

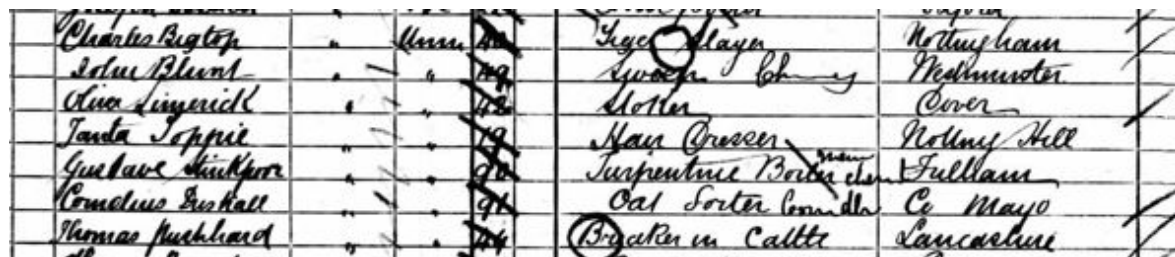
The articles in this newsletter are purely the responsibility of the authors and are not necessarily the views of the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre.

Volunteers' Miscellanea

An Un-common Lodging House – by Meg Bower

The streets of Victorian and Edwardian London were crowded with lodgings and lodging houses which catered for the many and varied weekly and nightly lodgers in the city. The very poor often lived in furnished rooms or the dirty and cramped conditions of the *common lodging houses* which, for a few pennies per night, let beds in shared dormitories.

The 1881 census return for nos. 5 and 7 Church Street, Chelsea lists two common lodging houses whose occupants' details stretch credulity. The first to catch my eye was Charles Bigtop, occupation given as a TIGER SLAYER! I doubted this was his real name. A stage name perhaps? I tested it in Ancestry's global search and found little more than two dozen entries for this surname, mostly on the U.S. Indian census rolls (Blackfoot tribe) and born in Montana. None, apart from Charles, was born in Nottingham!



Charles Bigtop	Tiger Slayer	Nottingham
John Blewett	Quarry labourer	Westminster
Anna Linnick	Washer	Dover
Tanta Toppie	Hair Dresser	Notting Hill
Gustave Stinkpoor	Turpentine Boiler	Fulham
Cornelius Bushard	Oat Sorter	Co Mayo
Thomas Pushhard	Breaker in cattle	Lancashire

A search through his neighbours brought even more surprises, the pick of which I list below:

Name	Occupation	Where Born
Mouse Regan	Rat Catcher	Southampton
James Gaspire	Clog Maker	Manchester
Charles Horseflesh	Dog Fancier	Croydon
Harry Slevelink	Brush Maker	Charlestown, Cornwall
George Crabback	Fishmonger	Ipswich
Henry Staircase	Candle Stick Maker	Leicester
Samuel Stinkpo	Plumber	Glasgow
Pancho Flipback	Grave digger	Dover
Thomas Crawfish	Mason	Limerick
Charles Bigtop	Tiger Slayer	Nottingham
Tanta Toppie	Hair Dresser	Notting Hill
Gustave Stinkpoor	Turpentine Boiler	Fulham
Thomas Pushhard	Breaker in cattle	Lancashire
Henry Dandelion	Horse Hair Platter	Cardiff
Robert Macfarancies	Linen Lifter	Pimlico

So, was it a joke played on the census enumerator? Did someone tamper with the census returns at a later date? The handwriting appears to be the same throughout. It's interesting that there are two different folio numbers throughout the piece (RG 11/76) - but why?. These are just a few of the strange entries which are spread over four pages and if anyone is interested enough to look them up, they run from RG 11/76, folio 37 or 43, page 34 - or just run a search for Charles Bigtop!

Amazing what you can find in the London Gazette

Angela Clifford has been searching the London Gazette and came across the following snippets in the 'advertisements' section.



3rd November 1687.

The deer being all taken out of Nonsuch Park by Epsom in Surrey, there is very good Feed and good Shelter for Horses, where all persons may be supplied with Grass at reasonable Rates. The horses are taken in at the House where Capt. Cook formerly lived in the Park.

The
London
Gazette

So many questions raised in a brief advertisement: why were the deer taken out of Nonsuch Park; was there a shortage of feed in 1687; how important to the credibility of the advertisement was it to mention that Capt. Cook had once lived in the Park?

24th October 1719

Sale of freehold estate of Nicholas Cutler late of Yewell (sic) near Epsom in the County of Surrey, Brewer part in possession and part in reversion consisting of two houses over against the church in Yewell near Epsom with the garden and appurtenances

And seven acres and half of land in the common fields of Yewell of the yearly value of £20 or thereabouts. Particulars whereof may be had at the said Malter's Chambers in Lincoln's Inn.

When did Yewell become Ewell? I wonder if Estate Agents today use 'appurtenances' in their sale details? Based on the retail price index, £20 is worth about £2,700 today.

If you want to do your own searches of the London Gazette go to www.london-gazette.co.uk

National Service Revisited! – by Bert Barnhurst

All you ex-National Servicemen who had thought to write to Emily Foster to help with her dissertation for her MA (Hons) History Degree at Manchester University, as itemised in our last newsletter (No. 34, September 2013), you are now A.W.O.L. Entitled 'National Service and Gender: The Experience of National Servicemen in the 1950s' Emily handed it in for assessment on 6th December. She is now waiting with bated breath for the official result.

We thought you would like to know the subject matter of her dissertation. The following is from the introduction:

"National Service in Britain began in January 1948 and ended in 1960, with the last servicemen being discharged in May 1963. This dissertation will explore three main themes. The first theme will be why National Service was introduced despite arguments against the pragmatism and economic cost of prolonged peacetime conscription. The second will concentrate on the universality of National Service and how far National Service impacted upon the lives of young men. A third theme will investigate the masculinity of National Service, how the call-up 'made men'. The final theme will explore how 'fitting in' relied upon achieving the desired masculinity as well as the importance of swearing in creating a feeling of membership.'

We are delighted to have contributed as we were the only History Centre to respond to Emily's request for personal experiences and stories. All the correspondence provided to Emily came as a result of the request in our last newsletter. A number of local people were specifically quoted – Alister Reid and Patrick Lelliott who both responded with their own experiences – and Bert Barnhurst and E&E LFHC were given an honourable 'mention in dispatches' in the introduction.

We are sure that you all wish Emily the very best of luck and can add MA (Hons) to her name.

More Legacies of British Slave-Ownership

In the May 2013 newsletter we reported on the University College London (UCL) database of former slave-owners. At the time Brian Bouchard noted that only two people from Epsom were recorded in the database – Mr. Edward Whitmore and Rev. Robert Hesketh. Brian has now advised us of third person from Epsom – Sir John Rae Reid who inherited Ewell Grove in Epsom, Surrey, following the death of his father in 1829. Although his three children were born in London, they were each baptised at Ewell and Reid himself died there in 1867.



Sir John was a director of the Bank of England, Director of the putative West India Co., Director London & Bristol Railroad Co. and MP for Dover 1830. He stood again (unsuccessfully) as an anti-reform candidate in 1831.

He played-down his West Indian interests when standing for election in 1830: "When smeared as 'a large slave holder', he issued an immediate denial, explaining that he had nothing more than 'a temporary interest as mortgagee of an estate in the West Indies'. He promised to give the abolition question his 'attentive consideration' when he judged that the time was ripe."

Sources:

Legacies of British Slave Ownership and Sir John Reid: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/13860>

The Reid Family: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/ReidFamily.html

Ewell Grove: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EwellGrove.html

Ewell Court House Fire, 10th December 2013

We are saddened to report that Ewell Court House, a Grade II listed mansion used as a library and a wedding venue has been severely damaged by a fire which started in the roof of the two-storey building shortly before 3.00 am on 10th December. No-one was hurt but residents in a flat at the site had to be led to safety.

Surrey Fire and Rescue said crews managed to contain the damage to one side of the mansion and the library has been unaffected although the Tea Room is closed until February.

Don Scott, chairman of the Ewell Court House Organisation (ECHO) that saved the historic mansion from development a decade ago, pledges to help rebuild fire-ravaged Ewell Court House and English Heritage expects full restoration.



Picture courtesy www.getsurrey.co.uk

Source: www.ewellcourthouse.co.uk/

Results for the 11th Family History Day

Volunteers hosted the 11th Who Do You Think You Are? family history day on Saturday, 19th October, 2013 in Ewell Library, Bourne Hall. We had some 50 visitors for this event, which was quite a lot down on previous years; even so there were some interesting enquiries and with some people having multiple enquiries the volunteers were kept reasonably busy. Thanks to some careful pre-planning by Liz Manterfield, the event ran very smoothly.

Furthermore, we realised additions to our funds of £178-80, made up as follows: Donations £57.30; Sale of Glenda Charman's cards: £47.00; Sale of Books: £75.50.

We would like to thank all the volunteers involved in making this another successful event for our enquirers and especially to Glenda for contributing her hand made cards for sale and the volunteers on the book sale desk who together raised a healthy addition to our funds.

Proposal for 2014 Family History Day in Epsom - Spring 2014

See 'Forthcoming Events' below

Forthcoming Events for 2014- Make a note in your diary

Volunteer evening - 29th January (tbc)

As Bert Barnhurst's suggested coffee morning in September last year became more of a planning meeting, we propose to arrange a Volunteer Evening in Ewell Library where Volunteers all bring a dish and a drink and enjoy a sociable evening - we promise there'll be no planning. We have pencilled in Wednesday, 29th January for this event, subject to library approval, and will confirm more details following the committee meeting on Monday, 13th January.

World War One Display Meeting – 26th February

There is an update meeting for the team working on the WW1 commemoration display planned for the summer. It will be held from 3.00 pm on Wednesday, 26th February at the usual venue.

East Surrey Family History Society Conference and AGM – 26th April

East Surrey FHS has invited us, along with two other Centres, to join them at their conference and AGM on Saturday, 26th April at Bourne Hall. They plan to invite two more of the Surrey History Centres. They have also asked if we would like to have a stall/ table at their AGM, to which we have said yes. ESFHS welcome visitors to all their meetings.

The day is organized as follows:

The East Surrey Family History Society
Conference & AGM Saturday 26 April 2014
10 am – 3 pm. Free entry
Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, KT17 1UF, Surrey

With three talks

Julian Pooley (Surrey History Centre):
*A Burden on the Parish:
Sources for the History of Poor Relief in Surrey*

Jeremy Harte (Bourne Hall Museum):
At the Sign of the King's Head: Restoration Epsom

Plus Surrey Records on the Ancestry Website by a speaker from Ancestry.co.uk

Followed at 3pm by the ESFHS AGM

Plus our Bookstall, Help Desk and much more of interest to
local and family historians. See our website at www.esfhs.org.uk

ESFHS has also agreed to send us the society's quarterly journal and already have a link to the History Explorer Website on their website and at fairs etc. promote the website and the centre when asked about Epsom and Ewell.

Family History Day in Epsom Library – Spring 2014

The drop in visitor numbers at the Family History Day in Ewell Library last October has raised some questions. We have now run this event for 11 years in Ewell so perhaps we have started to exhaust the market, especially since so many family history records are now loaded on our website. To raise our profile in Epsom and perhaps attract a different audience we have expressed interest in reserving space in Epsom Library for Spring 2014. We are aware there are mixed feelings about running this so we would like feedback as to how many of you support, and will help if we go ahead with this idea. It will obviously be different logistically from Ewell, (e.g. no book sale as transporting them is not an option). If you support this idea please let Angela Clifford know as soon as possible (unless you have already done so) as there is no point in us arranging it without enough volunteer support.

St Martin's Churchyard tombstones digitised . . .

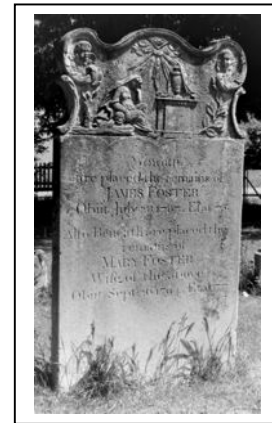
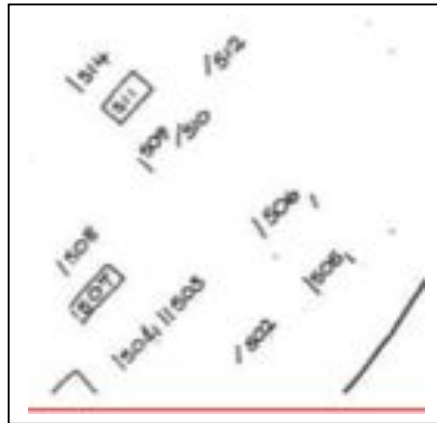
In the early 1970s John Norrington photographed the 655 tombstones in St Martin's churchyard, Epsom's Parish Church. Jeremy Harte has had these digitised and they are held by Bourne Hall Museum. The History Centre website features a map of the location of each tomb in the churchyard together with details of the inscriptions on the various tombstones. The reference number for each tombstone on the map and the inscriptions also refers to the photographs of the tombstones.

For example, James Foster was a builder who, among other things, built the high section of the brick wall alongside the path separating Pitt Place from the churchyard; he finished it in 1785. Two years later, 1787, he died and was buried in St Martin's churchyard. His grave number in St Martin's is 507; which he shared with his

wife, who passed away seven years later. Shown below is the inscription on the tombstone, a small section of the churchyard map showing the location of the grave and finally a picture of the tombstone.

Beneath
are placed the remains of
JAMES FOSTER
Obiit July 28th
1787 aetat 75

Also beneath are placed
the remains of
MARY FOSTER
Wife of the above
Obiit Sept. 26th
1794 Aetat 77



Coincidentally grave no. 509, which is close by, is that of Mary Foster, daughter of James and Mary Foster who sadly died before her parents on August 4th, 1766 aged only 17 years.

The inscriptions and churchyard map are both available on the website – www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomMonuments.shtml

The photographs of the tombstones are not yet on the website but can be accessed through the History Centre in Ewell Library.

. . . and St Mary's Ewell tombstones are being photographed and recorded

Jeremy Harte of Bourne Hall museum has photographed and recorded the inscriptions on 455 tombstones in the part of the cemetery (cemetery 1) at St Mary's that directly surrounds the Victorian Church. He has also recorded the inscriptions on the tombstones surrounding the old church tower (Cemetery 2) but has not yet photographed them.

Cemeteries 3 (between 1 and 2) and 4 (adjacent to the road) have yet to be done. This is an ongoing project and we will keep you informed on how it progresses.

Wilkes and Liberty! The Radical Politics of Sir Joseph Mawbey, MP By Jeremy Harte

The eighteenth century was a period of great inventions – the steam engine, the turnip, democracy etc. On their first appearance in the world, many of those innovations bore a very different appearance from that which they have now, and this is particularly true of democracy, which was midwived (as far as the British Parliament was concerned) by a lewd blasphemous squinting devil called Jack Wilkes. And one of his most loyal supporters was Sir Joseph Mawbey, MP, lord of the manor of Epsom.

John Wilkes, MP for Aylesbury, first came to notice in 1763 during a controversy over the Paris Peace Treaty, which brought to an end the Seven Years War with France. Many people thought was too soft on the French. In July of that year a meeting was proposed in the Assembly Room at Epsom, for the county of Surrey to pass an address congratulating the government on the peace. But this came to the ears of Joseph Mawbey, MP for Southwark. The address, innocuous as it might sound, was a rallying-point for those who approved of the actions of the government, then led by Lord Bute. Contrariwise, to oppose the address was to join the political opposition – and Mawbey came to Epsom with supporters who felt that way, enough of them to overturn the motion completely.



Mawbey was a distiller by profession, and 'a man of plain sense', at least in his own opinion. Other, less partial verdicts were 'an indifferent figure' and 'vain, noisy and foolish'. At any rate he commanded very little support in Parliament, and less in the local county business of Surrey. But he was on the same side as Wilkes, who was a much smoother political operator. When Mawbey wrote *The Ballad of Epsom* – eight pages of doubtful poetry celebrating his achievement in July – Wilkes had it printed. At the same time he circulated an issue of his journal

The North Briton, which in much more direct language, attacked Lord Bute and the peace terms which he had negotiated.



SIR JOSEPH MAWBEY BAR*

George III was hardly going to ignore attacks on his first minister and on his right to make peace as he thought fit. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Wilkes on a charge of libel, but its legality was challenged because he could claim Parliamentary immunity. He returned to his seat, but the fight was on.

Wilkes, like several other politicians of the age, had spent his leisure among the Monks of Medmenham, a mildly satanic sex club which met in caves under the Dashwood estate at West Wycombe. It was there that, according to rumour, he had smuggled in a baboon dressed in red robes which was released at the height of ceremonies and at once jumped on the Earl of Sandwich, who fled down the dank tunnels screeching ‘Spare me, good Devil!’. Whatever the truth of the allegation, Sandwich had it in for Wilkes, and soon discovered that he was the author of a pornographic pamphlet called *An Essay on Woman*. Prosecuted again, this time for seditious and obscene libel, Wilkes fled to Paris, where he remained until his money ran out.

By now Wilkes was the hero of the mob. He might not have been a very principled democratic opposition to the government, but he was the only one there was, and it was dangerous to interfere with him. In May 1768 he returned to London, where he stood for a seat in the county of Middlesex; because this extended well into the London area, it had a high proportion of artisan freeholders, and they loyally returned him. Parliament refused to let him take his seat. He was re-elected in February, March and April, being turned down each time. The individual case of Wilkes was turning into a much more general matter of principle: if the electorate returned a candidate, could he be rejected just because the establishment didn’t like him? In June Mawbey and some friends organised another meeting at Epsom, announced very neutrally as being ‘in support of the right of elections’, but everyone knew whose election they meant.

Time passed. Mawbey, having grown fond of Epsom, purchased the manor in 1770, and remained in Parliament on and off until 1789, boring fellow-MPs until the last. Wilkes became Sheriff and then Lord Mayor of London, was re-elected and allowed to sit, and passed some radical bills before settling down into a conservative old age. But between the two of them they had established some key principles of democratic government.

Sources

For the national history, <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1754-1790>, and for the Epsom meetings, the *Annual Register*. A copy of *The Battle of Epsom* is at Bourne Hall Museum.

Pictures - John Wilkes, MP, after John Houston; Sir Joseph Mawbey, MP, by Thomas Holloway

Academic Request to Reproduce Mawbey Memorial Tablet

In March 2013 an article by Brian Bouchard on ‘Epsom Manor and the Mawbey Family 1770 - 1870 - absentee landlords’ was placed on the website - www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomManor.html. In early December Brian received the following email;

From: Elizabeth Barker

Subject: Request to reproduce one of your photographs in an academic article

Dear Mr. Bouchard,

I’m writing to introduce myself as the director of the Mead Art Museum, Amherst College (Amherst, Mass., USA), and to seek your permission to reproduce your photograph of John Flaxman’s memorial tablet to Emily Mawbey at St Peter’s, Chertsey, published on the website “Epsom and Ewell History Explorer,” in my forthcoming article on William Blake’s “Raising of Jairus’s Daughter” in the scholarly journal *Interfaces: Image Text Language*. The not-for-profit journal is printed in an edition of fewer than 3,000 copies, and distributed primarily to academic libraries; your photograph would appear in the article in quarter-page size. If, as I hope, you are able to provide me with permission to use your photograph, I would be pleased to credit it to you, and to provide you with a copy of the article when it appears in print in the spring.



In the article, I suggest that Blake took inspiration from aspects of Flaxman's design in developing the composition for his painting (which the Mead Art Museum recently acquired, and which is reproduced on this website: www.amherst.edu/museums/mead/exhibitions/2012/blake Your photograph is the most informative I have found, and would greatly enrich the article. Thank you very much in advance for considering my request.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.

Director

Brian responded immediately and provided the added information that

If memory serves, the memorial was based on a plaster model now held in the Flaxman Gallery at University College London but I do not know if that had been the one shown by the Royal Academy in 1797.

This just reinforces the international appeal of the web and demonstrates the international awareness of our website. Many thanks to Brian and Peter Reed and all involved in continuing to build a well-respected data source.

Every picture tells a story

Recently a visitor to Bourne Hall brought in this photograph of the Spring Hotel Garage in 1931.



Photo supplied by John Currie, grandson of Ronald Simmons.

On the left is Ronald Simmons and to the right, Norman Simmons, who owned the business. They used to sell Bentley cars.

Ronald lived in The Headway, Ewell. His grandson told us that he lost his leg on the Somme in WW1; he was in No Man's Land when one of his comrades lit a cigarette, and the next thing a shell had landed and taken his leg off. It affected the rest of his life; when he was in the bath, bits of shrapnel would work themselves out. In 1970 it finally killed him after the artificial leg rode up and pierced the stump when he was lying in bed.

How that killed him we do not know.

Surrey Electoral Registers 1918-1945 now online

Over 10 million Surrey Electoral Register entries can now be searched online on the family history website www.Ancestry.co.uk. Beginning in 1918, when women were first given the vote, they are a crucial source for family historians trying to find where their interwar ancestors lived.



Canvassing c.1920 (ref: PC/160/ALB1/148)

You can search for your Surrey ancestors on Ancestry free of charge at any Surrey Library and at Surrey History Centre in Woking. If you have an Ancestry subscription, you can also view the records in the comfort of your own home, no matter where you live.

Over 2 million Church of England baptism, marriage and burial records dating back to 1538 are already available to search. Even more parish registers - from 1900 onwards, from recently deposited registers and from some early registers - will be added to Ancestry later. Watch this space!

Other records to appear online soon are: Land tax records 1780-1832; Electoral registers 1832-1915; Brookwood Hospital Woking, Registers of Admissions 1867-1900; Holloway Sanatorium, General Registers 1885-1899; Calendars of prisoners: Surrey Sessions and Assizes 1848-1902; Freeholders Lists 1696-1824; Licensed victuallers registers 1785-1903; Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment enlistment registers 1920-1946; Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment transfers in registers 1939-1947; Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment World War II Honours Indexes [1939]-1946; East Surrey Regiment enlistment registers 1920-1946; East Surrey Regiment transfers in registers 1924-1946; and 21st - 24th Battalions the London Regiment Nominal Rolls of Officers 1914-1919.

The original records, on paper and parchment, are all held in Surrey History Centre in Woking where they are preserved in temperature and humidity controlled strongrooms. Through this partnership, these precious documents will become far more accessible to researchers around the world whilst at the same time protecting and preserving the fragile originals for future generations.

Epsom Cemetery - Notable Residents.

A request for help

By Clive Gilbert

Our History Explorer website has a page entitled 'Epsom & Ewell Cemetery—Notable Residents'. To date it has only four names:

Phyllis Dixey	1914-1964
Henry Edward Manning Douglas VC	1875-1939
Rebecca Eisdell	c1799-1875
Helen Adelaide	1858-1942

Another notable resident buried there is George Woodcock. He was General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) from 1960-1969. Would any reader be able to write a short piece on George for the *Notables* page?

Also, is anyone aware of any other person buried in Epsom & Ewell Cemetery with an interesting story waiting to be told and who might be prepared to write a few lines for the website?



*Phyllis Dixey
Image courtesy of
Yak El-Droubie and
www.korerobooks.co.uk*

Full details of the four notables above can be found at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/CemeteryResidents.html

Let us hope the Rolls are reinstated

By Clive Gilbert

On a visit to Surrey History Centre last year with Hazel Ballan we were delighted to rediscover the paper-based Rolls of Honour for the men of the St Barnabas church congregation who died in the two world wars. We had been searching, since 2007, for every Great War memorial within the Borough. Following a campaign in the Epsom Guardian to try to persuade the church to reinstate them, the Church is to hold an open meeting to seek views on how best to remember those who died in the wars and those who were scarred mentally and physically by it. I have written to the Rev. Sue Bull of St Barnabas as follows.

Dear Reverend

I must say that I was pleased ... that St Barnabas church welcomes the debate about the reinstatement of the rolls, and that remembering the fallen has always been important to the church. In view of this it seems all the more strange to me that these tributes to the fallen should have been sent away to Woking, to be forgotten by the congregation.

I was also pleased to read that the church wants to discuss how best to remember those whose lives were marred by physical or mental illness caused by the conflict. They were a large group of people, mainly forgotten today. There were also many thousands of widows and fatherless children left to fend for themselves as best they could. War destroys people, this should never be forgotten and war memorials help to remind us of this.

Returning to memorials to the fallen, I believe that the vast majority of people are very sensitive about war memorials and wherever possible want them to remain in their original position, and to be cared for and cherished. This certainly seems to be the case with other churches within the Borough. The Methodist church reinstated their memorial to the fallen a couple of years ago, after a public outcry.

I would like to attend your proposed open meeting in the New Year and would be grateful if you would let me know the venue and time please.

Kind Regards

Clive Gilbert

The open meeting will be held on Monday, 13th January 2014 at 8pm at St Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom. Let us hope that the end result is the reinstatement of the Rolls of Honour.



Reproduced by permission of Surrey History Centre

D.O.R.A. and Captain Charles Jonsing Smith

8th South African Infantry and 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment.

By Hazel Ballan

Charles Jonsing Smith died, age 47, on 20th December 1919 in a hospital in Wandsworth from a reoccurring illness contracted whilst serving in East Africa. From there was taken for burial in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church, Ewell, Surrey.

His burial was arranged by Dr. Thomas Henry and Anna Charles Yorke-Trotter, who lived in 'The Red House', Church Street, Ewell. According to the inscription on the headstone, Charles Jonsing Smith was formally from New Zealand and the brother of Quetta. The Yorke-Trotters are referred to on the headstone as Charles' 'Godparents'.

Two years before his death Charles had been fighting to clear his unmarried sister's name. Quetta, alias Henrietta Maude Smith, had been arrested and incarcerated in Holloway Prison charged with contravening the Defence of the Realm Act (D.O.R.A.) However, it appears there was not enough evidence to sentence her and she was released, even though her rather colourful life had been thoroughly



investigated and recorded for prosperity. A copy of the fascinating summing up report can be read at the Epsom & Ewell History Centre.

More can be read about the adventurous life of Charles who served in South Africa during the second Boer War, and in the campaigns in German South West Africa and East Africa during the Great War.

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesS.html#SmithCJ

So what was D.O.R.A.?

The Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) of 1914 governed all lives in Britain during World War One. The Act was added to as the war progressed and it listed everything that people were not allowed to do in time of war. As WW1 evolved, so D.O.R.A evolved. The first version of the Defence of the Realm Act was introduced on August 8th 1914. This stated that:

No-one was allowed to

- talk about naval or military matters in public places
- spread rumours about military matters
- buy binoculars
- trespass on railway lines or bridges
- melt down gold or silver
- light bonfires or fireworks
- give bread to horses, horses or chickens
- use invisible ink when writing abroad
- buy brandy or whisky in a railway refreshment room
- ring church bells

The government could

- take over any factory or workshop
- try any civilian breaking these laws
- take over any land it wanted to
- censor newspapers

As the war continued and evolved, the government introduced more acts to DORA.

- the government introduced British Summer Time to give more daylight for extra work
- opening hours in pubs were cut
- beer was watered down
- customers in pubs were not allowed to buy a round of drinks

In effect, don't do anything. We are surprised Quetta got off. There must be something here they could pin on her if they wanted to. We hope the Act has been repealed. More about the D.O.R.A can be found at www.historylearningsite.co.uk/defence_of_the_realm_act_of_1914.htm

New Additions to the Website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/

Since the last newsletter in September 2013, Webmaster Peter Reed, has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website covering some 21 different subjects as well as twelve major updates. Just to mention a few:

[Bowerman Family](#)

[Bulkeley, Sir Richard](#)

[Collingridge, Samuel](#)

[Epsom Common Cottages 1896](#)

[Gentlemen And Officers](#)

[Ewell Businesses in 1911](#)

[Related files](#)

[1913 Map of Ewell](#)

[Architectural Terms](#)

[And 47 pages on individual properties](#)

[Epsom and Ewell Football Club](#)

[Local Directories \(with 27 sub files\)](#)

[Dunford, Thomas - Baker](#)

[Kitty's Diary](#)

[Picknell, Henry and George - Bakers](#)

[St. Mary's, Ewell](#)

[Ward Map \(now has 2011 Census data\)](#)

[World War 2 Book Of Remembrance Supplement](#)

[Public Record Office Lists & Indexes](#)

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.

[The power of the website - www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html)

Clive Gilbert has advised us that the War Memorial pages of the website continue to put people in touch. There have been two such instances recently.

A Mrs. Reeve contacted via the Webmaster asking if we could put her in touch with the person who provided information on Kenneth Oppenheimer. She had some family photos but was not quite sure of whom they were. We were able to pass on contact details, and received a short but to the point reply ' Thank you Mr Gilbert. It has helped very much.' So another satisfied customer.

Another lady was seeking information on her grandfather Edward Friday. Much of the information about Edward on the website had come from our own Terry Friday. It transpired that Terry and the lady are cousins and until then did not know of each other's existence. I have not spoken to Terry since, but trust that she and he are now good friends!

Is the website perhaps another Facebook?

Peter has been spending our money again!

This time it was for some archival grade polyester map pockets. These were necessary as many of the maps in the History Centre map drawers were in the old thicker type of plastic pocket and a chemical reaction was taking place between the maps and the pockets - the plastic was starting to lift the ink from the maps. You may have experienced something similar with photocopied pages sticking to standard plastic punched pockets and leaving an impression of the text on the plastic.

As many of you will know the archival grade pockets are expensive and ones needed for the big maps can cost up to £15 each. Luckily Peter spotted a pricing anomaly and was able to get a very good deal and was able to get 40 sleeves at £7.50 each (£300 in total). This was enough to replace the older pockets used to protect many of the 25inch OS Maps in the History Centre but Peter warns that he has not started looking the other maps or those in the back office!

Fortunately we had the funds in our bank through careful budgeting and fund raising.

Publicity for WW1 Display



*UPS Brigade recruits march
past the Clock Tower, Epsom.
September 1914*

Early in December we received the following email from Kay Hadwick, Senior Team Officer at Redhill Library and PPC Librarian of the Year 2012/13.

To: Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre

I am currently putting together a programme of events for the commemoration of the First World War. I am hoping to put together a brochure of these events in the Spring of next year covering events from June 2014 - June 2015. I was wondering if the Epsom and Ewell Local History Centre was planning any special exhibitions/projects which you might like to have included in any publicity brochure. If so, I would be delighted to hear from you

Yours sincerely

Kay Hadwick

Following a call to volunteer Clive Gilbert, who is organizing our WW1 display, we responded as follows:

To: Kay Hadwick

Many thanks for your email about our plans for commemorating WW1. Below is a comment from Clive Gilbert who is organising and co-ordinating this for the History Centre.

You can see from my comments I don't have much to say about Epsom, Indiana. However, we found an 1866 History of Davies County which states:

"Two miles from Cornettsville, and in the same township, is Epsom, which consists of a half-dozen dwellings, three stores, a post-office and a schoolhouse. The vulgar name of the place is " Tophet." The present name was given it because the water from a well in the hamlet that was dug by a Mr. Page was thought to resemble in taste the famous Epsom salts. The first settlement was made away back in 1815, or 1816, by Peter Yount. Considerable business is done here during the winter season, when the bad roads make it difficult to get to and from Washington. Among the early merchants were Joseph Brown, John Kendall, John Hyatt, Dr. David Carter, William J. Wilson, Hiram Myers, David Young and others. Among the physicians who have practiced and are now practicing here are Drs. David Carter, T. G. Ray, T. V. Norvell and David R. Carter. There are now three small stores carrying lines of general merchandise."



Washington is Washington, Indiana not Washington, D.C. and is some 15 miles from Epsom. It was a thriving railroad town in 1857 and by 1889 it was a major depot and repair yard for the railway.

Incidentally, I think "Tophet" is a term for 'hell', which may say something about the place in 1866. But, based on the report above, maybe Epsom was once a more thriving community.

We have found a 1900 image of a milling plant, T.C. Myers and Bros. which was established in Epsom by Thomas Myers. He was born in 1866 and worked in the milling and mercantile business at various points with his brothers Charles and Alfred. For twenty-six

years they operated a sawmill as well as building the first flourmill in their hometown of Epsom.

Sources: www.millersofwashingtoncounty.org/Daviess/Chapter-7.html

images.indianahistory.org/cdm4/results.php?CISOOP1=any&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOROOT=/V0002&CISOBOX1=County--Epsom

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, Bert, Brian, Clive, Hazel, Jeremy, Meg and Peter. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again - as it seems to encourage more people to contribute material.

I'm sure many 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 2014, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

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

The Library is open on Wednesdays to Saturdays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm and on Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm

The History Centre is open Thursdays and Fridays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Tuesdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon and 5.30 to 6.45 pm

1st Saturday of each month from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Closed on Mondays and Wednesdays

Other Saturdays and Wednesdays by appointment

Enquiries can also be made by email to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

Take a look at our History Explorer Website - www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk

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.