

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

If you ever wondered what job your ancestors did - from Angela Clifford

Browsing through 'The complete A-Z guide to early occupations' (*copyright genealogyprinters.com 2002*) I came across the following list which I thought might be of interest.

Which occupation matches which description?

Archil Maker	Person who made violet dye from lichens
Badgy Fiddler	Boy trumpeter in the military
Caffler	Rag and Bone collector
Dey Wife	Female dairy worker
Eremite	Hermit
Flauner	Confectioner
Gummer	Person who improved old saws by deepening the cuts
Hamberghmaker or Hamberow	Horse collar maker
Jakes farmer	Cesspool emptier
Knockknobbler	Dog Catcher
Lehrer	Teacher
Meterer	Poet
Nimgimmer	Doctor
Olitor	Kitchen Gardener
Pavyler	Person who put up pavilions or tents
Quister	Person who bleached things.
Rubbler	Person who sorted small stones in quarries.
Schrimpschonger	Artisan who carved in bone ivory or wood.
Town Husband	Person employed to collect the money from fathers of illegitimate children for their upkeep.
Upright worker	Chimney Sweep
Terrier	Glazier
Wanter	Molecatcher
Xylographer	Maker and user of wooden blocks for printing illustrations
Yatman	A gate keeper
Zoographer	Described and classified animals

We particularly like the descriptions for Badgy Fiddler, Jakes Farmer, Town Husband, Upright Worker and Wanter – Ed.

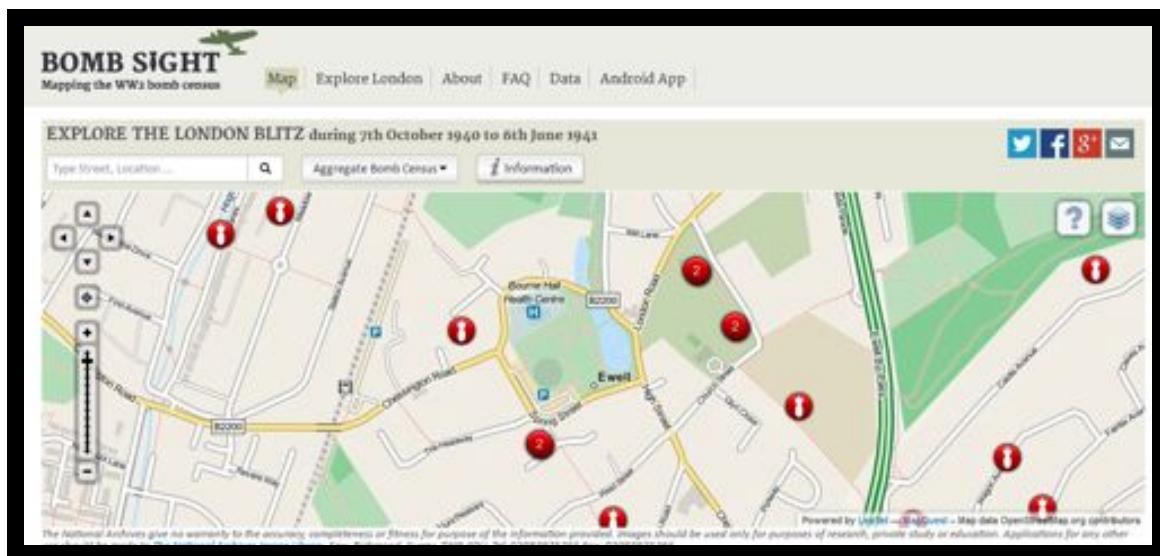
New interactive WW2 "Bomb Sight" website - from Hazel Ballan

On 5 April 2015 the *Mail Online* posted a link to "Bomb Sight", a project that showed, via interactive maps, EVERY German bomb that dropped on London during WW2 Blitz. It also includes the bombs dropped on Epsom and Ewell.

"Bomb Sight" was created by collaboration between Dr Catherine Jones of the University of Portsmouth and The National Archives, and funded by the charity JISC.

The project team scanned original 1940s bomb census maps and then geo-referenced the maps to add their exact location. They then digitally captured the geographical locations of all the falling bombs recorded on the original map, and created an easy to use website and app to display it.

The following link <http://bombsight.org/#16/51.3326/-0.2678> will take you direct to an interactive page that shows you where bombs fell on Epsom and Ewell during WW2.



For more information: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2243951/The-astonishing-interactive-map-EVERY-bomb-dropped-London-Blitz.html#ixzz3WQOhZXmN>

Don't forget we also have bomb maps for Epsom and Ewell on our own website at <http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2Maps.html>

Update on the Epsom War Memorials Research and a Call for Information - from Clive Gilbert.

Excluding the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) plot, we have to date researched the 446 names that appear on local Great War memorials or are remembered on their parents' graves or are buried in Epsom cemetery or St Mary's churchyard.

These are listed on our website at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html

Of the 446, there are ten we cannot discover any information about, or a connection to Epsom, other than that their names are on a memorial. These are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Where Recorded</i>	<i>Where also Recorded</i>
Frank Atkins	Ashley Road War Memorial	St. Barnabas Roll of Honour
Thomas Burchell	Ashley Road War Memorial	St. Barnabas Roll of Honour
Edwin Harris	Ashley Road War Memorial	St. Barnabas Roll of Honour
L. Cook	Ashley Road War Memorial	
F. Jackson	Ashley Road War Memorial	
E.H. Lancaster	Ashley Road War Memorial	
A.C. Lander	Ashley Road War Memorial	
E. Nevill	Ashley Road War Memorial	
L.A. Page	Ashley Road War Memorial	
R. Webb	Ashley Road War Memorial	

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) plot in Epsom Cemetery holds the graves of 148 men, and also commemorates one man buried in the Horton Estates Cemetery. Of the 148, we have to date researched 41, including the two who also appear on the Epsom memorial. If we add the one name on the Horton Estates memorial we have 108 left to research. This excludes Epsom College, but even so there are 9 of 'ours' who also appear on Epsom College memorial.

Let me leave you with this plea: if anyone can shed any light on why the ten names listed above have been included on Epsom war memorials we would be delighted to hear from you via our Webmaster at webmaster@epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk

Bourne Hall listed as Grade 11 – from Peter Reed

As of 30th April 2015, under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest, Bourne Hall Library and Social Centre was listed as Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- Architectural interest: a striking design, notable for its space-age flair and the generous, top-lit principal interior space
- Plan form: the circular layout is well-organised, legible and flexible
- Historic interest: as an ambitious example of the expansion of the library service and the integration of community facilities and disabled access.

If you want to see further details of the listing together with a brief history of Bourne Hall (formerly Garbrand Hall) and a description of its materials and structure go to

<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1425772>

Raising awareness of WW1 with Schoolchildren – from Angela Clifford

Having heard a talk by Mrs Ann Ali of the Civic Society about Stamford Green Primary School's WW1 garden – and trench! I wrote to the school to tell them of the WW1 display created by Clive Gilbert and his team and that the History Centre has numerous display boards on the subject of WW1. I offered to let the teachers borrow some of the boards to show the schoolchildren and to look at an A3 folder reproducing the displays.

I also informed them of our website – www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk which has a great deal of local information too.

I have since received the following response from the school:

Dear Mrs Clifford,

Thank you for your email and the link to your website, which contains a lot of useful information indeed.

I have passed your email on to the relevant teachers who will contact you directly if needed.

Many thanks again.

Stamford Green Primary School

We wait to see what happens.

To crash one steamroller may be regarded as a misfortune; to crash two looks like carelessness – from Peter Reed (with apologies to Oscar Wilde).

Below are two reports from the Epsom Herald. The first is dated Saturday, January 2nd 1886. We wonder if the 'long legged and long headed dustman got his knuckles rapped for his cheeky response,

Saturday, Jan.3, 1886

THE Epsom Local Board steam roller went astray in the fog at Sutton on Monday, and collided with the shop occupied by Mr. Graham, coming off considerably the worst in the encounter. As it was so much damaged that it could not get away it was left there until Wednesday, when it was removed under the direction of Mr. Harding, surveyor to the Epsom Local Board. On Tuesday a genial old lady was passing, and after a minute examination, ejaculated, "Dear me; what a sad calamity! How did it happen?" "A long legged and long headed dustman, to whom the query was addressed, replied, "It shied at a bievele. mmm!"

But blow me down, just forty odd years later (21 November 1929), it happens again. Let's hope it isn't becoming a habit.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF STEAM ROLLER.

Engine That Might Have Blown Up.

At Epsom yesterday Herbert Brown (43), a steam-roller driver employed by a Dorchester (Dorset) firm, pleaded guilty to being drunk in charge of a steam-roller at Ewell, near Epsom, on Tuesday.

Station-Sergt. Whitticks said that Brown was driving an eight-ton steam-roller. A two-ton trailer van and a water wagon were attached.

The roller just missed an omnibus, and went on to the footpath. After he had been stopped Brown was asked whether he knew where he was, and he said, "Croydon."

There was only half an inch of water in the boiler of the engine. The tank was empty. Had the vehicle been driven much farther it might have blown up.

Dr. Thompson said that steam was hissing from the back of the vehicle. It was only at what seemed considerable risk that police officers, standing in the middle of the steam, were able to shut it off.

Brown was fined 40s., with £2 17s. costs.

A little local snippet on how times change on Epsom Downs – from Angela Clifford

Section 194 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, requires the Ministry of Agriculture's consent not just to enclosure, but also to the erection of any building or fence, or the construction of any other work whereby access to common land is prevented or impeded.

Hansard reports that on 07 November 1929, in response to a question from Mr (James) Ede, Mr. (Noel) Buxton (Minister of Agriculture) replied that “consent was given under Section 194 of The Property Act 1925 for erection of a racing number board on Epsom Downs, that a public enquiry had been held, the area affected was 200 sq yds and an area of 289 sq yds had been thrown into common in lieu of that affected. Consent was given on condition that the design of the number board was approved by President of Royal Institute of British Architects”

I assume this may well be the one recently removed from Epsom Downs

Source: http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/written_answers/1929/nov/07/commons-enclosures#S5CV0231P0_19291107_CWA_204

Francis Vernon Northey Memorial Window Vandalised

From Clive Gilbert

Lieutenant Colonel Francis Vernon Northey died on 6 April 1879 from wounds he received when fighting in the Anglo-Zulu war.

His body was brought back to England and buried in Epsom Cemetery. A stained glass window was erected in his honour, by his widow, in Christ Church, Epsom.

Unfortunately, the lower left section of the window at was vandalised in early May this year, in some places so badly that the parts may need replacing rather than the simpler repair.

The secretary of Christ Church Parochial Church Council, Roger Morgan, contacted me recently to let me know about the vandalism and to say how useful our picture of the window on our website will be to the firm given the task of restoration.



Picture courtesy of Clive Gilbert

Just another small example of how the history centre provides a service to the community.

For more on Lt. Colonel Northey see: <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Northeys7.html> and <http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html>

I don't believe it...!

By Bert Barnhurst, with apologies to Victor Meldrew

Way back more than ten years ago I first started work researching the 1945 WW2 crash of one of our own aircraft that was on a test flight from the Vickers base at Brooklands, that came down in Ruxley Lane killing two ladies about to have a fish and chip lunch – a Mrs Edith Connor and Mrs Ann Swan. There was plenty of information about the event with an article in the local newspaper.

Both the Swan and Connor families had been close friends for many years before the tragedy, and on the day the two mothers had arranged to have lunch together in Mrs Swan's house. It was here that fate took another hand in the story. Mrs Swan nipped out to buy some fish for lunch from the local shops, and for some reason did not queue but was served immediately by mutual consent. Had Mrs Swan joined the queue

in the normal way the chances are that she could well have escaped, as the aircraft struck her house almost immediately after she returned home. Such are the vagaries of war.

Alan, the son of Mrs. Ann Swan, told of just how he felt when he came home from Kingston Grammar School to find his Mother gone and his home gone, with his sister evacuated to Scotland and his father in the Army and that all he had was what he stood up in - and this at 14 years of age! Mrs. Swan's daughter declared her anger when she heard the news and especially at the way the authorities treated her family. She was even angrier later, when she realized the circumstances of the crash and the fact that the family silver disappeared did not make her feel any better.

We had a lot of response to the article about the crash and in fact were able to put Alan Swan in touch with Mrs Eileen Canter, the lady who took him in after the crash.

They met up again after some thirty years at our 60th VE anniversary street party, held in Ewell library in May 2005.



*Alan Swan and family photographed in May 2005
The lady on far left is Mrs Canter, who took in Alan after the crash.*

Then comes an interesting development. Shortly after the crash in 1945, Douglas and Edith Barrett, who were visiting Ewell, walked past the ruins of the house as it was being cleared away and spied a bedraggled doll on top of the rubbish. The poignant image so touched Edith Barrett that she took the doll home with her, but without any real idea what she would do with it.



*Margaret Swan
and 'Alice'.*

Since then Edith hung onto the doll through thick and thin. But having seen the article on our website, Peter Barrett, son of Edith, remembered the doll and contacted the History Centre who had found Alice the doll's original owner, Margaret Dyson (nee Swan), Ann's evacuated daughter, at the time of the earlier investigations.

So 63 years later, on the 28th June 2008, Peter's mother, Edith Barrett, handed the doll, called 'Alice', to its original owner Margaret Dyson at an event in the History Centre.



*Margaret Dyson (nee Swan)
with Edith Barrett
and 'Alice'.*

Moving on to October 2014 we were contacted by a son of the daughter of Edith Conner, the other lady to be killed that day in 1945. This was the first time she had seen anything about the incident. It is to be regretted that it was about this time that we also learned that Alan Swan had died in Sept 2014.

And finally, if I may dare use such a term with this story, we have been contacted again by Mr Esmond Clements, who was a neighbour of the Swan's in Merton before the war to say that he has discovered a box full of old photos of the two families together with a letter from Margaret's mother which has survived. We have now put them in touch and await the outcome with interest; we may yet have more to report on this story. In that well-known phrase... watch this space!

The full story of the crash and the finding of 'Alice' with pictures, can be found on our website at
<http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Tragedy.html>

See also People's War Story no. A4130849

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/49/a4130849.shtml>

Image of Margaret Swan with 'Alice' courtesy of the Dyson Family © 2008

Follow up on the lost Ewell Great War Bench Memorial

By Hazel Ballan



*Hugh James
Pearson Hopkinson.
Permission sought
from Yorkshire Rugby
Football Club.*

In the September 2014 Newsletter (issue 36) we reported on the discovery of a Great War Bench memorial in Ewell. If you remember, the bench was inscribed as follows:

IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THE MEN OF EWELL
WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918.

The bench also has a brass plaque with a personal memorial to Hugh J. P. Hopkinson.

THIS SEAT WAS GIVEN BY MR & MRS HOPKINSON OF GARBRAND
HALL IN LOVING MEMORY OF THEIR ELDEST SON HUGH J. P.
HOPKINSON. LT. R. E. WHO FELL AT GALLIPOLI NOVEMBER 1915

The bench has since been returned to the grounds of the demolished Garbrand Hall and is on display at the top of the stairs in Bourne Hall Museum.

On Friday 24 April 2015 Jeremy Harte, Clive Gilbert and Hazel Ballan had the pleasure of meeting David Hugh Laing Hopkinson and his wife Pru at Bourne Hall Museum. Hazel had contacted David after she had researched the background to the WW1 memorial bench that she had been instrumental in restoring to public view last year.

David, aged 89, is the nephew of the late Hugh James Pearson Hopkinson, (killed in Gallipoli on 6 November 1915), whose name is on the brass plate on the bench, and grandson of Frederick Hopkinson, owner of Garbrand Hall between 1919 and 1925. After reading the copies of the articles Hazel had sent to him, David replied that most of it was all new news to him. He also said that he would be delighted to accept her invitation to visit the museum to see the present resting place of the bench that his grandparents had commissioned as a memorial to his uncle and the men of Ewell who had given their lives in WW1. After taking a rest on the oak bench and chatting about his family, David and Pru took a tour around the museum before heading off home with the promise of looking out photos of the Hopkinson family to send to us for scanning.



*Hugh James Pearson Hopkinson with his wife Pru and Hazel Ballan
seated on the Memorial Bench in Bourne Hall Museum.
Picture Clive Gilbert ©2015*

You can read more about the Hopkinson family and Garbrand Hall on the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HopkinsonFT.html>

and Hugh's short life at

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesH.html#HopkinsonHJP>

Who Do You Think You Are? at Epsom Library

The History Centre hosted a Family History Day at Epsom Library on Saturday 21st March 2015. Some 35 plus people attended the event seeking guidance on getting started in researching their family

history or with help in furthering the research they had already done (around 50 specific queries were handled by the volunteers).



Volunteers helping customers at the WDYTVA? Day in Epsom Library

Our thanks to Meg Bower, Glenda Charman, Linda Clark, Angela Clifford, Judith Mitchell, Diane Tidd, Peter Reed, Bob Sparrow, Bert Barnhurst and Ian Parker for giving so much of their time for this event.

We were not overwhelmed by customers but this was probably due to Epsom Library being closed earlier in the month which meant users did not get to see our posters and flyers. Someone told me that she came in following a radio announcement (Radio Jackie). However, some volunteers claimed it gave us more time to work with the people who dropped in and, as a result, we carried out about 50 separate pieces of research for the 30 or so visitors.

There were a couple of glitches with the computers but we survived and still raised about £11 selling cards and Starter Packs.

An unfortunate victim of a peacetime tragedy

By Brian Bouchard

The churchyard extension at St Mary's, Ewell, contains 11 casualties in Commonwealth War Graves some of which bear dates of death later than 8 May 1945 because, for WW2, the designated 'war years' were 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947. The sole RAF representative is E. H. Pearson who lies in Grave 14, Section B, with the headstone shown above.

His parents Esther Illing (b. reg Southwark 4/1878) and Arthur James Pearson had married in St Jude, Southwark, on 20 December 1897. The birth of Ernest H Pearson came to be registered in Southwark for the June Quarter of 1923. By 1945 the family were living in 12 Southville Close, off Plough Road, Ewell.

Having enlisted in the RAFVR, Ernest was inducted for air-force service at Padgate between November 1945 and February 1946. After basic training he had been posted to RAF Locking, Somerset. As No 5 School of Technical Training it provided for RAF and Fleet Air Arm instruction in the fields of Flight Mechanics Airframe, Engines and Rigging, Parachute Packing and Fabric Working. Also trained on the station were Marine Craft Fitters and

Carpenters. This technical site was separated from an airfield about a mile away which was called RAF Weston-super-Mare.

From 1946, RAF Weston-super-mare provided accommodation for ground crew and aeroplanes of the Aircraft Torpedo Development Unit (ATDU) although its pilots were based at RAF Gosport, Hampshire.



*Ernest Henry Pearson
Aircraftman 2nd Class, 2296456
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Killed in Service on 22 November 1946*



A Douglas Boston Mk. III. Source: www.worldwarphotos.info

Towards dusk on 22nd November 1946, a twin engined Douglas Boston Mk. III bomber, AL467, of the Aircraft Torpedo Development Unit returning from RAF Llandow, near Cardiff, prepared to land at RAF Weston-super-Mare. It is reported to have taken an initial run to assess the condition of the grass runway before

making a low approach from the east to fly over the road that passed along the perimeter of the airfield. There were signs on the road cautioning drivers about the possibility of low flying

aircraft to avoid alarm at their approach. Since it was a Friday, at the same time, men from RAF Locking were getting away on weekend leave in a convoy of three Bristol 'Tramways' buses. The middle double-decker bus, fully loaded with 57 airmen, happened to be travelling towards the local railway station when the undercarriage and starboard aircrew of the descending aircraft hit it. The roof was ripped off and seven airmen were killed on impact, whilst another one died later. Fourteen more suffered serious injuries and others cuts from flying glass and bruises. The severed nose-leg dropped off just inside the airport boundary and the aircraft landed on the grass runway over to its port side with the port undercarriage ripped off. A crew of three in the aircraft emerged uninjured with the pilot and flight engineer claiming to have been partially blinded by the setting sun. Photographs of the damaged bus and aircraft appeared in the *Western Mercury* as reproduced in Ted Johnson's *Weston Super Mare and the Aeroplane*, 2013. A report of the incident appeared in *The Times* of 23 November 1946: the bus remained upright on the correct side of the road with windows on the lower deck intact and the driver and conductor unharmed.

Amongst the airmen who lost their lives in the incident was Ernest Henry Pearson, aged 23.

Battle of Waterloo Display



Thanks to Gillian Alford there is currently a 6-board display commemorating the 200th anniversary of the 'Battle of Waterloo' outside the History Centre in Bourne Hall library. Gillian has conducted considerable research at the TNA and has identified a number of soldiers from Epsom and Ewell who were involved in the battle.

In addition to "(Some of) Our Boys at the Battle" the display features the Leaders at the battle, details of the battle plan and the army, the aftermath of the battle and civilian eye-witness accounts of the battle. It is supported by pictures featuring soldiers and uniforms of the period and a map of the battle.

Gillian had so much research on the subject that she has also produced a manual that includes a range of additional topics on the battle including Regiments involved in the battle, a timeline, information on the Royal Surrey Regiment, Infantry Square tactics, the Defence of Hougoumont and much, much more.

The manual (pictured left) is available in the History Centre and it is well worth taking a look.

A Maori warrior found his war-bride in Epsom

By Brian Bouchard

Tamaturanga was a son of Paraire Henare Tomoana (known as Friday) who had been a prominent Māori leader in the Hawkes Bay region on the east coast of North Island, New Zealand. His family lived in Hastings, Hawkes Bay.

Tamaturanga became a rugby player in Hawkes Bay and later represented the Royal New Zealand Air Force in competition.

The marriage at Epsom, Surrey, of Hawea Tomoana to Joyce J Butler (b. 1920, daughter of George Butler and Martha Jane nee Ellcome) was registered in the December Quarter of 1942.

By early 1943, Hawea was serving with a bomber squadron in the Western Desert, possibly in 55 or 223 Squadron of 232 Bomber Wing. On 28 June 1943, however, he had joined 149 Squadron



*Tamaturanga Te Rakai-a-Hawea Tomoana
(1913 – 1943) Flight Sergeant NZ41615,
Royal New Zealand Air Force,*

becoming a member of the crew in a Stirling Mk. III BF 483, OJ – C, which took off at 23.45 hrs. from RAF Lakenheath. As part of a group targeting Cologne, this aircraft subsequently went missing without trace, but is thought to have been attacked and shot down by a Luftwaffe night-fighter 'ace' Oblt. Werner Hopf of 2/NJG1 at 2.47 a.m. on 29 June 1943, 25 miles west of the island of Schouwen-Duiveland in the south-western Netherlands, before crashing into the North Sea.

Names of all the crew killed in action were recorded on the Runnymede Memorial: Tamaturanga is also included in a Roll of Honour at Hastings War Memorial Library, erected by the people of Hastings and District to commemorate those who gave their lives for their country in the War 1939 – 1945.

The widowed Mrs Joyce Tomoana remarried in 1945.

Dutch Aircrew Memorial - Hoeksche Waard 1940-1945

By Bert Barnhurst

In the September 2014 Newsletter (issue 36) we reported on the commissioning of a Dutch War Memorial by the Hoeksche Waard Aircrew Memorial Trust to be erected in the village of Oud-Beijerland, near Zalmpad, just south of Rotterdam. It is in commemoration aircrew of all Allied Forces who died in that part of Holland during the Second World War.

Mr. Anton de Man, from the Trust, had asked if there was any chance of our being able to trace any family members of one of the aircrew who was thought to have an Epsom connection. The member of aircrew they were seeking was one 19-year-old P/O P L Dooley. While Anton said that Epsom was area where Peter grew up, the connection seems somewhat tenuous. His parents were Albert and Frances, having moved to 25 Gayfere Road Stoneleigh around the mid 1950's, but this was some six years after P/O Dooley died.

The 19-year-old P/O Dooley was a member of the crew of a Lancaster, numbered LM-693 with the call sign of KO-T. This was one of 115 Squadron's aircraft which had taken off from RAF Witchford in Cambridgeshire at 21.28 on the night of 15/16 September 1944.



*The Hoeksche Waard Memorial at Oud-Beijerland.
Image courtesy of the 'Monument Luchtoorlog Hoeksche Waard
1940-1945' website*

At much the same time a number of similar aircraft took off from RAF Tuddemham in Suffolk. While the full details of what actually happened are somewhat shrouded in the mists of war, the reports from other aircraft returning from the same raid was that the two Lancasters had collided with each other over the target area. The outcome was inevitable; all the crews of both aircraft were killed.

We have since heard from Anton that the "unveiling of the Memorial was on the 6th June 2015, a special date because it was 71 years ago that the freedom of Europe, including our country, The Netherlands, was started. At least 26 family members, who have airman that gave their lives in the isle Hoeksche Waard and whose names are on the memorial plaque, came from England, Canada and the USA."

More details of the memorial and the unveiling can be found at www.luchtoorloghw40-45.nl where there are photos and a video clip about the unveiling.

Forthcoming Events

Currently we have no forthcoming events listed. We are, however, considering another 'Who Do You Think You Are?' day at Ewell Library in the autumn this year. We'll keep you informed of progress on this.

WHO
DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

New Additions to the History Explorer Website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk

Once again there are plenty of additions and changes to the website, including:

- Alexander, Janet - Star of stage, screen and briefly television, 1878-1961
- Coronation Celebrations 1902 - 53
- Bells of St Martin of Tours, Epsom
- Gibson, The Honourable Ernest Victor - co-founder of The Public Schools Special Corps, encamped in the Paddock of Epsom Racecourse, September/October 1914
- Worcester Park House – the birth, life and death of a grand estate 1878-1961
- The Annesleys - Chesterton House, Chessington Road, West Ewell
- The Epsom Coach Fraud 1882
- A short summary of Epsom Common and Others 1535-2014
- A History of the Fire Service In Epsom and Ewell
- Frome, General Edward Charles - Army surveyor and engineer, artist 1802-1890
- Ewell Franciscan Monastery
- Tarratt, Isaac - 1701–1789 Linen draper, sometime resident on Church Street, Epsom, and fortune teller
- Woodcote Hall - South Street, Epsom known also as Nether Woodcote, Woodcote Place, or The Poplars

These are just some of the new items. The easiest way to find out more is to visit the 'What's New' page at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html

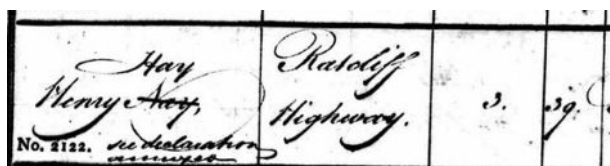
Late Breaking News . . .

Just as we were going to press with this newsletter, we received the following two items. Rather than hold them over for the next newsletter, we thought they were worth including now.

1. Bureaucracy 1840 style - from Margaret Jones

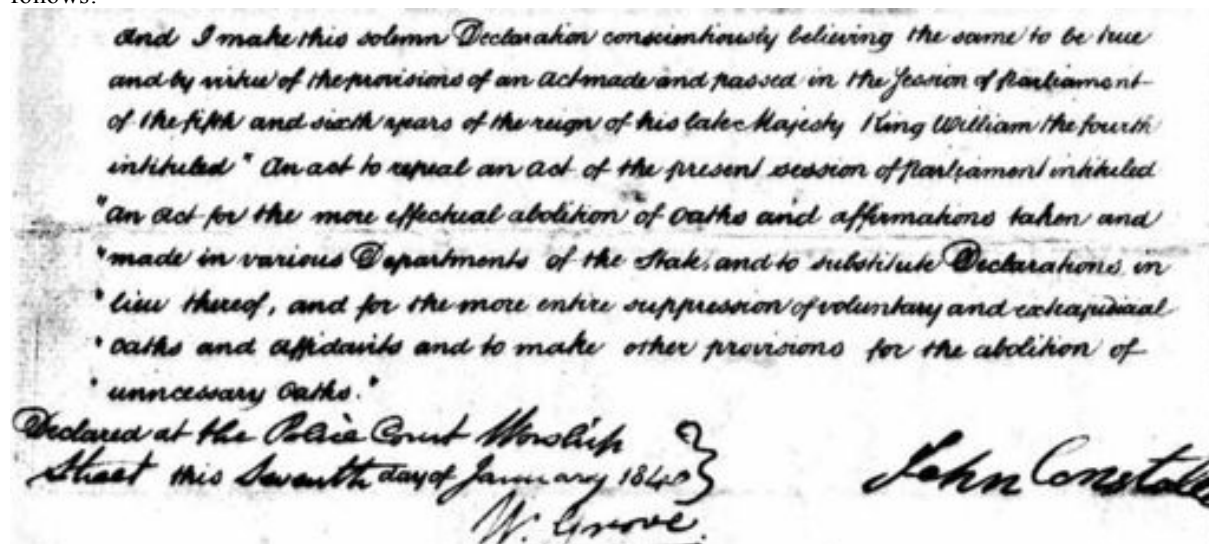
While trawling through the burial Register of St George in the East in the hope of finding my 3x Great Grandfather's burial, I came across this wonderful example of Victorian "attention to legal detail". [Burial register entry]

Henry Hay had been wrongly entered in the register as Henry Nay. In order to correct this error, the following depositions were deemed necessary. (*All spelling and punctuation, or lack of it, are faithfully reproduced!*)



Henry Hay (~~Nay~~) death recorded in St George's register in 1825

The first deposition, made by W Grove (status unspecified) and co-signed by John Constable, reads as follows:



For ease of reading I have transcribed it as follows:

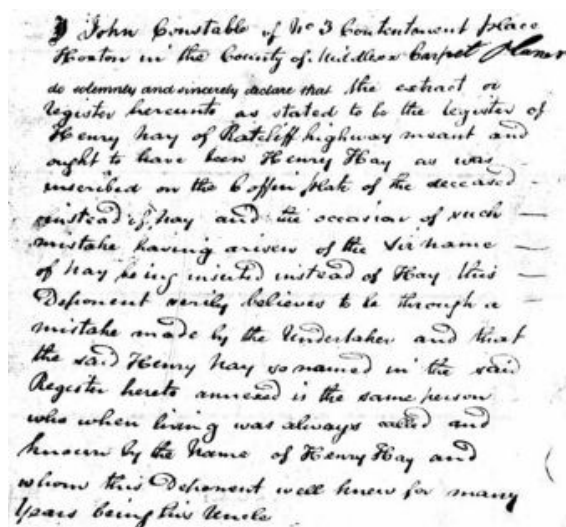
Deposition 1

... and I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the session of Parliament of the fifth and sixth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the fourth intituled "an act to repeal an act of the present session of parliament intituled "an act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the State and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the more entire suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial oaths and affidavits and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary Oaths."

Declared at the Police Court Worship Street this Seventh day of January 1840

The second Deposition, made by John Constable, reads:

I John Constable of No 3 Contentment Place Hoxton in the County of Middlesex Carpet Planer do solemnly and sincerely declare that the extract or register hereunto as stated to be the register of Henry Nay of Ratcliff highway meant and ought to have been Henry Hay as was inscribed on the Coffin plate of the deceased instead of Nay and the occasion of such mistake having arisen of the surname of Nay being inserted instead of Hay this Deponent verily believes to be through a mistake made by the Undertaker and that the said Henry Nay so named in the said Register hereto annexed is the same person who when living was always called and known by the Name of Henry Hay and **whom this Deponent well knew for many years being his Uncle.**



A handwritten deposition in cursive script, written on aged paper. The text is a transcription of the deposition made by John Constable, as shown in the adjacent block. The handwriting is clear but shows signs of being a working draft or a personal record, with some ink bleed-through and irregular spacing. The signature 'John Constable' is visible at the end of the text.

Well, they wouldn't have believed him without all the fancy language, would they? Someone might have sued!

I may not have found the entry I was hoping for but the above made my day!

2. Follow up to the Hoeksche Waard Memorial report - page 9 of this newsletter

The following email has recently arrived from Wing Commander JS Hocknell OBE RAF (Ret'd) who lives in Cambridgeshire.

It's good to know the newsletter can bring such positive responses.

To: EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter No 36 - Pilot Officer Peter Dooley

Unveiling ceremony of the memorial to the members of the Allied air forces killed in action over Oud-Beijerland

Earlier today, I stumbled across Mr Bert Barnhurst's article in Newsletter No 36 about Pilot Officer Dooley and Lancaster LM693.

Please let Mr Barnhurst know that I will be attending the unveiling ceremony in The Netherlands...(in June)...He will wish to know that my uncle, Flying Officer David Selwyn Thomas RAFVR, was a member of the crew of Lancaster LM169, the other aircraft involved in the mid-air collision.

I have seen the guest list for the ceremony and note that members of Pilot Officer Dooley's family will be there. I will make myself known to them.

Yours sincerely

Stuart

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 – Gillian Alford, Hazel Ballan, Bert Barnhurst, Brian Bouchard, Angela Clifford, Clive Gilbert, Margaret Jones and Peter Reed. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again – Have you got news for me, please.

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

please let me 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 early around the end of the year, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

Ian Parker - July 2015

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

Tuesdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon

1st Tuesday of each month from 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Wednesdays from 10.00am to 12 noon

Thursdays and Fridays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

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

Other Tuesdays and Saturdays by appointment

Closed on Mondays

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.

Receive the newsletter by email

If you would like to receive regular copies of this newsletter by email, please just send your email address to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk with the heading "EMAIL ME YOUR NEWSLETTER". Your email address will not be provided to any other organisation or company and will only be used to send you the newsletter.