

Just a few comments from visitors we met:

- I had a request from a visitor seeking information on a great grandmother (or was it great great? she wasn't sure) born in New York in 1804, married in Calcutta, lived in Guernsey and died in England. I managed to find it all plus several 'public family trees' on Ancestry for our visitor to follow up on – v.satisfactory.
- For another we found a picture of her Grandfather and Grandmother she had never seen – quite emotional
- Then there was a telephone call from a Lady from New Zealand who was seeking photographs of WWII bomb damage in Ewell. She couldn't get to the LHC and was returning to NZ the following Tuesday. She already had the maps of where the bombs fell from our website but she wanted pictures too. I could not find any pictures in any of the books in the library but managed to direct her to two websites: Mrs. Swann and doll <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Tragedy.html> and Blitz and Bomb Damage http://www.rbksch.org/museum/topic_display.asp?topicnum=3 - a happy New Zealander.
- Liz Manterfield reports she spent an hour trying to find 2 children who died before adulthood for a lady who did not know their first names or when they died within a 30-year window. Every time I reached a point where I was about to say, "I'm sorry, I will have to move on" she would say, "Could you just look at..." It was exhausting. I gave her a list of half a dozen children who died in the area and seemed to be possibilities, but there was no donation and I think she was slightly put out that I drew things to a close. Just proves you can't please everyone.

If you have any comments from enquirers, like these, please let me have them for future newsletters.

New website for War Memorials

Clive Gilbert has informed us that there is a new website called War Memorials Online. A bit like Wikipedia, anyone can submit information. Clive has started our Epsom memorials and intends to put on all the information he has for Epsom and Ewell. The software for the photos is not very good (he thinks they are working on it) so some of the pictures are a bit cropped. But it is a terrific enterprise and in a few months/years could be a fantastic resource. You can check it out at <http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/>

If you put 'Epsom' in the search box it will bring up an interactive map of Epsom with 29 memorials indicated.

Thanks Clive, a very worthwhile project.

Advance notice of a talk by Dr. Nick Barratt

Angela has advised that the popular and knowledgeable Nick Barratt will be giving a talk on "*Behind the scenes of Who Do You Think You Are?*" on Tuesday, October 1st 2013 (I told you it is advanced notice) starting at 8.00pm. It is being held in St. Mark's Hall, Alma Road, Reigate. Entry will be £5 and Angela says you can just turn up and pay on the day. Should be fascinating – a good speaker and a fascinating subject. Just so you know it has been arranged by The Reigate Antique Collectors' Society.

A PayPal scam to be aware of

You will be aware that we are signed up to PayPal for accepting donations to our website. We have recently received the following email:

From: "service@paypal.co.uk"

To: EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

Subject: Your account is limited until we hear from you. How to restore your PayPal account

Dear PayPal Customer,

During our regularly scheduled account maintenance and verification procedure we have detected a slight error in your PayPal online account.

This might be due to the following reasons:

1. A recent change in your personal information (i.e. change of address, email address)

2. An inability to accurately verify your selected option of payment due to an internal error within our systems.

Please fill in all the details that are required to complete this verification process.

To do this we have attached a form to this email. Please download the form and follow the instructions on your screen. NOTE: The form needs to be opened in a modern browser which has javascript enabled (ex: Internet Explorer 7, Firefox 3, Safari 3, Opera 9)

Please understand that this is a security measure intended to help protect you and your account. We apologize for any inconvenience. If you choose to ignore our request, you leave us no choice but to temporarily suspend your account.

Please do not reply to this e-mail. Mail sent to this address cannot be answered. For assistance, log in to your PayPal account and choose the "Help Centre" link in the footer of any page.

Yours sincerely, PayPal

Help Centre <https://www.paypal.com/ro/cgi-bin/helpweb?cmd=_help>

Security Centre <<https://www.paypal.com/ro/security>>

Please do not reply to this email because we are not monitoring this inbox. To get in touch with us, log in to your account and click "Contact Us" at the bottom of any page.

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It looks really professional and plausible doesn't it? But it is a SCAM. So, be warned, if you receive an email like this or open our "Lucy" emails at the centre do not download the form. In fact, do not touch or mess with the email. Leave it and refer it to Peter or Clive.

How shopping at the Epsom branch of **Waitrose** in February can help boost our funds

Last year Angela Clifford submitted a request to Waitrose for us to be one of the community services to receive their help. Angela enclosed a copy of Clive's advertisements from WW1 to show some of our work.

She also asked that the Waitrose volunteers help us by spreading the word about our need for photos, documents etc if anyone is clearing a house or flat, so even if we do not get funds, we might get items. In early January Angela received the following email from Waitrose:

From: communitymattersepsom@waitrose.co.uk

To: Angela Clifford

Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013

Subject: Community Matters Epsom February 2013

Dear Angela Clifford

I am writing to let you know that the Epsom and Ewell local and family history Centre has been nominated for the Community Matters Collection in February 2013 at the Epsom branch of Waitrose.

Tricia Rutter Community Matters Champion

So in February I, for one, will be foregoing the Nectar and Tesco points and going to collect the green plastic counters in Waitrose in the Ashley Centre and placing them in the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History collection box at the exit door. Can we ask that as many of you as possible do the same.

Many thanks, especially to Angela for arranging this initiative.

Edmund Bond, England's first Veterinary Surgeon, came from Epsom

By Elaine Parker and Caroline Baldock

Whilst carrying out some research in the graveyard at St Martin's Church in Epsom I found a group of three graves dedicated to a family with the surname Bond. One in particular, an altar tomb, has an intriguing epitaph and in part reads:



Images Ian Parker ©2013



In Memory of EDMUND BOND . . . Veterinary Surgeon,
Of Lower Brook Street, London,
Died Sepr. 13th 1802 Aged 33 years.
N.B. He was the first of that profession in this Country.

Other members of the family included across the three graves are Edmund and Mary Bond, father and mother of Edmund, the vet, plus his seven brothers (including Midshipman George Bond, mentioned earlier), and Edmund senior's granddaughter and grandson, Ann and another George, and Edmund's uncle and aunt.

The significance of this find is of importance to racing history as Edmund Bond (senior) and Edmund Bond (junior) were involved in the care of Eclipse, the true progenitor of all our racehorses today, whilst he was stabled at Epsom.

On the 1st April 1764, a day of a solar eclipse, a chestnut foal was born on the estate of the Duke of Cumberland and given the name 'Eclipse'. After the death of the Duke he was bought by William Wildman who put Eclipse



Eclipse by George Stubbs

in to his first race, a Fifty Guinea Plate at Epsom, which he won in May 1769. Col. Denis O'Kelly, a larger than life entrepreneur of Cannons, Edgware, Middlesex, obtained a half share in Eclipse after his second race at Ascot in 1769 for 650 guineas and then purchased the other half for 1,100 guineas. Eclipse raced 18 times and was never beaten. Col. O'Kelly was to say, '*Eclipse first the rest nowhere*'. Eclipse was stabled in Epsom at O'Kelly's Yard which was on the lower slope of Clay Hill (West Hill) not far from Epsom High Street, along with his companion, a parrot, who sang psalms and popular songs!

Edmund and Mary, parents of Edmund (the future vet), had a property on the north side of Epsom High Street where Derby Square and the Library stand today (plot 324 right). Edmund (senior) was a farrier and blacksmith specializing in equine hoof care including trimming and balancing and shoemaking. There is every possibility that Edmund (senior) was called in to attend to Eclipse's feet and as his young son grew up he too may also have worked on Eclipse under his father's supervision.



In 1771 Eclipse was retired to Clay Hill Stud in Epsom. In 1778 O'Kelly wanted him moved his estate at Cannon's in Edgware, Middlesex. Great care was taken of this wonderful horse as by then he had great difficulty walking, so a covered carriage was made. This was pulled by two horses. It is said that '*Eclipse stood in the carriage with his head out of a window made for that purpose, and in this situation many inhabitants saw him pass through the town*'. Eclipse died from colic in 1789.

On 20th February 1789 O'Kelly requested Charles Benoit Vial de St Bel, the French veterinary surgeon from Lyon in France, to undertake the dissection of his racehorse. Edmund appears to have been held in high regard as, aged 20, he was also called in to be present. Eclipse's bones were stripped and cleaned of everything but the ligaments.

In 1791 St Bel founded and became the first professor of the first Veterinary College in England in St Pancras, London. The Committee to oversee the course comprised of Henry Cline - surgeon and teacher of anatomy at St Thomas's Hospital, Dr Baillie - lately teacher of anatomy and physician at St George's Hospital, John Abernethy - surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital and teacher of anatomy and surgery, Houlston - surgeon in Chancery Lane, Everard Home - surgeon at St George's Hospital and Astley Cooper - surgeon to Guy's Hospital and teacher of anatomy and surgery.

Four students started the first course in January 1792 with Edmund, aged 23, being one.

In August 1793 St Bel died after a short illness aged 40 years. His body placed in a vault beneath the Savoy Chapel in the Strand.

The first College certificate was granted to Bond on the 22nd April 1794 after being examined at 8pm on the Tuesday evening in the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand.

In June 1794 a newspaper report stated:

'The public are most respectfully informed that Edmund Bond (late a Pupil of the Veterinary College) has undergone an Examination before the Medical Committee, and the following is a Copy of their report: These are to Certify that Mr Edmund Bond has attended the Veterinary College as a Resident Pupil for Eighteen Months, and having been examined by us, we consider him as qualified to practice the Veterinary Art. N.B. Mr Bond resides at present in Epsom'.

Around the end of the century Edmund and his wife took up residence in London in Haunch of Venison Yard, Lower Brook Street, Grosvenor Square. By this time he had been given the skeleton of Eclipse by the family of the late Dennis O'Kelly. It has been said that *'the skeleton, which exhibited immense strength and power, was afterwards for many years preserved in the museum of Mr Edmund Bond'*

Edmund died in 1802. His wife presented Eclipse's skeleton to Bracy Clark, a fellow veterinarian and contemporary of Edmund's, for helping her to dispose of her husband's practice and clear an outstanding debt of £500. His body was brought home to Epsom for burial in St Martin's Churchyard.

Members of the Bond family continued to reside in Epsom until the 1880s.

Sources

Royal Veterinary College

T.A.Cook: *Eclipse and O'Kelly*

J. Orton: *Turf Annals 1844*

Surrey Tithe Maps: courtesy of Surrey History Centre

FitzWilliam Museum Cambridge

H. Pownall: *History of Epsom 1825*

Lehmann: *Copyholds of Epsom*

See where research can take you!

By Hazel Ballan

Why Nine Witnesses!

In our last newsletter the following appeared:

"On 7th March 1843 William Cooper married Catherine Miller." Nothing strange there but they had 9, yes NINE, witnesses. Were they worried that the marriage might have been contested?

Further research has thrown up that the bridegroom, William Cooper, was in fact a clergyman who was living in Clay Hill Epsom when the 1841 census was taken. As yet, to which Epsom or Banstead churches with which he was connected have not been found.

On 7 March 1843 William, aged 30, married 23-year-old spinster Catherine Miller in St Martin of Tours church Epsom Surrey.

William and Catherine's 9 witnesses were, as far as I can tell, as follows:

1. H. Miller - this would seem to be Henry Miller, the bride's father. Born c1791, he was a naval officer living in Church Street Epsom Surrey when the 1841 census was taken. There are no further records found in the Epsom district of him or his wife Ann Shirley Miller. Catherine did have a brother named Henry Newdick Miller but he would have only been aged 15 and was at the time a 'Gentleman cadet' in the East India College in Addiscombe, Surrey. When William Cooper died in 1885 executor Henry Newdick Miller was living at 10 Avenue Elmers Surbiton Surrey, and was a Major-General in Her Majesty's Army.
2. Thomas Cooper may have been William's brother, but no record as such has been found for him.
3. James? - not enough information to make an identification. It is possible that this may have been another brother of William's.
4. Caroline Miller was Catherine's sister. Born in Epsom in 1826, she was still unmarried when the 1861 Epsom census was taken.
5. Daniel Robinson - no other definite information found.

6. Shirley Stanwick – This may have been a male or female. Catherine's mother Ann, her sister Mary and her brother Frederick all had the middle name 'Shirley'.
7. W H Budden – no other definite information found.
8. M Hutchinson – no other definite information found.
9. Mary J Miller – this would seem to be Catherine's sister with the middle initial mistranscribed. She was born in 1818 and baptised in St. George's church Bloomsbury. Her father was recorded here as being a 'Gentleman'. She married Lewis Brown in 1848.

William and Catherine went on to have three known children: Edith Willmott, born 1844 in Banstead, Surrey; Alfred, born 1847 in Epsom, Surrey; Reginald H T, born 1866 in Rippingale, Lincolnshire. Reginald left England in September 1885 for Florida USA. He became a USA citizen in 1894.

The family were living in Chalk Lane Epsom in 1851. William was shown to have been born in Lambeth c1813. Their 7-year-old daughter Edith was, for some reason, recorded as Elizabeth.

The family was not found in the 1861 census. Neither was there an 1866 UK birth record found for their son Reginald. There is a gap of 19 years between Alfred and Reginald.

William, Catherine, Edith and Reginald appear as living in the Rectory in Rippingale Lincolnshire in the 1871 census. Only William and Catherine were still living in the Rectory ten years later in 1881. William died in the Rectory on 9 June 1885 leaving a personal estate of £5,387.

Catherine and her daughter Edith were living in Hornsey Middlesex by 1891 but no other definite information has been found.

Why there were nine witnesses to the wedding is still unknown!

So, is the Lord High Chancellor worth three witnesses?

The marriage of Charles Whiting Esq. and Louisa Swaine on 27th September 1821 has the unusual comment "With the consent of the Lord High Chancellor".

Charles Whiting was the son of John Scott and Sarah Whiting. Charles' baptism record in St Dunstan and All Saints church, Stepney on 9 April 1791 shows that his father was a 'Sugar Baker'. John Scott Whiting's 1814 burial record in St Anne's church in Limehouse, Tower Hamlet has his abode as 'Epsom Surrey'.

On 27 September 1821, in St Martins of Tours parish church Epsom Surrey, 30-year-old Charles Whiting Esquire of Lambeth parish married Louisa Swaine of Epsom parish. Unlike the Cooper/Miller, the Whiting/Swaine marriage only had six witnesses, but the authority of the Lord High Chancellor's consent:

The witnesses were George Browne, Jane Swain, Jane Browne, Rachel Johnston, John Lawrence and James Thomson.



*John Scott
Lord High
Chancellor*

Louisa, also known as Louise, Swaine was born c1803, the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Swaine, nee Cony. Her father died the following year. This being the case, it would seem likely that Louisa, aged 18 and therefore under the age of consent and without a father, may have needed special permission from the Lord High Chancellor to marry.

The Lord High Chancellor in 1821 was John Scott (1751-1838). He served as the Lord High Chancellor between 1801 and 1806 and again between 1807 and 1827. He was also a barrister and politician. In 1821 he was created Viscount Encombe and Earl of Eldon by King George IV.

When Charles and Louisa's first son Charles was baptized in St Mary's church in Lambeth on 19 November 1822, Charles senior's occupation was noted as a Merchant. The couple went on to have another 9 known children.

One of their sons, Robert Cony Whiting (1825-1886), became a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Bengal Staff Corps. He served in Punjab, China and Bhutan between 1848 and 1865. His grave, in the Anbala cemetery, reads:

"Sacred to the memory of Lt Col Robert Cony Whiting Bengal Staff Corps (Retired) late 11th Bengal Native Infantry who died at Nahun on the 29th December 1886 in the 62nd year of his age."

Charles and Louisa seemed never to have lived in Epsom but had homes in Hastings Sussex, St John's Wood Middlesex and finally in Brighton Sussex where Charles died on 14 December 1867 leaving effects worth under £3,000. Charles was buried on 21 December in the Norwood Cemetery, Norwood Road, Lambeth.

History Centre Statistics for 2012 - another good year

We have some 35 Volunteers listed on our books but the number of Active Volunteers in 2012– those who attend the LHC regularly and recorded their attendance in the book total 27.

Total number of visits/enquirers to the LHC	562
<i>(this is down on 2011, maybe because the website is so active and comprehensive)</i>	
Total enquires via Enquiries Direct/Emails/Phone to the LHC	50
<i>(strangely none were recorded in December)</i>	
Total hours the LHC desk was open/manned	402
Total of Published Open/Manned Sessions	237
Hours given to the LHC by Volunteers	6,548
<i>(this equates to 818 8-hour days)</i>	

Many thanks to all the Volunteers for giving so much of their time to provide this valuable service

Recognition for Research and Our History Explorer Website

Thanks to Peter Reed, Hazel Ballan, Clive Gilbert and others

The History Explorer website continues to hit records . . .

Peter Reed has informed us that our website www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk exceeded it's download limit of 30,000 MB per month in October 2012 so the ISP temporarily took the site down – you might call it a controlled crash because of heavy usage.

Peter immediately upgraded to the next level of hosting and the site was quickly back on line. We now have an unlimited download allowance and the website can continue to grow. In total the site was down for about 3.5 hours.

The latest statistics of usage are as follows up to 27 October 2012:

Hits to Home Page since 26 June 2011:	16,240
Hits to Family History Pages since 18 June 2012	44,803
Total no. of pages - <i>an article can be split over a number of pages</i>	654
Total no. of images	3,087
Total no of links to other pages <i>both to other pages on the site and other websites</i>	5,136

It is significant that between June and September 2012 there were 14,619 hits on the Family History pages, but between October and December 2012 this had shot up to 30,184. Maybe the sheer wealth of family history records on the website has helped drive this, not forgetting our Family History day on October 13th which might have helped raise awareness of the website.

Regardless, this success records the vast amount of work that has gone into the website and Peter Reed must be congratulated for producing such an impressive resource; but not forgetting all the Volunteers who have provided research, indices, records, pictures and articles without which there would be no website.

Just as a matter of record, you might like to have one example: Courtesy of Peter Tilley, Peter has added Epsom Union Workhouse admissions and discharges 1840 – 1911 to the website, a total of 1845 pages, listed in alphabetical sections for ease of use. There is a great deal of information on the site including Surrey History Centre references which enable people to follow up individuals there via punishment and creed records for example. All in all, it totals approximately 80,000 records but 30,000 individuals who had multiple admissions.

. . . and the Thank-Yous keep coming

I am amazed at the detail of family history that you have researched and provided here

From: Dave Maskell

To: webmaster@epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk

Subject: Epsom War Memorials - MASKELL Albert, Lance Corporal. 14374

To the people who researched the content for this entry on your web site, I was really thrilled to find this entry on your website today

I have just returned from Hersham where I was unsuccessfully searching for a memorial entry for my Great Great Uncle, Frederick Maskell. Frederick was the sibling of Albert that you have listed in your entry. I was unaware of the fate of any of his siblings, but I learn from you of the sad deaths of both Albert and George.

Frederick was in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and, given the date, I believe he was killed in Action of the Hooge, where the German's used flamethrowers for the first time.

I am amazed at the detail of family history that you have researched and provided here. It all tallies with my own results. I believe that Caroline died in Downside in 1929, aged 85. I suspect that her 14th child was indeed the Percy that you mention. I hope you are right that "brother Henry was born before his parents married, and therefore initially took his mother's maiden name". He was my great grandfather and it was a nasty

surprise when I found that Fuller surname on the census. To addition to your information from the 1901 census, by 1911 the family had spread out in North Road as follows: Frederick Maskell in number 40 with wife and child; John Maskell in number 36 (4 Males 3 Females) including George Maskell (Lodger); Edward Maskell in number 35 (2M, 3F). I would now love to learn what happened to the other brothers during the war, though I have no idea where to start. Any tips gratefully accepted! Incidentally I visited North Road today and the highest number on the road is actually 34. It looks like the rest of the road was demolished and a newer housing estate was built backing on to the end of the road. That was such a disappointing discovery.

Regards
Dave Maskell

The email story of Alfred George Stevenson - another success

(This is a compilation of several emails between Hazel and Keith Stevenson. I hope I have not left out anything important)

From: Keith Stevenson
To: Hazel Ballan
Subject: Alfred George Stevenson.
Date: Sat, 3 Nov 2012

A lovely article Hazel. I'm glad my pic was OK. Nice lay-out, by the way. My info about how Alf died comes from what my Dad - Amos George Stevenson - told me. As with many ex-comrades, someone in Alf's regiment who knew my Gran'dad told my Gran (and, presumably, my Dad) about Alf's death . . .



Image courtesy of
Keith Stevenson

I've circulated all that info about my Gran'dad to my daughter and grand-daughters (my great-grand-daughter isn't quite old enough to appreciate it yet). I'm so grateful to you for sending it to me. I've learned a lot more about Gran'dad Alf than I even suspected, and got rid of some of the ideas about him and his Family which weren't correct . . .

I have a copy of a letter written by one of my other Gran'dad's brother's mates in the trenches telling of how brother Bill had been shot by a sniper. There's even a description of the sniper, who was captured and taken away by a sergeant before Bill's mates could kill him for what he'd done . . .

Alfred died of his wounds after being bayoneted in the neck in the Somme trenches in 1917. His son Amos George was eleven when the news came of his father's death . . .

The most astounding fact I've found out from you so far is that Gran'dad Alf was only 5' 2" - my Dad (his son Amos George) was 5' 11" and I'm over six-foot!

I think that, with your piece about him, my Gran'dad Stevenson is now gently laid to rest, and I no longer regret that I never got round to visiting his grave. Thank you.
Keith

You can now see the finished article on

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesS.html#StevensonAG>



*Albert's headstone in
Epsom Cemetery.
Image: Clive Gilbert © 2010*

*From: Hazel
To: Keith
Subject: Alfred George Stevenson.
Date: Saturday, November 3, 2012*

Thank you for your kind words Keith.

Our website is a joint venture run mainly by volunteers from the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre based in Bourne Hall in Ewell village. Here we have 27 active volunteers who freely give their time every week answering enquiries from the public as well as transcribing and conserving records and preserving photographs.

Six years ago volunteer Clive Gilbert started researching the names on the borough's WW1 memorials and soon after I started to help him, mainly with the deceased's pre-war life research. Clive has an incredible knowledge of WW1 and has spent hours, days, weeks, etc etc researching the lives and circumstances of the deaths of the names recorded. Extra information and photographs are occasionally found online and permission to use them on our website is gratefully received from people such as yourself!

However none of our combined research would be available online in the public domain without the dedication of Peter Reed, our volunteer Webmaster, who has produced what you see today. I have forwarded your kind words onto Peter, Clive and Ian, our newsletter editor.

Hazel

Descendent of the Vicar of Epsom 1704 says thank you.

In an article on the website regarding Ebbisham House <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EbbishamHouse.html>, Brian Bouchard makes reference to Heighes Woodford who was appointed Vicar of Epsom on 20 November 1704 and stayed in charge of the parish until 1725. As Minister of this parish he was buried at St Martin's on 9 January 1725. His wife was Mary, only daughter of Captain Thomas Lamport, of Alton, Hants, who appears to have survived him by eighteen years was buried St Martin's on 24 January 1743.

A descendent of the former Vicar has emailed Brian as follows:

*From: Stephen Butt
Sent: Friday, January 11
To: Brian Bouchard
Subject: RE: Woodford(e)s in Epsom*

Brian

Thank you. Very interesting and very valuable material in respect of my family. I do wish I had more time to update my website and organise all the new information that people like yourself kindly provide! Some of Revd Heighs Woodforde's sermons have survived, and at the foot of each he lists the names of the most fashionable and aristocratic people in his congregation. I am a great-great-great-great grandson of Samuel Woodforde, Rector of Ansford (1605-1771).

*With best wishes
Stephen*

We aim to give satisfaction.

New Additions to the Website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/

Since the last newsletter in September 2012, Webmaster Peter Reed, has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website covering some 45 different subjects as well as six major updates. Just to mention a few:

[St Martin's Burials 1695 to 1774](#) – transcripts of Parish Records
[World War 1 Postcards](#) – a series of 27 cards depicting aspects of WW1
[Godwin, William And The School That Epsom Never Had](#) – a good read
[Donoghue, Steve](#) – champion jockey
[Anyone For Cricket](#) - Epsom's cricketers in the 18th & 19th centuries
[Review of the Year](#) – Epsom Advertiser 1910 to 1916

[Horton Railway](#) – Railway serving the Epsom Hospital Cluster
[The Independent Chapel](#) – a history of Dissenters' meetings in Epsom
[Street Lights](#) – Old street lights of Epsom and Ewell

plus many family histories and reminiscences too numerous to mention here. It is probably easier to look at the 'What's New' page at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html and enjoy browsing.

How to plan your own funeral – and avoid it.

By Jeremy Harte

Today we are living through an era of change without precedent in history, or so the media tell us. Actually, I suspect that people have always been told that they were living through times when everything was new, and if you were to look at English history for a decade of real change, there would be much better candidates than the last ten years. The 1640s, for instance; or the 1530s.

Spare a thought for William Wydollson, a London merchant, who must have been feeling distinctly poorly in 1524 as he made his will anticipating that death would come soon. It was a good medieval will, full of devotional spirit. William was to be buried beside his wife Jane in the chapel which he had built next to Mickleham church. Details for the funeral were carefully worked out: his body was to be carried by night on a horse litter to the church of St. George at Southwark, attended by chanting friars of the Augustinian order, and so over the long roads to Mickleham. They'd need torches, of course (William was a practical man) and these would be stowed under the horse litter; as the procession passed churches, the half-burnt torches would be handed over (as a gift of wax, I suppose) and new ones lit. In this way the cortege was to come through Tooting and so to Cuddington, then through Ewell, then Epsom, and so on to Dorking and Mickleham. Carefully stage-managed, it would have been a dramatic, eerie sight.



Only one thing went wrong: William didn't die. Having recovered his health, he lived for another fifteen years through the crisis of the English Reformation, until death finally claimed him in June 1539.



Mickleham Church

Then the family read his original and unrevised will. What did they do, I wonder? The London house of Austin friars had been dissolved six months earlier and its holy men dispersed. Even if the procession had set out, its plan to distribute votive candles for the altars of local churches would have been frowned on by the authorities. And if they had got as far as Cuddington, they would have found the church and churchyard turned into a building site with masons, carpenters, plasterers and plumbers working frenziedly on the new Nonsuch Palace. And we think that we live in turbulent times!

Source: William's story comes from *Calendar of Wills Proved and Enrolled in the Court of Husting, London, AD 1258–AD 1688* (John Francis, London, 1889–90) 2 p645.

It's one of a number of sources consulted by Barbara Meredith and myself in our plan for a union index of Epsom, Ewell and Cuddington wills before 1858. Results should be on the website soon.

Out of the mouth of Children ...

While we are on the subject of death, here's an ambiguous tale from Margaret Jones:

Grandma, on hearing of a death in the road, said "I must get a sympathy card"

Molly (aged 8) asked, "What is a sympathy card?"

Grandma, "It's for the lady who died"

Molly, while watching the card being written, "How will the lady get it?"

Grandma, "It's to give to her family to say we are sorry that she has died"

Molly "Oh, I thought maybe it went in the coffin."

The curious case of Joseph Valentine Grimstead

A man of substance and principle

By Brian Bouchard

Eleanor, youngest daughter and coheir of Joseph Creswick and Elizabeth Laujol, married Thomas Grimstead of Leatherhead, Surrey. Their only son, Joseph Valentine Grimstead, was born on 5 July 1757. Thomas was buried on 7 September 1780, and his heir then came into property including a half share of Iwood, otherwise Ewood Park, Newdigate.

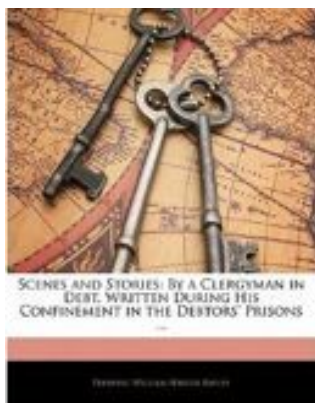
Joseph Valentine Grimstead married Charlotte Sarah Jane Walsh on 13 August 1788.

Before 1814, the Grimsteads had established themselves in Epsom, renting copyhold estates on the south side of Clay Hill (Lehmann 1C3) and on Church Street (Lehmann 7C3). The family seem to have removed to Merry Hall, Lower Ashted, however, in the summer of 1820.

Thomas George, Lord Glamis, was born on 6 February 1801 and married Charlotte, daughter of Joseph Valentine Grimstead, on the 21 December 1820. Lord Glamis died on the 27 January 1834, leaving his widow and issue. Charlotte herself died on 19 January 1881 at Redbourne, Herts.

In March 1821, Edward Howard and James Gibbs, trading as Messrs Howard & Gibbs at Cork Street, Burlington Gardens, London, money scriveners and annuity brokers, had been declared bankrupt. They were accused of 'lending money to prodigals at illegal rates of interest' and many annuitant clients became impoverished. J V Grimstead, in particular, had advanced substantial sums of money to the firm – apparently in excess of £60,000 (£32,000 being used to purchase of annuities and £30,000 left on deposit). His claim for £47,000 in the proceedings was refused because it had been loaned on usurious terms (with interest payable above 5%) and could not stand under the bankruptcy laws. A subsequent case in Chancery (Howard & Gibbs Bankruptcy, ex parte Grimstead) lasted until July 1826. At some stage Grimstead was confined for contempt of Court and he subsequently remained in The Fleet Prison for the rest of his life, apparently because he declined to settle debts owing to his own creditors.

His extended incarceration features in *Scenes and stories: by a clergyman in debt. Written during his confinement in The Fleet Prison* by Frederic William Naylor Bayle, 1835: -



“One of the longest residents in the prison, and certainly one of its leading characters, was an elderly gentleman of miserly, but unobtrusive habits, who seemed to look upon it as his home. His name was Grimstead; he bore the character of being extremely rich, and was a man of high respectability, and a magistrate in the county in which he lived previous to his imprisonment. One of his daughters a short time back married a nobleman, and we believe had a handsome portion from her father, who, mixing in no society, and yet wanting no comfort, allows his capital to gather a giant load of interest, and clings with a wonderful pertinacity to a dwelling from which the majority of its other inmates would give their birthright to be free. He is a person of information, experience, and quiet gentlemanly manners; his debts we believe are large and, his wealth, like all rich men, he denies, probably because he feels a disinclination to pay them. If this be the case, then is his wilful incarceration a gross and lamentable perversion of human judgement and intellect, and a satire upon that honesty, which a magistrate is morally bound to the public to encourage and uphold. We are, however, among those who hope and believe better things of Mr. Grimstead.”

His will drawn up at Ashted, 16 February 1821, was supplemented with a codicil in The Fleet Prison on 8 December 1834 [SHCOL_181/19/11]. He was then close to death and is recorded to have been buried at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on the following 22 December, aged 77 [Will proved 3 February 1835 - PROB 11/1842]. The relict, Charlotte, survived until 23 November 1848 before dying, at Redbourne, Herts, at the age of 81.

Joseph Valentine Grimstead's main claim to fame is that he was the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother's great great grandfather - http://www.digplanet.com/wiki/Queen_Elizabeth_The_Queen_Mother

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Epsom and Ewell in the Great War?

The 100th Anniversary of the commencement of WWI is in 2014 and should arouse considerable interest. It has been proposed and agreed by the committee that we should mount a display to commemorate the role of Epsom and Ewell in the Great War.

Some ten Volunteers have agreed to work on this project and, at the first meeting of the team on 26 September 2012 it was envisaged that we could have enough material to produce up to forty display boards. The following subjects were considered and participants volunteered which subjects each would work on.

Town Life

- Allotments; Schools; Pre 1914 life
- Belgian refugees
- Fear of Zeppelin raids & dimming of lights
DORA
- Military tribunals
- Sgt. Green
- Brothels; STD; Horses
- Driver Martin and family, Epsom Celebrities
- Women's Land Army
- War work; Munitions; materials
- Women at work: Post, Land, Fire etc.
- Armistice celebrations

University & Public Schools Brigade and Other Troops on The Downs

- 18th, 19th and half the 20th battalion were billeted with Epsom landladies.
- Later used Woodcote Park Camp.
- Book available at <http://www.archive.org/details/royalfusilierups00stanuoft>
- 13 October 1914 King George Inspected the Brigade. The 18th & 19th battalions on Epsom Downs.
- 22 January 1915 Kitchener inspects troops on Epsom Downs
- Tattenham Corner
- Tadworth.

Asylums as War Hospitals

- Horton War Hospital. Lt Col Lord book.
- Manor War Hospital.
- Long Grove Asylum. 19 soldiers died in Long Grove.
- Ewell War Hospital (St Ebbas) for hell shock cases.
- West Park. Canadian military but probably not as a hospital
- (<http://www.whateversleft.co.uk/asylums/west-park-hospital-epsom-7>)

Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital

- Canadian convalescent camp <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WoodcoteParkCamp.html>

Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital

- Epsom and Ewell War Memorials.

The next meeting of the WWI Display Volunteers takes place on 23 January 2013 to consider progress, problems and new ideas. We recognise that it is a long time to August 2014 but there is plenty of research to be done to make a meaningful and respectful display.

Where else in the World is there another Ewell? - In Maryland, USA.

If you remember, in the January 2012 newsletter we listed seven other towns called Epsom and two named Ewell from around the world. We decided to do some digging on these towns. In May we looked at Epsom in New Hampshire in the USA and in September it was Epsom in Auckland, New Zealand. This time we thought we would have a look at another Ewell – Smith's Island, Maryland, USA

Ewell, Smith's Island, Maryland, USA

The community of Ewell in Maryland is the largest of three settlements on Smith Island in Chesapeake Bay. It is Maryland's lone offshore island in the Bay accessible only by boat. The five by three mile island has a resident population of about 350 people, which is boosted by some 5,000 tourists. Smith Island was discovered by Captain John Smith (1580-1631) who reached Jamestowne in 1606. In June 1608 he set out on the Phoenix on the first exploration of the Chesapeake. Landing on an island at the mouth of the bay, Smith chartered the island as "the Russell Isles." The island was first settled between 1659 and 1686 by English and Welsh settlers, to whom today's inhabitants can trace their genealogy going back twelve generations. Smith Island is named not after John Smith, but Henry Smith, an early landowner.

Captain Smith recorded the first pirates in the Bay as early as 1610. 'For the next two centuries, a dazzling array of pirates, picaroons, and sea rovers raided and plundered ships, towns, and plantations in the Bay area. The most famous Chetty buccaneer was Blackbeard. Many of these seaborne hoodlums controlled islands in the Bay. The governments of Virginia and Maryland constantly launched anti-pirate cruises, which led to the capture of dozens of pirates. Chesapeake piracy ended peacefully in 1807.'

The residents are descended from the original settlers who arrived in 1659. The original English and Welsh settlers inhabit possibly Maryland's most isolated and intact enclave of traditional culture. Families are said to be able to trace their genealogy back 12 generations. Islanders speak a distinctive dialect that they call a "backward language" - they employ



certain turns of phrase that only an islander would understand correctly. For example, instead of at night you might hear a night. Some features of the dialect can be traced to Elizabethan era English, such as using the prefix *a* - with verbs ending in *-ing*, giving you 'to go *afishing*'. Yet other distinctive features involving vowels have arisen in the last 50 years. Examples: *brown* may sound more like *brain* and *side* may sound like *sad*.

Once an island of farmers, today's inhabitants make a living harvesting blue crabs and oysters and fishing; it is a hard occupation, sometimes involving 12-hour days. The local tourist trade is a welcome addition to the community. However, there is no local government or police to maintain order on the island. Instead, each community has its own Methodist church where local decisions are made, thus providing political as well as religious cohesion.

One of the famous products of the island is the decadent Smith Island Cake. Known as 'Frosting with the Cake' it contains between 6 -12 pencil-thin yellow cake layers with rich chocolate fudge icing in between!! Imagine nine of the most delicate layers of spongy yellow cake separated by the thinnest layers of an old fashioned cooked chocolate icing that sets like fudge. Women of Smith Island started to stack layers as a form of competition.



No one is quite sure who developed the concept of the "Smith Island Cake". Some people believe it can be traced to an English torte, brought by Welsh settlers who came to the Smith Island in the late 1600's. Many residents of Smith Island say, "It has always been here".

If you want to try the Smith Island Cake recipe: <http://www.smithisland.org/cakerecipe.html> but don't blame me when you check your weighing scales afterwards.

As for the future of Ewell, Smith Island MD, there is a long-term ecological threat. Seawater in the Chesapeake has risen about a foot in the last century, drowning once inhabited islands. St. Clements Island has lost about 90% of the 400 acres of forestland ... first beheld in 1634.'The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun a \$2 m project 'to erect bulkheads to protect homes in Tylerton,' one of three Smith Island towns. Says Ewell resident Jennings Evans, 69, 'People here aren't going to leave.'

Sources:

The Library of Congress <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/legacies/MD/200003127.html>

<http://www.smithisland.us/history.htm>

<http://www.nativeamericanchurch.com/Signs/VanishingIslands.html>

<http://www.smithisland.org/>

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. Thanks to all those who provided information, anecdotes stories and pictures – Angela, Brian, Clive, Elaine, Hazel, Jeremy, Margaret, and Peter. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message, as it seems to encourage more people to contribute material.

I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all, so let's have them - you can see from this current issue, we like gossip and comments as much as more serious subjects.

So, please don't be shy. If you have any

- reports on visits to various sites or centres
- intriguing Information Requests
- forthcoming projects or events
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- or just strange tales to tell

please let Ian know - supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome. It will help make the newsletter more interesting for us all.

The next publication date will be in May 2013, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP January 2013

Researching Local History or Tracing your Ancestors?

If you are interested in the history of Epsom and Ewell, or want to trace your family's history then visit us at the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre located in Ewell Library at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell.

OPENING HOURS

	<i>Local & Family History Centre</i>	<i>Ewell Library</i>
Monday	Closed	Closed
Tuesday	10.00 am – 12 noon and 5.30 pm – 6.45 pm	9.00 am – 7.00 pm
Wednesday	By appointment *	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Thursday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Friday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Other Saturdays	By appointment *	9.00 am – 5.00 pm

* *Contact the Centre for availability of Volunteers*

Take a look at our History Explorer Website

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, personal reminiscences of life in bygone times and notable events.

There is also an extensive and searchable collection of local birth, christening, marriage, death records, cemetery burials, gravestone inscriptions, detailed Workhouse records and WWI memorials with numerous stories of those remembered.

It is a fascinating and continually growing source of information for historians and genealogists. You'll find it at

www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk