his parents as above. In 1911 he is living at Wallaces Lane, Boreham, aged 20, single, working as a horseman for an A.P. **Chivers** at Boreham. Leonard had enlisted into the Territorial Force on the 11th May 1911 where he was described as 5ft 7¼ inches tall, with a chest measurement of 38½ inches. He was discharged on the 10th May 1916, *‘in consequence of the termination of his period of engagement’*. He was then described as 25 years old, with

a fresh complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair. His intended place of residence was Blue House Cottages, Margaret Roding. It was also stated that he had the scar of a bullet wound on his left side. His service record indicates that he had been wounded at Gallipoli on 17th August 1915. Looking back from a 21st century perspective it seems a dreadful thing that having survived Gallipoli, and completed his five years service, that he continued to fight and was killed in action on the 26th March 1917 in Palestine.

Willie and Arthur **Wilkin**, note the Chronicle lists them as **Wilkins**, were also brothers. Private Arthur Vincent Wilkin was the elder and he died on the 4th October 1917 age 25. He had served with the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, service No 28502. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. Willie Miles Wilkin, born in 1895, was a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment, service No 17442. He died from wounds on the 3rd July 1916 and is buried at Bertran-court Military Cemetery in France.

The third pair of brothers listed on the memorial are Francis and Horace **Lodge**. In 1901 William and Ellen Ann Lodge are living at Chelmsford Road, Margaret Roding. William was an Ag Lab age 43 born at Barnston and Ellen age 42 born at Good Easter. They have four sons with them, William Hugh age 12 and George Robert age 10, both born at Westminster, London. Francis James age 6 and Horace age 4, were both born at Margaret Roding. They also had one daughter Alice Margaret age 1. I have no information as to whether William Hugh served in any



BOB LODGE

capacity in the war. George Robert, always known as Bob, lived next door to my grandparents in Margaret Roding so my family remembers him well. He used to tell my father about how he worked with the horses during the Great War and that he had served in Salonika. Bob Lodge had enlisted on 17th May 1915 at Chelmsford. He was described as aged 23 years and 8 months, 5ft 7½ inches tall, a horseman living at New Wick, Margaret Roding. He became a Driver in the Army Service Corps, number T4/108039, and did indeed serve in Salonika in 1916. Bob had been turned down for an army pension in 1923. There are no surviving service records for the younger brothers Francis and Horace who are listed on the memorial. There are, however, some details for them from the CWGC website. *Private F.J. Lodge, number 250862, 1st/5th Battalion Essex Regiment died 26th March 1917 age 22. Private H Lodge, number 252765, 1st/5th Battalion Essex Regiment died 3rd November 1917 age 21.* The brothers are buried at the Gaza War Cemetery and the

original Gravestone Schedules are now available to see on line at the CWGC website. Their father William Lodge is listed as next of kin and requested the same inscription for both brothers 'In the midst of Life we are in death'. Their mother Ellen Lodge had been a Stevenson before her marriage and was the aunt of the Henry James **Stevenson** (known as Harry) listed on the memorial.

In the 1901 census Harry Stevenson is living at Chelmsford Road, Margaret Roding with Christopher and Honor **Holgate**, he is described as grandson. In 1911 he is living with his wife Eliza at Fairlands, Abbess Roding and working as a horseman on a farm. He had married Eliza May **Easter** in 1909 and by 1915 they had three children Eva May (1910), Dorothy J (1913) and Margaret J (1915). There are no service records for Harry Stevenson but the following information is available from the CWGC website:

Private H J Stevenson, service no 250904, 1st/5th Essex Regiment, died 26 March 1917 aged 35. He is buried with his cousins in the Gaza War Cemetery. Additional information on the site states he was the husband of Eliza May Stevenson of Meghill, Leaden Roding, Dunmow, Essex, who chose the inscription for his headstone 'Hush! Be every murmur dumb it is only till he come'

The last name on the memorial is Leonard **Dunmow**. His birth was registered Claud Leonard Dunow in the September quarter of 1890. In 1901 he is part of a large family living at Cut Elms Farm, Aythorp Roding. He married Annie A **Turner** in 1912 and had three children Christopher

F (1914), Violet J (1915) and Edith V (1917). Again, there are no service records but the CWGC records him as *Private C L Dunmow, service number 25714, East Surrey Regiment 1st Battalion, died 23rd September 1918 age 27*. He is buried at Lebucquiere Communal Cemetery Extension. Additional information states 'son of Ellen Dunmow of Cut Elms Farm, Aythorpe Roothing and the late John Dunmow, husband of Annie Alice Dunmow of Grays Cottage, Margaret Roothing'. You may at this point have spotted that three of the men died on the same day the 26th March 1917. This is the date of the first battle of Gaza the British having suffered 4000 casualties with 523 men reported dead, 2,932 wounded and 512 missing. Horace Lodge presumably died as a result of the third battle of Gaza as this was fought over the first week of November 1917, Horace is recorded as killed in action on the 3rd November.

My Margaret Roding Community now consisted of the eight men named on the memorial, Edward Perry who died in 1921 and Bob Lodge who had survived the Great War. The article in the Chronicle had stated that nearly thirty men from the village had served, so I guessed that I was looking for about twenty six or seven men in total. I searched the census for Margaret Roding and came up with a list of boys born between 1880 and 1901. Using Service Records, Newspapers and Medal Roll Index Cards I have been able to add a few more men. Jeffrey Gunn's brother Frank enlisted on the 18th May 1915 into the 5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, service

number 3559. He was described as age 20 years and 1 month, a labourer, height 5ft 10 inches with good physical development. On the 6th September 1918 he was '*compulsorily transferred to the Royal Warwick Regiment and posted to the 1st Garrison Battalion*'. His service number then became 269607 and he served until the 12th April 1919. He had several hospital admissions from the summer of 1916 for Pyrexia (fever) and Malaria. He was awarded the Silver War Badge on the 15th November 1919, with cause of discharge given as sickness. William James **Tyler** enlisted on the 19th May 1915 into the 5th Battalion Essex Regiment as a Private, service numbers 3478 and 250858. He was aged 22 years and one month, 5ft 5¾ inches tall and his parents were Charles and Ellen Tyler of Margaret Roding. William was made an Acting Lance Corporal in June 1917, which was made permanent on the 31st August. His service record shows that he received a bullet wound in his chest. Upon his discharge in 1919 Army Form W3226 gives him a glowing reference and mentions under special aptitude that he had '*a mechanical turn of mind*'.

The Chelmsford Chronicle records on the 20th April 1917 "*Official Notification has been received that the following Officer and men of the Essex Yeomanry belonging to Dunmow country have been wounded: Lieut Ritchie, Margaret Roding....*" Also on 25th October 1918 "*Lieut Willie Ritchie, Yeomanry, son of Mr H Ritchie of Marks Hall, Margaret Roding, is reported wounded in the leg and going on satisfactorily*". Fortunately, the Medal Roll Index card

for William Ritchie has his address recorded as Marks Hall, Margaret Roding and so confirms his service number as 1238. It records him as a Private and Sergeant in the Essex Yeomanry, a Lieutenant in the 10th Hussars and finally a Lieutenant in the Essex Yeomanry. The Theatre of war is given as France and date of entry as 30th November 1914. My father spent a lot of his childhood at Marks Hall Farm and remembers Mr Ritchie who had lost a leg in the war. He said it never stopped him doing anything and he was a very kind man who was well thought of locally. A transcription of the Surrey Recruitment Registers 1908 to 1933 has a Henry **Crouchman**, service number 60886, attestation date 13th February 1918. His regiment is shown as Royal Horse and Field Artillery and listed as Conscripted men Recruitment register No 3 Book on the cover. Under remarks is given '*Post Office, Margaret Roding, Essex.*' In 1911 William and Agnes Crouchman are living at The Post Office, Margaret Roding, near Dunmow, Essex. William is aged 54 a horseman on a farm and Agnes is aged 55. With them is their son Henry a seventeen year old farm labourer. At the moment I can not match Henry Crouchman, service number 60886 with any listed on the Lives of the First World War website. So I will continue to look for more evidence. This is also the case with Alfred Edward **Day**. The Chelmsford Chronicle on Friday 15th June 1917 under Personal War Notes records that "*Mr & Mrs Day of Margaret Roding, have now received news that their son Private A.E. Day, Essex Regiment, is wounded and a prisoner of war*". The family were living at

Waples Mill Road, Margaret Roding in 1911, where Alfred was listed as a farm labourer aged 23.

If you would like to view the Margaret Roding Community please go to: **www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org** and search 'Margaret Roding'. If anyone has any information that they are happy to share (photos would be especially appreciated) or would like the details I have of their relative, please contact me.

JACQUELINE LEWIS (ESFH2304)
Email:jacqueline965@btinternet.com

It Was In The Paper So It Must Be True!

From the Daily Telegraph of Monday 20th January 2014, a "Letter to the Editor." – Rhubarb was first recorded growing in England by the botanist William Coys, in one of his walled gardens at Stubbers, his home in Upminster, Essex.(1580)

☆ ☆ ☆

"Affrays"

Local Newspapers and the *London Gazette* reported such "affrays". In one incident, about four o'clock on Sunday afternoon, 23 November 1783, Excise Officer Thomas Bavin of Heron-gate near Brentwood, Essex, was waylaid by two members of a smuggling gang whose goods had been seized earlier that day. He escaped to a barn, but forcefully they dragged him out, beat him up, trampled over his body and kicked out four of his teeth.

Remember

All the soldiers were scared too -
don't forget,
With rifles on their shoulders and a
bayonet.
They had to participate in the war,
No matter how they ached, or how
much they were sore.
They had to charge at their enemy,
As all of this was compulsory.
They had to train themselves to go
days without a snack,
They never knew if they were ever
coming back.
All of this flashed and raced
through their minds as they ran,
Over barbed wire to a field that
belongs to no man.

Amy Ransom
Aged 10

PICTURE GALLERY

Inside Front Cover – “Ranger at Heybridge Basin.” Photo by Ron Willis

Page 21 – The Cover of Bob Marrion’s new book.

Pages 22/3 – The Certificate of Discharge for 1918. (See article on Page 25)

The background colour and faded writing have been enhanced. Permission for the article from D. J. Williams.

Page 24 – The Rear Cover of Bob Marrion’s book

Page 47 – Aerial view of our new home, the Galleywood Heritage Centre – by kind permission of John Turkentine ESFH6866.

Page 48 – Marine Painting (Daytime) by Sidney MEADOWS (C1920) now in the care of the Society. Photo H.L. Feather

Page 49 – Marine Painting (Evening) by Sidney MEADOWS (c1920) now in the care of the Society. Photo H.L. Feather

Page 50 – An audience in the lecture room at Galleywood – by kind permission of John Turkentine ESFH6866.

Page 73 – The sea of poppies outside the Tower of London, November 2014, – Photo Erica Schuss

Page 74 – The former church of St. Catherine at Canvey Island, now the Heritage Centre, behind which is buried the founder of the Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen, Ebenezer Joseph Mather 1849-1927.

Page 75 – Old Church Wanstead by William Turner (J.M.W.) sketched this church in 1788 as a pupil of the Architect Hardwick at the age of 13 years. The sketch can be seen by entering an internet search for “Wanstead Church – Turner.”

Page 76 – The Hermit of Epping Forest. See article on Page 37.

Inside Rear Cover – Paper Mill Lock near Baddow. Photo by Ron Willis.

Rear Cover – Amy Ransom, the 10 year old granddaughter of our member Linda Medcalf, wrote the poem printed on Page 19 and her class at school formed this amazing large poppy.

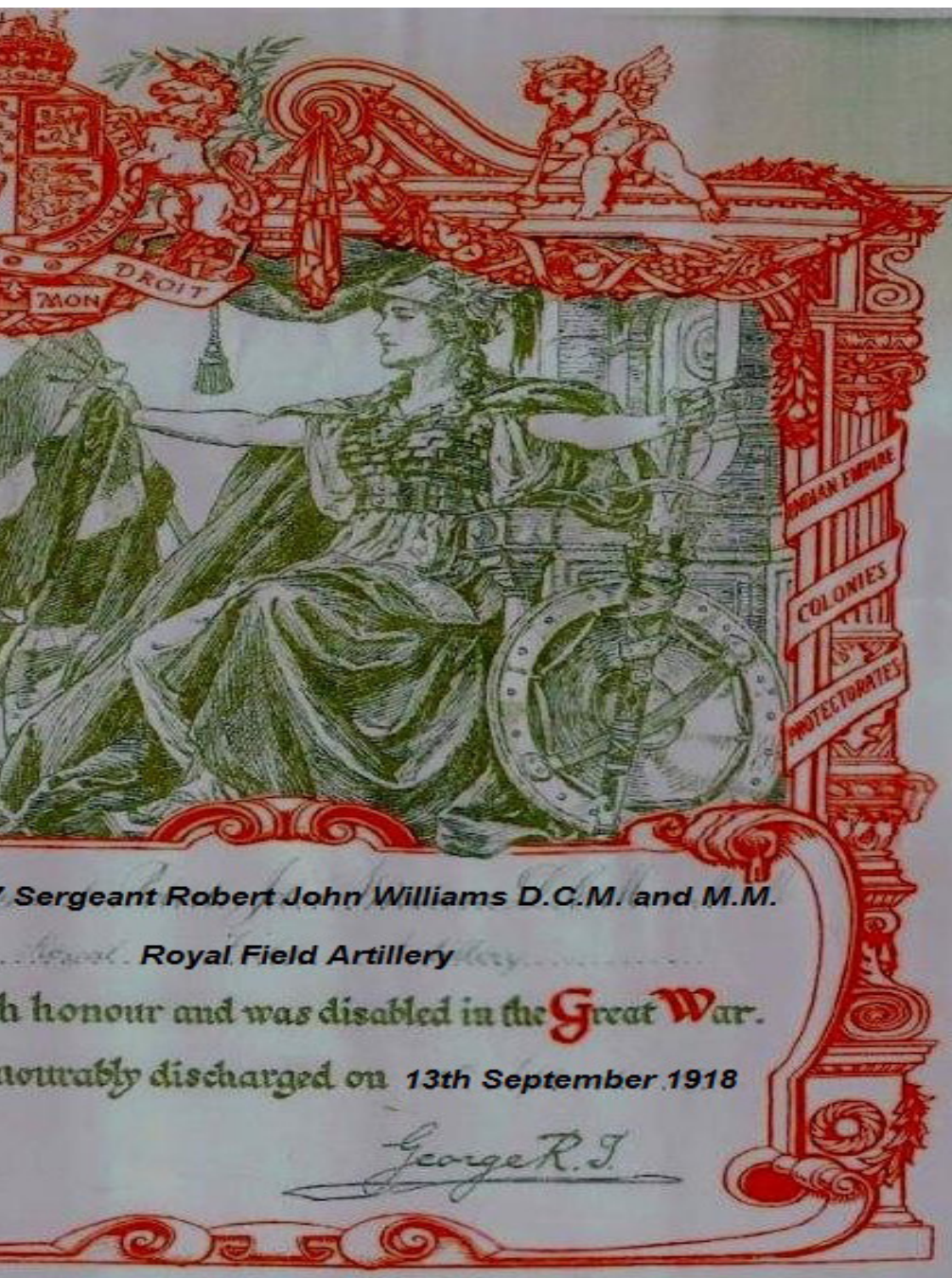
IMAGES OF A CONTEMPTIBLE LITTLE ARMY

A PICTORIAL STUDY OF THE BRITISH FORCES
ON THE WESTERN FRONT



R.J. MARRION & C.S. GRANT







OLD WOUNDS

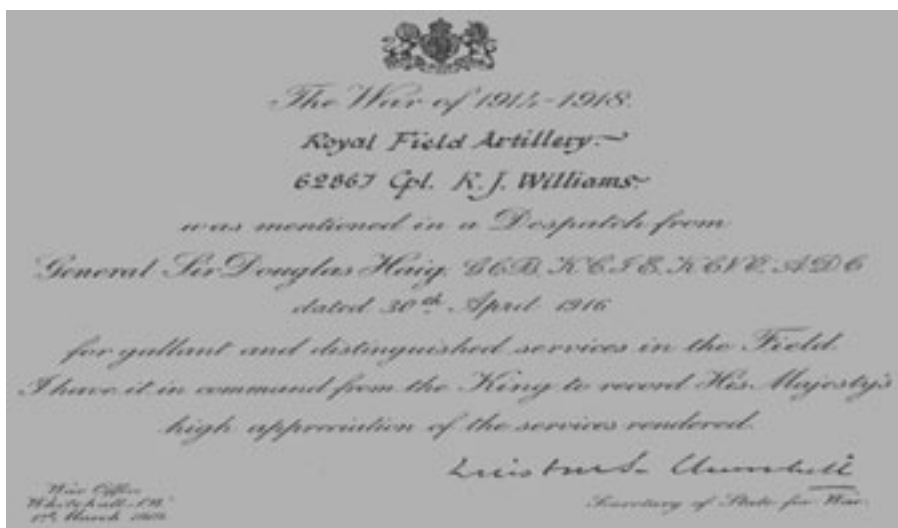
It has recently been brought home to us how differently is accorded the commemoration of the different types of hero who appeared during the Great War. Our honoured dead rightly appear on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site, in cemeteries and on many war memorials. The service of women, war-employed animals and those executed for one reason or another all have their own sites. But, there are some Great War heroes whose name seems to be only kept alive by relatives and family historians. We have a tale to tell.

Robert John Williams was born in East London in 1892, the son of a master baker Henry Edwin Williams, who had recently moved his family from Witney in Oxfordshire to Stratford. The name of Witney's bakers included a James Williams in the 1830 Pigot's National Commercial Directory. Robert may have worked in the family business, but in 1910 he joined the regular army as 62867, Gunner Williams R.J. in the Royal Field Artillery. Thanks to his son David, a retired Essex policeman now domiciled in Cornwall, we are able to learn something of his spectacular career. A special source of information is his copy of the War Diary of 84 Battery R.F.A. The original of this document was destroyed in battle in 1918 but this printed copy survived in the family.



War Service

Gunner Williams was apparently a good young soldier and was posted to India, where 4 years later at the outbreak of the Great War he was to be found with a unit of 18 pounder guns, which formed part of 84 Battery in Central India at Jubbulpore. The battery was mobilised on 31st August 1914 and on 7th October entrained for Bombay, where it was loaded onto S.S. Mashroba and S.S. Rajput. The Lahore division in 66 ships then sailed for Marseilles in southern France. Again entrained for Orleans, they met with weather they were not used to for there was snow on the ground when they reached the Front Line in support of the Ferozepore and Sirhand Brigades on 25th November 1914. In the next six months they were involved in heavy fighting, including gas attacks, and as May 1915 approached they were replaced by British Artillery and moved to support first Canadian, and then Australian, troops. They were renamed as the Reserve Division Artillery and took part in fighting at Sanctuary Wood. Williams was by now a Corporal and in a despatch dated 30th April 1916 was mentioned by General Sir Douglas Haig.



The family hold the certificate signed by the Secretary of State for War, Winston S. Churchill, to record this distinction.

At that time he received the award of the Military Medal. Less than a year later he was awarded a higher decoration, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and the Mention in Dispatches would have been recognised by the addition of an oak leaf on his medal ribbons. He was promoted Sergeant.

The Wound

In May 1917 he was wounded, and received the traditional “Blighty One,” which meant that he was sufficiently seriously wounded to require serious hospital treatment. He had been hit in the left arm by shrapnel, strangely a piece of artillery which had been invented by the Artilleryman of that name at Shoeburyness Gunnery School. However, he never again obtained the fitness that would enable him to return to duty and he would have then been awarded the Silver War Badge which would indicate

to everyone he met that he had served.

It may be best to now allow David



Williams to describe his family: “As a result of his wound my father became a patient in the Mile End Military Hospital, where he met my mother, who was a nurse. They were married on 2nd June 1918, and subsequently lived at Hamforth Road, Stratford. My father was honourably discharged from the army on 13th September 1918 as no longer physically fit for war service. I was the fourth child of the marriage. Jean was born in June 1919, but she died during the blitz in 1941 at Thurrock. Joyce, born in 1925, lives in Wiltshire. John, born in 1928, died in December 2005. I was born on 19th

January 1932 and a few weeks later my father was taken into hospital and died when I was 10 weeks old. We three younger children were educated at The Royal Wanstead School by courtesy of NALGO, the National Association of Local Government Officers. This was a boarding school for children of a deceased parent. During World War 2 the school moved to Essex: the girls' school to Ingatestone Hall, the boy's preparatory school to Tilehurst (next door) and the senior boys to Rocketts, South Weald."

David served in the Grenadier Guards and later joined the Southend on Sea County Borough Constabulary, subsequently being promoted Sergeant in the Essex Police.

In April 1932 Mr Williams died in Whipps Cross Hospital and the inquest was reported thus:

AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS. WAR WOUNDS RESULT IN DEATH.

"This poor chap served his country and died for it," remarked the Coroner (Dr. Ambrose), at an inquest at Forest House on Friday on Robert John Williams, 39, a relieving officer, of 117, Little Ilford-lane, Manor Park. Mrs. Williams said that her husband had served in the R.F.A, before and during the war, and in May 1917, was wounded in the left arm, and was discharged in November 1918. In 1926 he was operated on at Whipps Cross, and since then his arm had been healthy. In March 1932 he complained of his arm. On April 1st he was very ill, and saw Dr. Black, and came home

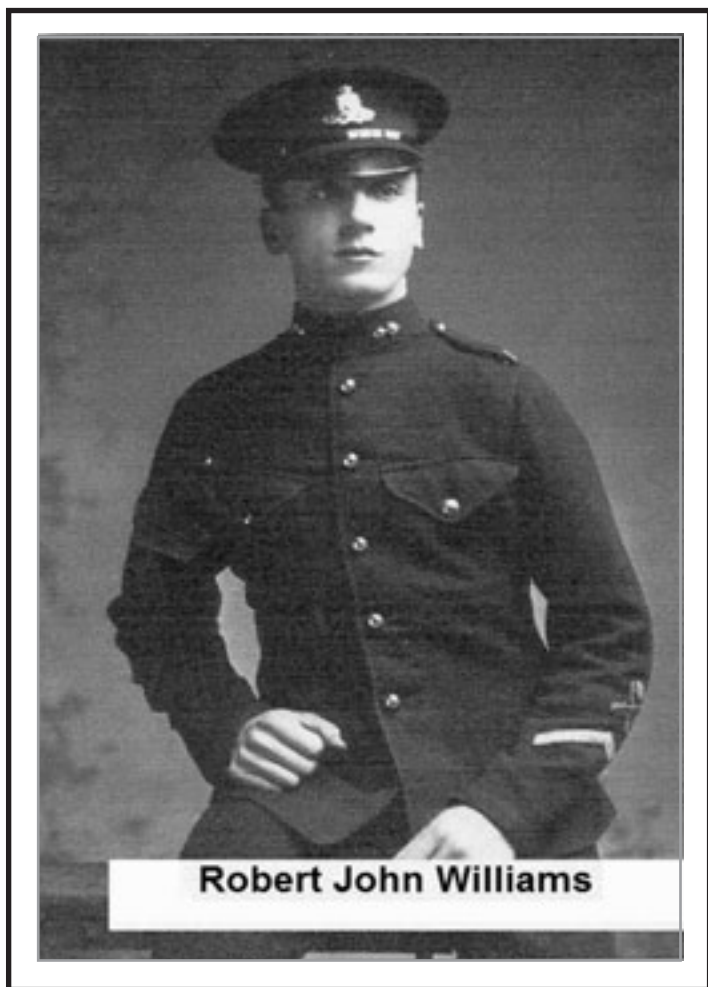
to bed. In the evening Dr. Black gave him some lotion. The next day his arm was more inflamed and he was sent to Whipps Cross.

Dr. W. E. Joseph, said that deceased was admitted to hospital on April 2nd, with his left arm very swollen. He was operated upon on April 4th, and the pus let out of the arm. He died on April 6th from septicaemia. *"If he had been operated on earlier would it have made any difference?"* asked the Coroner. Mrs. Williams interjected, *"Yes, it would. I was his nurse;"* but the doctor replied that it would have made no difference. *Believed to be an extract from the Stratford Express.*

Thought Provoking?

This story of a century ago is and should be still alive. Robert John Williams has every right to be described as a hero. He was awarded five medals during the Great War: The 1914/1915 Star (which has the emblem for "Mentioned in Despatches" on it), the Distinguished Conduct Medal (the highest award for a ranker to receive short of a Victoria Cross), the Military Medal for bravery, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In the monumental outburst of memory which has accompanied the memories of the start of the Great War, where can his name be found? He died of his wound but there is no poppy in the Tower moat for him. Does his name appear on any War Memorial? Is there a class of serviceman who has, unintentionally no doubt, been left out of the celebration? Perhaps this short article might be a small something in part thanks for his gallantry!

E.T.



LEST WE FORGET?

But, has this soldier been forgotten? Does his name appear on any memorial? Is there a poppy displayed for him? Well, No! Despite the Coroner deciding that a war wound had killed him, his death was 13 years after the Great War ended. Does the holder of 5 medals including two for conspicuous gallantry and a Mention in Despatches have any other memorial other than this obscure article? No! No! No! Is it fair to state that in 1932 the nation had had enough of wartime memories, but we are presently producing fabulous amounts of accounts to commemorate that conflict? Something does not seem quite right!

The first Horlocks in Essex?

The Essex **Horlock** dynasty was a thriving family enterprise in the late 18th century and throughout the 19th century. They were involved in trading by sailing barges along the coast and in the Thames estuary. The family were originally domiciled in Hammersmith on the Thames in the county of Middlesex. According to Chubb Horlock ¹, Samuel Horlock and his family moved from Hammersmith to Rettendon in about 1760. We can only surmise as to the reasons for this move but perhaps Samuel saw an opportunity for profitable trade on the Crouch estuary. He appears as Captain **Harlock** of Rettendon in the list of subscribers to The County Chorister published in the 1790s along with Captain **Murrell** of Hull Bridge. ⁶

I have been unable to find any records of this family in Essex before 1760. Records of the Thames Watermen and Lightermen ² show Samuel being bound apprentice on 28th June 1745 at Hammersmith to his master Henry **Hallett** (perhaps an uncle, his mother was a Hallett). He became free on 30th April 1756 and married Elizabeth **Frost** at St Botolph's, Aldersgate on 22nd December 1760 ³. He was probably born around 1730 but I have been unable to find his baptism, although others of the Hammersmith Horlocks feature in the records of St Paul's Church Hammersmith⁴. He died and was buried at Rettendon on 6th March 1799 ⁵. His will was dated 29th March 1793,



which runs to nine sides of copperplate written A3 size pages. It appointed his unmarried daughter Elizabeth Horlock and his son-in-law William **Murrell** (married to his daughter Sarah) executors and makes interesting reading, for we know from this document that he and his wife had four surviving legitimate children, a son and three daughters, and that in addition there were three illegitimate children who are mentioned. His only legitimate son Robert, my 3xgreat-grandfather, is not named as an executor which is strange and one wonders why. Samuel was obviously a prosperous man, describing himself in his will as a Barge Master and Wharfinger.

His will left to his spinster daughter Elizabeth "all my messuage and tenement with the wharf buildings, outhouses, gardens and appurtenances in the hamlet of Hammersmith in the parish of Fulham". He left to his son Robert "all my copyhold, messuage or tenement with the yards, gardens and appurtenances and my close parcel of land of two acres in Hockley in the county of Essex." There is obviously a separate parcel of estate consisting of wharfs, gardens and buildings also in Hockley that was, at the time of the will, occupied

by his daughter Sarah and her husband William **Murrell** and this reverts to them. Then he left “all my wharfs, with store houses, buildings appurtenances in the parish of Hockley now or late in my own occupation to my son-in-law William **Murrell** and his heirs for the purpose of continuing the business of wharfinger and bargemaster and the coal and lime trade with my son Robert and my daughter Elizabeth for their joint and equal benefit”. The trio was also left his coal yards in Rawreth and lime kilns, stables, storehouses gardens and orchards in the parish of Rettendon also for the purposes of carrying on the family business.

To his other married daughter Elianor (sic), wife of John **Wedgebrough** he left an annuity of £15 a year and the same provision is made for his wife Elizabeth. To his natural son Richard **Horlock** he leaves £20 and to his natural daughter Mary the wife of Thomas **Andrews** £10 and to his other natural daughter Hannah the wife of John **Beer** also £10. I have been unable to find out the names of the mother(s) of these three illegitimate children nor anything about their birth places or dates.

During his time in Rettendon, Samuel owned several sailing barges, all registered at Maldon ¹ The trade of these barges seems to have been the import of coal, manure and chalk to Essex and

the export of corn, hay, and straw to London.⁶

Now, as to the apparent marginalisation of my forebear, Samuel’s only surviving legitimate son Robert, perhaps there was good reason for Samuel’s caution as may be seen in Robert’s subsequent career. Perhaps he was known to be in some way unreliable. In an agreement entered into by the three partners, Elizabeth, Robert and William Murrell in 1796, there are various significant indicators. All bonds, notes etc. were to be taken in the names of William Murrell and Elizabeth Horlock only. Only Robert of the three partners is specified “not to be bail or surety for any person”.⁶

Robert Horlock appears to have been born around 1774 but I have, as yet, been unable to find any evidence of his baptism in the records of Rettendon, Steeple or the neighbouring parishes. Like his father, he seems to have had a propensity for fathering illegitimate children although in smaller numbers, managing only two, both by Lucy **Barefoot** who he subsequently married. The first of these appears in the Rettendon parish records where one finds “21st Sept 1794, Robert, an illegal child of Lucy Barefoot”. There is no evidence for the father’s name, but the choice of Christian name and Lucy’s progress to eventual matrimony make it very likely

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Built</u>	<u>Owned by S.H.</u>
Henry & Robert	Sailing barge 52 tons	1779 Reading	1786 – 1791
Sally	Sailing barge 44 tons	1759, Chelsea	1786 – 1799
Industry	Sloop 64 tons	1774 Reading	1786 – 1790
Charlotte	Sailing barge 45 tons	1767 Chelsea	1789 – 1795
Experiment	Flat bottom barge 63 tons	1791 Rettendon	1791 – 1798

that Robert Horlock is the father. Robert junior died in March 1845. The next child arrived in 1796 and the record in the Rettendon baptisms reads “Henery, son of Lucy Barefoot, illegal born, baptised 3rd July 1796”. We know for sure that this is Robert’s child as Henry is acknowledged in Robert’s will of 1845. Two years later on 7th July 1798 Robert and Lucy married at St Leonard’s Shoreditch. The marriage was by banns so I assume the couple had completed the necessary residence period, both are shown on the marriage records as “of this parish”. I remain puzzled as to why they chose to marry in Shoreditch so far from home. Lucy was born in Stock and clearly domiciled in Rettendon from at least 1794 as was Robert. Perhaps we shall never know.

After his father’s death in 1799, we know that Robert went into partnership with his sister Elizabeth and his brother-in-law William Murrell in the business of trading by sailing barge the usual commodities of corn hay and grain to London and chalk, manure and coal to Essex. The business prospered and the partners acquired extra barges, two were purchased in 1801, the *Two Brothers* and *Albion*. In 1802, the *William* was purchased and in 1818 the *Perseverance*. The *Hand of Providence* was built at Lambeth for Robert in 1826, and the *William and Mary* was bought in 1830, the *Wellington* in 1835 and the *Thomas and Mary* in 1836. It seems likely that by the 1820s, Robert had quitted the partnership with his sister and brother-in-law and was in business with his sons.

In 1836 trouble came when Robert

delivered a wet cargo to London and was sued for compensation. He decided to contest the case and it went all the way to the High Court. Robert was advised to protect his land holdings in case he lost and became liable for high costs as well as damages so he entailed his land to a third party intending to regain it later. As it happened, he won the case but found himself unable to regain his property and was left with just three barges, the *Wellington*, the *Thomas and Mary*, and *The Hand of Providence*.

Chubb Horlock states that at this stage Robert decided to move north-east to the coast in the hope of better trade and with his two sons Richard and John Richard (my 2xgreat-grandfather) set up business in Harwich, later moving slightly up-river to Mistley, then a thriving port. The evidence shows, however, that Robert and his wife Lucy stayed in the Rettendon area, moving just a short way to Steeple on the peninsula between the rivers Crouch and Blackwater where they both appear in the 1841 census. I have found no evidence of his living in Harwich. We know he transferred the ownership of his barges around this time and perhaps retired from the business. The barge *Thomas and Mary* was jointly registered in his name and the name of his son Richard until 1839 when it was registered in the name of his son-in-law Cornelius Bryant. The *Wellington* was similarly registered until 1846 when it was transferred to the brothers John and Richard Horlock. The *Hand of Providence* was similarly transferred to Cornelius Bryant in 1847. His daughter Eliza had married Cornelius Bryant in Steeple in 1837 and it seems likely that

Robert was a Steeple resident at that time. Robert died in Steeple on 23rd May 1848 of “general debility”, his age given as 74. His wife Lucy had predeceased him four months earlier on 29th January. Her death certificate shows the cause of death as apoplexy and her age as 77.

Robert’s will of 1845 shows a much diminished estate compared to that detailed in his father’s will of 1793, the reasons having been detailed above. He instructs that “all my copyhold estate and premises in Steeple” are left to his wife Lucy for her lifetime (but we know she pre-deceased him) and that after her death they are to be sold and the proceeds equally divided between his four surviving children Henry Horlock Barefoot (sic), John Horlock, Richard Horlock, and Eliza Bryant. The executors named are Cornelius Bryant and Richard Horlock. The will was proved in 1848 and annotated “under £200”.

I am very grateful to Geoff Murrell for his helpful communications over the past few years and to the staff of Seax – that wonderful resource of Essex records for their prompt and courteous service. Mike Wignall has been an invaluable source of information on the details of the sailing barges that sustained the family business for so long.

DAVID ROSS (ESFH8017) ●

¹.Mistleymans Log, Chubb & R.J. Horlock, Fisher Nautical Press 1977.

². www.findmypast.co.uk, Thames Watermen & Lightermen 1688 - 2010

³.www.familysearch.org

⁴www.findmypast.co.uk

⁵.seax.essexcc.gov.uk, parish records

⁶.personal communication Geoff Murrell

Co-incidence?

Lyston Hall, Essex, the residence of Colonel Palmer, was on Tuesday week destroyed by fire .

Illustrated London News
26th April November 1870.

Editor: Had Colonel Palmer upset someone? See below!

Epping Forest is doomed to the axe. In High Beech the timber is marked, previous to being cut down by private persons. Sir H. Selwin-Ibbotson has inquired in Parliament whether such action is not to be restrained till the question as to the inclosure of Epping Forest has been decided. To this the Chancellor of the Exchequer has pleaded his inability to take any steps in the matter.

The Government have no property in the land of Epping Forest, but only certain forestal rights over it. In that part where “they are cutting down the timber these forestal rights have been extinguished, and the Government has no power to interfere.” To this statement Colonel Palmer, “Verderer of Epping and Waltham Forests,” has replied, in the Times of March 18th expressing his surprise that Her Majesty has a property in all lands in Epping Forest, the inclosure of which has not been sanctioned at a Verderer’s Court. He also refers to the attempted sale of the Crown’s rights, and those of the freeholders, copyholders, as well as the poor to cut wood, &c. The letter is too long for our quotation; it is a very different view of the matter to that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Illustrated London News 4th April 1871

Another Bomber Is Missing

Just before Christmas we made an impromptu visit to Priory Park, in Prittlewell just north of Southend-on-Sea. In the park are the remains of the Cluniac Priory, demolished by King Henry VIII at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, his men just leaving the Refectory building (the Monk's dining room) still standing. This ancient building has recently been restored and amongst all the history stored therein, and on show inside, happens to be a Memorial to the fallen in the two World Wars, who were from the Southend area. From that list our surname leapt out with the name of Guy R. **Wall**, who was at that time an unknown person on our family tree.

Back at home, Ancestry gave us the information showing that Guy Reginald was the second son of my grandfather's brother, Frederick, known to us as Uncle Fred. We had rented the four upstairs rooms at the house belonging to Uncle Fred and Aunt May when we were married, and like the Priory, their house was situated in Prittlewell, only five minutes' walk away. We were aware that Fred and May had a son, also a Fred, who lived in Tisbury, Wiltshire, where he and his wife ran a pub, but we knew nothing of Guy.

Further digging revealed that Guy had joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and had reached the rank of Flight Sergeant. He was killed on 9th April 1945, aged just 23. He was a



FLIGHT SERGEANT G.R. WALL

Wireless Operator/Airgunner aboard a Lancaster Mk3, EA-S, RA531, whilst on a mission to bomb the synthetic oil refinery at Lutzendorf in eastern Germany; the aircraft was brought down and he and his crew were all killed and are buried in the Berlin War Cemetery. Guy flew with 49 Squadron, at that time based at Fulbeck, near Newark, Nottinghamshire and the history of this, their last mission was that on the previous night, a group of Lancasters had attacked the Lutzendorf Refinery achieving only moderate success. Just after 18.00 hours on Sunday evening, 8th April, two hundred and thirty one Lancasters and eleven Mosquitos, flying under the Lincolnshire 5 Group, set out to finish the job. That raid was a total success with the Refinery being rendered inactive.

The cost had been six Lancasters with their crews of seven, and two of those aircraft were from 49 Squadron that failed to return. Flying Officer Robert "Polly" Perkins was the pilot with his

Crew of RA531 which was brought down over Germany. They were on their ninth mission. It was reported that the skipper, Robert Perkins, had recently confided to a fellow pilot that he “knew” that he would not survive the war. The other crew members were Sergeant Prust, Flight Engineer; Flight Sergeant, Warrington, the Navigator; Flight Sergeant Wilkinson, the Bomb Aimer Sergeant Manning, the Mid-upper Gunner was aged 19 and Flight Sergeant Hull the Rear Gunner was just 18. Also there was 1614026 our Flight Sergeant Guy Wall. They were just seven of about 50,000 who died flying on bombing missions during World War 2. The website of 49 Squadron gives a great deal of information, even down to photos of the familiar War Graves Commission headstones that Guy and his fellow crewmates have in that far off cemetery in Berlin. We are sure that Uncle Fred and Aunt May were never able to travel to Germany to see, grieve and pay their respects at the final resting place of their second son. To date we have not managed to find out whether Lancaster RA531 was shot down by anti-aircraft fire from the ground or by night fighter, or even whereabouts. Perhaps over Lutzendorf or over Germany on their way home, which information is probably available somewhere. It was extremely sad that, like so many others in that conflict, they were victims only about a month before the war in Europe finally ended. Guy was married in 1943 to Francis Lille Nesbitt, in Fylde, Lancashire, but they had no children. Francis eventually remarried some time later.

Going back to Uncle Fred, he had been in the Essex Regiment during the Great War and it is with much regret that I did not ask him about his experiences during that time; Uncle Fred died in 1983. We did have a minor coincidence for, way back in 1965, we had taken a driving holiday on the Continent and on our way home we happened to stay a night at the Hotel Marechal Foch in Arras. Apparently, at some time in that War, Uncle Fred was billeted in that same “Hotel” and did his square bashing at the front of that establishment in the Square Marechal Foch. We have more work to do now, following up on the military career of Fred and the ancestry of Aunt May.

DAVE AND PAT WALL (ESFH10904)

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MY YEAR AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHELMSFORD

Mayors appointed by Councils in England, in contrast to those elected such as the Mayor of London, are ceremonial and do not have powers to govern. Their purpose is to provide a non-political focus for the Town or City so that events opened by the Mayor can be whole-heartedly supported by all residents whatever their political allegiances. From this fundamental purpose flow many rules of the Mayor's function. They must not take sides in political activities or favour one group of Councillors over another. They must be identifiable so wear the Civic chains and badge and on special occasions, the full robes. They are the first citizen of the Town or City and, therefore, always take the lead, walking through doors first and asking audiences to stand or sit as appropriate. However, Mayors have different personalities and backgrounds and it is important that they can put their own stamp on their year of Office.

Fortunately, everyone is welcoming and engagements are usually very pleasurable. There are, however, a lot of engagements, I attended around 285, averaging between five and six a week. There is not much time for anything else. Fortunately, the Mayoress had not sought re-election after 12 years as a County Councillor and I gave up my Committee memberships on the City Council for the year.

Our most memorable engagement was meeting Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh when they attended a morning service in Chelmsford Cathedral to mark the Centenary of the Diocese of Chelmsford on 6th May this year. Another memorable "Royal" occasion of a lighter kind was our visit to London



TREVOR MILLER Mayor 2013/4

for the Pearly Kings and Queens Costermongers Harvest Festival Parade and Service. It began with maypole dancing and other traditional entertainment in the Guildhall Yard, followed by a parade to St Mary-le-Bow Church, where we were greeted by the Bow Bells being rung.

The theme I picked for my year of Office was 'Youth' and I attended many youth events and visited many schools and colleges. One memorable visit to Baddow Hall Junior School, where I am a Governor, was to watch a demonstration by Maasai Warriors. Their dance included jumping vertically on the spot as though on springs. After the performance they persuaded the pupils to try it. Then, with dread, the Mayoress and I saw a Maasai Warrior striding down the aisle towards us! Needless to say we were terrible, barely getting off the ground, so we have given up the idea of being Maasai Warriors.

We have attended many religious services, in the Cathedral and other churches including the Church of the Latter Day Saints. We also attended

exhibitions and talks by the Muslim Association.

Many Anniversaries were celebrated during the year including the 370th of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, the 125th of Essex County Council, the 75th of both the Essex Record Office and Keene Hall in Galleywood, the 60th of the Coronation, the 50th of Hospital Radio, the 25th of Albion Court Elderly Peoples' Home, the 10th of Heart and Soul Walks and the 1st of both Home Instead Senior Care and the Food Bank. There have been visits to Chelmsford City Council from our twinned partners of Backnang in Germany and Annonay in France. There have been other visits from German and French students and also students from Japan. Other groups from the local community visited the Civic Suite and I have shown them round. It was a pleasure as well as an honour to make these visits and receive these guests. Everyone was so welcoming and grateful that it was a delight to take part.

Having a Mayoress or Mayor's Escort is very important as they are invaluable in helping make the arrangements, reminding the Mayor of what they should be wearing and where they are going and doubling the opportunity to talk with hosts and guests. The Deputy Mayor and Escort are also important as they stand in for the Mayor and Mayoress if they are unwell or have another engagement. We were very lucky in having two people that supported us whole-heartedly and we formed a team which turned down very few engagement requests. The Mayor also has a Chaplain who leads prayers before Council Meetings and arranges and may officiate at the Mayor's End of Term Service. Mayors depend heavily on the Civic Services Manager and the Mayor's Chauffeur. The Civic Services Manager deals with all correspondence which is addressed to the Mayor

and arranges their engagements. The Chauffeur has to find out the location to which he has to take the Mayor, where to drop them to be greeted and who should be greeting them. Having done this, he has to park the Mayoral car where it will be safe for the duration of the visit. As you can see, being Mayor is very much a team effort and the reward is to have the honour and pleasure of representing the people of Chelmsford at Civic Events throughout the Year.

TREVOR MILLER (ESFH3866)

Mayor 2013/4



Royal Harwich Yacht Club

This club, which was first founded in September, 1843 (the Mersey Club following suit in 1844, and the Ryde, or Victoria Club in 1845) will hold its annual regatta in and off Harwich harbour, on Midsummer-day, the 24th June instant, when three cups will be sailed for by yachts of any Royal club and a dozen contests in rowing be decided, as well as sailing matches of professional tars of all descriptions.

Any yachtsman or officer will be admitted free to the Royal Harwich Yacht Club-house during the regatta week, on application to the secretary or member of the committee. We hear that the sailing match for the Sixty Guineas Cup promises an unusually large entry, and that consequently, several steamers will accompany the competing vessels round the Cork Light, and through the well known "Rolling grounds." Two hundred yachtsmen will afterwards dine together at the Three Cups.

Illustrated London News 5th June 1852

The Verlander Society

We “Verlanders” originally met at the first Family History Fair at the Horticultural Hall in London in 1993. There were four of us interested in the Verlander name and we started to meet together as a group. We discovered that there were three family trees in the United Kingdom and three in America. Tony Reeve discovered that, from a marriage in 1764, he was on a group centred in Colchester. Colleen Richards was born a Verlander and is on the Poplar group, whilst Maggie Phillis’s mother was a Verlander at birth and also on the Colchester group. I was Linda Verlander and from the Bermondsey Branch.

Those from Colchester originally came from the Dutch Quarter where Jacob Van de Lende, a Bay and Say weaver, was an early immigrant. He came to England to escape religious persecution in Flanders. Bay and Say weaving produced a finer woollen cloth than the usual tweeds and the name baize is associated with the process.

We meet in private houses and visit the various places mentioned in Parish Registers, to date Colchester, Brightlingsea, Sandwich in Kent and Bermondsey (a very poor area as mentioned by Charles Dickens in *Oliver Twist* as the home of Bill Sykes). We also visited Wervik in Flanders to where we had traced Jacob Van de Lende. My husband Richard and I also took Maggie Phillis to Hadleigh and Raydon in Suffolk.

Unfortunately, on paper we cannot make the three United Kingdom trees meet. We went to Debbie Kennett, who specialises in D.N.A. for her opinion and we subscribed to an American company, Family Tree’s D.N.A. in Houston,

Texas. The results have been exciting, worrying, devastating and amazing! Our first American has joined our society, from Virginia, and found a perfect “37 marker” match between Timothy from the Colchester group and Henry Beazley Verlander in Virginia. At present the Poplar, Colchester and Virginia groups are matched and two members from Bermondsey match each other. Graham, the husband of Nina Singer at Westcliff joins me in this group.

Here is hoping that one day it can be proved that we are all part of the huge Colchester family tree.

LINDA MEDCALF (ESFH3879)

Fine Dining

It is reported that the town of Saffron Walden including 200 farmers, tenantry, town officials and worthies joined with 3rd Lord Braybrooke in welcoming a visit by his newly married eldest son the Honourable Richard Cornwallis Neville (later 4th Baron) and his bride Lady Charlotte (née Toler). Present was the younger son Charles C. Neville (Later 5th Baron), Lady Braybrooke (née Cornwallis) and 3rd Baron’s daughters Louisa and Lucy. Later 100 guests (apparently all male) sat down to dine.

Illustrated London News 27th March 1852

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KILLED IN AIR RAIDS

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

May 10th, 1915.

WHITWELL, Agnes Frances (Mrs.), 120, North Road, Southend.

May 26th, 1915.

FAIRS, May (Miss), 586, Old Ford Road, Bow.

PATEMAN, Marion (Queenie), aged 7, 3, Broadway Market, Southend

SMITH, Florence (Mrs.), Farndon, Westminster Drive, Westcliff.

August 12th, 1917.

BATTY, Walter Henry (Mr.), 19, Brigadier Road, Enfield.

BATTY, Edith (Mrs.), wife of above.

CHILDS, Ada (Miss), 14, Redhill Street. Regents Park, London.

COHEN, John (Mr.), Holbrooke Road, Plaistow, E.

COHEN, Leah (Mrs.), of the same address, wife of above.

COLLIER, Annie (Mrs.), 12, Elizabeth Road, Thorpe Bay.

CORNISH, Thomas Henry (Mr.), 6, Catlin Street, St. James Road, Bermondsey.

CORNISH, Emily Gladys, aged 13 (daughter of above).

CREES, John Henry (Mr.), 16, St. Anne's Road, Southend.

DONALDSON, Mary Ann (Mrs.), 2, Princetown Road, Holborn.

GALLOWAY, Jessie Camilla (Miss), aged 17, 12, Elderfield Road, Clapton.

GAVELLE, Clara (Miss), employed at Sandringham Hotel, Westcliff.

GOODING, Lena, aged 14, 9, Burnaby Road, Southend.

GRANT, James, aged 10, 10, Broadway Market, Southend.

HAWES, Fred, aged 14, 12, Guildford Road, Southend.

HILL, William (Mr.), 12, Guildford Road, Southend.

HILLS, Arthur (Mr.), 39, Oak Road, Northumberland Avenue, Erith.

HUMPHRIES, Charles (Mr.), 47, Coleman Street, Southend.

JESS, Ellen May (Mrs.), 12, Church Street, West Ham.

LEWIS, Alfred (Mr.), 41, Langton Road, Brixton.

MANN, Violet Elizabeth (Mrs.), 5, Myddleton Street, Clerkenwell.

MASON, Florrie, aged 14, 9, Burnaby Road, Southend.

ORTON, Jessie (Mrs.), 8, Glass Street, Three Colts Lane, Bethnal Green.

ORTON, Jessie, aged 8, daughter of above.

RICE, Dorothy Evelyn, aged 12, 69, Princes Street, Southend.

RUSSELL, Harry (Mr.), Southend.

SULLIVAN, Victor William, aged 10, 178, Borstal Lane, Abbeywood Road, S.E.
WATSON, Oliver (Mr.), 180, Shaftesbury Avenue, Thorpe Bay,
WATSON, Beatrice (Mrs.), of the same address, wife of last named.
WEST, Eliza Mary (Mrs.), 45, Lovelace Gardens, Southchurch.
WEST, Gladys, aged 13, of the same address, daughter of above.
WHITTLESEY, Amelia (Mrs.), 27, Charlwood Road, Putney.

SHOEBURYNESSE

June 15th, 1817

STAINES, William John, Gunner, R.G.A., Garrison.

TOONE, Thomas, Gunner, R.G.A., Garrison.

LONDON

June 13th 1917

REEVES, Francis William (Mr.), Nursery Terrace, Church Road, Southend.

Arson at Rickling

Essex Standard 24th July 1852.

The Essex Summer Assize.

William Claydon, a boy 8 years old, was charged with setting fire to a sheep yard, the property of Richard Haydon, at Rickling.

Mr Hawkins prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended.

Richard Haydon said: "I had a sheep yard in a field, called Bayley's – field, and on 16th April it was partially burnt. The lad had done no work, but attends to his father's horses, whilst feeding in the road."

Sarah Reed said: "I live near the property which was burnt and saw the smoke coming from the premises. I saw a boy running from a hedge close by the sheep yard very much like the prisoner."

By his lordship: "I don't know whether the boy was six feet or three feet high." (Laughter).

Samuel Dillon said: "I was coming from Ugley on the morning of the fire, and saw the prisoner walking in a direction from it. He afterwards ran along the road and turned down Balyey's land,

leading to Belcher's Pond. I was in the London Road; there was only one field between the road and the fire. I first saw the prisoner in the road, leading from Cambridge."

Samuel Carter, P.C. deposed: "I apprehended the prisoner near Bayley's-lane. I told him I wanted him about the fire. I let him go, and saw him in the afternoon, when I called him and told him "I suspected he set fire to the sheep yard." He replied "It was not me, it was Johnny Lavender. I was with him and he wanted to do it but I would not." "I then told him I should lock him up, when he replied "No, don't, I will never set fire to anything again."

His Lordship in summing up, said there was not any evidence implicating the child before them, and if they considered with him, they would acquit him. The jury said they fully concurred with his lordship's observations, and the lad was immediately discharged.

E.T.

The Edmunds family

- a snapshot of life at Broomfield Vicarage

Revd. Charles Edmunds and his family lived at Broomfield Vicarage from 1905 to 1925, and for a few years during this time have provided us with a photographic record of their lives at the Vicarage. These albums make interesting viewing. Prior to his term at Broomfield Parish Church (St Mary with St Leonard), Charles was Vicar of All Saints, Leyton. In the 1891 census he is 40 years old living at All Saints Vicarage, Leyton, with wife Dora and children Charles Jnr., Dorothy and Horace Vaughan (known as Vaughan). Additionally there is a cook, housemaid and nurse.

In the 1901 census Revd. Charles Edmunds age 50 and wife Dora are still living at Leyton with son Norman and two servants. Son Charles Vincent age 17 is a scholar at The Cross (Repton) School, Derbyshire.

In the 1911 census those living at Broomfield Vicarage were Charles Edmunds age 60, wife Dora, Dorothy age 26, Horace Vaughan (a theological student), with a cook and a housemaid.

The above is simple information taken from the census, but it wasn't until 2009 with the publication of the 2011 census that I was able to discover who the people in the pages of several old photo albums in my possession actually were. The albums were being swept away at the end of an 'antiques' fair in Chelmsford in the mid 1970's. In those days the items unlikely to sell were placed on the

floor for people to rummage through. I spotted four photo albums heading for the bin and probably because I have always had a keen love of photography myself, I enquired the price - 25p each I was told, and bought all four. Although they have been kept well wrapped the images are now noticeably fading and therefore they are being donated to the Essex Records Office.

Three of the albums date between 1907 and 1910 and record daily life at the Vicarage, family members, pets, holidays etc. Names and dates are provide for many of the photos. The fourth album is undated with no descriptions and may or may not be the same family, although personally I believe there may be a connection.

Album 1 covering 1907 to 1908 is a small green cloth covered album measuring 170mm x 120mm with 26 double-sided pages containing 47 photos. William and pony trap, mother knitting in garden, Norman and Vaughan, Norman tarring the pig sty, William in the woodshed, yard after the snow storm, Chummy (cat), tea on the mountain in Barmouth, panorama walk, lunch by the lake, pony and trap Broomfield Vicarage, Polly, various children, mother (sitting side-saddle on horse). Butlers and view opposite Butlers, Broomfield Vicarage from The Green (note: at that time the old Vicarage was on the opposite side of the main road) several views of the Church.



TEA ON THE MOUNTAIN IN BARMOUTH

Album 2 covering 1909 is a small grey cloth covered album measuring 170mm x 140mm with 24 double-sided pages containing 48 photos. Vatte Crucis Abbey, Charlie and Vaughan, Llangollen canal, mother by canal at Berwen, Chirk Castle, mother and Mabel on the river, Broomfield Vicarage, William in the yard, fernery and pond at Broomfield Vicarage, father in greenhouse, Dorothy, Conrad, Charlie, Vaughan at Pleshey, tea (on lawn), photo of gents cycling, in vegetable garden, beehives etc.



DOROTHY, CONRAD & CHARLIE

Album 3 covering 1910 is larger green cloth covered album 240mm x 160mm with 12 double-sided pages containing 48 photos. Vaughan and Fluffy, Nurse, Broomfield Church, father, mother and Vaughan, Norman, The Old Mill at Little Waltham, Dulcie, Bournemouth, Auntie Annie, Cato, mother and Cato, Charlie in the herbaceous border, Chelsham Parsonage, a few relations, Vaughan with camera and tripod, William and onions, Carl, Auntie Gracie and Vernon, Kathleen, Hugh, Marjorie, Jack, Ella and Maudie (children).



WILLIAM AND ONIONS



Album 4 is a larger blue cloth covered album 210mm x 170mm (half plate size) with 13 double-sided pages containing 24 photos. The fourth album is undated, but appears to be from the same era, no labels, good quality photos, pages loose. Boy in greenhouse, portraits, interior view, family photos, boating near Royal George on Thames.

The albums show a snapshot of Edwardian domestic life pre WW1, a period that was generally considered peaceful in contrast with what was to come. A war in which many notable Broomfield families lost sons, the Edmunds family were no exception. Son Charles Vincent was a Lieutenant in the Essex Regiment. He was killed and buried at Gaza in 1917. In an extract from the Essex County Chronicle Lieutenant Colonel Gibbons writes "*He died gallantly leading his men in an attack on a strongly entrenched position. The attack was entirely successful, a result due to the splendid leading of platoon commanders and the way their men one and all followed their example. I only hope that he had nobly done his duty to the last was solace to his last moments*".

In August 2014 part of the WW1 Centenary commemorations at Broomfield Church in connection with the Royal British Legion included an exhibition and lecture on local men who died in combat. Charles Vincent Edmunds and the two Nash brothers from Broomfield Court formed part of that. As an aside my aunt worked at Broomfield Court, the home of the Nash's (for a short time at the end of the 1920's I believe), she recalled as a

young housemaid being scared in the gloomy corridors of that place to see full size effigy's of those two young men dressed in uniform, she always forgot they were there and many times nearly dropped her tray in fright. She also recalled she was not allowed to serve their father the invalid Colonel Nash in his bedroom, only family members could. (Broomfield Court is situated within the grounds of Broomfield Hospital). Plaques dedicated to the Nash Brothers from their mother and grandmother are mounted in the Church. Vaughan Edmunds by now ordained into the Church is mentioned in the London Gazette dated 6th September 1917 in the role of temporary Army Chaplain.

On the retirement of Charles in 1925, he and Dora lived with their son Vaughan in the Vicarage at All Saints, Forest Gate. Charles died in 1926 and his obituary states that he had studied at Cambridge gaining a BA and MA, was greatly esteemed and much regret felt when he was compelled to resign the living at Broomfield due to ill health. Their daughter Dorothy, whom I suspect was the photographer in the family married into the Seabrook family, an account of her marriage to Percy Seabrook is given in the Newsman dated Saturday 7th February 1914. I have no information regarding the life of Norman Edmunds, however I'm sure out there somewhere will be more information to complete the story of this remarkable highly educated family.

Looking through one of the 2013 Broomfield Parish magazines my eye caught sight of an article about the Monk and Edmunds families of Broomfield

and the similarities of their sons burials at Broomfield and at Gaza. Also the burial of Charles, Dora and their son Vaughan in the grounds of Broomfield Parish Church. I made contact with the writer who showed me the family grave at the rear of the Church. It was doubtful, we noted, that any family visit.

In 1983 a huge 200 year old Cedar of Lebanon tree in the former Vicarage garden fell down in strong winds, ending up in the nearby gardens of properties in Glebe Road. This tree is evident in many of the photos taken within the Vicarage grounds. At some stage probably during the 1960's the Vicarage was demolished and the development 'Rutherfords' built. The modern Vicarage is now situated in Butlers Close, more conveniently accessible to the Church.

I've often wondered how those albums ended up on the floor that day, possibly a death, house clearance or similar. Or as in the case of my own grandmother, when her parents died in the 1930's and their house was emptied, apparently said she didn't want anything at all!

I personally have no connection to the village of Broomfield although my daughter was married recently at the Parish Church, however I'm sure the information in these albums will be useful to anyone having connections to the village, Church or the Edmunds family.

LOUISE LOCKWOOD (ESFH7599)
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COMPANIES

Amongst the earliest commercial companies in England may be named the Steelyard society, established in 1232. The second company was the merchants of St. Thomas á Beckett in 1248. The third was the Merchant Adventurers, incorporated by Queen Elizabeth in 1564.

The following are the city companies of London; the first twelve are the chief and are styled "The Honourable."

July 1880 – From Haydn's Dictionary of Dates (seventeenth edition 1881) Ward Lock & Co.

1. Mercers	1393	27. Cordwainers	1410
2. Grocers	1345	28. Painter-stainers	1580
3. Drapers	1439	29. Curriers	1605
4. Fishmongers (salt, 1433; stock 1509) united	1536	30. Masons	1677
5. Goldsmiths	1327	31. Plumbers	1611
6. Skinners	1327	32. Inn-holders	1515
7. Merchant Taylors	1416	33. Founders	1614
8. Haberdashers	1447	34. Poulterers	1503
9. Salters	1558	35. Cooks	1481
10. Ironmongers	1462	36. Coopers	1501
11. Vintners	1436	37. Tilers and bricklayers	1568
12. Cloth-workers	1482	38. Bowyers	1620
		39. Fletchers	1536
		40. Blacksmiths	1577
13. Dyers	1469	41. Joiners	1564
14. Brewers	1438	42. Weavers	1164
15. Leather-sellers	1442	43. Woolmen	* *
16. Pewterers	1474	44. Scriveners	1616
17. Barber-Surgeons	1308	45. Fruiterers	1604
18. Cutlers	1417	46. Plasterers	1500
19. Bakers	1307	47. Stationers	1556
20. Wax-chandlers	1484	48. Broderers	1591
21. Tallow-chandlers	1463	49. Upholders	1627
22. Armourers and Braziers	1463	50. Musicians	1604
23. Girdlers	1448	51. Turners	1604
24. Butchers	1604	52. Basketmakers	* *
25. Saddlers	1280	53. Glaziers	1637
26. Carpenters	1344	54. Horners	1638

55. Farriers	1673	75. Hatband-makers	1638
56. Paviers	* *	76. Patten-makers	1670
57. Loriners	1488	77. Glass-sellers	1664
58. Apothecaries	1617	78. Tobacco – pipemakers	1663
59. Shipwrights	1610	79. Coach and Harness	
60. Spectacle-makers	1630	makers	1677
61. Clock-makers	1632	80. Gunmakers	1638
62. Glovers	1556	81. Gold and Silver	
63. Comb-makers	1650	wire-drawers	1623
64. Felt-makers	1604	82. Bowstring-makers	* *
65. Framework knitters	1664	83. Card-makers	1629
66. Silk-throwsters	1629	84. Fan-makers	1709
67. Silk-men	1608	85. Wood-mongers	* *
68. Pin-makers	1636	86. Starch-makers	1632
69. Needle-makers	1656	87. Fishermen	1687
70. Gardeners	1616	88. Parish clerks	1232
71. Soap-makers	1638	89. Carmen	* *
72. Tinplate-workers	1670	90. Porters	* *
73. Wheelwrights	1670	91. Watermen	1556
74. Distillers	* *		

Essex Aristocrats

Maurice le Brun, 1st Baron Brun (bef. 1279 - 17 March 1354/1355) was an English peer, born in Essex. Sir Maurice le Brun was the son of William le Brun of Ranston, Dorset, of Rowner, Hampshire, and of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, who died circa 4 March 1300 -1301, and wife Isolde, family unknown, who died circa 6 September 1307. He married before 14 October 1300 M he survived, born in Ireland on 9 October 1286 the daughter of Philip de la Rokele of Beckenham, Kent, and of South Ockendon, Essex, and wife Joan, family unknown. On 26 June 1301 she and her husband had pivery of her father's lands. He was summoned to Parliament as Baron Brun, and thus by modern usage is held to have become a member of the Peerage of England, by writ of 30 June 1315, although his descendants were not summoned to Parliament by this writ. Their son Sir William le Bruyn (before 1315 - 24 February 1361/1362) eventually inherited South Ockendon, Essex, and married Alice le Lacer, daughter of Richard le Lacer. Their grandson Sir Ingram Bruyn (Titchfield, Hampshire, 6 December 1353 - 12 August 1400, buried South Ockendon, Essex) also inherited South Ockendon, Essex, and married Elizabeth de la Pole (14 July 1362 - 14 December 1403), daughter of Edmund de la Pole. Their son was Maurice Bruyn. His widow remarried on 6 February 1362/1363 Sir Robert de Marny of Layer Marney, Essex. They separated on 12 July 1365 and he died after 25 September 1394.

CHRISTOPHER PARKINSON











From the Society Chairman...



David Eniffer

As I am writing this we are starting 2015 and at this time of year we all begin to wonder how the New Year will map out. The big change for the society will be the moving of our main Chelmsford monthly meetings to Galleywood. We will have far more control over how we organise the talks and facilities.

With family history research, we never know when something new will leap out and hit us. When researching a branch of my family that I had missed previously, I was shocked to find a murder victim. We have all probably become accustomed to the Victorian infant mortality rates, where there can be 3 or more children under 5 sadly lost. This unfortunate family lost 2 children as well as having their 5 year old daughter murdered literally a matter of yards from their front door step. The availability of old newspaper reports online these days makes such an event a lot easier to research. Sadly, the accuracy of reports was somewhat hit and miss, much as it is today. I found quite a lot of conflicting accounts. When you scan the newspapers it is easy to be distracted and read the other crime reports. One thing that I found interesting was a list of unsolved murders. No DNA testing available in those days but perhaps good old fashioned policing. I wonder if any of them could be solved as cold cases using modern techniques. The case I discovered was never solved officially although one suspect was found guilty of a similar earlier child murder and paid the ultimate penalty only three months later. As Fred Feather recently remarked you did not get any re-offending convicted murderers in those days. Equally you cannot bring them back if a mistake is made but that debate still lingers. Meanwhile, I predict a new mini project to gather as much information as possible about this murder for my records.

I must comment on Margaret Baker's brilliant article in the December Historian. I found it fascinating to read of the origins of the society. It seems the concept of researchers meeting and talking to each other before this was almost unknown. I seem to remember in my early days of research, thinking that it really was a lone task. Even when I joined the society I did not attend meetings. I did, however, find the exchange of letters with experienced researchers and those with family links invaluable. How far we have come in the last 40 years is amazing, although the "thrill of the chase" is totally different. How often were we tempted to punch the air and shout out 'Eureka' in St Catherine's House, only to come to our senses just in time! It always seemed to be worth celebrating more after standing in the queue for two hours at Portugal Street waiting for a seat, even before requesting the census details. When you did get them you had to wade through pages and pages as there was no index. You were always wary of asking for help as some of the staff had obviously been to the 'Basil Fawltly' school of customer service. Perhaps I don't miss those good old days as much as I thought?

DAVID ENIFFER

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir...



Volunteer co-ordinator

Could you please put the following para in HISTORIAN for me. I have informed Elizabeth/Colin and Ron

Some of you will see a short news item on the Website that we are looking for someone to take over the Volunteer Co-ordinator position. I will be giving up the position at the end of June 2015. If no-one comes forward it will mean that the room will close. If there is a Member who will take on the position, would you please contact me on my home telephone number 01245 451530.

BERYL SIDNEY

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Fred this does not mean that I will be giving up being a Member of the Society, I shall still be on the Research Team and take up any dates given to me on the rota as before. I am sorry about this but I did try and give it up about 5 years ago but as no-one came forward to carry it on but I now wish to stop.

William Henry Simpson

My Great Uncle was William Henry Simpson. He was born in 1873 and became a regular soldier in the Army Ordnance Corps, achieving the highest rank for a non-commissioned officer, that of Conductor. He served in the Great War in Egypt in 1915 and in the Dardanelles in 1916. He survived the War. He had a wife Daisy and four children, Walter, Doris, Frank and Christopher. He had some connections with Chelmsford in 1917- possibly his family lived there. I would very much like to hear from any descendants of the family.

JANET GOURD (ESFH10097)

Lychgate Cottage,

Tillington,

Petworth,

West Sussex

GU28 9AH.

Editor. *As late as 1955 the R.A.O.C. had one officer of this rank, Conductor, in each brigade. He was known as "BOWO" the Brigade Ordnance Warrant Officer. They may still survive!*

Tate Funeral Directors

Having been shown a copy of your December Family History Booklet number 154, for the article on J.W. Tate Funeral Directors, your readers may be interested in a further area for investigation.

I was born in the flat above the offices in North Road and then moved to the branch office at Rochford in 1954 managed by my father. I believe in the late sixties the son of the then Mr. Tate moved to New Zealand and started a business as a marine engineer (following the sea going occupation of his ancestor) he was killed whilst still young in a boating accident. His widow then remarried and became Mrs Bullion, and it was she who sold the firm. There were two sons who as far I know still live in New Zealand, I met them in the early seventies taking them to Twickenham to see New Zealand thrash England (some things it appears never change!)

Thank you for a very enjoyable read and can I say a very good publication.

LAURENCE PIPE

pipepipe@aol.com

☆ ☆ ☆

The 1852 Storm at Colchester

Our Article in December's issue of the Historian prompted a letter from Christine E. Jones (ESFH82) "Please can you tell me the location of Rainsford Mill, Colchester?" Which I could not! I first consulted Arthur Mee, next the "Little Guide to Essex", The "Post

Office Directory for 1850." Finally in desperation to Ann Turner, who is a blue badge guide for Colchester. No-one knew! Thanks to a kind lady from Colchester called Marian we discovered that there had been a mill in Rainsford Road in Chelmsford. Ann had never heard of a mill in North Street, Colchester. So I drove to Chelmsford and consulted a newspaper in the Essex Record Office.

Colchester

"On Friday last this town was visited by a thunder storm accompanied by a gale of wind of terrific violence. The storm commenced after 10pm and for two hours the lightening flash was incessant. About eleven o'clock, the wind which had previously blown in a south-east direction suddenly veered to the westward, when the rapid fall of tiles from the roofs of the houses attested to its power. Very considerable damage has been done to the mills in the town and its vicinity. The sails and the entire top part of the of the flock mill in North-street were thrown on an outhouse, the roof of which was forced in and a considerable portion of the boarding is rent off; the damage being estimated at £70. The mill in the Batt (Butt) road suffered considerably, the electric fluid entering the cap and striking all the sails, which were in motion enveloped in flames; and the internal machinery being completely deranged. Another mill situate near the distillery and likewise in the occupation of Mr Hewes, has sustained considerable damage. The mills in the Harwich road, the Military road, and

at Greenstead, have all suffered more or less. Those at Mile End, Boxted, and Langham are also injured, the last mentioned having had its sails carried away. So great a destruction to mill property has not been known in this part of the county for many years.”

Essex Standard - July 1852

A Mystery and Mea Culpa

Which has left us with a mystery! a) Was the flock mill known as Rainsford ? b) Did the writer in the Illustrated London News get confused between Colchester and Chelmsford ? Or, c) was it the Chelmsford mill that was damaged and illustrated? Examination of the 1851 census makes both b) and c) a possibility! On a personal level I am left with a small portion of egg on my face. As a leading dinosaur in the society I have repeatedly urged members to be careful of findings on the internet, identifying as dodgy some of the contributors. Now, what is almost a bible to me, an 1852 highly regarded magazine, may have themselves got something wrong.

So, there is a mystery for you. I have asked/commissioned Ian Pigney to write us a short article about the different types of mills.

FRED FEATHER (ESFH366)

Such was the thinking of the time that it was suggested that 2000 men of the Royal Irish Constabulary should be posted to Australia.

Illustrated London News
10th July 1852

During one of the recent storms, the church at Wethersfield, near Braintree in Essex, was struck by the lightning, which entered the steeple and set it on fire. The top of the spire soon afterwards fell, and the smouldering fire was then extinguished.

Illustrated London News
31st July 1852

The Operation of the Ticket of Leave System- in Australia.- The evil effects of transportation, especially under the ticket of leave system, upon the social life of the Australian colonies are demonstratively illustrated by various items of news which reach us from time to time from that distant quarter, but by none are they indicated with clearness than by the last accounts from Victoria, where we find that a woman named Louisa Ferris, who was transported for cutting a policeman's throat at Bristol, having behaved herself in an exemplary manner while in gaol in Van Dieman's Land, obtained a ticket of leave and almost immediately afterwards cut another man's throat at Melbourne. She has been tried and sentenced to death. Again, the three principals in the robbery of £30,000 worth of gold dust from the ship Nelson, in Melbourne Harbour, which we noted, were London thieves and swellmobsmen, who having been transported, were on their arrival in the colony, at the expense of the public, immediately liberated by means of a "ticket of leave" and, as might have been anticipated, at once commenced anew their nefarious pursuits. Their names are John James, alias Johnson, James Morgan and James Duncan. They, too, have been tried and found guilty, and sentenced to be again transported (this time to Norfolk Island) for life. Only £7000 out of the £30,000, however, has been as yet recovered of the proceeds of the robbery.

Illustrated London News
11th September 1852

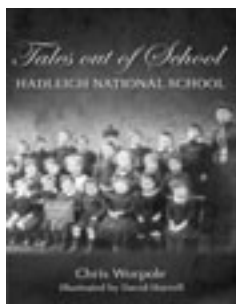
ERIC'S BOOKCASE

A REVIEW OF BOOKS AND CD'S FOR THE GENEALOGIST



Suffolk Branches “Tales of an old Suffolk Family Name”.

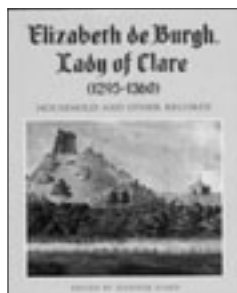
Author Gordon Dennington, Chairman of Lewisham Local History Society, has produced this 130 page A5 sized page book illustrated in black and white and colour. He has utilised basic facts of his family's history together with an element of fiction to produce readable life stories. Thus you will learn of the Chaucer Connection in the 14th century, a 19th century sheep stealer, James and Harriet Dennington and family of Suffolk who migrated in the late 19th century, Denningtons who served in the Great War and more. The final chapter is concerned with brief, but interesting, factual stories of those sharing the author's surname. An enjoyable read at a modest £5.75 including p&p to UK addresses from Gordon Dennington, 62 Park Hill Road, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent BR2 0LF (Tel: 0208 464 9260, Email: gordondennington@hotmail.com). £ sterling only cheques payable to “Gordon Dennington”.



Tales out of School Hadleigh National School

A history of this Essex school established in 1855 written by former teacher and local historian Chris Warpole, with 28 illustrations by local artist, David Hurrell and published by The Hadleigh & Thundersley Community Archive. Comprising 272 pages it is essentially based on transcriptions of extracts from the first school log book which commenced in 1863 and finished in 1909. However it is not presented in chronological order but more usefully on themes which include the teaching staff; the curriculum; government inspections and discipline; school attendance; church attendance; treats; the building and night school. Thus you find diverse entries such as 16 Mar 1877, I find the children in standard III are still very backward in the long division sums; 15 Nov 1895, Mr Stannard, one of the Managers, checked the registers; 21 Jul 1871: School closed today because of a Regatta at Leigh and 22 Jun 1866, Harriett Russell away because her father has smallpox. The log book entries are supplemented by the author's comments on the content and in particular graphical statistical analyses of school attendance. An index helpfully includes the personal names that are featured in the book. A fascinating revelation of both Victorian school life and a social history of Hadleigh, this book will appeal to social historians and family historians whose ancestors lived in Hadleigh in the last half of the 19th century. The book, costing £12.99 may be purchased from the Book Inn, Leigh-on-Sea (01702 716614), Hadleigh

Library (0845 603 7628) and The Print & Copy Shop, Unit 4, Hadleigh Business Centre as well as online from Waterstones (Online) and as an e-book from Amazon.



Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare (1295-1360)

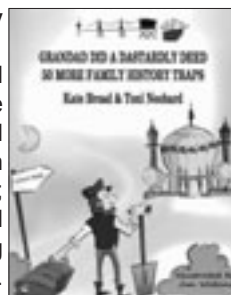
A 186 page hardback issued as Volume LVII in the Suffolk Records Society publications and edited and translated by Jennifer Ward, a retired university historian of medieval and regional history. Elizabeth was a long term widow, having lost her third husband at the tender age of 26, but was the founder of Clare College Cambridge and who was influential in Suffolk and East Anglia and a leading member of Society. The book paints a picture of her wealth, lifestyle and activities from 102 surviving household and estate records and her will. We also find information on a wide range of aspects of life in Clare

Castle, on the border with Essex, including the building and its furnishings, religious practice, visitors, food and drink, servants and their livery and travel. Also, surprisingly, business, since fur, spices, cloth and wine were imported through international fairs held in East Anglian towns. The book is complete with a listing of the household accounts - with TNA references -, a glossary of terms, bibliography and indexes for people, places and subjects.

A lifestyle of lavish hospitality to family and friends is portrayed here in the life and work of a noble family in the 14th century which will be of value to historians interested in Medieval England. Available at £25 from Boydell & Brewer Ltd, PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF (Tel: 01394 610600, Email: trading@boydell.co.uk, Web: www.boydellandbrewer.com)

Grandad Did a Dastardly Deed: 50 More Family History Traps

This book is a companion volume to the previously reviewed "Granny was a Brothel Keeper" written by the same experienced authors, Kate Broad and Toni Neobard and illustrated by Jim Wilkins. They have conspired to produce ten "traps" presented in each of five areas of Internet research; sources in other places; visiting and using archives and record offices; detecting anomalies, interpreting results and solving problems and presenting and disseminating your family history. Within the text of each "trap" there is normally a highlighted



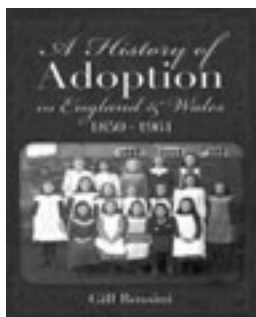
Tip or a Comment and sometimes both. How significant it is that Trap 5 is Believing your search engine is all knowing whilst Toni's Tip is "Try different search engines to maximise your searches or those that consolidate results from a number of different ones". Trap 27 suggests that faced with the challenge of a record office you don't want to appear to be a "Newbie" but you should instead admit your inexperience and seek help. Kate's Comment is "Abbreviations and acronyms are used..... look around, as there are often guides to the text used.....". At £9.99 an inexpensive invaluable guide that, by means of cartoons, tips and true family stories presented in an easily absorbed and entertaining way, could save you hours of research time in pursuing your ancestral past. Available from The Family History Partnership, 57 Bury New Rd,

Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire BL0 0BZ (Tel: 01706 825557, Email: sales@thefamilyhistorypartnership.com, Web: www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com).

A total of four titles from Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church St, Barnsley S70 2AS (Tel: 01226 734222, Email: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk, Web: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk).

Voices in Flight : The Royal Naval Air Service During the Great War

A 220 page hardback with 17 black and white illustrations written by Malcolm Smith who served for 30 years as an Air Engineer Officer with the Fleet Air Arm. The book is a compendium of recollections of aircrew and mechanics who served with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines during the Great War. The author has drawn on books, photographs, diaries, log books, transcripts and recorded narratives in the archives of the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovilton for his material. The book is arranged in seven parts commencing with the pre-war period, followed by the home and Western fronts, then the war in the Mediterranean and Middle East finishing with recollections of POWs and exploits of the RNAS Armoured Car Division in Gallipoli and Russia. The book is of particular interest to Essex historians since there were RNAS landing grounds at Hainault Farm, Chingford, Widford near Chelmsford, Clacton and Burnham-on-Crouch and there were seaplanes on the River Crouch at Fambridge. In fact there is an account from a pilot of his flying at Chingford and another travelling there to fly a tri-plane. This is a revealing, and sometimes surprising, record of the history of the RNAS from eye witness accounts. Costing £25 the book will appeal to aviation historians and family historians whose forebears were members of the RNAS during its relatively short life from July 1914 to April 1918 when it merged with the RFC to form the RAF.



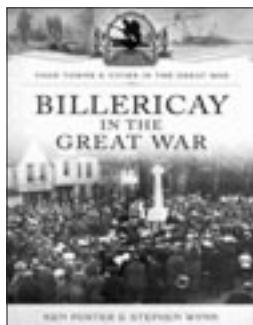
A History of Adoption in England & Wales 1850-1961

Within the 192 pages of this hardback author Gill Rossini, a university lecturer in local and social history, traces the history of the adoption process as it is transformed from a haphazard informal arrangement to a regulated legal procedure introduced in England and Wales in 1926. Along the way you will learn of the shocking stories of 19th century baby farmers and unwanted orphans that led to this transformation. The author initially considers the reasons for adoption, explores illegitimacy and the effects of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. The situation in the years from 1850 to the end of the

Great War is examined including displaced children, single women with unwanted pregnancies and the consequences and the rise of charitable and campaigning Institutions. We learn that adoption is characterized by secrecy, illegitimacy, the desire for an heir, indifference to infant mortality, genuine worthiness for those helping, redemption for unmarried mothers but above all acceptance of the creation of a new family and solving a problem. Next the lead up to the 1926 Adoption

of Children Act is considered and this is followed by an evaluation of the results of the Act especially in the face of World War 2 and subsequently in the welfare state. The final chapter is for family historians researching adoption when all the sources are explored in detail including census returns, change of name records, parish registers, b.m.d. & adoption certificates, Institutions, newspapers, Poor Law records, vaccinations, medical records and records of evacuees. There is a comprehensive listing of research resources including books and websites. Adoptions can be particularly difficult to research so this book is all the more welcome to give the background and point family historians in the right direction. Published in 2014 at £19.99.

Two books from Pen & Sword in the series Your Towns & Cities in the Great War.



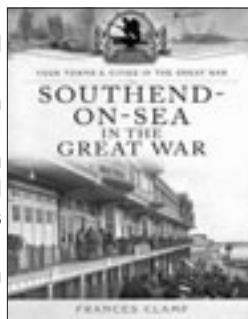
Billericay in the Great War

Compiled by local authors, Ken Porter and Stephen Wynn, this 158 page paperback, illustrated with over 50 contemporary photographs tells the story of an Essex town from 1914 to 1918. The story commences with the outbreak of war, enlistment, the provisions of the Defence of the Realm Act and the billeting of the 5th Norfolk and the Loyal North Lancashire Regiments in the town. Featured in some detail is the crash of the L32 Zeppelin in September 1916 at Gt Burstead. The lives of those commemorated on the six war memorials in Billericay, Stock, Buttsbury and the Bursteads are briefly described as is life on the Western Front and the

names of those who served and returned are listed. Billericay Workhouse which was home to a POW Internment Camp is mentioned and so too are military tribunals, the role of the police and campaign medals. Local and family historians can use this book to understand the landscape changes and the impact of the war on Billericay's residents with rationing and the loss of relatives lives when one in four of the male population had enlisted. Published in 2014 at £12.99.

Southend-on-Sea in the Great War

Within the 108 pages of this illustrated paperback local resident, historian and prolific author, Frances Clamp, documents the lives of ordinary people in a town that, due in part to the proximity of the Thames estuary, a fort, an airfield and a military embarkation pier, was a target of the German war machine. We learn of how the imposing Palace Hotel became a hospital (Queen Mary Royal Naval Hospital) as did many other large hotels each supported by local women. The story of the Zeppelin airship bombing raids on the area in May 1915, then later in 1916 followed by Gotha twin-engined bomber raids in 1917 and their impact is recounted as are



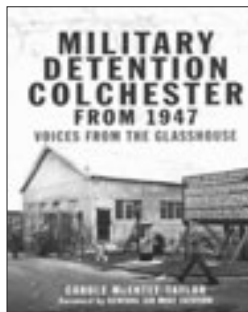
the exploits of the home defence pilots at Rochford. Local men became casualties, conscription was introduced and women were recruited to take their jobs in factories, farms and elsewhere. The author considers the implications of the shortages of food and other goods, the opening of a prisoner of war camp in Victoria Avenue and

the little known training of 7000 dogs as message carriers. Finally, Frances Clamp mentions the war memorials subsequently erected following demobilisation and the return of leisure activities. At £9.99, an interesting and very readable account of Southend during the Great War which will appeal to local and family historians with relatives living in Southend at the beginning of the 20th century.

Two books from The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud GL5 2QG (Tel: 01453 883300, Email: web@thehistorypress.co.uk, Web: thehistorypress.co.uk).

Great War Britain – The First World War at Home

The author is Lucinda Gosling who is the historical specialist at the Mary Evans Picture Library, London. Within the 240 pages of this illustrated hardback, the author draws particularly from gossip columns, cartoons and reports in contemporary issues of popular weekly magazines such as *The Tatler*, *The Queen* and *The Sketch* which was a soldier's favourite. Many of the pictures, including 32 in colour, are from these magazines and the *Illustrated London News*. The contents are arranged in nine themed chapters comprising Everybody Should Do His Bit; Women and Work; Charity and Fundraising; Nursing, Hospitals and Convalescence; Food; Fashion; Royalty; Births, Deaths and Marriages and Entertainment. There is also a chapter devoted to the Aftermath: Peace, Celebration and Remembrance. The chapter on Fashion is especially interesting and entertaining with an advertisement for the New Military Curve? from Royal Worcester Corsets, another advertisement from a permanent hairwaving institute advising "Don't let a Zeppelin catch you in curlers" plus a cartoon suggesting that "smart pyjamas" are needed for Zeppelin raids! Births, Marriages and Deaths includes references to engagements to officers with gallantry awards and a picture of the widow of one such officer with a baby daughter born after her father had been killed in action, the deaths of prominent members of society such as Lieut. Raymond Asquith, son, of the Prime Minister, and a Glaxo advert for babies that cannot be breast-fed. At £25, this is a fascinating, sometimes amusing, description of home front life during the four years of the Great War as seen through the eyes of the social elite and upper class ladies. It will appeal to social and family historians alike.



Military Detention Colchester from 1947

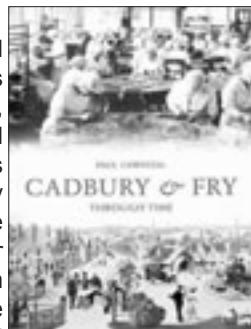
Sub-titled "Voices from the Glasshouse", Commandants, Staff Members, Detainees, Military escorts, Padres and visitors share their amusing, surprising and sometimes sad experiences within the 250 pages of this hardback. The book commences with an introduction to military punishment and detention, particularly in Colchester prior to 1947. Author, Carole McEntee Taylor, who works in the Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre, then devotes a chapter to every few years chronologically from 1947 to 2012. The author

has collected together the reminiscences of those involved in the Centre to produce a history of the unit which explains the roles of the Military Police, HM Inspectorate of Prisons and others. At £25 the book will be of interest to those curious about the history and evolution of military detention from early punishment to the present rehabilitation about which little has been previously published.

2 books from Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Merrywalks, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 makes 4EP (Tel: 01453 847800, Email: sales@amberley-books.com, Web: www.amberleybooks.com).

Cadbury & Fry through Time

This is the pictorial story, for there are over 200 captioned pictures, many in colour, of two British chocolate makers from their 18th century beginnings to the present day. Author, Paul Chrystal, vividly portrays the history using commercial documents, press and TV advertisements, point of sale cards and posters, industrial process photos, transportation, factory workers and packaging and branding. The companies were competitors until merging in 1918 and readers will be familiar with brand names such as Crunchie, Fry's Chocolate Cream and Milk Tray. Along the way you learn of the influence of Quakerism on employee industrial relations, living and working conditions and benefits plus the establishment of Bournville garden village in Birmingham. I must confess that I am biased since my mother worked and was educated at Cadburys in the 1930s but this beautifully presented story will appeal to family historians with ancestors who worked in chocolate manufacturing companies, lived in Bournville, were Quakers or just plain chocoholics! Priced at £14.99.

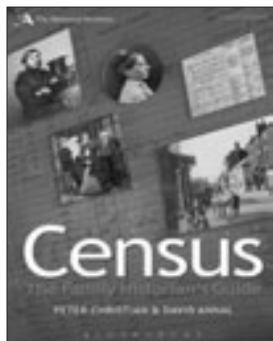


How to get the Most from Family Pictures

A 365 page paperback published in 2011, written by Jayne Shrimpton, a professional dress historian and picture specialist who gives talks and writes articles on this topic, and illustrated with over 200 closely dated images. The author aims to provide readers with guidance on interpreting, understanding and enjoying portraits and photographs which are surviving likenesses of forebears and relatives. The book commences with family artworks including miniatures, engravings and silhouettes and explains how to identify the subject, trace the artist and date the item using fashion clues, museums and galleries seeking professional help if

necessary. The next two chapters follow the same lines but for family photographs with consideration given to formats, mounts, photographers and their studios with particular emphasis on the visual image. Jayne Shrimpton then draws the reader's attention to several family events from christenings, weddings, birthdays to anniversaries and mourning using numerous examples and devotes a whole chapter to weddings. A chapter concentrates on photographs taken outside the studio at home, at work and at leisure using a wealth of diverse examples. The final chapter advises

on the preserving, copying, sharing and publishing of family pictures and there is a comprehensive bibliography together with a web resource listing within categories. Costing £12.99, this is a well presented reference book. It may well enable you to discover a great deal about your forbears' lives and experiences from pictures. Available from the Society of Genealogists Enterprises, 14 Charterhouse Buildings Goswell Rd, London EC1M 7BA (Tel: 0207 7025483, Email: sales@sog.org.uk, Web: www.sog.org.uk)



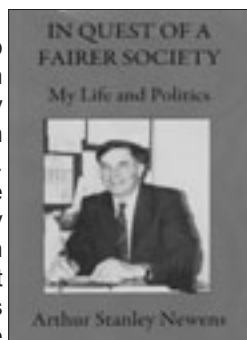
Census The Family Historian's Guide

This Guide is a fully revised and updated August 2014 edition of the book that was first published in 2008. The 360 page illustrated paperback is published by Bloomsbury in association with The National Archives and is written by the much respected and experienced family historians, Peter Christian and David Annal. The updates include the changes on the current census web sites and the complete records for the 1911 British Census records including the surviving returns for Ireland. This is a practical handbook which explains the basis of the census and how the returns can be accessed and understood. The focus is on Internet

research although the census on CD, DVD and microfilm is not forgotten. All is achieved through the use of case studies, which reveal the nature of problems to overcome, pictures and screen shots from the relevant web sites. Especially of value are the appendices comparing the features of the main web sites which include census indexes and returns, Ancestry, Find My Past, The Genealogist, Origins, Genes Reunited and RootsUK. Useful too is the consideration of search techniques and overcoming transcription errors. A comprehensive reference book, useful for making the most of the census for family history, obtainable at £16.99 from Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 50 Bedford Square, London C1B 3DP (Tel: 0207 631 5600, Email: contact@bloomsbury.com, Web: www.bloomsbury.com/uk/).

In Quest of a Fairer Society – My Life and Politics

A 414 page soft-back, published in 2014 by the Memoir Club this is the autobiography of Society Member, East London and Essex local historian, former MP and MEP, Arthur Stanley Newens. It actually turns out to be an illustrated diary from 1950 of almost all British political events for the next 50 years. Stanley was a conscientious objector during National Service and worked as a coalminer in Staffordshire subsequently graduating in History before becoming a schoolteacher. In 1949 he joined the Labour Party and the left wing Socialist Workers Party for the next 10 years. He held several posts in the National Union of Teachers and was president of the London Co-operative Society before representing Epping and Harlow in parliament in the years from 1964 to 1983. He became the MEP for Central London in 1984, sitting for the next 15 years and holding several senior positions including Chair and Deputy Leader of the Labour Group of MEPs. A fascinating



account of a life devoted to family, friends and the populace and a revealing commentary on social and political life in the last half of the 20th century which will appeal to historians. Available at only £12 from The Memoir Club, Jasprint, 12 Tower Rd, Washington NE37 2SH (Tel: 01914 192288, Email: memoirclub@msn.com, Web: www.thememoirclub.co.uk

IMAGES OF A CONTEMPTIBLE LITTLE ARMY

A Pictorial Study of the British Forces on the Western Front by R.J.Marrion (Bob) and Charles Grant (Brigadier-Retired).

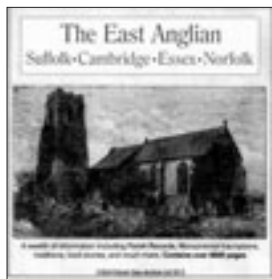
One of the unexpected pleasures in life is to review a book written by a friend and in this case a friend who has been good to this society. Many of you have benefited from Bob's wonderful and free service in helping to identify your uniformed relatives' units. I am the lucky one to now own nearly 200 packed pages of splendid photographs from an important collection. All the variations in uniform are carefully explained by Bob, who lives in our county, working with Charles Grant, a respected Scottish military historian. In addition to British soldiers and sailors there is useful information on what were then Dominion troops, a colour section including badges and sumptuous pictures of our wartime men and women. It is priced at £20, for which you get quality, from Caliver Books, 100, Baker Road, Newthorpe, Nottingham NG16 2DG 01 159 382111 or Email: ask@caliverbook.com. This is a chance to own part of a unique collection. Bob was photo-editor of the renowned series of magazines "Regiment."

FRED FEATHER



CDs

Two CDs, both running on the Windows operating system only, versions XL and later. Two CDS from S&N Data Archive Ltd, West Wing, Manor Farm, Chilmark, Salisbury SP3 5AF (Tel: 01722 716121, Email: sales@BritishDataArchive.com, Web: www.britishdataarchive.com). These are digitally enhanced, indexed and searchable version of the scans of books viewed in the versatile Adobe Acrobat Reader format with search, zoom and print facilities.



The East Anglian

The CD comprises a scan of 14 volumes of the publication of this title covering the period 1858 to 1904. It is subtitled "Notes and Queries on subjects connected with the counties of Suffolk, Cambridge, Essex and Norfolk. In all there are nearly 6,700 pages. You can search on people, places and topics and I found several references to my Probert surname including an obituary for Charles Kentish Probert of Newport, Essex and there were many references to Chelmsford. The pages contain a wealth of information including wills, obituaries, monumental inscriptions, extracts

from parish registers, descriptions of churches, local histories, pedigrees, traditions,

transcriptions of lay subsidy rolls, folklore, descriptions of businesses and the law on settlement in parishes. All this will be of interest to family historians even if you do not have ancestors from these four counties. The Cost is £19.95

The Visitations of Essex

Included on this CD are the Heralds' visitations for the years 1552, 1558, 1612 and 1634, compiled by Walter C Metcalf in a book published in 1878 from Harleian and other manuscripts held in the British Library and the College of Arms. In all, within the 548 scanned pages, there are alphabetical listings for over 650 pedigrees of which half are for the year 1634. You will find pedigrees for familiar Essex families such as Blount, Frith, Harlackenden, Luckin, Mildmay, Petre, Tyrell, Waldergrave and Wiseman. Also to be found are pedigrees



for the less well known surnames such as Barnard, Church, Gerrard, Kempe, Mantell, Pargeter, Rudd, Sebright and Wale. As an example we discover that Robert Wale aged 18 in 1634 was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Nightingale, daughter of Geoffrey of Newport Pond and Thomas Wale of Bardfield and Grays Inn who himself was the son of Thomas Wale of Radwinter and Jane Westley of Hempstead daughter of Richard. However I have always found it frustrating that these pedigrees do not normally include dates or even years for vital events. Cost is £12.95

Monumental Inscriptions

Central Essex Volume 5 (70385) Indexes & Transcripts

Another CD in the series resulting from the work of the Society's Monumental Inscription teams has now been produced and published by the Society. The CD operates on PCs with the Windows 95 or later operating system or Apple Macintosh computers (OS version 7.1 and later). The contents are viewed in the versatile Adobe Acrobat Reader software with its comprehensive search, browse, zoom and print facilities. Version 5 is included on the CD but free downloads for later versions (eg Version 10.1.2 for Windows7) found at <http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/othereversions/>. The contents include inscriptions for churches, churchyards, burial grounds and cemeteries at 9 places. These comprise Boreham; St Andrew & cemetery and New Hall Burial Ground, Ford End; St John, Great Leighs; St Mary the Virgin, Gt Waltham; St Mary & St Lawrence, Lt Baddow; St Mary the Virgin and United Reformed Church, Lt Leighs; St John the Evangelist, Lt Waltham; St Martin, North End; Black Chapel, Springfield; All Saints & Cemetery and Holy Trinity. There are over 4,600 inscriptions with nearly 10,100 names in an overall index for all the burial places. Often an MI provides more information than a parish register burial entry with sometimes three generations or more on a headstone and indirect relationships mentioned as with this entry from Great Waltham: Charlotte wife of J.D. Welch of London and eldest daughter of Samuel Adams, formerly of Howe Mill in this parish died June 17th 1859. Available from the ESFH online shop at £6.00 plus post & packing at (<http://www.esfh.org.uk/shop.php>) for £1.00 to UK addresses and £2.50 elsewhere.

ERIC PROBERT ●



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14-21 March

Genealogy Week in the Sunshine 2015 Lost Cousins (Peter Calver) in Rocha Brava, Portugal www.lostcousins.com

27 to 29 March

Guild Conference and AGM 2015 at Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort, Ermine Street, Broughton, Nr Brigg, DN20 0AQ, UK <http://www.one-name.org/events.html>

Thurs 16 Apr - Sat 18 April

Who do you Think you Are 2015 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/news/new-venue-2015

Saturday 25 April

The 26th Annual Conference of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies will be hosted Central Scotland, and be held in Stirling. The theme of the event is "There was a Soldier ...".

<http://www.safhs.org.uk/conference.asp>

Saturday 2 May 10am to 4pm

Huntingdonshire Family History Society. A Big Family History Fair, The Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 6WU. Free Admission (children must be accompanied), Light refreshments available to purchase, Free Parking. Displays and sales by family history societies from around the country & local history groups/museums/archives. Help and advice with your research. Bring your old photos for assistance with dating. Commercial stalls – books, maps, archival storage, software. Programme of local/family history lectures throughout the day. Book on the day at £2 per lecture.

See website for full details of stall holders and talks www.huntsfhs.org.uk

Tel: 01480 390476

Email: secretary@huntsfhs.org.uk

Saturday 16 May 10-4pm -

South West Area Group (12 FH groups from the West country) The Winter Gardens, Weston super Mare BS23 1AJ Free talks, Beginners or Experts. Plenty of parking, refreshments available all day, £3 entry <http://www.swag-fair.co.uk/>

Saturday 30 May 10-4pm

Gloucestershire FHS Family History Fair at Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3AX Free onsite parking. 10 minutes walk from Gloucester Bus and Railway Stations. <http://gfhs.org.uk/>

NEWS

The Surname Society

A New society launched November 2014 worldwide. Annual membership £5 <http://surname-society.org/>

Ancestry www.ancestry.co.uk

3.2 million Poor Law Records for the Workhouse Admission and Discharge between 1738-1930 in the LMA collection at Ancestry have now been indexed (previously the records were browse only). These records are from central and west London, but records from south and east London will also be indexed in due course.

NEW OR UPDATED:

Birmingham Rate Books 1831 to 1913
UK Criminal Asylum Registers 1820-1843
Warrants & Admission Registers 1846 to 1912

West Yorkshire: Birth, Baptisms, Marriage, Death & Burials, Select Rate Books, Accounts and Censuses 1705-1893 Select Land Tax Records 1704-1932, Bastardy Records 1690-1914

Wakefield Charities Coroners Notebooks 1852 -1909

Liverpool & Wigan records

UK Methodist Ministers Death Index 1800-1963

England & Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567 -1970

Wales, Caernarfonshire, Lleyllyn and Eifionydd Church Registers and Gravestone Inscriptions, 1600-1902.

Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk

Announce the release of over 13 million Scottish birth, baptism and marriage records, 25 new Irish newspaper titles and 1.3 million articles, an 1895 Comprehensive Gazetteer of England and Wales, and Devon records.

FamilySearch https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Photoduplication_Services

FamilySearch are to discontinue their photoduplication services of copies of digital images from microfilms. You'll have to go to your nearest Family History Centre and, if they do not already hold a copy of the microfilm, pay for them to get it in. The cost is now £7.50 per film

FamilySearch state that this change is being made because more and more images are becoming available online, either at their own site, or at partner sites (such as Ancestry or Findmypast).

Liverpool Cemetery Records

Toxteth Park searchable database online.

www.toxtethparkcemetery.co.uk

Roots Ireland www.rootsireland.ie

Derry City - 7 new databases:

1628 Rent Roll (earliest census)

1641 Rebellion – 905 names of men from Derry & surrounding estates

1689 Siege of Derry – supporters of William's campaign

1696 -226 citizens of the city who signed the petition condemning the Jacobite plot to assassinate King William III.

1738 – 110 leaseholders within the walled city

1839-1856 191 Derry men and women held in County Jail awaiting transportation to Australia.

1920/1 - 8367 heads of household during the troubles (reconstructed census)

REGIONAL NEWS

Essex Records Office

SEAX Online catalogue, Parish Records & Wills (A further 22,500 Wills added Inc. Dutch settlers from 1560's onwards from the Colchester area). Free to search but view by subscription from £5 per day to £75 per annum. www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk. Free access points at ERO Chelmsford, Harlow Museum, Saffron Walden Library and Valance House, Vestry Museum.

Central Home Leytonstone

Registers 1929 to 1959 for female inmates and children have been transcribed by members of Waltham Forest Family History Society. The database is available to be viewed on CD at two archives: in Newham (Stratford) and in Waltham Forest (Vestry House); copies of the CD are also held by Waltham Forest FHS and by Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society. I believe ESFH and ERO will also have copies.

Conservation East.org

Chelmsford Remembers - are looking for ten volunteer researchers to assist in uncovering the past of Chelmsford. The project provides free training and support. Contact:

chelmsfordremembers@gmail.com

or

slater.frederick@gmail.com

BARBARA HARPIN

☆ ☆ ☆

Eric Probert's Useful Web Sites



A Date Guide to English Genealogy -

<http://tinyurl.com/EDP-EngGenDates>

From Genealogy in Time Magazine, a useful guide to the basics of English and Welsh genealogy in three parts, 1500 -1700, 1700 – 1837 and 1841 to the present day. Assists in identifying when records became available and how to access them.

Beginners Guides for Family History -

<http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Try these Rootsweb illustrated Guides to tracing family trees arranged by subject complete with links to associated web sites.

Manorial Documents Guide-

<http://www.professionalfamilyhistory.co.uk/blog/>

With the recent addition of the Suffolk Manorial Documents Index (<http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/searches/search.asp>) to the Manorial Documents Register here is timely information and advice from Karen Cummings of Haverhill, Suffolk on how the under-used resource of manorial documents can assist you with your family history research.

Free e-Magazines

<https://www.rbdigital.com/essex/service/zinio/landing?>

Did you know that over 100 magazines some of which will be useful for family history and your other interests are available to read at home using your Essex Libraries Card. These include Your Family Tree, History, Britain and Countryfile as well as numerous magazines on computing, the internet and photography. Simply create a free Zinio personal reading account and choose the magazines that you want to read and browse or search through. You can also print and save pages too.

Southend and The Great War

www.southend19141918.co.uk

If you have ancestors who came from the Southend area during the Great War then you must visit these pages of excellent information put together by Michael Eighteen.

UK Book Price Comparison

www.bookprice24.co.uk

By using this web site to search on book titles you can realise savings of up to 40% on publisher's prices. The comparison also includes p&p on Internet purchases.

1723 Oaths of Allegiance to George 1 Listings -

<http://tinyurl.com/EDP-1923oath>

Learn more about these oaths for England in this article by Edward Vallance. The

listings are particularly valuable as they include many women and some also have details of occupation, social and marital status. There is a table by county of surviving rolls including Essex which has the SEAX catalogue reference.

Outlaws and Highwaymen -

<http://www.outlawsandhighwaymen.com/>

Do you want to learn more about these characters? Then visit these pages produced by Gillian Spraggs. The history is followed by stories, ballads, songs, poems, underworld exposures, letters, sermons, social comment and an extensive bibliography.

England & Wales Probate -

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

You can now search in this beta test index and order wills online. In January 2015 the search for the years up to 1996 was by surname only and year by year but for the years from 1996, you could search on surname and forename and year of death.

Guide to Online Genealogy Searches -

<http://tinyurl.com/EDP-GenealogySearchGuide>

Read this interesting, useful and concise article from GenealogyInTime to get the most of free search engines, including the use of placenames as well as personal names, wildcards and date ranges.

Cambridgeshire BMD Indexes -

<http://www.camdex.org.uk/index.cfm>

Might your Essex ancestor have moved across the border from or into Cambridgeshire? Then consult this free Cambridgeshire County Council Index which can be searched on surname alone in up to 20 year periods.

London's Pulse - Medical Officer of Health Reports, 1848 -1972

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh>

Here you can carry out free searches on Street names, personal names and topics on over 5,500 reports that were produced annually for a district with information including birth and death rates, infant mortality and the incidence of disease. The reports are also browsable by London Borough and decade and provide an insight into everyday life in London.

Northern Ireland BMD Records -

<http://tinyurl.com/EDP-GRONI>

Explore this guide to births, marriages and deaths from 1868 where you can also search the indexes in 5 year periods and order certificates.

RAF Museum StoryVault -

www.rafmuseumstoryvault.org.uk

Here you are able to search casualty cards, muster rolls, next-of-kin cards and the April 1918 Air Force List by surname and initials for basic career details of ordinary servicemen and servicewomen of the Royal Flying Corps. Eventually there will be stories about these intrepid airmen.

Gt War Research -

www.nwkfhs.org.uk/world-war-one.htm

From the NW Kent FHS a comprehensive and useful guide to researching Gt War ancestors and a listing of web sites for research on this conflict.

Irish Archives Portal - In one go search the catalogues of 34 archive services including PRONI and the National Archives of Ireland on people, places, organisations and events.

Victorian Pictures

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/victorian-era-britain-pictures-amazing-2676780>

37 incredible pictures depicting the grim reality of London life during the last half of the 19th century.

The Naval & Military Archive -

www.nmarchive.com

Here, for an inexpensive monthly fee, you will be able to search 8.8 million serviceman's records, 4,500 official unit war diaries, campaign medal rolls, silver war badge listings, "Soldiers who died in the Great War", Distinguished Conduct Medal Citations and Biographical Rolls of Honour.

Britain's Roads -

www.sabre-roads.org.uk/maps

An incredible site for current and historic maps in which you can place a marker on one map and then switch to others showing the same location.

School Archives of the Great War -

www.worldwar1schoolarchives.org

Magazines, images and accounts from the Great War from (in January 2015) fourteen schools.

How Railways Changed People's Lives -

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/railways

Explore from 120 key dates how railways have changed the environment, standardised time and revolutionised holiday habits. Browse through a listing of over 3,000 railway related records and read too guides on researching railway workers.

Placenames in 18th & 19th Century London -

<http://tinyurl.com/EDP-LondonPlaces>

I am indebted to Peter Calver's Lost Cousins Newsletter for alerting me to this alphabetical listing by John Lockie in 1810 to the names of over 3000 Squares, Streets, Lanes, Alleys, Courts, Docks, Inns and Wharves not appearing on contemporary maps.

Neil Oliver's articles on Great War ancestors

<http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/blog/tag/neil-oliver>

Learn about the 1.5 million medical records of the admission and discharge registers of field ambulances, casualty clearing stations, hospitals and medical transport ships during the Great War. Discover trench trauma and medical miracles and then search the current database of 30,000 entries that is being added to.

ERIC PROBERT ●

The Colchester General Election of 1852

The local newspaper, the Essex Standard reported “ Shortly after four o’clock the Mayor ascended the hustings for the purpose of declaring the numbers at the close of the poll” (Mr Hawkins and Lord Manners had been awarded the winning votes). “An immense crowd, estimated at 600 persons, all more or less excited by political feeling, some by drink, and some by both influences combined, had assembled, and the appearance of the newly elected members and Mr Hardcastle, each with a large number of their friends on the hustings, was a signal for deafening uproars, which was continued for about 20 minutes without intermission.

A number of pugilistic encounters took place and as the blue band and banners were passing through the crowd, a vigorous attack was made upon the latter, and threatened to result in a general row; in the midst of which a large body of county police (120 in number) under the command of Capt. McHardy, and a number of superintendents and inspectors, advanced in a body, and after a smart skirmish, in which blows from the fist were returned by blows with the constables staves, the interruption was in a great measure quelled, but not before several heads had been broken by the staves of the police, and the capture of three or four of the most violent among the crowd.”

Colchester had its own police (formed 1836) but those mentioned were from the Essex Constabulary (formed 1840). Captain John B.B. McHardy the Chief Constable had little more than 120 to police the whole county so that it is possible that some of his 120 men were special constables, which may have some bearing on the discipline of the body. The Chief’s career was in the Navy and Coastguard Service.

The newspaper further reported:

The aftermath of the General Election at Colchester 1852

“A few days ago we were solicited for temporary relief by three labouring men, all disabled from pursuing their calling in consequence of wounds they had received on the day of the election in the attack of the Rural Police under Captain Mac-Hardy, a scene which has been the subject of much discussion in the town generally and of much animadversion among those who witnessed it from the neighbouring windows. The introduction of a large body of county Police into the Borough at an election, as we believe it was without precedent, so it has been loudly condemned as both unnecessary, and of itself calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. We refrain from expressing any opinion on this latter point, or on the circumstances which immediately preceded the attack; but we must observe that had the Mayor (Mr Laing) and his official advisor (Mr Sayers Turner) been a little better acquainted with the Colchester people than they appear to be, they would have

known that the extra and expensive aid of the County Police was altogether uncalled for by a election for this Borough. We have seen many and warm election contests; but we never before witnessed in this Town a combined and undistinguishing onslaught of the police on the assembled electors: and we are not alone in the opinion that the fears of certain gentlemen whose recent proceedings would naturally engender expressions of unpopularity, most unfortunately influenced the authorities to give up into other hands the power they would more effectually, and with much less damage to peace and good feeling, have exercised themselves.

It was the subject of general observation, that during the day of election single fistic contests, which the interposition of one policeman has been accustomed heretofore to stop, and on this occasion would have stopped in a moment, were permitted to take place unchecked, whilst scores of rural and borough constables were held in a compact body under the hustings: and it is well known that when a clergyman appeared to the superintendent of the County Police for his interference, he was roughly told by the superior officer not to interfere. Blood was then allowed to flow from more than one nose unheeded; but when the business in which one or two County Magistrates felt more than ordinary interest had been forced through the mass of electors and others assembled in front of the hustings, and had been torn to pieces by the inconvenienced crowd, a signal was given, and a body of County Police rushed on the people, and dealing their merciless

blows in every direction inflicted wounds alike on the obstreperous and the peaceable. Of course those of the defenceless and astonished crowd who could get out of the way of the official bludgeons scampered off, and, as those who could not do so were knocked down, a considerable space was soon cleared, affording a striking illustration of the manner in which, if ever freedom of election should not be repressible by local influence, it might be awed by physical force. Judging however from the remarks we have heard made on this display of the effectiveness of the County Police force, we fear that should a similar demonstration take place at any future election the blows would not be so exclusively on one side. The electors of Colchester, who, on a former occasion, manifested their unwillingness to be ridden over rough-shod whilst waiting to hear the opening proceedings of the election, are equally adverse to a sudden eruption of armed police when patiently looking for the result of the contest.

We heartily wish that Mr Superintendent Kent, the chief of our local force, had been left, as on former occasions, to keep the peace at the recent election, instead of being held in subjection to the orders of a stranger. We feel certain he would have not have stood quietly by, a witness of these single combats which seemed to receive tacit sanction rather than discontinuance from the County Police: and we believe there would have been no general attack on a already packed crowd, who in the exercise of their constitutional rights, were exposed on one hand to the annoyance of unrestrained ruffianism, and on the other to

the indiscriminating weapons of the police; whose office, if we may judge by the circumstances under notice, seemed to be not to prevent disorder but to punish it.

We would not contend that the matter calls for official enquiry - we are unwilling to suppose that sinister influence directed the attack: we are ready to make large allowance for the ... of some and the inexperience of others. But we hope never again to see the Chief Magistrate of this town delegate his power into the hands of the County Police. *Essex Standard* July 1852.”

Letters appeared in subsequent edition under this title:

The Late Attack Of The Police

To the Editor of the *Essex Standard*

Sir - The townspeople are naturally very indignant at certain proceedings connected with the late election. They wish to know who summoned the County Police into our Borough?, who will defray the expense connected with their invasion? and who ordered their most unjustifiable attack? Rumour assigns the issuing of the order to Mr George Round; but as he is not a Borough Magistrate, and has no popularity to spare, it is to be hoped he will be able to contradict the rumour, if unfounded.

Answers these questions, if you are able to supply them, will much oblige

Yours Respectfully,

An Inquirer. - *Essex Standard* July 1852

An extract “ Protesters were told not to interfere and a minister of the parish in which the peace is thus broken was roughly asked “Are you a magistrate sir” and on replying “No” received again for answer “Then, Sir, you must not interfere?”

These conflicts, it appears, were allowed to go on for a time, when the rural police by a signal sallied forth, striking right and left among our townsmen; and I know of one instance (and I dare say there were many) in which a most inoffensive man who was in the crowd, had his head broken. I understood (with I believe the inhabitants generally) that the rural police was called in, and that at great expense to the ratepayers, to prevent the peace being broken, or to stop it at the moment of an outbreak.

As these proceedings form precedents for future elections, and involve the liberties and lives of our fellow townsmen, it is of the utmost importance that the inhabitants should be satisfied as to the conduct of the Borough public officers.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant.

Q - *Essex Standard* July 1852

Martin Stallion of the Police History Society writes:

“The Borough Watch Committee minutes only contain two references to the 1852 election:

1852 - 2 March

The Committee suggested some specials should be sworn in for the forthcoming election

1852 - 6 August

Resolved that the Council be recommended to pay the police force £2/12/- for extraordinary diligence and exertion during the late fair and general election (E.T. Is this the Borough Officers?)

McHardy gave evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on policing in 1853 and some of the questions and answers read:

Has your constabulary force been requested to act at any time, in any borough within your county, for the preservation of the peace, or on any other emergency? *Yes*

When was that? *Principally at the last election; the authorities attributed the keeping of the peace and the legal termination of the elections to the assistance of the county constabulary.*

What number of men did you send? *I took one hundred and twenty to Colchester; and I did not find that I had one man too much. My object is always to have a sufficient force to prevent parties being tempted to a breach of the peace.*

Had the men extra pay from the borough? *They were paid merely their expenses of going; the county paid them their usual weekly pay, but as this was a special service, and the men were put to expense, they were paid 2s a day, and 1s a night, to cover their expenses.*

EDITORIAL TEAM

SNIPPETS FROM THE LONDON ILLUSTRATED NEWS 1852

The contemporary Illustrated London News reported that on 28th August 1852 an "old woman" died at Shenfield. She had been on parish relief for many years. Among her effects was found £1000 (today's equivalent £58,000)



The Ipswich Express says, that at a dinner given at Colchester in the week of the borough election, the health of her majesty was proposed as usual, when a farmer, residing at Semer, near Hadleigh, inverted his glass, refusing the customary honour to royalty, on the ground that the Queen was a Free Trader.

7th August 1852



Brentwood School and Charity. The Attorney-General, in answer to Mr Hardcastle, explained that he had been induced to recommend the acceptance of £2000 (today's equivalent £116,000) for the £7000 (today's equivalent £409,500) due to the Brentwood School by the late Headmaster, by an arrangement, by which the patron agreed to transfer the surplus of the charity connected with it to the school, in order to increase its efficiency.

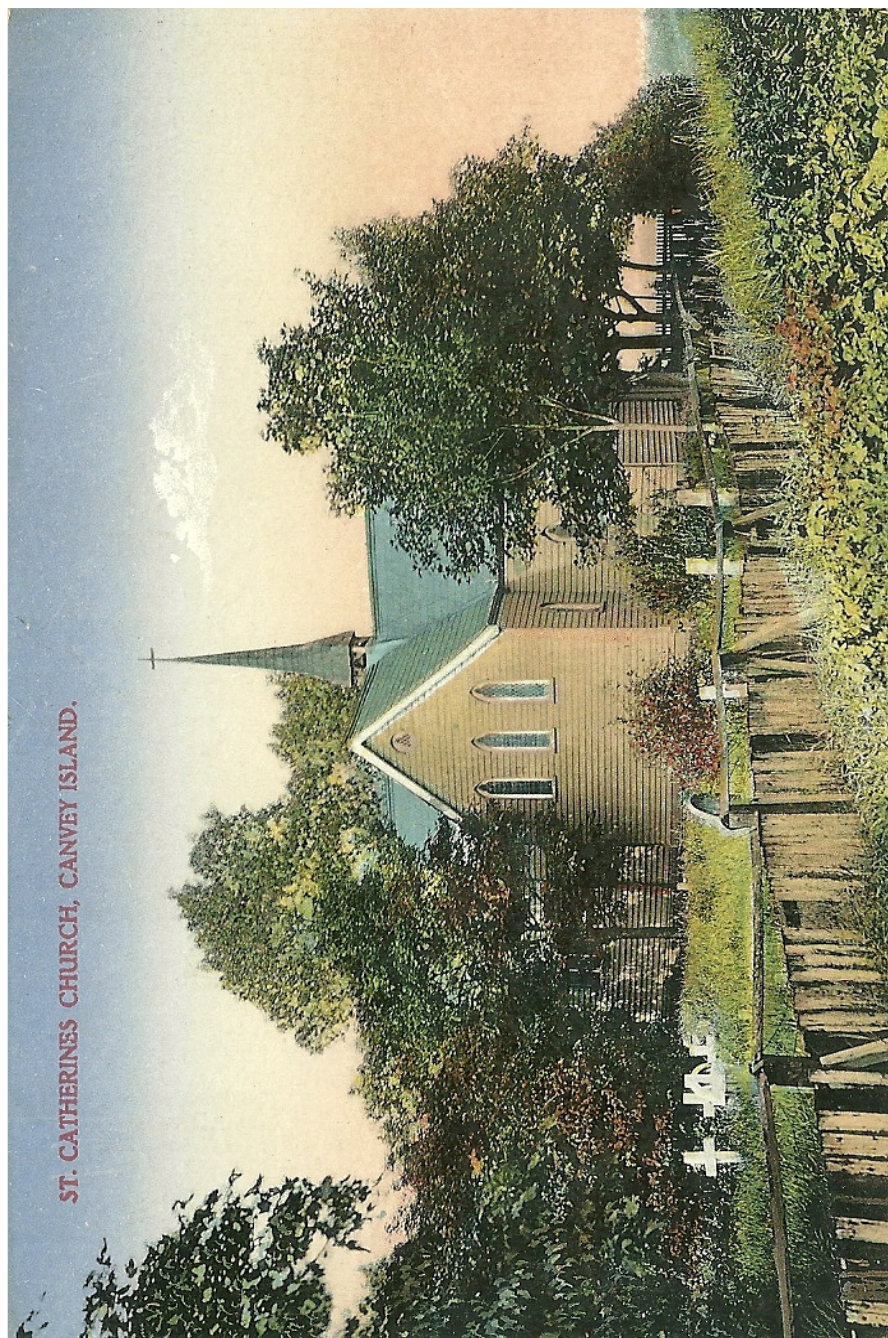
26th June 1852

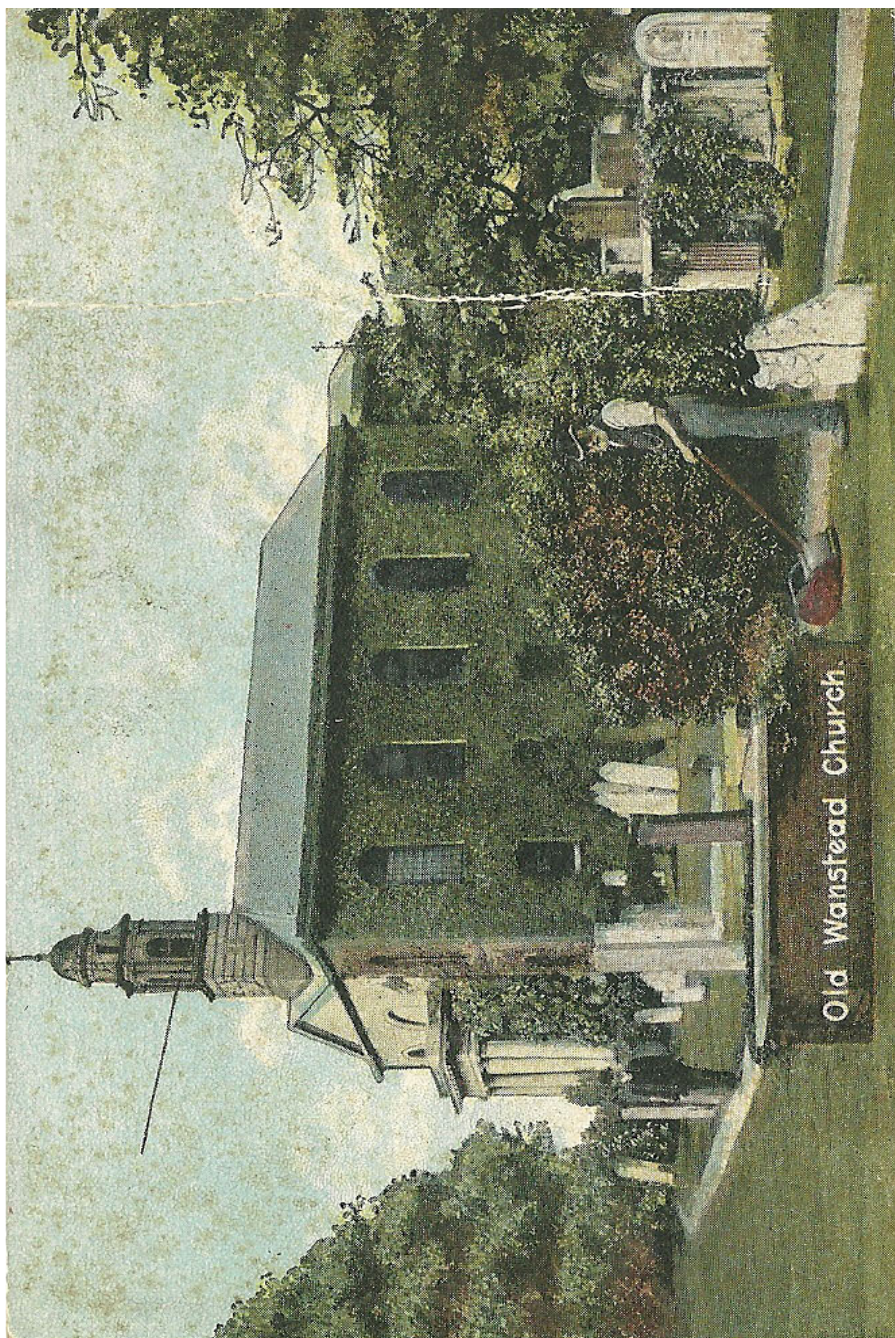


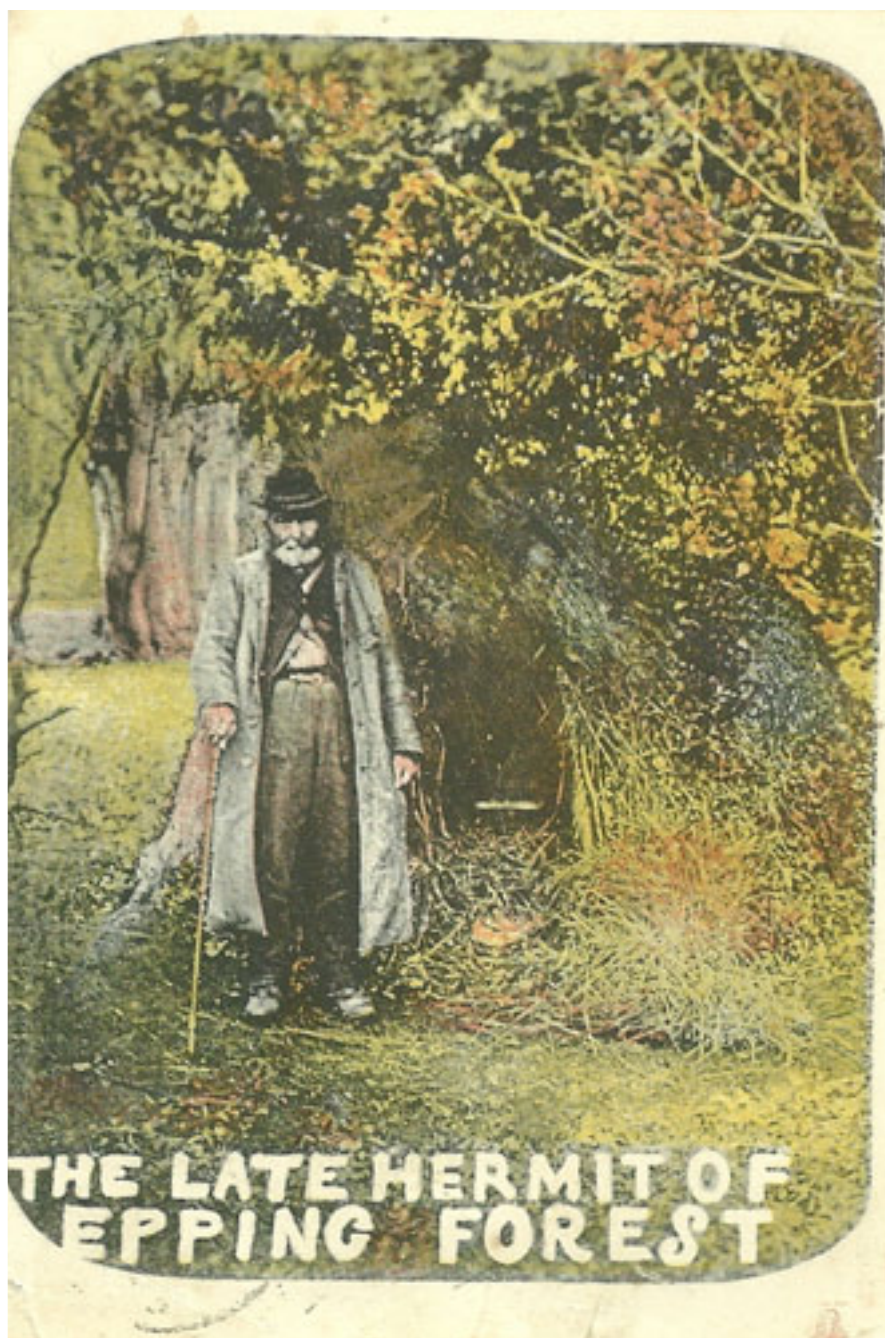
Gunnery experiments are going on at Shoeburyness under the directions of a committee of naval and artillery, with eccentric shell, with a new class of gun- a 10 inch long gun of 116 cwt. This huge piece, however, burst during one of the trials, which has stopped the proceedings of the committee until a new gun can be cast.

17th July 1852









Can You Identify This Hermit Of Epping Forest?

You will have seen the picture of the hermit on Page 76. The reverse of the postcard does not help but this quotation was found: "There are many stories of " hermits" in the forest: Henry Plodden, an out-of-work carpenter aged 74, who lived for a month in a hollow tree at Bushwood in 1905; Charles Sheridan lived for close on 30 years in a holly bush near Hale End, if the "Woodford Times" of 1901 is to be believed; but the most famous " hermit" was William Burke who lived in Monk Wood until his death in 1903. Frank Askew can tell us about him: There was a hermit who lived on Goldings Hill. He was a learned sort of man and young lads went on a Sunday to hear his stories and ask advice. My brothers went, but they said I was too young. He shopped in Loughton on Saturdays, but I don't know where he got the money from. Obviously, he had not always been a hermit, but he kept his past to himself. He made himself a hut which was waterproof and he lived there. They sold pictures of it in the village. Eventually my brothers agreed to take me to see him the next Sunday, but during the week he died."



GEORGINA GREEN ~ Keepers, Cockneys & Kitchen Maids (1987)

Editor - *Do Hermits appear in the 1901 census? I was aware that, at the time of the 1961 and 1971 censuses, the police recorded all the rough sleepers in the towns where I was stationed, St.Albans and Southend on Sea.*

IRON BUILDINGS & ROOFING

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from KELLY'S DIRECTORY OF ESSEX 1898

Some Events During The Era Of the Stuarts And the Commonwealth

An interesting view of religious matters in the county appears in a book called “Essex Heyday.” It reports that “One of the saddest cases was that of Dr Michaelson of Chelmsford who became rector in 1623... The first load of Dr Michaelson’s harvest of troubles was carried home a decade later when Parliament ordered all ‘scandalous pictures’ to be removed from churches. The church-wardens at once removed some of the glass from the east window of St. Mary’s (now the Cathedral). This was not enough for non-conformists for on 5th November 1641 they broke every fragment of the beautiful window.

On the following Sunday Michaelson preached against this crazy conduct. This so infuriated the congregation that they threatened to ruin him. The good Doctor, who was far from being unsympathetic to the Reformation, had to flee for his life. His wife and eight children were reduced to poverty. He was restored to his living under Charles II. It is worthy of note that during his absence the dominant figure in the “religious” life of the town was ‘Parson Oates’ leader of the local Anabaptists, who came before the judge of assize on one occasion charged with the murder of a convert, who apparently died whilst being dipped by Oates.



CHARLES 11

‘Parson Oates’ incidentally was the father of the notorious Titus Oates.” Later the fourth Lord Petre was accused of being privy to the “Titus Oates plot.”

In 1678 it was alleged that he had received a commission as Lieutenant-General in a Roman Catholic army about to invade England, and at once he was arrested and sent to the Tower, where Pepys was his fellow prisoner for a short while, under suspicion of having sold naval information to the French. In 1683 after 5 years imprisonment Lord Petre wrote to the King for justice, but died in prison in the following January.

From “Essex heyday” by William Addison, published by Dent 1949.

War Casualty after Armistice had been declared

READING in the June copy of the Essex Family Historian about The Devil's Own reminded me of my uncle, William Landels Folkard, for whom I have a 'Death Penny'. His death is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as occurring on the 15th November 1918. He was the only son of my grandfather, also William Folkard, born at Lexden, Essex and Naomi Browning Page, born 1864 at York.

He was born at Stowmarket in Suffolk 28-10-1893. Sadly his mother died in childbirth and consequently my grandfather remarried Sarah Syrett, born 1859 at Haughley, Suffolk, on the 26-9-1898 at Stowmarket Baptist Chapel. My mother, Naomi, the only child of this marriage was born at Eye, Suffolk, 9-3-1899. My grandfather was a prosperous ironmonger who had shops in four Suffolk towns, Eye, Stowmarket, Needham Market, and Bungay.

William Landels went to Eye Grammar School and then boarded at The East Anglian School for Boys, a Methodist foundation, in Bury St. Edmunds. This in 1935 became Culford School. He was apprenticed to Baker and Fairhead, Dispensing Chemists, in Head Street, Colchester. At the outbreak of the Great War he would have been 21 and he took up a position as a dispensing chemist at the Military Hospital in Colchester which would have been a "reserved occupation" as far as war service was concerned. However he felt that his duty lay at the Front and enlisted in the Royal Engineers as a Private at the age of 22 and his army number was 169505. I have a diary which he kept but rather irregularly. On the 1st January 1917 he was at Warlingham

Barracks in Surrey on sanitary fatigues and also learning shorthand for an hour a day. He embarked at Southampton at 4.30 am on Friday 20th April, 1917 and sailed for France at 8.30 am.

His job in the trenches seemed to entail being an engineer, in moving the artillery guns up to the front. This was carried out under cover of darkness and consequently he was trying to sleep during the day while all the shelling and bombardment was going on. The last entry in this diary is for August 5th when he was baptised in the upstairs chapel at Talbot House, Poperinghe, by P.B.(Tubby) Clayton the well known founder of Toc. H. Coming from a Non Conformist family William Landels had never been baptised in the Church of England. I have a copy of the book written by Tubby Clayton telling the history of Talbot House which was a rest house for all ranks away from the horrors of war. In this book is recorded my uncle's name as one who often frequented Talbot House. I also have the official card confirming his baptism, his confirmation and when he took his first communion. There is a signed photograph of Tubby Clayton along with one of the chapel and the times of services. Jeremy Paxman was seen on television visiting this chapel in a programme earlier this year and it could be seen preserved exactly as it was 100 years ago when it was opened in December 1915.

In my uncle's diary he mentions endeavouring to obtain a commission and it appears he was successful in obtaining one but not in the army. I have a photograph of him in the uniform of a

Second Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force. This compares with the photo, which his father had had taken of the four members of the family before he went off to France in his serge uniform



PRIVATE WILLIAM LANDELS

as a private.

He entered the R.A.F. on the 2nd May 1918, only a month after the Royal Flying Corps became the R.A.F. He received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant which was dated in the London Gazette on the 24th September, 1918. He came back to England to train to become a navigator in a two man plane and I know he visited his family in Eye at this time from tales he told my mother about life in the trenches. However the end of the war came before he could return to France to fight. On the 15th November 1918 he and his pilot took off on a joy ride to have a look at Windsor Castle and on coming back to land they crashed and both were killed. This was at Chingford where 138 Squadron were at Halton Camp, where he had been stationed since the beginning of October. He died as a result of his injuries in Edmonton Military Hospital on the same day. The inquest was held three days later and



WILLIAM LANDELS IN THE UNIFORM OF A SECOND
LIEUTENANT IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

the verdict was death caused by injuries sustained in an aeroplane crash. He is buried in Stowmarket Cemetery along with his mother who had died some 25 years earlier. Though it is recorded on his headstone that he was in the R.F.C., this is an error.

It was a sad end to someone who had endured nearly a year in the trenches, only to die joy riding in a plane in England. He has the distinction of being recorded on two War Memorials. In Eye in Suffolk along with a cousin, Leonard John Syrett and in Shrub End, Colchester. This was where the Folkard family hailed from, where his father owned a farm, and where his father was to be buried in 1930 in the churchyard adjacent to the war memorial. I have a special interest in my uncle (though I obviously never met him) as I was given his two Christian names.

WILLIAM LANDELS WILD (ESFH4343)

Bob Marrion, our Military advisor was interested in this report and made the following comments: "The new khaki uniform for all ranks was regulated by Air Force Memorandum 2. Junior officers

were identified by one gilt upright bar either side of the cap badge, with two gilt bars for a captain. In addition a small crowned eagle was worn on each cuff without lace. A lieutenant wore a single band of lace on each cuff. The new uniform was gradually introduced from April 1918, those having served in the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air service were allowed a "Wearing out" period for old uniforms. (Air Ministry Memorandum 111). The new uniforms were not completed until 1920. A.M.W.O. 617 sanctioned a pale blue (later Air Force Blue) in 1918. This replaced khaki and all R.A.F. officers were expected to have one pale blue uniform, the khaki becoming working dress. The cap bars were dropped in this month – October 1918.

There were no Navigators in the R.A.F. at this period but only "Observers." In May 1918 (A.M.O.330 the Observers badge worn by Royal Flying Corps authorised personnel was allowed to be worn by members of the Royal Air Force who were qualified. Navigators wings were not worn until authorised in September 1942).

To find an accurate date for the photograph you would need to discover when the subject passed his Observer course as he is not wearing the Observer wing on his left breast.

Congratulations

We are delighted to announce that Adrian Corder-Birch (ESFH member No.726) has been made one of the Deputy Lord Lieutenants of Essex.

ANN TURNER

MORE SNIPPETS FROM THE LONDON ILLUSTRATED NEWS

1852

Gunnery experiments are going on at Shoe-buryness under the directions of a committee of naval and artillery, with eccentric shell, with a new class of gun- a 10 inch long gun of 116 cwt. This huge piece, however, burst during one of the trials, which has stopped the proceedings of the committee until a new gun can be cast. 17th July

Sir George Henry Smyth Bart, of Berechurch Hall, Essex – This warm hearted hospitable country gentleman died on 11th July. For many years he sat in Parliament, for the town of Colchester, almost uninterrupted from 1831 to 1850, in which latter year he retired in consequence of ill-health, and was succeeded by the current member Lord John Manners. The baronetcy which the deceased inherited at the decease of his father, the late Sir Robert in 1802 was conferred 30th March 1665, on Robert Smith of Upton, Barrister at Law. Sir George Henry Smyth was born on 30th January 1784 and married 20th July 1816, Eve, daughter of George Elmore esq., of Penton, Hants, by whom (who died 12th September 1851) he had an only daughter Charlotte, who married Thomas White of Whethersfield (sic) Hall, Essex, and died 17th October 1845, leaving issue. 17th July

Arrivals of Shipping in the Thames.- On Tuesday a larger number of vessels arrived in the river than has been known to come up in one day for some year, there having been no fewer to 244 vessels of all classes, the aggregate tonnage of which exceeded 36,600 tons, entered inwards, at the Custom House. This unusual influx is to be attributed to the late heavy gales, during which shipping was compelled to seek refuge in roadsteads and harbours along the coast until the weather moderated. Advices from the out-ports state that several vessels are bound up Channel. 21st August

PER TERRA AD ASTRA

The term “canteen culture” is now often derided, but in my experience it taught young officers valuable lessons in the background to their work. Vaguely mentioned in those long ago discussions of the former police force, the Southend-on-Sea County Borough Constabulary (1914-1969), there was the story of a man who began his career walking the beat in Southend on Sea and who became “A Film Star.” This memory reappeared recently when the credits rolled after an afternoon film on television. It was “I was Monty’s Double” and the actor was David Davies. It confirmed the almost apocryphal story that Superintendent Ray Law’s uncle had left Southend police to become an actor!



Constable 40 David Lewis Davies (3 April 1906 – June 1974) began his police career on 17th February 1927 and Ray Law has shown me a photograph of his uncle with a number of named recruits in the police station yard off Alexandra Street, now the car park behind Tomassi’s Restaurant in High Street, Southend-on-Sea.

David Lewis Davies was born in the Welsh village of Brynmawr in 1906. His father was Lewis Davies, his mother Ester, but his parents, with two daughters and a son came to Southend from South Wales in the depression and General Strike circa 1926. David was 20 when he joined Southend Police. The family lived at 73, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh on Sea. David married Eve Simmons and they had a daughter Margaret. They divorced about 1937. Ray said that he was a fine baritone and earned money apart from his police pay. He was a very early owner of a car and used it for singing and entertainment on the side. There was a story about him

being disciplined for taking a prisoner to London in his own car and Ray thought that it sounded true. He had an entrepreneurial spirit. The following is an apocryphal story, again from Canteen Culture. It was one function of David as the duty “ambulance” driver at Southend to convey bodies to the Mortuary in the previously mentioned car park. As the ambulance was about to turn into Alexandra Street and was on the tram lines, the back doors came open. The body shifted. The two policemen rushed back to find that a tram had stopped. The driver had got out because of the obstruction and fainted.

There is a picture of a Southend Police ambulance in John Oliver’s Southend Vehicles, one of the History Notebooks from the Essex Police Museum available on line. David retired from Southend Police with a duodenal ulcer on 27th April 1937.

For a year he had a cleaner’s shop on the corner of Westbourne Grove opposite Chalkwell Park but his fine baritone voice



and theatrical ways led him towards a higher income. His contemporaries are almost certainly dead. He quickly became a distinguished stage and film

actor. His early acting roles were on the stage, and in 1942 he appeared at the Stoll Theatre in London in the role of Sergeant Malone in the operetta *Rose-Marie*. During the war he had married one of C.B. Cochrane's Tiller Girls, Muriel **Miller**, they had a son called Elwyn. He became a War Reserve policeman with the Metropolitan Police and also helped to entertain wartime troops with E.N.S.A. Whilst David was on his way to a concert in the Middle East for E.N.S.A. his boat was torpedoed.

In 1948 a memorable part he played was Gus Jordan in *Diamond Lil*, a play written and performed at the Prince of Wales Theatre in the West End by Mae West, who met his family. He then appeared in films, cast at 6' 4" as a "heavy", a police officer or in a military or authoritarian role. He often appeared in British film and television programmes, and was in demand in films set in Wales, such as *Tiger Bay* (1959) and *Only Two Can Play* (1962). His mother Ester never approved of the roles he was playing, she would not go to see him in them and discouraged family members from doing so.

Ray Law recalled his own "Stag Night" in London on 11th June 1954 when he and a friend met his uncle and a friend who had just been cautioned by the Police for busking in Leicester Square. They would kneel with shoes attached to their knees

and pretend to be dwarves dancing.

In 1948 he appeared in the Dylan Thomas written film *The Three Weird Sisters* as a police officer. He continued his connection with Welsh cinema in 1949 when he took the role of Septimus in *The Last Days of Dolwyn* and as a burly stranger in the comedy *A Run for Your Money*. In 1950 he took on the role of Mr. Arrow, the first mate of the Hispaniola who comes to an unfortunate end at the hands of Robert Newton's Long John Silver in the Disney live action adaptation of *Treasure Island*. That year he also appeared in the British Drama *The Angel with the Trumpet* as a Nazi leader.

By 1951 Davies was becoming a regular face in emerging British television, appearing in *The Passing Show* and as Ben in *Midshipman Barney*. He continued appearing in popular films of the time, but normally in walk-on character parts, such as a police officer in *The Lavender Hill Mob* (1951). He received the more substantive role of Benson in the British crime thriller *Mystery Junction* (1951) and gained a credited role as a chauffeur in the 1952 mystery Drama *Mr. Denning Drives North*. He continued to work chiefly out of Britain for the majority of the 1950s, with roles in the fantasy-comedy *Miss Robin Hood* (1952), *The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men* (1952) and appeared alongside Tod Slaughter in *Murder at Scotland Yard* (1952).

D a v i e s appeared sporadically in film and television during the mid-fifties, with uncredited roles in *Forbidden Cargo* (1954) and *The Long Arm* (1956),



but finished the decade with regular appearances on British television. He also returned to movies with roles in *I Was Monty's Double* (1958), *Tiger Bay* (1959), *The 39 Steps* (1959) and *Ben-Hur* (1959). He had been considered for the part of the singing Welsh soldier in *Zulu* but was sick and the part went to Ivor Emmanuel. Between 1959 and 1960 Davies appeared as a regular character, Jim Blake, in the British television series *Probation Officer*. Ray recalls an evening



in the 1950's when David turned up at Southend Police club along with fellow stars John Paul and Honor Blackman. He also had guest roles in long running shows such as *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1960), *Richard the Lionheart* (1963) and *The Avengers* (1963). In 1964 he appeared in Roger Corman's *The Masque of the Red Death* and a year later he took the part of the captain of Galtesund in *The Heroes of Telemark*. After a brief stint as Lieutenant Commander Prince in the soap opera *Coronation Street* (1972) he made his final screen outing in the 1972 adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* playing the role of Utah Watkins. He died in June 1974.

FRED FEATHER ●

SOUTHMINSTER

From the Southminster Baptism and Burials Registers.

By the Return made in 1801 there were:

Houses	145
Families	210
Males	581
Females	547

Population in 1801 – 1128

By the Return made in 1811 there were:

Houses	157
Families	245
Males	658
Females	631

Population in 1811 – 1289

A memorandum concerning Burnham –

By the Return made in 1801 there were:

Houses	210
Families	222
Males	545
Females	509

Population in 1801 – 1054

By the Return made in 1811 there were:

Houses	194
Families	232
Males	526
Females	530

Population in 1811 – 1056

The Population of the hundred of Dengie according to the return of 1801 was 9793 and in 1811 was 10923. (JS)

Branch Meeting

News and Reviews

Forthcoming events and reports from around the County

CHELMSFORD

Headquarters

Postcode: CM2 8TR

The Galleywood Centre, The Common (off Margeretting Road), Galleywood Chelmsford.
Meetings are on third Saturday and start 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.

18th April	Manorial Records & Customs by Katherine Schofield
16th May	What Stories would your Ancestors tell by Rob Parker
20th June	Dr. Williams' Library – early non-conformist birth registry
18th July	Transport for London Corporate Archives: thinking outside the box

Lectures

18th April	Dot Dash to Dot Com – History of Telecommunications by Andrew Wheen
16th May	Working River 1900s – 1950s by John Neal
20th June	Daisy, Countess of Warwick - from Royal Mistress to Political Activist by John Gyford
18th July	Local Canals by Charles Phillips

What's Gone

NOVEMBER - The Essex Riots by Riotous Assembly

An excellent musical documentary weaving together narration, song and verse using newspaper reports, diary extracts, songs, poems, official propaganda and worker's voices a very moving and accurate account was given of what it was like to be a weaver, agricultural labourer or soldier returning from the Napoleonic Wars in the late 1700s. With the sale of wool declining, agricultural mechanisation, the price of wheat rising and economic migrants from Scotland and Ireland there was much poverty which lead to riots and near revolution. I thoroughly enjoyed the show and highly recommend it.

DECEMBER TUTORIAL - The Internet Is Not Everything

Ann Church explained that it is always best to look at original records as online transcriptions are not always reliable and the originals may have additional information. Thus when looking at GRO indexes bring up the images, with Census look at neighbours and with Registers look at the end pages as comments often added. Others worth looking at included: Poor Law and Settlement Records, Overseers

Books – the overseers paid funeral costs for paupers. Rates Books, Tithe and Land Tax Records, Royal Naval Records, Electoral Rolls, Service Records for Soldiers, Wills – when requesting a Will ask for any associated documents. The National Archive has some very useful leaflets <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk> Eric Probert then gave a powerpoint demonstration on how to order certificates emphasizing that orders should be made via www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates at a cost of £9.25 per certificate. Mention was made that births and deaths in workhouses show the address of the workhouse not the name. You can also order through local Register Offices see GENUK for details <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng>. The National Archives Archon Directory has hyperlinks via areas and is very comprehensive and includes details of museums and libraries. The tutorial finished with a presentation by David Eniffer on Timelines which included a demonstration of a family history software timeline. Other sources include the BBC UK History Site, Wikipedia, Local Newspapers, Local History Books and Sound Archives. By looking at timelines it is possible to find out more about your ancestors and possible reasons for changes in their lives, for instance the Agricultural Depression of 1870 led to many Ag Labs moving into towns.

DECEMBER LECTURE - Family History Question & Answer Session

This article would be far too long if I included all the questions and answers, so I have just listed the two most relevant : Australian Research : It is difficult to generalise about Australian records because most of them are State orientated so you need to know which state you are researching and which era. The main surviving census is the 1841 for each state. New South Wales has the 1891 census but it is head of household and number in household only. A good website with an overview of all states is <http://coraweb.com.au>. We have a national archives website plus most states have their own. The national archives url is www.naa.gov.au. There is an extremely good newspaper archive covering all states at www.trove.nla.gov.au. Then choose newspapers. These are all free. Here are a few I recommend from each state: New South Wales www.records.nsw.gov.au (archives, includes passenger and convict records), www.bdm.nsw.gov.au (birth marriage and deaths), Victoria www.prov.vic.gov.au (archives and passenger lists), www.bdm.vic.gov.au (bmd), Tasmania www.linctas.gov.au (bmd, convict records), South Australia www.genealogysa.org.au (bmd plus some newspapers), www.archives.sa.gov.au (archives and some passenger indexes - no actual records). There are also free indexes for Queensland and western Australia links available on the coraweb site. A good index for newspaper bmd after 1970 is www.rversonindex.org. This has only indexes for newspaper death notices after 1970 to bridge the gap after the official bmd indexes finish. Obviously apart from these free indexes there are the paid ones like ancestry.com.au and findmypast.com.au. Family search have a limited number of marriages and baptisms as they were denied access by most states and territories. The Federation of Family History Societies www.ffhs.org.uk website

has a copy of their Australasian “Really useful leaflet” which can be downloaded and, “as it says on the tin,” has a lot of useful information. The website also lists Australian family history societies. (Thanks to Robin Hagedorn in Australia) :French Research : You need to know where your ancestors lived as all records localised. Other sources being the French section of Cyndis List. French Geneanet. <http://en.geneanet.org/first-step/search-your-french-ancestors/01-french-genealogical-records>, Rootweb and Genforum.

MERYL RAWLINGS

COMPUTER GROUP

Chelmsford

Postcode: CM2 8TR

The Galleywood Heritage Centre, The Common, Galleywood, Chelmsford. Meetings are on the third Saturday and start at: 10.30 a.m.

What's On

18th April	Question Time
16th May	Electronic Family History (websites and how to use them) by Rob Parker
20th June	Members sharing session
18th July	Workshop

What's Gone

NOVEMBER TALK - Workshop led by Chairman Andrew Britter

We had a very useful extended workshop session with members sharing information. I think we all learnt something.

Dropbox – there is a new part Boxifier which allows access to any folder on your computer.

Keyboard LED's – free download to warn if caps have accidentally been turned on.

Task Manager – can be accessed by right click on the bottom tool bar. For a speedier machine – switch off programmes you don't need to run.

Australian WW1 Records are free to download, right click and save image. Irfan view

Picasa - When printing images, to save ink, get rid of black lines: Magnify, straighten, crop.

Facebook – under groups you will find lots of pages with helpful information on places, etc. Also useful to keep up with distant relatives, cousins, newborns etc. Duplication in Database, etc. tidy up and be consistent.

Death Certs are available for some soldiers killed in war at a cost of £9.25 but free info on CWGC site.

Passwords - Get browser to remember user names and passwords but don't save on your computer. Password keepers – LastPass.com.

Take regular breaks, set time at 15 minute intervals and get up and walk around. Use Online clock.net. – left click on clock and add additional clocks for other parts of the world.

Acid Free paper, pockets and ink – will keep our valued work longer.

Store your research in two different formats.

New society earlier this month – The Surname Society £5 to join run by Kirsty Grey.

Android Tablet – Roots Magic not good, Ancestry App, Ged Star Pro, Heradis, Family Bee – a basic family tree app for phones.

Military History during the Crimean war 1850. How did people get paid their weekly amounts back home? Stamps often used, then cash back at post office.

Virus Checker – very necessary – Avast is free. Auslogics – untick options boxes and custom install. Website TNG – The Next Generation. Open Office & Libra Office free. King soft Office 2013. WPS Office on Android. Excel does not sort historic dates without an ‘add on’. Libra does. Copying data – clipboard, paste special gets rid of all formatting in one hit.

DECEMBER TALK - Family History Quiz

Members had an enjoyable session with a quiz, from which I believe we all learnt something.

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

11th April	Cholera and Conflict: The 1832 Cholera Pandemic by Michael Holland
9th May	History of Essex Police by Fred Feather
13th June	TBA
11th July	Genealogists Question Time

What's Gone

OCTOBER TALK - The Streets of Harwich Past and Present by David Whittle.

David, from the Harwich Society, told us about the origins of Harwich, his talk being enhanced by a series of pictures, maps and photographs. In the beginning it was just marshland with a creek at the back of Felixstowe. This was in the days when the Vikings were invading. King Alfred deflected some of this. Then about 1100 there was a tidal surge which silted up the creek. It was soon after this that the building of houses on a grid system was begun. As Harwich became a port and maritime town, it developed many pubs. It is said that a person drinking half a pint could not manage to visit every pub! Some of these do still exist today. The cinema was left to deteriorate but has been renovated and is in full use these days. Many of the Victorian shops

have gone and the town has grown but the original roads can still be seen.

GILL PEREGRINE

NOVEMBER TALK - Family History with a Cold Theme by Andrew Britter.

Andrew took us from pagan times until the present day charting how the present day idea of Father Christmas/Santa Claus originated. From early times there has been this figure distributing food and gifts at a certain time of year usually wearing a hooded cloak of some sort. In about 270-280AD we first hear of St Nicholas from Myra in Turkey who distributed food to the poor. When he died he was made a Saint and his feast day was 6th December. The Saxons gave names to the elements like Lord Frost and throughout the centuries different countries carried on the same traditions of giving gifts to the poor. In 1087 the Italians stole the bones of St. Nicholas and claimed them for the Roman Catholic Church. In 1577 a priest called Noel Bruhart eventually became a cardinal and wore a red cloak and travelled widely in the 1600s something that Santa Claus does. He was known as Pere Noel (Father Christmas). Andrew continued charting the origins of Father Christmas throughout time mentioning the poem "The Night Before Christmas", the first Coca Cola advert showing a jovial Santa Claus, the first Christmas card and so on. Andrew finished with a family tree of his wife, her ancestors having the surname Christmas. The talk was very interesting and informative with far more facts than I can mention here. Thank you Andrew.

PAULINE ADLEM

DECEMBER TALK - Christmas Social.

Only a few members attended but it was a very enjoyable afternoon. We had two quizzes. David Eniffer had organised one from various famous family trees and Paul Stirland presented us with pictures of Colchester buildings. He gave us three dates to choose from as to when they were built. Both were very interesting. We were then able to sample the food which was a contribution from everyone. Of course there was far too much but greatly appreciated 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

4th April	Life and Death in Essex Workhouses with Mark Carroll
2nd May	The Great Exhibition in London 1850 by Jeff Page
6th June	Life in the 18th Century with Ken Sneath
4th July	What Granny didn't tell me with Stephen Manning

What's Gone

NOVEMBER TALK - Members' Memories of the Great War

As this month's meeting was the closest to Remembrance Sunday, the branch decided to commemorate the Great War (First World War) by having an afternoon of members' family stories from the conflict. Margaret Davies spoke of an ancestor, **Albert Frederick Ison**, reported missing four days after his 21st birthday, whose remains were never found. The huge Thiepval memorial in France, designed by Lutyens, bears his name. Poignant letters were read out; a last missive to his mother, thanking her for a birthday parcel received; the reply she received from an N.C.O telling her that there was nothing definite but that he had most probably been killed. A memorial photograph showing the uniformed man and a large version of a penny known as a dead man's penny were passed round the audience.

Heather Lewis talked of her grandfather, **Joseph Charles Harding**, married with four children when he enlisted and left his wife to cope as best she could. He did return, but while researching his records, Heather discovered that his younger brother, **George William Harding**, had been killed in battle.

Terry spoke of her father, **Leonard Plant-Mason**, and her grandfather in law, **Tom Lionel Gibbins**. Both were caught in No-man's land when shells landed. Leonard was gassed but, as his was a "Pal's Brigade", in this case a cycle club, his mates would not let him go to the field hospital for treatment. They gave him milk, thought to cure gas injuries, and he did make some sort of a recovery, but after the war, his lungs deteriorated and he was an invalid in the latter part of his life. Tom was caught by a high explosive shell which blinded him. He was treated in the field hospital before being repatriated and eventually sent to St. Dunstan for retraining as he could no longer earn his living as a steeplejack. He lost one eye but did recover a little sight in the remaining one. He walked from London to Warwickshire with a white stick, to escape the flu epidemic.

Marlene Brooks recalled her uncle, **William George Clarke**, another with no known grave and his name is also on the Thiepval memorial. She has a copy of the last letter sent to his father describing terrible conditions at the front. He was killed soon after. However, Marlene has German ancestry as well as British, so she has been told stories showing aspects of the war from both sides.

Jean Wright spoke of her grandfather, **Norman Bellchamber**, a painter and signwriter, who had been in the Voluntary Field, the predecessor of the Territorial Army. His role was receiving and assessing the injured as they arrived on boats from France. Based in England, he lived under canvas in terrible, damp conditions, enduring freezing winters which caused him to contract the rheumatic fever which rendered him an invalid for the rest of his life.

Jean Broome, spoke of her grandfather **Victor Stanley Cleeve**. He had fathered six surviving children. One of these, Norman, had been injured by a bomb and suffered bouts of extreme tiredness after the war, eventually sinking into a coma which lasted for four years until he regained consciousness. Jean's aunt had worked in Woolwich Arsenal during the war and Jean read from her aunt's memoirs describing the

conditions there.

The afternoon was completed by an excellent audio visual made by family members, of a visit to the Menin Gate to place a wreath in memory of **Harry Frank Bartell**, at a special ceremony there, with the Scots Guards. He again has no known resting place. Many photographs and memorabilia were brought in for members to see.

DECEMBER TALK - Bygone Antiques with Ian Torrence

For our pre-Christmas meeting, we wanted something light and amusing, so our speaker was Ian Torrence with his collection of “Bygones”. Ian told us about a Victorian Fair in Portsmouth Harbour, which he had recently attended. There were many people in Victorian Dress and the crowds were entertained by street entertainers, barrel organs, old fashioned carousels etc. There had been about 250 stalls selling typical Victorian foodstuffs, decorations and knick-knacks. There were also two Victorian policemen wielding truncheons and dragging along two convicts with a ball and chain apiece. Ian encouraged members to attend if they saw a Victorian Fayre advertised in the area. For the main event of the afternoon, we divided ourselves between five tables. Ian passed round boxes of items from the past and we had to identify them. Each box had a card of pictures or advertisements and members had to decide the decade of the twentieth century to which they belonged. Other items in the boxes ranged from hair crimpers for Marcel waves to galoshes, and from a runner bean slicer, to a hanging, decorative pipe rack. Most of us confused a leather shin guard with a gaiter! Much conversation and laughter was promoted as the boxes went from table to table. This is the second time that we have had Ian and his bygones but unfortunately it will be the last, as he is now retiring from the circuit. Thanks to Ian for a fun afternoon.

TERRY SOTHCOTT ●

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

9th April	The Freeman Collection of images of Americans in the UK in WW2 by Jenny Cousins
14th May	A Walk with the Admiral by Richard Thomas
11th June	Collections at the Bishopsgate Institute by Stefan Dickens
9th July	The Flow of History (River Thames) by David Williams

What's Gone

OCTOBER TALK

Dr. Ken Sneath of Cambridge University gave a talk on Everyday Life in the 18th Century. He reminded us of the major changes which had taken place in that century – so large that they could be called revolutions. He listed them as occurring in

population; industry; agriculture; transport and consumer products. Many people moved from the country to the towns as better wages were on offer due to the growth of industry. This led to improved productivity in agriculture as employers adopted better practices such as rotation of crops and new technology. Better use of the land and improved breeding of livestock also took place. Transport improved with the introduction of canals and turnpike (toll) roads which enabled the new industrial products and imports to be moved easily and cheaply to a growing middle class throughout the country. This new middle class were benefiting from the growth in wealth from the industrial revolution. One way this growth can be measured is by an examination of the probate records. Several research projects are in progress to compare the records of the 18th century with previous centuries to show how once uncommon objects such as clocks became more widespread in the 18th century. A most interesting talk supported by much detailed research.

NOVEMBER TALK

Mike Furlong, a branch member, told 19 members & guests about his Pettit family history. Mike's theme was the 200 years of milling that he had discovered over many years of research which covered an area of some 70 miles by 23 miles along the borders of Essex & Cambridgeshire. He was also able to pinpoint the importance of the premises in which the North West Essex Branch meet with recently acquired facts relating to a particular ancestor, as well as tie in the geographical significance



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of the surrounding towns & villages. Mike's many slides and illustrations painted a graphic picture of the mobility of labour from the 18th century to the early 20th century especially in pursuit of work in the milling trade. He highlighted some of the hazards of mill life and the increasing difficulty that millers faced as imports of grain grew to meet the demands of an ever expanding population. Two mill disasters (one of which was reported around the world) were also included. The second part of his talk treated the audience to a quick photographic journey featuring the mills where his ancestors worked and those that are still open to view.

DECEMBER TALK

Once again Stan Sutherland tested our family history/history knowledge with a quiz. We only had to answer "true or false" but the questions were far from easy. Nine members enjoyed the evening and we finished off with Christmas refreshments.

MARTIN FOREMAN

SOUTHEND

South East Essex

Postcode: SS0 7JX

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

4th April	Shoebury Garrison by Bob Delgarno
2nd May	The Flow of History (The Thames) by David Williams
6th June	An afternoon at the Pictures by Mr D Simpson
4th July	Edwardian Music Hall (mainly) by Fred Feather

What's Gone

SEPTEMBER AGM.

There were no changes to last year's AGM (existing members of the Committee being re-elected) other than to welcome Eric Jude who has since taken over from Jo Sylvester as Programme Secretary. With no matters arising, the AGM came to a close.

The afternoon finished with a collection of interesting talks given by our Chairman, John Gardner, and fellow members Heather, Annette, Peter, Audrey and Fred. With encouragement afterwards from John, others began joining in - tales of everyday folk to those who found fame. It's fun passing the ball round like this and if it does end up in next door's garden, then someone else, that's all to the good. We must do this again sometime.

OCTOBER TALK - Palace Gardens

James Buttress spent 25 years with the Royal Parks and gardens, which makes him more than qualified to talk on a subject that has been so much a part of his life - and still is. The Royal Parks cover an area of some 850 acres. No other city in the world has that amount of green space. 'This is gardening big-time' as our American cousins would say; a battle between you and Mother Nature. That is where the expertise comes in, having people like James who are able to plan ahead to ensure Madame plays fair and when she doesn't, will bring in Plan B. (All serious gardeners have a Plan B.) Gardening is a science. It's also something one learns. "You never stop learning", said James. Throughout the seasons, London's parks and gardens always look good. Greenbelt in this country is constantly under threat. Developers and governments want to build on it. Cities like London couldn't be more vulnerable than they are at the present time. We need to ensure we retain these special places.

NOVEMBER TALK - Widening horizons

Staying with the gardening theme from last month's talk, Prue James put a slightly more personal touch to her horticultural connections by giving a talk on her Bunting ancestors, who were nurserymen in Lexden Road, Colchester. Prue's great-grandfather, Isaac Bunting, first began trading in the 1820s but it was his grandson, also named Isaac, who made the business what it subsequently became. Japan had opened Yokohama Harbour to trade in 1858. Isaac (Prue's great-uncle) saw the possibilities this might have. The Victorians went crazy for anything Japanese - they couldn't get enough of it. No middle class drawing room was complete without its Japanese teapot and fan. In 1874 Isaac sailed to Japan and stayed for 3 years, living on one of its many islands. From there, Buntings soon became one of the leading importers of Japanese exotics. Isaac Bunting made a lot of friends amongst the Japanese during his lifetime. And, what of the future? The business continued trading until the 1960s before it was forced to close owing to cheaper imports.

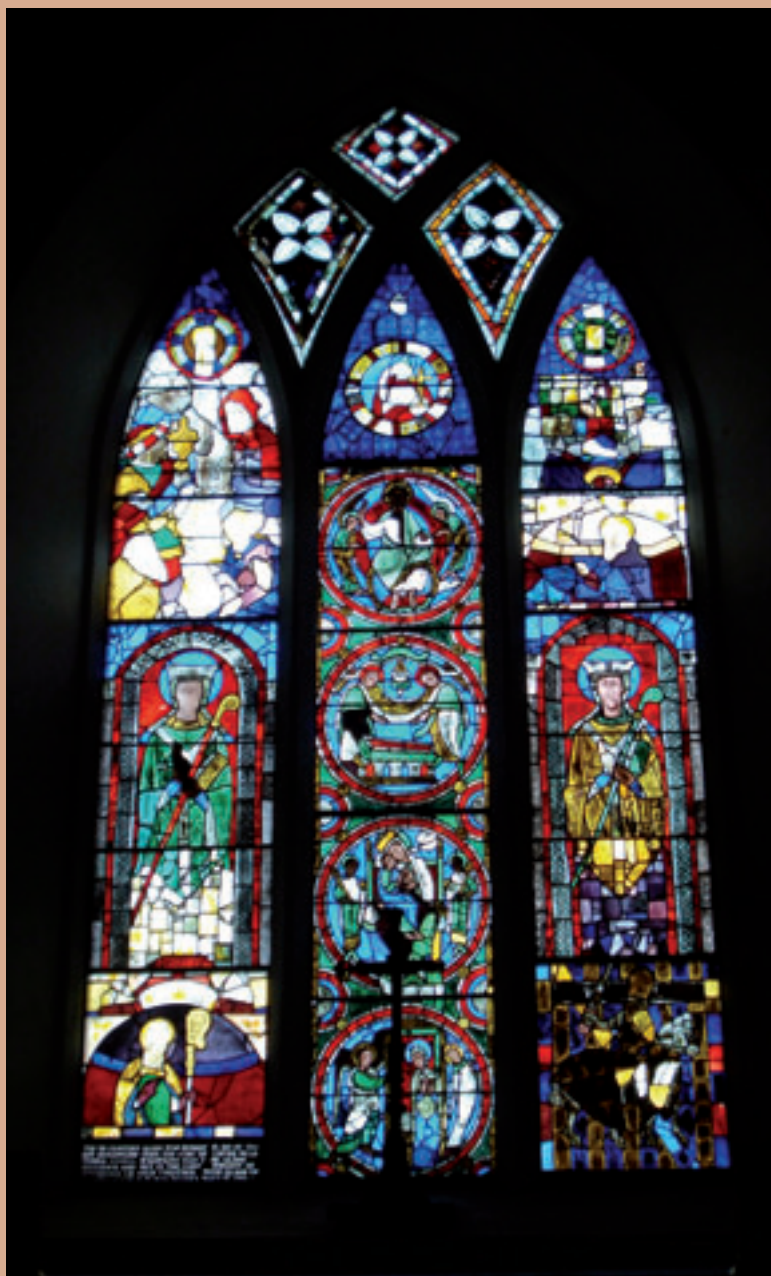
DECEMBER TALK - My youth

Colin Banks was our guest for this month's talk. Life could not be happier for one young lad growing up in Enfield during the early years of the Second World War. Each day was seen as an adventure for a child with lots of imagination. Then the family moved to Witham in Essex and everything changed. "I had no friends and frequently found myself bullied for being an outsider. But that's how things were. I dealt with the situation as best I could" said Colin. He did well at school. He also passed his scholarship exam. Even the natives came to accept him. They had to - he made sure they did. This rather sums up Colin's character, someone who enjoys life and when there are problems, he sorts them. But then he always has.

MARTIN HAYDN ROBERTS



The Arms of King James II, Rivenhall



Saint Mary and All Saints, Rivenhall