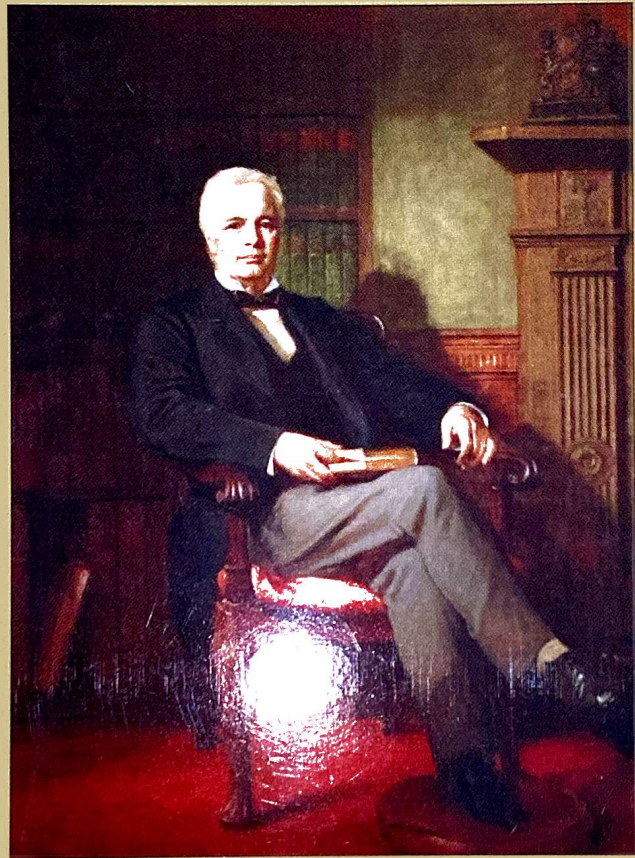
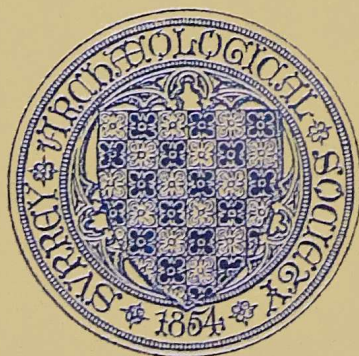


SURREY HISTORY



VOLUME 15

2016



SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chairman: Gerry Moss, 10 Hurstleigh Drive, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2AA

The Surrey Local History Committee, which is a committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society, exists to foster an interest in the history of Surrey. It does this by encouraging local history societies within the county, by the organisation of meetings, by publication and also by co-operation with other bodies, to discover the past and to maintain the heritage of Surrey, in history, architecture, landscape and archaeology.

The meetings organised by the Committee include a one-day Symposium on a local history theme and a half-day meeting on a more specialised subject. The Committee produces *Surrey History* annually and other booklets from time to time. See below for publications enquires.

Membership of the Surrey Archaeological Society, our parent body, by local history societies, will help the Committee to express with authority the importance of local history in the county. Individuals and groups belonging to member societies may attend the Symposium and other meetings at a reduced fee and obtain publications at a special rate from the Hon. Secretary. Member societies may also exhibit at the Symposium and sell their publications there.

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Papers for publication in *Surrey History* are welcome and intending authors are invited to consult the editor for advice before proceeding. Enquiries should be sent to the Hon. Editor, *Surrey History*, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX. Tel/fax: 01483 532454.

SURREY HISTORY VOLUME 15 (2016)

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Front cover illustration: Peter Locke King (see page 7)
Back cover illustration: Guildford James Hillier Onslow (see page 5)

THE GREAT LANDOWNERS OF VICTORIAN SURREY: CONTINUITY & CHANGE

Peter Shipley

During the nineteenth century, landownership in Surrey followed a long-established pattern that was familiar across the English shires, characterised by the supremacy of the aristocracy and gentry.

This article examines in relation to Surrey, a question which has much engaged historians of English landed society: to what extent, the ranks of the landowning elite in the Victorian period were 'open' to new money acquired in business or the professions, or were effectively 'closed' to newcomers.¹ In turn this throws light on the extent to which the old ruling class was able to retain its wealth and status as the century progressed, when society was being transformed from its aristocratic-led, rural roots to become an urban, industrial and more democratic one. The 'landed classes' are defined here as those property owners whose annual income from land was at least £1,000, which enabled them to live as country gentlemen, with a house and its attendant trappings (although their incomes might be supplemented by additional earnings from other sources such as business, the law, financial investment or the exploitation of mineral or other resources on their estates).² Generally an estate of around 1,000 acres was required to generate such an income, and the 'great landowners' were those who owned a minimum of 2,000 acres.

The Rural Context

At the beginning of the century, William Stevenson noted in a survey for the Board of Agriculture that there was a great demand in Surrey from prosperous businessmen and merchants for moderately-sized and pleasantly-situated property close to London and that its southern parts especially contained a large number of elegant houses belonging to gentlemen and the nobility.³

Despite its appeal, it was, however, a small county with few large estates. Surrey's rural economy was uneven and variable, and it was far from the broadly prosperous county of more modern times. In 1830, on the eve of the Victorian age, the radical journalist and campaigner, William Cobbett, wrote that his native county presented to the traveller 'a greater contrast than any other county in England', with 'some of the very best and some of the worst lands, not only in England but in the world.'⁴ The vast London market lay on its doorstep and conditions for corn and hops were favourable, but its rural areas were noted for their small, ill-managed farms, lack of agricultural improvement, low wages and, until the coming of the railways after 1839, poor communications.⁵ At the

same time, parts of the ancient county such as Southwark and Lambeth, which fall outside the scope of this article, were growing rapidly, urban extensions of London south of the Thames.

The shortcomings of rural Surrey had been apparent for decades. In his survey of 1809, Stevenson wrote that while farms varied in size across the county, the average was below 200 acres, and he identified numerous obstacles to improvement, including the slow progress of enclosure, short leases and ‘the ignorance and prejudice of many of the farmers.’⁶ And at the time Cobbett was writing, agricultural depression, a succession of poor harvests and rural poverty, meant that between 1830 and 1832 Surrey was among the southern counties to experience the outbreaks of machine breaking and arson attacks known as the Swing Riots.⁷ Even by mid-century, in a period of greater prosperity, Surrey agriculture remained in a ‘backward’ state, according to the Liberal MP, Sir James Caird. In his report on the state of English agriculture, he noted that wages and productivity remained low and tenant framers were ‘in intelligence and education ... deficient’. Their prejudices, he maintained, frustrated the attempts of landlords to carry out improvements such as land drainage. Landownership was not as profitable as in other parts of England, and rental income in Surrey was below that of neighbouring counties such as Sussex and Hampshire, and nearly half that of some parts of the midlands or Yorkshire.⁸

But these limitations did not wholly deter the formation of a landed elite in the county. Its more attractive and productive parts had for centuries attracted landowners who had built up extensive holdings over time. Beginning as successful businessmen, lawyers or statesmen, they and their successors established themselves fully in the political and social life of Surrey, as local office holders and as members of parliament. Names such as Onslow, Evelyn and More are deeply embedded in the history of Surrey.

The Variety of Sources

There is ample material to help identify the leading property owners in Surrey throughout the nineteenth century but it lies scattered and unconnected across numerous, very variable sources. The unpublished *Land Tax Assessments* from 1780–1832 give the names of owners and tenants annually in each parish in the county and provide a comprehensive record of names and holdings on the eve of the Victorian period.⁹ Other contemporary material includes antiquarian county histories and genealogical dictionaries and listings of peers and the gentry, as well county gazetteers and directories, among other records.¹⁰ Among twentieth century sources, *The Victoria County History of Surrey*, published between 1902–14, noted the names of the owners of estates and major properties in Surrey from the medieval period to the date of publication, usually briefly under the ancient manors within each of the county’s parishes.¹¹

The most directly valuable information is, however, found in two other documents. The first is a government survey published in 1875, the *Return of Owners of Land 1873*, popularly known as the *New Domesday Book*. Extending

No. 4.

LAND TAX ASSESSMENT, 1831.

In the Parish of *Albury*
 in the Division of *Blackheath*
 in the County of *Surrey*

An Assessment made for raising an Aid to His Majesty by a LAND TAX, to be raised in Great Britain, for the Service of the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-one; in Pursuance of an Act passed in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty Geo. III. intitled "An Act for granting an Aid to His Majesty by a LAND TAX, to be raised in Great Britain, for the Service of the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Eight;" and of another Act passed in the Forty-second of His said late Majesty's Reign, intitled "An Act for consolidating the Provisions of the several Acts passed for the Redemption and Sale of the Land Tax into One Act, and for making further Provisions for the Redemption and Sale thereof."

Assessed by Us *John Everaerd James Francis* Assessors.

We do hereby return *John Everaerd and James Francis* as able and sufficient Persons, living within the Limits and bounds of the said Parish of *Albury* to be Collectors of the Taxes as aforesaid.

John Everaerd James Francis Assessors.

Rate.	Name of Proprietor.	Name of Occupier.	Name or Description of Estates or Property.	Rate Assessed and Estimated.	Rate Assessed and Estimated.
120	<i>Henry Drummond</i>	<i>by himself & other</i>	<i>Part mansion, garden, arable land, meadow, plantation & cops.</i>		<i>144 10 6</i>
137	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>Arable & garden land.</i>	<i>23 4 1/2</i>	
32	<i>George Cotton</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>5 9 8</i>
46	<i>Rev. Arthur & John</i>	<i>themselves & other</i>	<i>Parsonage & Cops.</i>		<i>23 10</i>
27	<i>John Puffer Esq.</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>Home Garden & house</i>		<i>12 7</i>
12	<i>James Birchall</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>Home & Garden</i>		<i>15 8</i>
3	<i>do.</i>	<i>Leases & other</i>	<i>Cottage & Garden</i>		<i>11 9</i>
1	<i>do.</i>	<i>J. Barwood</i>	<i>Cottage, shed & Garden</i>		<i>7 10</i>
20	<i>John Cotton</i>	<i>J. Francis</i>	<i>Home & Cow stable</i>	<i>2 7</i>	
5	<i>Thomas Dutton</i>	<i>A. Rolfe & other</i>	<i>Cottage, shed & Garden</i>		<i>7 10</i>
14	<i>Wm. Dutton</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>Home & Garden</i>		<i>17 2 1/2</i>
9	<i>Wm. Dutton</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>Home & Land</i>		<i>11 9</i>
3	<i>R. Doughty</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>11 9</i>
2	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>7 10</i>
4	<i>R. Doughty</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>Cottage & Garden</i>		<i>11 9</i>
2	<i>Stephen Pople</i>	<i>J. Goodacre</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>7 10</i>
2	<i>James</i>	<i>J. Pople & other</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>11 9</i>
1	<i>do.</i>	<i>J. Goodacre</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>5 11</i>
1	<i>do.</i>	<i>J. Smith</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>5 11</i>
3	<i>Wm. Doughty</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>7 10</i>
2	<i>John Hale</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>7 10</i>
2	<i>Charles Deane</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>7 10</i>
31	<i>John Gentry</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>Home & Garden</i>		<i>26 2</i>
1	<i>J. Doughty</i>	<i>James Pople</i>	<i>Cottage & Garden</i>		<i>5 11</i>
2	<i>Wm. Doughty</i>	<i>John Barwood</i>	<i>do. & Garden</i>		<i>7 10</i>
				<i>25 11 1/2</i>	<i>189 9 2</i>

Figure 1 An extract from the *Land Tax Assessment* for Albury, near Guildford, in 1831. It shows £144 10s 6d was payable by Henry Drummond, for his 'part mansion, garden, arable land, meadow, plantation and cops'. (Surrey History Centre)

to more than 1,800 pages, it contains county-by-county lists for England and Wales (excluding London) of the names of every person or institution who owned more than one acre of land, their address (usually given as a town or village), how much they owned and the estimated gross annual rental.¹² Such a vast undertaking inevitably produced errors, and one landowner, John Bateman, endeavoured to correct them by compiling, with fresh information provided by other owners, *The Great Landowners*, which was published in four editions up to 1883 and complements the *Return*.¹³ Together they offer snapshots of land ownership in the mid-Victorian period but like many of the other sources are essentially lists of names.

The 1873 *Return* for Surrey covered an area of 438,783 acres and excluded its much smaller but more densely populated metropolitan districts. Its population of 342,113 had risen by 140,000 since 1851, and more than 40% was aged under 20.¹⁴ The *Return* identified 17,293 landowners, nearly three quarters of whom (12,712) held under one acre and were not individually named; together their holdings amounted to just 2,860 acres.

Among the remaining 4,581 owners were 205 corporate bodies, including public institutions, hospitals, schools, railways and gas and water companies, who held a total of 27,034 acres. This meant that 4,376 private individuals (less than 2.5% of the adult population) owned 368,851 acres, or 84% of the county.

At the top were 73 people who together owned 162,149 acres in Surrey (37% of the total area of the county). Just 23 people owned more than 2,000 acres each, totalling 92,129 acres (21%). A further 50 people had between 1,000 and 2,000 acres in the county, which together accounted for 70,020 acres (16%).

The leading 23 can be further broken down: 17 people held more than 3,000 acres each in the county, a combined total of 78,039 acres (7.8%). These included seven peers (two Dukes, four earls and one Baron), plus two other members of aristocratic families. According to Bateman, nine of the top 17 had most of their land in Surrey, five owned larger estates in other counties, while three had all of their property in Surrey. Among the six owners of 2–3,000 acres in Surrey, two owned larger estates elsewhere, two had smaller properties in other parts of the country and two held all their land in Surrey. Bateman also identified two new owners in that bracket, both existing landowners who had acquired more land since 1873, plus one family restored after some mid-century misfortune. In addition, he listed a further 50 people who were ‘great landowners’ by virtue of their estates elsewhere but who owned under 2,000 acres in Surrey: 13 had between 1,000 and 2,000 acres in the county, 22 between 100 and 1,000 acres and 15 less than 100.

The *Return* and Bateman confirmed that Surrey was a county of small-holders and, among its gentry, of modest rather than great estates. The former identified no owners with more than 10,000 acres in Surrey – a characteristic it shared only with Middlesex – but Bateman listed two: the Earl of Onslow with 11,761 acres and the Earl of Lovelace with 10,214. At the other end of the scale, 15 larger counties had fewer owners of less than one acre.

Pre-Victorian Owners

By comparing the names in these two documents with sources for earlier periods, the length of tenure and the turnover in ownership can be assessed. Six of the 23 great landowners in Surrey in 1873 – or just over a quarter – had owned property there since at least the sixteenth century and comprised the following families:

the Howard family, the Dukes of Norfolk (4,848 acres in Surrey in 1873), whose main estates were in north Yorkshire and Sussex, home of their principal seat, Arundel Castle; through all their changing fortunes, they had had interests in Surrey since the fourteenth century and had held the title of Earl of Surrey since 1483;¹⁵

Onslow of Clandon Park, who first owned property in Surrey in the later sixteenth century and acquired Clandon in the mid-seventeenth. Members of the Onslow family played a prominent role in politics and as office holders; in 1716 Sir



Figure 2 Guildford James Hillier Mainwaring-Ellerker-Onslow (1814–1882), nephew of the 3rd Earl of Onslow and uncle of the 4th earl, was a Liberal MP for Guildford from 1858–74, and a ‘thorough *bon viveur*, always in high spirits’. His political career ended when he became involved in one of the most notorious inheritance disputes of the period, as the supporter of the bogus claimant to the Tichborne baronetcy. (*Vanity Fair*, 24 July 1875)

Richard Onslow was raised to the peerage as Baron Onslow, and an earldom was conferred on his great nephew in 1801;¹⁶

Evelyn of Wotton (3,609 acres), who first settled in Surrey in the mid-sixteenth century, and whose wealth was founded on its monopoly of gunpowder manufacture in the reign of Elizabeth I;¹⁷

More of Loseley (2,406 acres), which Christopher More, an exchequer official and later a Surrey MP, bought in 1508;¹⁸

Steere of Ockley (3,771 acres), who claimed to have lived there since the Norman conquest;¹⁹ and,

Austen of Shalford (3,323 acres), who lived in Guildford from around 1509; John Austen and his son, George, were both mayors and MP between the 1560s and 1604.²⁰

However, the male line in three of these families died out and continuity was maintained by the transfer of the estate and the family name to relatives by marriage. Following the death of Robert More in 1689, Loseley passed to his sister and sole surviving heir, Margaret, the wife of Sir Thomas Molyneux, whose descendants adopted the name More-Moylneux.²¹ In 1760, the property of Robert Austen was inherited by his brother-in-law (the husband of his wife's sister), William Stoffold, whose two sons adopted the name of Austen by Act of Parliament.²² And in 1795, after the death of Lee Steere, his grandson, Lee Steere Witts, the son of John Witts and Steere's only daughter, Elizabeth, adopted the name of Steere by royal licence in accordance with his will, and inherited the property.²³

Just one of the 23 leading landowners in 1873 first bought property in Surrey during the seventeenth century: Sir Robert Clayton (ca. 1629–1707), a self-made lawyer and financier, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1679, seven years after he had purchased Marden Park, near Warlingham; his descendants added more property in Tandridge and Bletchingley and also inherited estates in Buckinghamshire, with 6,505 acres in Surrey.²⁴

The eighteenth century saw seven of Surrey's great Victorian landowners acquire property in the county. Two, the Earl of Lovelace and his younger brother, Peter Locke King of Brooklands (3,520 acres), were descended from Peter King (c.1669–1734), a barrister and Devon MP, who bought an estate at Long Ditton on 1710 and at Ockham in 1721, two years before he was appointed Lord Chancellor and created Baron King of Ockham. In 1838, his successor, William King (1805–93), was created an Earl, while Locke King (1811–1885) served for 27 years as a Liberal member for East Surrey.²⁵ Two estates acquired new owners when they passed to relatives by marriage after the failure of a male line: in 1745, Fletcher Norton (1716–89) inherited Wonersh through his wife,

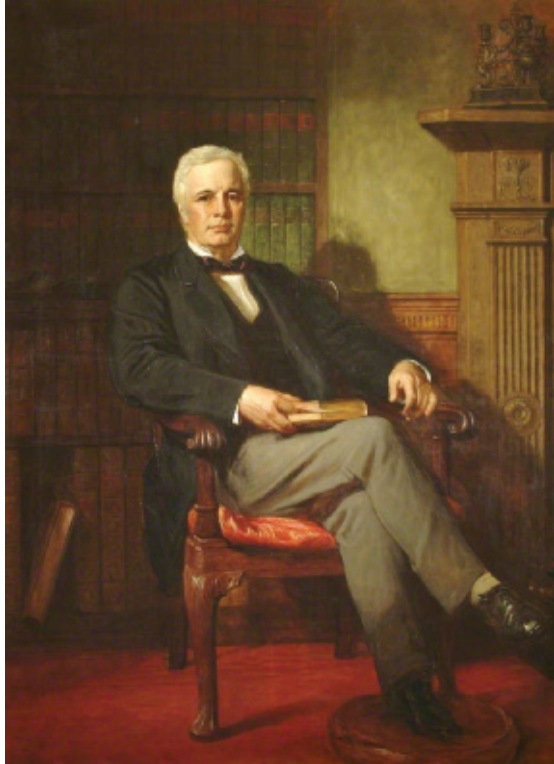


Figure 3 Peter Locke King (1811–1885), Liberal MP for East Surrey 1847–1874, the owner of Brooklands, by Henry Tanworth Wells (photo: Brooklands Museum)

Grace, the daughter and heiress of Sir William Chapple, a justice of the king's bench; after serving successively as Solicitor and Attorney General and as the Speaker of the Commons, Norton was created Baron Grantley in 1782.²⁶ The Wigsell family (4,002 acres) also succeeded to property through marriage, when Thomas Attwood died childless and transferred the property owned by his family in Sanderstead and Warlingham since the seventeenth century to a nephew, Thomas Wigsell, a barrister.²⁷ Among later entrants were William Sumner, who made his wealth as a merchant in India, and in 1770 bought the Hatchlands estate at East Clandon on the death of the previous owner, Admiral Edward Boscowen.²⁸ Eighteen years later, William Jolliffe, an MP for Petersfield in Hampshire and a Lord of Trade and later the Admiralty, bought the manors of Merstham and Chipstead from the Tattersall family; his grandson, William Jolliffe, who also represented Petersfield, developed the lime workings at Merstham, and was created Baron Hylton in 1866.²⁹ In 1792, Tschudi Broadwood, described as 'an

eminent musical instrument maker' bought Capel; his descendants, who included Henry Broadwood, the owner in 1873, continued in their London-based business of mainly piano manufacture and added further property purchases.³⁰ And at the very end of the century, Samuel Farmer (ca. 1748–1839), the owner of a London dyeing business, bought several properties in Surrey, including one close to the site of the former royal palace of Nonsuch, where between 1802 and 1806 he had a new house built, which was inherited by his grandson, William Farmer (d. 1860).³¹

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, 15 of the 23 principal families in the 1873 *Return* were already major owners. Five of the remaining eight acquired properties between 1800 and the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. In 1804, the Titsey Place estate passed to William Leveson Gower, a distant relation of the Dukes of Sutherland, who that year married Catherine Gresham, the only daughter and heiress of the previous owner, Sir John Gresham. His grandson, Granville Leveson Gower (1838–1895), who was in possession of 6,368 acres in Surrey in 1873, was the MP for Reigate from 1863–6.³²

Five estates were acquired by purchase during the early 1800s, a time of fluctuating economic fortunes, one of which changed ownership several times. In 1807, Thomas Hope (1769–1831) bought Deepdene in Dorking from Sir Charles Burrell, whose father had purchased it from the Duke of Norfolk in 1791, and later acquired nearby Brockham. Hope was descended from a Scottish family who had returned to Britain during the Napoleonic wars from Amsterdam,



Figure 4 Titsey Place, near Oxted, the home of the Leveson-Gower family from 1804 (photo: Peter Shipley)

where his family had been merchants for several generations, and also became a noted patron of the arts. His son, Henry (1808–1862), was a friend of Benjamin Disraeli, who dedicated his 1844 novel *Coningsby* to him.³³ In approximately 1834, Sir William Pepys, descended from the same Cambridgeshire family as the diarist, Samuel Pepys, purchased Tandridge Court from Vincent Biscoe, whose family had held it since 1768. Pepys died unmarried in 1845 and it passed to his brother, Charles Pepys (1781–1851), a former Lord Chancellor who was raised to the peerage in 1836 and created Earl of Cottenham in 1850.³⁴ Another aristocratic family to buy property at this time were the Earls of Egmont. Shortly before his death in 1835, John Perceval, the 4th Earl of Egmont bought land at Long Ditton and twelve years later his son, the 5th Earl, purchased the manor of Banstead.³⁵ In contrast, a newcomer from business emerged in 1836, when the More-Molyneux family sold some of its land near Godalming to a timber merchant, George Marshall (ca. 1788–1853).³⁶ There were several short-lived owners of the 3,500-acre estate at Albury, near Guildford, each from a mercantile or banking background. In 1800 it was bought by Samuel Thornton (1754–1838), who inherited great wealth from his family's Baltic trading company based in Hull (which he represented in parliament); he later became the governor of the Bank of England and was a Surrey MP from 1807–1818.³⁷ Eleven years later his son, John Thornton, sold it to Charles Baring Wall, the son of a partner in Baring's bank and member of parliament at various times for Guildford among other constituencies. Then, in 1819 Wall sold Albury to another county MP, Henry Drummond, who had inherited a fortune from his father, a London banker.³⁸

Changes in the Early Victorian Period

In the 36 years between the beginning of Victoria's reign and the compilation of the *Return*, there were just three changes in the composition of Surrey's top landowners. In 1848 tragedy and scandal overtook one of the county's leading landowning families. In March that year, the 5th Viscount Midleton, whose ancestors had bought Peper Harrow in 1713, drew up a will in which he bequeathed much of his property to Frederica Rushbrooke, the 29-year-old unmarried daughter of a Suffolk landowning MP, and her children. Eight months later he took his own life, the will was challenged and a compromise was reached in 1850 through a private act of parliament. Miss Rushrooke took possession of 2,300 acres of Midleton estates in Surrey and 1,260 in Ireland, while she herself went to live at Elmers, a house in Surbiton.³⁹ The Surrey holdings of the new Viscount meanwhile slipped to just under 2,000 acres and it was not until the 1880s that they rose again above the 3,000 mark.

In 1850, following the death of William Denison (1769–1849), the hugely wealthy banker and former Surrey MP, his 3,600-acre estate at Denbies, which was valued at £100,000, was sold to the London builder, Thomas Cubitt (1788–1855).⁴⁰ Cubitt's eldest son, George Cubitt (1838–1917) who made further land purchases in Surrey and elsewhere, became a Surrey MP and was created Baron Ashcombe in 1886. The final change during these years involved a transfer of property to a

family related by marriage where there was no male heir. On the death of Henry Drummond (1786–1860), his Albury estate passed to his son-in-law, Algernon Percy (1810–1899); he had married Drummond's elder daughter, Louisa, in 1845, and in 1867 succeeded his father as the 6th Duke of Northumberland.⁴¹

Later Victorian Change

The late Victorian period marked the onset of a long-term decline in the position of the landed classes.⁴² After a generation of stability and prosperity, an agricultural depression from the mid-1870s saw estates become less profitable as land values plummeted. The political landscape changed with the passing of the third reform act in 1884 and the creation of elected county councils four years later, which saw the absorption of Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth into the new London County Council. In addition, legal changes, such as the 1882 act relaxing laws which prevented land subject to family settlements from being sold or leased, and one the same year which permitted for the first time married women to own property in their own right, introduced a greater flexibility in the property market.

Although the pace of change among Surrey's great landowners increased during this time there was little immediate sign of a wider crisis. Indeed, two new members entered their ranks in the 1880s, each by the cumulative acquisition of property over time: James Watney of the brewing family, MP for Mid Surrey from 1871–1885, who first bought Haling Park near Croydon in the 1860s, and Henry Clutton, a distinguished architect, whose family had lived in the Surrey for several generations.⁴³ There were two further changes by marriage. In 1878, after the death of Col. Atwood Wigsell, his Sanderstead property passed to Robert Arkwright, his half-sister's husband. Arkwright was a grandson of the pioneer of the industrial revolution, Sir William Arkwright, and already a wealthy landowner.⁴⁴ In the same year, the Hope property near Godalming was inherited by Thomas Hope's grandson, Lord Henry Francis Pelham-Clinton (1866–1941), who added Hope to his surname and in 1928 succeeded his father as the 8th Duke of Newcastle.⁴⁵ Three major owners sold property, one partially. In 1884 John Sudbury (ca. 1846–1892) a solicitor, purchased Wonerish Park from Lord Grantley and in the mid-1890s, Sir Max Michaelis (1860–1932), a German-born South African diamond magnate, bought Tandridge Court from the 4th Earl of Cottenham.⁴⁶ A sell-off of the Earl of Egmont's property in Surrey and Sussex began before 1897, when Augustus Arthur Perceval (1856–1910) succeeded his cousin as the 8th Earl: a renowned eccentric, he served as a merchant seaman and in the London Fire Brigade before becoming the keeper of Chelsea Town Hall and later, after the failure of a cement making business, living in South Africa. Egmont's disposals culminated in 1910 with the sale of his 15,000-acre estate at Cowdray Park in Sussex for £500,000 to the building contractor, Sir Weetman Pearson (1856–1927), later Viscount Cowdray.⁴⁷

There was also some significant movement affecting estates between 1,000 and 2,000 acres. Shortly after the death of Thomas Alcock, MP for East Surrey

from 1847–66, his property was purchased by Henry Bonsor, a director of the Bank of England and MP for Wimbledon from 1885–1900, and in 1876, a barrister, Allen Chandler sold his 1,4000-acre estate to the Earl of Derby, who sold it in 1909.⁴⁸ Some of the Barclay family’s property near Dorking was sold in 1882 to William Keswick, a partner in the far eastern trading company, Jardine, and the Unionist MP for Epsom from 1899, and at the end of the decade Gatton Park, near Reigate, was bought from the 7th Lord Monson (from 1886 Viscount Oxenbridge) by Jeremiah James Colman (1830–1898), the mustard manufacturer, who was also Liberal MP for Norwich.⁴⁹

Conclusion

The pattern of ownership did not markedly change across the period, despite the effects of the economically uncertain decades at its end. Of the 26 families who were Surrey’s ‘great landowners’ at the end of the Victorian era, 17 had held that position in 1837. Three large estates had changed hands by sale, four had acquired new owners by will or settlement (in three cases passing through the female line to families connected by marriage), while two owners had risen by purchase in stages, one a newcomer and one an existing lesser landowner. The five Victorian entrants comprised a builder, a brewer, an architect, a solicitor and a diamond merchant. Although it can be said that access to the highest levels of Surrey landed society was not in any formal sense closed to newcomers, the record of these 64 years shows that the door to entry into the elite was not easily opened. Opportunities for the purchase of an estate of 2,000 acres or more arose infrequently and it required considerable wealth to make the leap in one acquisition. Laws which prohibited married women from owning property and restricted the sale of land subject to legally-binding settlements across the generations further limited the amount of property on the open market. The marriage into the nobility of daughters of upwardly mobile families who had a generation or two earlier moved from business into land, had the effect of adding to the already substantial holdings of the old aristocracy: this is illustrated in Surrey by the transfer of land from the mercantile Hopes to the Dukes of Newcastle and from the banking Drummonds to the Dukes of Northumberland. The blend of old wealth and new money helped the landed classes retain their social status into the new century as their political power was ebbing away. But by the First World War and in its aftermath the winds of change were to reach storm force, to sweep away the very foundations of the landowning elite.

NOTES

1. The arguments can be found in: J. V. Beckett, *The Aristocracy in England 1660–1914* (1986); H. J. Habakkuk, *Marriage, debt and the estates system: English Landownership 1650–1950* (1994); G. E. Mingay, *The Gentry: the Rise and Fall of a Ruling Class* (1976); H. Perkin, *The Origins of Modern English Society 1780–1880* (1969); W. D. Rubinstein, *Men of Property* (1981); L. & J. C. F. Stone, *An Open Elite? England 1540–1880* (1984); F. M. L. Thompson, *English Landed Society in the Nineteenth Century* (1963).
2. Thompson, *Landed Society*, 112.

3. W. Stevenson, *Agriculture of the County of Surrey* (1809), 74–8.
4. W. Cobbett, *Rural Rides* (1830), 2001 edition, 4.
5. The Croydon Railway opened in 1839, the Brighton line in 1840 and the Redhill to Dover line in 1842. In west Surrey, the south western railway to Southampton opened in 1840. (A. A. Jackson, *The Railway in Surrey* (1999), 16–41). By the mid-1850s, west Surrey's main towns were served by a line from south west London with branches to Guildford, Godalming and Farnham, and one from Reigate to Reading through Guildford (*Post Office Directory 1855*, 653).
6. Stevenson, *Surrey*, 584.
7. J. Hill, 'Swing Riots in Surrey', in M. Holland (ed.), *Swing Unmasked* (2005), 26–61.
8. J. Caird, *English Agriculture 1850–51* (1852).
9. Surrey History Centre, *Land Tax Returns 1780–1832*, QS 6/7, & at www.ancestry.co.uk.
10. Principal works include: O. Manning & W. Bray, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* (3 vols. 1804–14); E. Brayley, *A Topographical History of Surrey* (5 vols., 1841–50, rev. E. Walford (1878–81); E. Walford, *The County Families of the United Kingdom* (various editions from 1860–1920); *Burke's Peerage, Baronetage & Knighthood* (various editions, from 1826); *Burke's Landed Gentry* (various, from 1836); Other useful records include census records, probate calendars, and school, university and professional registers.
11. H. E. Malden (ed.), *The Victoria County History of Surrey* (5 vols., 1902–1914). Other more recent sources, mainly for biographical information, are G. E. Cokayne et. al., *The Complete Peerage* (13 vols., 1910–1940), the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (60 vols., 2004) and *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons (HoP Commons)*, 41 vols., 1964–2010).
12. *Parliamentary Papers*, 'The Return of Owners of Land 1873', c.1097 (1875).
13. J. Bateman, *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland* (4th edition, 1883).
14. The population of metropolitan Surrey in 1851 was 480,957 and in 1871, 742,155. (*PP*, '1851 Census – Population tables', 1631 (1852–3) & *PP*, '1871 Census – Population abstracts', C.872 (1873).
15. Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, III, 550–4; Brayley, *Surrey*, I, 92–112; *VCH Surrey*, III, 144–6.
16. C. E. Vulliamy, *The Onslow Family 1528–1874* (1953), 5–10; *HoP Commons 1604–1629*, V, 557–8; *VCH Surrey*, III, 155 & 347–8; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, III, 54–6; Brayley, *Surrey*, I, 54–7.
17. H. Evelyn, *The History of the Evelyn Family* (1915), 18–20. They first bought an estate at Godstone, and George Evelyn acquired Wotton in 1579 (*VCH Surrey*, III, 156–7; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 149–54; Brayley, *Surrey*, V, 20–32).
18. Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, I, 94–9; Brayley, *Surrey*, I, 410–18; *VCH Surrey*, III, 7; *HoP Commons 1509–1558*, II, 616–7.
19. Bateman, *Great Landowners*, 422; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 54–6, 145 & 164; Brayley, *Surrey*, IV, 290; *VCH Surrey*, III, 155 & 312.
20. *HoP Commons 1558–1603*, I, 367–9 & *1604–1629*, III, 73–5; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 160; Brayley, *Surrey*, V, 138; *VCH Surrey*, III, 94 & 101.
21. Their grandson, Col Thomas More-Molyneux, MP for Haslemere, died unmarried in 1776 (*HP Commons 1754–1790*, II, 148) and the property went in turn to his two unmarried sisters and after their deaths to his illegitimate son, James, who continued the name More-Molyneux.
22. *Burke, Landed Gentry* (1952), 78–9.
23. *London Gazette*, 19 Jan. 1796.
24. Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 302–4; Brayley, *Surrey*, 1878, III, 346–8; *VCH Surrey*, IV, 258 & 323–4.
25. Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, III, 123; Brayley, *Surrey*, III, 116–7; *VCH Surrey*, III, 345–518, *passim*; *HP Commons 1690–1715*, 4, 555–67; Habakkuk, *Estates System*, 443; Locke King; *ODNB*, 31, 660; the Earls' first wife, Augusta Ada Byron (1815–52), was a well-known mathematician and the daughter of the poet, Lord Byron (*ODNB*, 9, 343–5).
26. *HoP Commons 1754–1790*, III; 214–7; Cokayne, *Peerage*, VI, 84–7; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 112; Brayley, *Surrey*, V, 120–1.

27. Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 568–70; Brayley, *Surrey*, IV, 41–2; *VCH Surrey*, IV, 227 & 335; C. Atwood, *History of the Atwood Family* (1888), 37
28. *HoP Commons 1820–1832*, V, 686–90; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, III, 49; Brayley, *Surrey*, II, 50; *VCH Surrey*, III, 344 & 411.
29. *HP Commons 1790–1820*, IV, 318 & *1820–1832*, V, 729–31; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 160 & 243; Brayley, *Surrey*, IV, 301; *VCH Surrey*, III, 215–8.
30. *ODNB*, 7, 735–6; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 597; Brayley, *Surrey*, IV, 290; *VCH Surrey*, III, 136.
31. *HoP Commons 1754–1790*, III, 726–7; Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 607; Brayley, *Surrey*, IV, 410; *VCH Surrey*, III, 136 & 311.
32. Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, II, 404; Brayley, *Surrey*, IV, 204; *VCH Surrey*, IV, 332–3.
33. *ODNB*, 28, 3–7, 14–15, 36–38; Brayley, *Surrey*, V, 82–4; *VCH Surrey*, III, 143–4 & 169–70. Henry remodelled the house at Deepdene, which was demolished in 1969 (G. Worsley, *England's Lost Houses* (2002), 162–3).
34. Brayley, *Surrey*, III, 380 & IV, 181; *VCH Surrey*, IV, 317; *HoP Commons 1820–1832*, VI, 729–31; Cokayne, *Peerage*, III, 459–61.
35. *VCH Surrey*, III, 256 & 521.
36. *VCH Surrey*, III, 32.
37. *ODNB*, 54, 642–3; *HoP Commons 1754–1790*, III, 525 & *1790–1820*, V, 375–8.
38. *Brayley, Surrey*, V, 159; *VCH Surrey*, III, 72–4; Wall: *HoP Commons 1790–1820*, V, 568 & *1820–1832*, VII, 611–4. Henry Drummond was the leader of an evangelical sect and built a chapel for its use at Albury. (*ODNB*, 16, 956–8; *HoP Commons 1790–1820*, III, 621–20.
39. *Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills*, TNA, PROB 11/2122; Brayley, *Surrey*, V, 231; *VCH Surrey*, III, 49–52; Francesca Rushbrooke was the daughter of Col. Robert Rushbrooke (1779–1845), a ‘landowner of family and fortune’ who represented his native Suffolk as a Tory MP from 1835 until his death (*The Assembled Commons* (1838) 336). She lived at Elmers until her death in 1892 but sold part of the land for development in 1872 (R. W. C. Richardson, *Surbinton 1855–1887* (1888), 41–2).
40. Denison: *ODNB*, 15, 788; *HP Commons 1790–1820*, III, 584–5, & *1820–32*, IV, 898–902; Denison’s father had purchased Denbies in 1787 (Manning & Bray, *Surrey*, I, 503; Brayley, *Surrey*, V, 92; *VCH Surrey*, III, 143; Habakkuk, *Estates System*, 436 & 476); Cubitt: *ODNB*, 14, 552–3.
41. Percy was a Conservative MP and government minister (*HoP Commons 1820–1832*, VI, 739–40; Cokayne, *Peerage*, IX, 749). His successors held the estate until 1922, when they sold most of the land but retained the house (Thompson, *Landed Society*, 331).
42. D. Cannadine, *The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy* (1990); Thompson, *Landed Society*; Beckett, *Aristocracy & Habakkuk, Estates system*.
43. Habakkuk, *Estates System*, 464; Bateman, *Great Landowners*, 97 & 467; Watney: Burke, *Landed Gentry*, 1952, 2654–7; Brayley, *Surrey*, rev. Walford, III, 136; Clutton: *ODNB*, 12, 229–30; *VCH Surrey*, III, 65.
44. After the death of his father in 1821, Wigsell’s mother, Juliana, married Alexander Greig of Purley and their daughter, Sophia Grieg (b. 1826) married Arkwright in 1845 (Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1952) 55–6).
45. *VCH Surrey*, III, 169–70;
46. *VCH Surrey*, IV, 321–6; Cokayne, *Peerage*, III, 460–1; Michaelis: *ODNB*, <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/theme/95075>.
47. *The Times*, 12 Aug. 1910; Cokayne, *Peerage*, V, 32; Habakkuk, *Estates System*, 673; *VCH Surrey*, III, 516–22; Pearson: *ODNB*, 43, 342–4.
48. Brayley, *Surrey*, V, 254; *VCH Surrey*, III, 65 & 281; Habakkuk, *Estates System*, 668.
49. *VCH Surrey*, III, 198 & 236; E. J. T. Collins, *Agricultural History of England & Wales*, VII (2000), 722; Habakkuk, *Estates System*, 664 & 672; Keswick: *VCH Surrey*, III, 327–8; Colman: *ODNB*, 12, 757–60.

HENLEY PARK FOUR YEARS ON AN UPDATE

New Light on the Characters of Henley Park

John Squier

In 2012, after more than 12 years of research, Normandy Historians published *Henley Park in Surrey, the History of a Royal Manor*, describing a thousand years of the history of the mansion and estate in Normandy and Pirbright parishes, north-west of Guildford. Some said we were publishing too soon because there was more research to be done, but historical research is never finished and taken to its logical conclusion, this means there would never be a book produced. Indeed Pirbright, for example, has more than one 'collections for a history of Pirbright'¹ going back 80 years but no actual history has been published. People who had provided help and encouragement for the Henley Park project and were eagerly awaiting the book were ageing and sadly some were already deceased. Therefore the time was right.



Figure 1 Henley Park mansion today

Because there is unlikely to be a second edition, this article makes available some of the new information about Henley Park's colourful characters which has come to light, some of it prompted by the existence of the book. None of it would have significantly altered the book but some may have warranted a sentence or a paragraph somewhere.

Squibb: a usurper Herald

Arthur Squibb, a Herald of the College of Arms, owned Henley Park from 1632 to 1650.² The appointment of heralds was a royal prerogative but because most of the heralds of the College of Arms were Royalists, in 1646 Parliament ordained that the legal heralds should be removed and formed a committee to appoint replacements. They appointed Arthur Squibb as Clarenceaux, one of the three most senior Kings of Arms. However, he and his successor are now regarded as 'usurpers' by the College as the Crown's appointed Clarenceaux was still alive and is regarded as the true holder of the post.³

Arthur Squibb died, bankrupted by his extravagance, before the restoration of the monarchy so he was spared the final indignity of being replaced by the Royal Herald.

Dayrolle and Halsey: obscure origins

After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 many Huguenot refugees travelled first to the Protestant Netherlands and Solomon Dayrolle's uncle James spent most of his life there, despite obtaining English citizenship. James and Solomon were clearly close and pursued similar diplomatic careers. However, there is no indication of who Solomon's parents were and whether they came to England, nor is there any clue as to whether Solomon was English by birth or naturalisation. He bought Henley Park in 1739 and sold it to Henry Halsey in 1784 shortly before his death.

Similarly there is no clue as to who Henry Halsey's parents were or where he was born. There is no record of his baptism in Calcutta, where he made his fortune as a cloth merchant in the 1770s and 1780s so it is likely that he grew up in England. One tantalising reference is to a Henry Halsey, linen draper of Portsmouth, who was declared bankrupt in 1775.⁴ It is intriguing to imagine that he boarded a ship and fled to India to avoid his creditors, but this is pure speculation. In his will Henry mentions no siblings or cousins and no property that pre-dates his return from India. The only clue is a letter to him in 1803 from someone who signs himself only 'HET'⁵. HET is apparently on vacation from university and has been reprimanded by Halsey for an 'excursion to Lincolnshire'. He complains that his allowance is insufficient to maintain himself. It appears that Halsey is supporting this youth through his education, but why?

Ash and Pirbright churches

The Halseys, as owners of Henley Park, were entitled to use the two front-row pews in Henley Park's parish church at Ash. The position of the family pew was

an eagerly-sought status symbol and this was one of the best, yet the Halseys put most of their effort into the church in the adjacent parish of Pirbright.⁶

There were many changes to Pirbright Church over time, some of which would have been initiated by the Halseys. The north door into the Mortuary, now the outer Vestry, would be original 1807–12 but it is not clear if the small window on the east wall near the door and the window on the north wall were built at the same time. When the Mortuary was built, in accordance with Henry Halsey's wishes in his will, the corresponding area on the south side was in fact a Vestry and became the Lady Chapel at a later date. The Vestry and Lady Chapel area may have been updated in 1872 although the bodies were not moved out of the Mortuary until 1877. At some point two similar windows were put in on the east wall to north and south of the Sanctuary to replace the niches, the door to the Lady Chapel was moved into the west window embrasure and a new window was put in the doorway. The other window was blocked up, a chimney built and the crenellations were removed.⁷

General Sir George Scovell: an extraordinary code-breaker

Two generations of the Halsey family lived at Henley Park for 70 years from 1784, but in the 1850s they moved elsewhere and one of the first tenants who occupied the mansion was General Sir George Scovell. He lived out his retirement there from about 1856 until 1861 when he died age 86 and was buried at Sandhurst Military Cemetery.⁸

Although he was largely unknown during his lifetime, and still is, Scovell's career had been quite remarkable. As well as fulfilling his normal military duties and engaging in several intense battles, he had been a code-breaker in the spirit of the great Enigma code-breakers of the 20th century.

The Peninsular war was an important component of the Europe-wide Napoleonic wars. From 1809 to 1813 the British and Portuguese, led by one of Britain's greatest military leaders General Sir Arthur Wellesley, Viscount Wellington, manoeuvred across the Spanish plains against the French led by the equally skilful Marshal Marmont. Good intelligence was paramount but during the campaign the French developed a code of unrivalled complexity for their communications, the 'Great Paris Cypher'. It was a daunting challenge and Wellington looked to Scovell, as the man in charge of his communications and intelligence apparatus, to break the code.

Scovell was a remarkable man of restless energy and great versatility, a fluent linguist, postmaster in charge of army communications, inventor of a mobile forge, meticulous mapmaker, code-maker and code-breaker. Before joining the army he had trained as an engraver so when the army set out to improve its knowledge of the poorly-mapped Iberian Peninsula, his maps were models of neatness and precision. However it was when he started receiving captured French documents in cypher that his greatest skill came to the fore, aided by his superb grasp of French grammar and syntax.

While Scovell spent long hours devoted to deciphering the code piece by piece, often by candlelight in his billet, he was still expected to fulfil his other duties as commander of a corps and Assistant Quartermaster on the staff. In 1813 he was given the task of raising then commanding the Staff Corps of Cavalry, which was the first formal unit of military police in the British army. Meanwhile Wellington grew impatient, not understanding why breaking this code was taking so much longer than the infinitely simpler codes they had dealt with previously. Eventually Scovell did break it, revealing intelligence of the highest order, giving Wellington precious knowledge about the size and position of the enemy's army which gave him a distinct advantage at key moments in the campaign. Like Hitler with the Enigma code, Napoleon and his generals believed the Great Paris Cypher was undecipherable and much priceless military information was encoded in messages that fell into Scovell's hands. Scovell was rewarded by promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel, an advance achieved not by spilling blood but by the application of science and intellect.

After keeping a large French army occupied for many years and preventing it assisting Napoleon's efforts elsewhere, the British finally routed the French forces in June 1813 and the Great Paris Cypher decoding table fell into British hands. King Joseph, who had been placed on the throne of Spain by his brother Napoleon, wrote to the minister of war in Paris that a new cypher would be needed, never suspecting that the British had been reading his most sensitive letters for the previous year, and that the code sent to strengthen his hold on power had proved one of the principal mechanisms for its destruction. These interconnected campaigns, Scovell's of the mind coinciding with Wellington's on the field, marked the turning-point of the war in Spain.

When Wellington and Napoleon fought it out two years later at the battle of Waterloo, Lt Col Scovell and other Iberian veterans took part. The two military leaders had been at war for 20 years but this was their first time on the same battleground. Riding through a cloud of hot metal from a French battery in the heat of the action, a cannonball shot through Scovell's cloak and his horse was killed under him, yet he emerged unscathed. Most of his fellows who had come through years of Peninsular campaigning were not so lucky. Scovell joined Wellington at supper on the evening after the battle and it is recounted that as they ate Wellington said 'this is too bad, thus to lose our friends. I trust it will be the last action any of us see'.

Although he was involved in his share of life-threatening situations Scovell survived and was one of the few veterans of active service throughout the Napoleonic wars who lived to a ripe old age. However, as a man of low birth, even with his genius for languages and bravery on a dozen battlefields, he struggled for advancement against the strict hierarchy and class politics of Wellington's inner circle of richer, better connected officers. Wellington was certainly one of Britain's greatest military leaders, but one of the most difficult men to work for.

Wellington joined a new battlefield, the House of Commons, and advanced those loyal companions who could assist him there. Scovell did receive a

knighthood but was otherwise forgotten until his natural longevity brought the promotions he felt he had deserved much earlier, simply by virtue of his age. After a period of inactivity on half pay (army pension), in 1829 Major-General Sir George Scovell was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Military College (RMC) at Sandhurst. He was there until 1856 with a salary that brought more material comfort but he was prevented by the traditionalists from making any great innovations. Thanks to other sinecures he acquired in his later years he died at Henley Park a prosperous general leaving the handsome sum of £60,000 to his relations, servants and friends. His lifetime struggle to escape his lowly origins had proved a success.⁹

Private George Stemp, another veteran of the battle of Waterloo, became a servant in Scovell's household at the RMC in 1833 and remained his gentleman's servant throughout his retirement at Henley Park. Stemp died a year after Scovell, age 65.¹⁰



Figure 2 George Scovell aged 85 or 86, during his time at Henley Park. One of the select band of Peninsular veterans to be photographed, he is proudly wearing the Grand Cross of the Bath on his coat

Henry Halsey: a gambling problem and accusations of murder

In his will the first Henry Halsey set up an entail to ensure that Henley Park was passed down through the eldest son of each generation. His son Henry W R W Halsey fulfilled his role as 'squire' of Henley Park as his father would have wished, but the next Henry Halsey, Henry W R W's eldest son, was the 'black sheep' who ruined the plan. The Henley Park estate had a mansion, over 2,000 acres and a dozen tenant farms, but young Henry did not wait around to inherit it.¹¹ He had a penchant for marrying young girls from what his father no doubt regarded as unsuitable social backgrounds, but it appears he also had a serious gambling obsession. By 1850 his father must have stopped bailing him out and he was sued for insolvency.¹² He went to New York where it was reported that he had 'flown for refuge from his hungry creditors'.¹³

In New York Henry professed a desire to go on the stage and during rehearsals at Wallack's Theatre he met the 15-year old actress Fanny Deane. She was born Frances Marietta Deane in Canada, the daughter of Irish parents. From her mother's two marriages she had several brothers, whose presence Henry may later have come to regret. Henry was described as having a tall, martial figure, full whiskers and a moustache, a mild but expressive eye, dark, curly hair and a Wellington nose. He was clearly a charmer and he and Fanny were married, firstly against her mother's wishes and giving false names and ages, then again at her mother's insistence giving their correct details.

Henry persuaded Fanny to give up acting 'to save her from the attentions of unscrupulous men who lie in wait about theatres to ensnare and ruin young and beautiful debutantes'. After living in Philadelphia and Trenton New Jersey they returned to New York to live at Fanny's mother's boarding house at 111 West 12th Street, although they did not pay her anything for their lodging. It wasn't long before Fanny's family, particularly her brothers, began to see through Henry and denounced him as an 'English roué' who had gambled away his fortune and brought his wife to poverty and made no effort to provide for her. His associates were mostly gamblers of the lowest kind and he frequently stayed out all night with no explanation. His father was giving him an allowance of only \$100 a year which was not enough to finance his habit so he pawned his watch, his rings, his jewellery and even his clothes, and borrowed money from his wife's brothers. Mrs Sophia Deane, Fanny's mother, believed that Henry had burned down their house in Trenton to claim the insurance money, and the insurance company refused to pay because of their suspicions. He was not violent and always treated Fanny kindly, but did not hesitate to make use of her to raise funds to gratify his passion for gambling. He had forced her to write a letter implicating another man in an affair, so that he himself could extort money from him.

When Fanny's body was found floating in New York Bay in June 1859,¹⁴ her mother and brothers were convinced that Henry had murdered her and Henry was arrested on suspicion of causing her death.¹⁴ When the jury at the second inquest found a verdict of death by accident Henry was released.¹⁵ He asked his

wife's brother Henry A Deane to look after his two children and disappeared from view until his death of kidney disease ten years later. He died before his father and so never inherited Henley Park.

Only one of Henry's children survived, the son named Henry Joseph Tenison Halsey, whose given name Tenison interestingly reflects Fanny's half-brothers rather than her own Deane parentage. In 1869, aged 11, he was still in the care of Henry A Deane, but by 1880, aged 22, he was boarding with William D Tenison, another of Fanny's brothers, at 45 28th Street New York,¹⁶ just before he came to England to claim his inheritance.

It appears that Henry J T Halsey inherited some of his father's undesirable characteristics and according to family members, spent his later life as a 'playboy', gambling and womanising in Monte Carlo. Unlike his father, however, he had broken the entail in his great grandfather's will and had the entire Henley Park estate at his disposal to fund his indulgences.

Henry J T Halsey and a short-lived tea room

Two apparently unrelated facts about Henry J T Halsey are in fact connected.¹⁷ In 1911 Agnes Mabel Ranger, age 26 and single, was manageress of the Great Eastern Railway refreshment rooms at Lowestoft.¹⁸ Henry J T Halsey (age 53) met her there and she became his partner (they could not marry because his first wife, a Catholic, would not grant him a divorce). The same year he leased a shop at Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton to create a tea room for Agnes to manage.¹⁹

Their daughter Linda was born the next year 15 miles away in Wheelleys Road, Edgbaston, but their daughter Brenda's birth in 1918 was registered at Windsor, so Agnes appears to have moved away from the tea-shop venture in the Midlands. Although Henry sometimes described himself as 'of Henley Park' and did indeed own it, it is unlikely that he and Agnes ever lived there because it was let to tenants continuously until he eventually sold it.

Henry de Worms, Lord Pirbright: more disputes and greater opulence

Lord Pirbright had many acrimonious disputes during his lifetime, including a well-documented bitter argument with the vicar of Pirbright.²⁰ There was even a dispute about the name 'Lord Pirbright'. Henry Baron de Worms had been buying property in Pirbright village to substantiate his claim and when his choice of a title for his elevation to the peerage became known Henry J T Halsey, as lord of the manor of Pirbright, objected. Halsey maintained that he was by far the largest landowner in the village and de Worms' holding of about 150 acres was insufficient to justify the title. This dispute escalated as far as the Attorney General who ruled in favour of Henry de Worms, who thus became Baron Pirbright of Pirbright, or Lord Pirbright as we know him today.

Another 'storm in a teacup' concerned a footpath across Stanford Common which Ross Lewis Mangles, a magistrate in India who had retired to Pirbright, accused Henry de Worms of blocking. At a public meeting in December 1896 Henry spoke 'in brilliant adversarial style' to establish that Mangles was

exaggerating the objection from only one person. The meeting duly rejected Mangles' arguments.

Henry's brand of 'intelligent Toryism' was strongly expressed in his promotion of healthier dwellings for the poor, a view shared by the industrialists who created model villages for their workers such as Port Sunlight and Bournville. Henry placed commemorative plaques on his houses bearing the letter W and then, after his elevation to the peerage, the letter P, surmounted by his crest. This consists of the coronet of an Austrian noble with silver points. Unfortunately Henry made an error and awarded himself seven silver points, which is the coronet of a full baron, although as a younger son he was merely a nobleman and entitled to only five silver points. The plaques on his earlier cottages display this error but those after 1896 display the correct coronet.²¹ Possibly the College of Heralds had pointed out the error during the design of the armorial bearings for his peerage.

Another well-publicised acrimonious dispute was over the 'Bisley Homes' just to the north of Pirbright. There was no provision for disabled soldiers returning from conflict so they were driven into the workhouse and this was already considered a national disgrace when the Boer War turned the trickle of wounded into a flood. Lord Pirbright generously gave five acres of land at Bisley for the creation of convalescent homes for up to 250 disabled soldiers and sailors, and proposed an independent trust to manage the homes. At the same time the Soldiers' Help Society (SHS) had been formed to develop small cottage homes across the country near the bases of Army regiments. It seemed sensible to combine these schemes under an executive committee which Lord Pirbright was invited to join. Massive fund-raising efforts caught the mood of the nation and large amounts of money were raised, but unfortunately there was an unclear distinction between funds raised for the SHS and those for Bisley. The separate trust for the Bisley homes was never fully established and the SHS assumed that the Bisley homes would be under its control. Tensions also grew between the objectives of the two initiatives, Lord Pirbright's for a single, large establishment which its detractors saw as a second 'Chelsea Hospital' and little better than a workhouse, and the SHS's small, scattered homes. In 1900 a ferocious argument erupted in the columns of the *Times* and eventually a compromise was reached. The SHS agreed to use the money to build the homes at Bisley as originally planned and Lord Pirbright resigned as a trustee of the society. Although the homes were partially built the wrangling continued and in the end the scheme fell through. For once Lord Pirbright had not got his own way. By 1902 the homes were derelict and vandalised and it was not until after Lord Pirbright's death that five homes were restored and put to the use he had originally intended (Figure 3).

Despite strong links to the Jewish community in his earlier years and being second president of the Anglo-Jewish Association in 1872, to its surprise and dismay Lord Pirbright converted to Christianity before his decease.²² It appears that his wife Sarah was a significant influence in his decision. Henry de Worms had been, with her father Benjamin Samuel Phillips, a member of the finance



Figure 3 The Princess Christian Homes, Bisley in 1911 (Copyright The Francis Frith Collection)

committee for the new London synagogue in the 1860s and although Sarah was from a Jewish background she gave Henry's daughter Alice a jewelled cross on the occasion of her Christian marriage, some years before she and Henry were married in 1887.

Henry and Sarah's marriage was much more successful than either of their previous marriages, because they had similar ideas on how a rich gentleman should behave to become a 'swell', spending lavishly on entertainments for their rich and famous acquaintances. Soon after their marriage Henry and Sarah de Worms entered the ranks of the swells by hosting a dinner for the delegates to the Sugar Bounties Commission at their new London home. Many years earlier, after losing the war at sea, Napoleon had adopted a strategy of economic warfare against Britain. He had introduced a process to extract sugar from beet in an effort to ruin Britain's cane sugar industry and in the 1880s subsidised French beet sugar was still undercutting cane sugar from the British colonies. Henry de Worms led the Europe-wide Sugar Bounties conference which reached an agreement to remove sugar bounties in the interests of free trade. Henry's fluent command of French and German was essential to the success of this and other diplomatic efforts. Unfortunately the agreement was never ratified by Parliament and came to nothing. Henry acquired a reputation among the satirical press for lavish entertainment after some excessive expenditure by one of his other parliamentary commissions, when an obvious rotund caricature of him was featured in a *Punch* cartoon. As well as a suitable town house a swell required a substantial country seat and so he acquired Henley Park when the lease was advertised in 1889. He then proceeded to fit it out in a grand manner, adding a ballroom and

other extensions and lavishly decorating it to display the artwork and china that he inherited from his uncle. When he secured a visit from the Prince of Wales to Henley Park in 1900, Henry ascended to the ranks of the ‘great swells’. Lady Pirbright became known throughout London and Paris society for the amount and value of the jewellery she wore, which reached a peak of extravagance for the coronation of Edward VII. Her famous necklace of evenly-matched natural pearls was at least 8 feet long and a similar one of equal value was used by the jeweller Pierre Cartier to buy premises for his firm on Fifth Avenue, New York.

Shortly after Lord Pirbright’s death Edward VII sanctioned the appointment of Lady Pirbright as Dame of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. Members of the order have to declare ‘always to uphold the aims of this Christian order’.²³

Vokes; a disgraced politician and development plans that came to nothing

Vokes Limited bought Henley Park in 1940 to continue their wartime work on military filters after their former factory had been bombed. After the war when they were asked to design a helicopter silencer they produced a solution with their usual technical excellence.²⁴ In the photograph of the silencer testing at Westland’s, figure 4 below, the gentleman in the middle is John Profumo, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation at the



Figure 4 Vokes’ helicopter silencer testing at Westland’s. John Profumo in the centre, flanked by Tony Vokes and C G Vokes (courtesy of Tony Vokes)

time, before he moved on to be Secretary of State for War and towards his very public downfall.

Vokes Ltd sold Henley Park mansion to developers in 1982 and for the next 16 years a sequence of developers produced a succession of planning proposals which came to nothing.²⁵ Most of these were for office buildings and/or residential accommodation, but the exception was an application for a research and development workshop for the Benetton F1 team, who competed in Formula 1 motor racing from 1986 to 2001.²⁶ If this plan had been approved, Henley Park might look quite different today.

REFERENCES

Errata

Only two errors in *Henley Park in Surrey* have been pointed out to me so far: In the caption to Plate 74, Robin Windus is incorrectly named Robin Moodie. In the acknowledgements, Peter Trevaskis' name is misspelled. My sincere apologies for these mistakes.

NOTES

1. *Collections for a History of Pirbright* by Cawthorne and Curtis, 1931, Surrey History Centre ref. 942.2 PIR S1x. Also Marguerite Suter private collection and Pirbright Historians' collection.
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3. *Records and Collections of the College of Arms* by Anthony Richard Wagner, Burke's Peerage Ltd. 1952.
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15. *New York Times*, 7 and 8 June 1859.
16. USA federal census.
17. *Henley Park in Surrey*, page 100.
18. English national census.
19. Personal communication from Lyn Wilton, granddaughter of Henry J T Halsey, 2013.
20. *Henley Park in Surrey*, chapter 8.
21. *Henley Park in Surrey*, plate 43.
22. *Henley Park in Surrey*, chapter 8.
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25. *Henley Park in Surrey*, chapter 14.
26. Personal communication from Tom Miller, architect, 1994.

ACCESSIONS RECEIVED BY SURREY HISTORY CENTRE, 2015

Edited by Michael Page, County Archivist

During the course of 2015 we took in 289 accessions of records from external depositors and donors and County Council departments. Some accessions comprised no more than a single document or photograph, others had to be measured in crates; increasing numbers consisted of digital files. Sadly only a handful can be mentioned in this article, but we are extremely grateful to all those who have helped to secure Surrey's documentary heritage for future generations.

Surrey families

A number of accessions of records and papers accumulated by Surrey families demonstrate how such collections can illuminate the history of people, places and subjects far beyond the county's boundaries. Three examples follow.

When Captain Evelyn Broadwood of Lyne House, Capel, and of the piano manufacturing firm of John Broadwood and Sons Ltd, died in 1975, the management of his affairs and the dispersal of the assets of the Lyne Estate were undertaken by the Broadwood Trust. One of the trustees was Robert Verner-Jeffreys, whose grandparents were Gerard Theodore Bray (of the Brays of Shere) and Evelyn Joan Broadwood, eldest daughter of James Henry Tschudi Broadwood, who in turn was one of the brothers of Lucy Broadwood, the folk song collector. After Gerard and Evelyn's marriage in 1911 they moved to British Columbia, Canada, where they had two daughters, Audrey Marion born in 1912 and Elsa Joan in 1914. On the outbreak of World War I Gerard Bray enlisted and in 1915 was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. In August 1915 he was killed while serving at Gallipoli leaving his widow to bring up their two young daughters. Audrey Bray married Robert Verner-Jeffreys, a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, in 1936, but he too was sadly killed in action in 1942 leaving two young sons, Robert and John. Such a narrative truly illustrates the tragic consequences for many families of the conflicts of the first half of the 20th century.

As a trustee of the Broadwood Trust and as a family historian, Robert Verner-Jeffreys accumulated a considerable number of papers (SHC ref 7841) relating to Broadwoods, Brays and related families, mainly for the 20th century, continuing the Broadwood and Bray stories that can be traced in the other extensive material relating to both families already held at Surrey History Centre.

The papers include records relating to Captain Evelyn Broadwood's activities in World War I in which he served in the Norfolk Regiment, was wounded

and won the Military Cross. There is a fine series of military instruction manuals, many of which he accumulated during pre-war officer training or while on a staff course at Cambridge in 1917. A diverse range of topics is covered including weapons training, hygiene, map reading, signalling and 'Hints on horse management for transport officers'. Captain Broadwood was also an enthusiastic runner and organised athletic sports and camp concerts when the Norfolk Regiment was stationed in Ireland in 1913–1914 and at Felixstowe Camp in 1915–1916. The World War I material in the collection also includes correspondence and papers relating to the death of Gerard Bray at Gallipoli, the attempts to discover his fate and some photographs of the Suvla Bay area.

Captain Broadwood was sister to Evelyn Joan Broadwood. Her papers include letters and postcards to and from friends and relations, some relating to her life in Canada as well as her subsequent life in England. There are also letters and photographs relating to the lives of her daughters Audrey and Elsa. Elsa trained as a lay reader in the Church of England and in the early 1950s worked as a missionary and Sunday School caravan worker in the Diocese of Calgary, Canada, travelling to various locations in Alberta, as illustrated in surviving photographs.

Evelyn Joan Broadwood's parents Margaret Evelyn, daughter of Thomas Fuller Maitland of Garth House, Brecon, and Wargrave, Berkshire, and James Henry Tschudi Broadwood were married in 1884. This family connection has brought a significant quantity of Fuller Maitland correspondence and papers into the archive, including a letter from James to his prospective father-in-law reporting that he has asked Thomas's daughter Evelyn to be his wife and that she has consented 'subject to your approval', hoping for a positive response and stating that he will do his best to be 'a true and honest husband'. There is also a fascinating series of letters from Thomas's son Archibald 'during his Eastern journey with Canon Tristram, 1881'. The Rev Henry Baker Tristram FRS (1822–1906) was an English clergyman, Biblical scholar, traveller and ornithologist. As a parson-naturalist, he was an early acceptor of Darwinism, attempting to reconcile evolution and creation. A number of birds were named after him and he also lent his name to the Middle Eastern gerbil *Meriones tristrami*, also known as Tristram's jird. Tristram's books included *Pathways of Palestine* (1882) and *The Fauna and Flora of Palestine* (1884). There are letters describing visits to religious sites in Palestine including Jerusalem, Nazareth and Cana in Galilee (where they were entertained by the local priest with goat's milk and 'capital' coffee and tobacco). The tour also encompassed Beirut, Odessa and Constantinople.

The collection also includes a series of sale particulars of farms in Capel and Newdigate when the Lyne Estate was sold in the 1980s and 1990s, and extensive family history research papers of Robert Verner-Jeffreys.

In the last edition of *Surrey History* the deposit of papers relating to the journalist and author Robert Barr (1849–1912) who lived at Hillhead in Woldingham, was noted. Since then we have received a number of further deposits (SHC ref



Figure 1 Photograph of Evelyn Joan Broadwood and Gerard Theodore Bray, 1911 (SHC ref 7481/649/1)

9412) which have greatly enhanced the interest and range of the collection. Barr himself was born in Scotland in 1849. He was raised in Canada and while a headmaster at a school in Ontario, when he began contributing short stories to the *Detroit Free Press*. He eventually gave up his teaching job for a position with the paper and in 1881 moved to England with his wife and baby daughter to set up a London office of the *Detroit Free Press*, producing a weekly English edition. The family lived first in Chiswick and eventually settled in Woldingham and Robert published his first book, a collection of short stories, in 1883, followed by two full length novels in 1892. He was a prolific writer and in the collection we hold 26 of his published novels and 2 collections of short stories, a handful of manuscript novels, 11 plays, and some 75 short stories and articles. He was not considered a great writer 'but he could tell a story and he had humour, insight, sympathy and descriptive power ... there was an amazing variety in his subjects and in his treatment of them'. In 1892 he co-founded *The Idler*, an illustrated monthly magazine, bringing in Jerome K Jerome as co-editor. He bought the magazine outright in 1902 and continued as the driving force behind it until it ceased publication in 1911. *The Idler* was a light, popular magazine publishing short stories, serialised novels, humorous articles, poetry, travel writing, and book and theatre reviews. Many of Barr's own short stories were published in *The Idler*, with other contributors including Arthur Conan Doyle, Mark Twain,

Rudyard Kipling, Max Beerbohm, Robert Louis Stevenson, Anthony Hope, Washington Irving and O Henry. Bound copies of *The Idler* from 1893–1911 form part of the collection as does some of Barr’s correspondence, mostly to and from family members but also some business correspondence with letters from editors, publishers and writers such as H G Wells and Bram Stoker. Barr travelled widely, back to Canada and America and throughout Europe and elsewhere, and his obituary in *The Sphere* in 1912 noted he should have written a volume of reminiscences ‘for he had some of the raciest experiences’. Once, as a reporter, he crossed a frozen river ‘leaping from ice-floe to ice-floe, in order to give his paper early and exclusive information about a sensational murder on the other side of the frontier’. He was once arrested in Syria as a spy by the Turkish authorities and held the unusual distinction of being a Chief of the Iroquois tribe of Indians, the honour ‘conferred upon him for his help in concluding a treaty between the tribe and the Canadian Ministry of the Interior’.

The remainder of the collection includes the writings of the other members of the Barr family, Robert’s wife Eva and their children Laura and Arthur. Eva Barr (1855–1919) was a great writer of letters and we hold files of her correspondence, first to her family back in Canada, to friends, and many to her children, especially to Laura after her marriage to Harvey Dodd, a mining engineer, in 1908 and their subsequent move to Brazil. We also have a file of letters

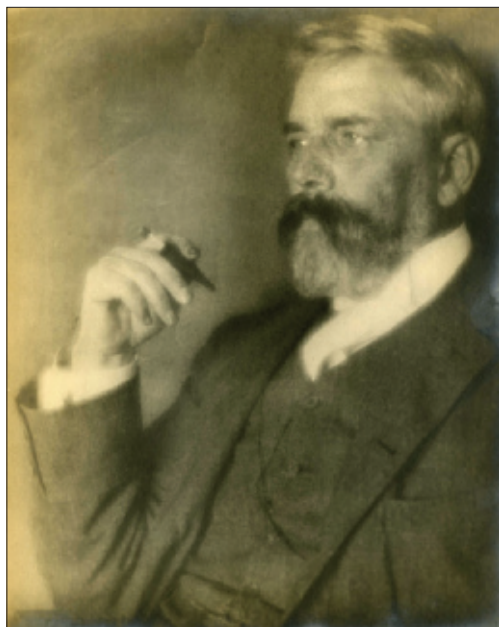


Figure 2 Robert Barr (1849–1912)

to Laura (1880–1942) including many written during the Great War from family and friends serving on the Western Front, often thanking Laura for her letters and the cakes she sent. Correspondents included her cousins Allan, Russell and James Barr and her brother-in-law Neville Dodd, who was killed in action at Thiepval on 1 July 1916. Robert's son William Arthur (1882–1918) was, like his father, a writer, or at least an aspiring one, and had short pieces published in *The Idler*. He also had keen interests in music, photography and architecture. We have his diaries from 1900, when he was at school, through his years at Oxford and on to his service in the Great War, first with the Seaforth Highlanders and, later with the Royal Garrison Artillery, together with correspondence home to his parents, and often more light hearted letters to his sister, from 1896 to August 1918 when he was killed in action near Croiselles.

We have also received a small group of papers of Lady Mary Wallis (1904–1986) of Effingham (SHC ref 9456). Mary (known as Molly) Frances Bloxam was born on 12 September 1904, the daughter of Arthur and Winifred Bloxam. In April 1925 she married her cousin by marriage Barnes Neville Wallis, the brilliant engineer and inventor, best known for the 'bouncing bomb' used in the Dambuster Raid of May 1943, in which the Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron carried out a daring night raid aimed at breaching the Mohne, Eder and Sorpe dams in the Ruhr Valley. He was knighted in 1968. In 1930 after the birth of their eldest two children the family moved to White Hill House in Effingham. They had two more children and the family stayed in Effingham until Barnes Wallis' death in 1979. He and Mary, who died in Birmingham in 1986, are buried at St Lawrence's church, Effingham. The papers include a series of household account books, the first of which was begun in 1913, when Mary began to record her 3d weekly pocket money, and continues to her marriage, containing lists of her trousseau and wedding presents. One of the account books was kept by Barnes Wallis. The papers also include a signed inventory and valuation of the contents of White Hill House, prepared for insurance purposes in 1966, which contain a detailed listing of all furniture and other items and equipment in the house.

Disability in Surrey

We were very pleased to take in a number of significant collections that not only document the provision of services to disabled people but also reflect the changing attitudes of society towards disability.

Towards the end of the year we worked with Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People, Leatherhead (QEF), to assist them in delivering their Heritage Lottery funded project. As part of the project, we undertook to take in, sort and catalogue a large quantity of the Foundation's archives and preserve them at Surrey History Centre. Some 22 crates and 17 boxes were duly received which are now in the process of being made available for public research (SHC ref 9541).

QEF was established in 1967 but its origins go back to the 1930s when a training college for disabled people, the 'Cripples' Training College', was opened

at Leatherhead Court. Initially courses on book-keeping, cooking, engineering and gardening were offered, later expanding to include welding, spray painting, engineering draughtsmanship, bench carpentry, electrical servicing, bookbinding and leatherwork. Post-war, the College steadily expanded its activities, introducing new courses to keep up with the demands of business; by 1989 it was offering 19 courses, evenly divided between clerical and technical training.

From the 1950s, the College additionally expanded its remit to the provision of facilities for disabled people. Known as Queen Elizabeth's Training College from 1941, it became involved in work at Banstead Place (a residential centre and later assessment centre), at Dorincourt (a residential sheltered workshop, later arts centre and development centre) and at Lulworth Court (a holiday and convalescent home in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex). When these various constituent parts combined in 1967, the organisation became known as Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled, later Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People.

The records received relate to QEF itself and to its constituent parts, including its forerunner organisations. The archive includes a large quantity of photographs and publicity material promoting both the services of QEF and the needs of disabled people generally, together with some administrative papers, including annual reports. The collection clearly reflects the changing nature of provision for and attitudes towards disabled people. Photographs and other papers relating to Banstead Place, for example, chart its change from medical rehabilitation (which by 1974 was an established facility within the National Health Service) to a new pioneering venture as a multi-disciplinary assessment centre for severely handicapped school-leavers. Its facilities were subsequently extended to provide a Mobility Centre offering advice on mobility and driving assessments. From the early 2000s it has been a Brain Injury Centre providing residential and non-residential services including intensive neurorehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation and education support to young people who have been severely affected by an acquired brain injury.

The Foundation is especially proud of its long association with the late Queen Mother. As the Duchess of York she had attended the first meeting appealing for funds in 1933 and subsequently maintained a close interest in the College. It was at Her Majesty's personal request in 1941 that the College, and later the Foundation, was named after her. Her many visits to QEF between 1935 and 1992 are documented in a large collection of photographs and organisational files.

The records of Epsom-based Seeability, the operating name of The Royal School for the Blind (SHC ref 9543), cover more than 200 years of the charity's history. Established in 1799 in Southwark as The School for the Indigent Blind, its remit was to educate the young blind in religious and moral values, and to teach them a useful trade. The school initially accepted pupils between the ages of 10 and 18 and instructed them in occupations such as basket-making, spinning, weaving and mat-making. Pupils were clothed and housed until they



Figure 3 Radio Servicing Mechanics at Queen Elizabeth's Training College for the Disabled, Leatherhead Court, 1946

could earn their own livelihoods. By the end of 1800, 15 male pupils between the ages of 10 and 18 were living at the school; girls were accepted in early 1801. A House Committee controlled the day to day affairs of the school, and 12 members were elected on an annual basis at the April committee meeting. In 1809, a new site near the obelisk at St George's Fields was leased to the school by the City of London Corporation and a new school building was completed in 1812.

In 1826, the School was incorporated by Royal Charter and in 1834 additional land was leased from the City of London and the extensive new premises, incorporating part of the old building, were designed by architect John Newman, and completed in 1838. The new building had the capacity to accommodate up to 200 pupils. Pupils learning a trade normally resided at the school for 6 years, and some of their goods were purchased by the school and sold by advertisement or through its retail shop at St George's Circus. By the 1860s, a trade committee had been formed to establish a workshop for adult blind men.

Since the 1860s, the option of moving the school to 'another site more contributive to the health of the inmates and the advantage of the Charity'

had been discussed and in 1900, 15 acres of freehold land were purchased in Leatherhead at a cost of £4,000, and C Pemberton Leach was appointed as architect. Work began on the new school building in May 1901 and the foundation stone was laid by HRH Princess Helena on 13 November. The pupils moved from Southwark to Leatherhead the following year.

In 1911, the school was granted Royal Patronage by King George V and became The Royal School for the Blind. By the 1930s, the school had become a place of residential workshops and, during the Second World War, it was requisitioned by King's College Hospital as a national emergency hospital. It also housed Chelsea Pensioners until the 1950s when the building once again became a school, although it was in need of refurbishment and modernisation. In the 1970s, the accommodation was transformed with individual bedrooms replacing the communal dormitories. In November 1982, Diana, Princess of Wales, formally opened the modernised building. In more recent years, the charity has concentrated on providing accommodation and training for blind people who also have other physical and learning disabilities. In 1995 it expanded its services in community-based settings helping people in their own homes. The charity changed its name to SeeAbility in June 1994, and adopted the ethos, 'Seeing beyond disability'.

The collection includes minute books and an almost uninterrupted run of annual reports from 1805 which, until 1915, contain valuable information about pupils, their date of admission, age on admission and family circumstances. Other items of interest are a volume of 'The Leatherhead Psalter printed for plainsong' in Braille, and two photograph albums from the 1910s of pupils at study and at work. We are hoping to receive Seeability's photographic archive in the near future.

During the year we were also pleased to receive additional items for our significant collection relating to Burwood Park School for the Deaf (SHC ref 6994). The school, which closed in 1996, was established and opened by Lady Patricia Lennox-Boyd as an oral secondary technical boarding school for profoundly deaf boys in 1955. A Further Education College, Norfolk House, was opened in 1972, which was open to girls as well as boys, and girls were admitted to the school itself from 1991. The whole collection comprises collected records relating to all aspects of school life, including the running of the school, its social life, examinations, pupils, photographs and films. (Please note that there are closures on some personal records). Records deposited recently include papers relating to several former pupils, including further papers of Simon Fisher, a pupil who attended Burwood Park School between 1969 and c.1976. Mr Fisher's papers, which he has kindly made open for public research, relate to his entire educational career. They comprise correspondence and related papers concerning hearing aids and audiology appointments; school admissions, certificates and reports relating to Woodford School for Deaf Children, Essex, Burwood Park and Brooklands College, Weybridge. Additionally we were pleased to take in two films reflecting life at the school in the 1960s: a sports day and parents' tea



Figure 4 Gymnastics display at The Royal School for the Blind, 1912 (SHC ref 9543/9/1)

dance. We also received recent copies of ‘Boars in Touch’, the newsletter of the Old Burwoodian Association, to complement our existing holdings of the publication.

The Polish community in Surrey

There has been an established Polish presence in Surrey since the early twentieth century. Polish migrant workers found their way to the county from London for employment, or began setting up their own businesses, but a large number came to Surrey during the Second World War either as servicemen in the Polish Allied Forces, refugees, or as members of the Polish Resettlement Corps (PRC), formed by the British Government to help integrate exiled Poles into civilian life. Through the latter, some 2000 Poles settled in Surrey, and a significant proportion of these were based either at Witley, near Godalming, or at Tweedsmuir Camp, resettlement camp, near Thursley. Tweedsmuir closed in the late 1950s and many residents moved to local villages such as Thursley, Milford and Elstead where they found permanent homes.

From 2010 to 2014, Surrey Heritage worked with a Heritage Lottery funded Polish community project to record the memories of those who lived at Tweedsmuir, establish a permanent barrack block exhibit at the Rural Life Centre (RLC), Tilford, and create a community archive. The archive has since grown and last year we received a number of contemporary Polish newspapers

which had been passed to the RLC from a former resident of the camp (SHC ref 9196). The newspapers date from 1947 to 2014 and the content is varied, ranging from reports of ‘Villafranche czeka’ (the repatriation of 4500 Jewish people in July 1947), and new convictions at the Nuremberg trials in August 1948, to Charlie Chaplin and ‘Konferencja ksiązaty’ (a report on the future of India and Pakistan with Lord Mountbatten). The newspapers give a good indication of what residents were reading whilst living in the camps and how they kept in touch with news from their homeland. Most residents could not speak or read English and were Roman Catholic, hence the church played an important part in the communication of Polish news by producing newspapers which were published in London and distributed across the country. Some of the newspapers in the collection were produced by Polish émigrés in Chicago, USA, where a large Polish immigrant community existed before and after the war. The papers were sent from family and friends to those at Tweedsmuir and Witley camps. Importantly, the papers carried features on tracing missing friends and relatives.

One member of the PRC at Witley Camp was Aleksander Jarzembowski, a Polish professional soldier who fought in both World Wars and served with the 1st Polish Armoured Division, who played a decisive role in the Battle of Normandy in 1944. Eventually demobbed in 1949 at Witley Camp, Aleksander

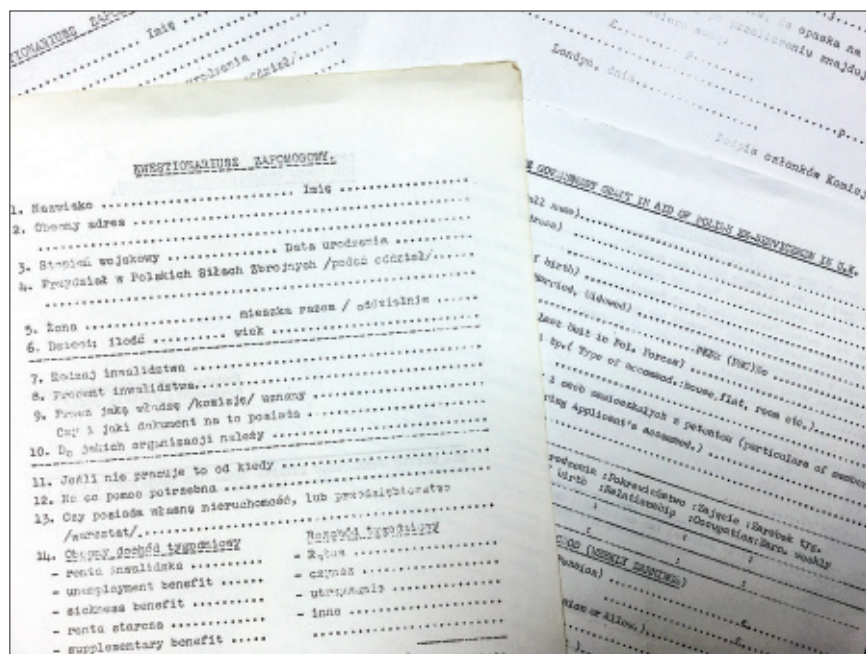


Figure 5 Witley PRC camp documents relating to Aleksander Jarzembowski (SHC ref 9449)

moved to London, married and raised a family. He died in 1987 but his son Janusz Jarzembowski has been researching his father's life and through contact with the Tweedsmuir project offered us original and copy documents relating to Aleksander's military career and discharge at Witley Camp (SHC ref 9449).

Demand for information about the history of the Polish community in Surrey has grown in recent years and in response Surrey Heritage has created an accessible online resource which can be found on our Exploring Surrey's Past website at <http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/diversity/polish>

World War I at Home at Abroad

We are now well into our four year World War I commemoration project, 'Surrey in the Great War: a County Remembers'. The project seeks to reconstruct and relate the story of how the people and communities of Surrey responded to the challenges and demands of the first global war between industrialised nations. Volunteers have been scouring Surrey newspapers and researching the stories of those who served at home and abroad, with the fruits of their research being published on the project website (<http://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/>).

The publicity generated by the project has led to an influx of documents and photographs relating to those terrible years, which shed light on the sacrifices and privations which so many had to endure. Most of these new accessions relate to military service overseas, but some illuminate conditions at home.

The diaries of Ernest Childs of Woking (SHC ref 9425), though terse and matter of fact, provide a valuable insight into one man's response. A Woking resident throughout the war, Ernest kept a diary from at least 1916. Though his diary for 1918 is lost, the diaries for 1916 and 1917 are full of fascinating glimpses of the struggles and opportunities brought about by the war. He was born in 1877 in Melbury Osmond, Dorset, but was living at 52 Courtenay Road, Woking, in 1914, with his wife Florence and his children. In the 1911 census his occupation is given as builder, foreman and inventor. He was a devout Christian whose Bible guided him through life and he was a regular lay preacher in the Gospel Hall of the Plymouth Brethren in Portugal Road and further afield, preaching and attending meetings two or three times a week. The diaries give a strong impression of a serious minded, prodigiously hard working and self-reliant man who took great pride in his work.

In January 1916 the war provided him with his first opportunity when he entered into agreement with Mr A A Gale to build new huts and a cycle shed which were needed for the Army Pay Corps office then occupying a large Victorian residence called 'Wynberg', situated in Oriental Road, to the rear of the Southern Railway Servants' Orphanage. The work occupied him for 10 hours a day for several weeks, for which he was paid 1 shilling per hour plus a third share of the profit if any. However, the prospect of conscription into the army was now looming over Ernest. He applied to the Woking Military Service Tribunal for exemption, arguing that his family and financial commitments should excuse him, but he was only granted a month's exemption. He took

his case to the Guildford Appeal Tribunal but it was dismissed and he was given a month's grace to put his affairs in order. In August 1916 he received his call up papers, sent them back saying he was an unpaid Minister of the Gospel and received two threatening visits by a Recruiting Sergeant. In the nick of time he was saved by getting a job with Martinsyde Ltd, one of Britain's leading aircraft manufacturers, who in 1915 had taken over the Oriental Institute in Maybury for a factory. Martinsyde's factory was just one part of Surrey's extraordinary contribution to winning the war in the air. Brooklands aerodrome in Weybridge housed both the Vickers factory and the Bleriot Spad works, while in Kingston Thomas Sopwith had established his own factory which produced, among other planes, the legendary Sopwith Camel, perhaps the best fighter plane of the war.

Ernest began work for Martinsydes at Brooklands, before he relocated with the company to the new Maybury works in November. As an experienced carpenter his skills were greatly valued and in May 1917 his exemption from military service was confirmed. At Martinsydes he regularly worked over 69 hours per week, making formers, struts, aileron levers, compass boards and fuselage fairings, for which he received 10d an hour, rising to 11d and then 11¾d in 1917. On top of this very respectable wage he was also able to earn a monthly bonus, the largest recorded being that for June 1917 when he got paid an additional £9 for the month, representing 204 hours work.

Martinsyde-designed aircraft included the powerful but ponderous G100 and G102 'Elephant', a single-seat fighter-scout, bomber and reconnaissance biplane. In 1918 the firm also developed the F4 'Buzzard' fighter though the war ended before large scale production had got underway. The firm was also contracted to manufacture aircraft designed by other companies and on 19 July 1917 Ernest recorded that the 'First SE5 [was] sent away today from Martinsydes Ltd'. The SE5 (Scout Experimental 5), developed by the Royal Aircraft Factory in Farnborough, rivalled the Sopwith Camel, as the most successful British fighter of World War I.

The work was hard and could be dangerous. In April 1917, two workmen were killed in accidents. Wages and bonuses were not always paid on time and output targets shifted, meaning, as Ernest put it, 'more exertions for the worker'. From February 1917, he was working alongside 'Lady Carpenters'. Meanwhile, he continued with building and carpentry work and purchased land on The Oaks estate in Kingsway to grow potatoes, beans, peas and cabbages. He considered himself something of an inventor and in February 1917 sent his designs for a folding hut and tent to the Ministry of Munitions Inventions Committee. The Committee's response was deflating: 'Heard from Ministry of Munitions but as usual nothing doing with them. How blind people are and fail to recognise brilliant gifts'.

The letters of Rose Ponting (1889–1961) of Dorking provide another perspective (SHC ref 9496). She was the daughter of Henry Edmund Ponting, local councillor, evangelist and Prudential Assurance agent, and Martha (née Norton). During the war the Pontings were living at 2 Rothes Road, Dorking,

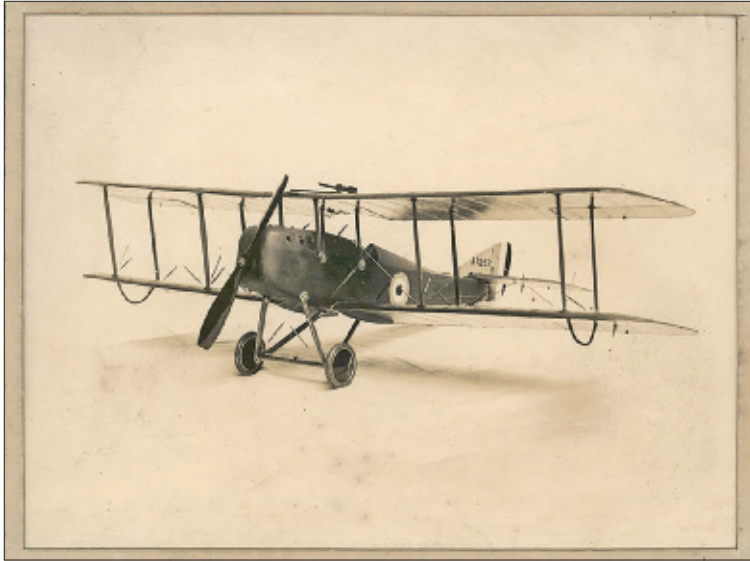


Figure 6 Model of the Martinsyde Bomb Dropper displayed at the War Exhibition, 1918 (SHC ref 8093/9)

and Rose was courting William (Will) Chapman, a master baker, who ran a business with his sister in Southsea, near Portsmouth. They first met when Will was working at a baker's shop in Dorking High Street and Rose was a customer. As the owner of a bakery, Will was in a reserved occupation and exempted from military service. They married in Dorking on 21 July 1919, when Rose moved to Southsea.

Rose's letters to Will are chatty and intimate and paint vivid pictures of her neighbours, for example 'Madame' (possibly a boarder), whom Rose gently mocks: 'poor old soul she is worried about this food rations, she will starve and I don't know what ... Sat eve she got in such a wax, she wouldn't be compelled to do anything. If compulsory rationing came in she wouldn't have anything to do with it. We asked what she would do then, she said she'd sooner starve than be forced to present a card at each shop.' Early on, life in Dorking seems unaffected by shortages, in stark contrast to hardships endured later on in the war: 'Last Tues: they passed 200 for the shelters, never seen Dorking so crowded, everybody's house full up seems a job to buy food, can't get tea, butter, bacon, lucky if one can get hold of a bit, some of the bakers have got special permission to sell new bread, so much wanted, couldn't cope with it.' Like many households, the Ponting home provided a billet for soldiers. In September 1915, Rose writes, 'The soldiers we have are young ladies if you can make that out... they are staying with us for a few days came yesterday.' Two months later,

she writes, 'We have again been lucky with soldiers, very nice chaps, came over from USA enlisted in Liverpool, spend their evenings in doors so far.' Later, Rose writes of the devastating effect of the influenza epidemic of 1918: 'The Flue [*sic*]: is very bad here I never remember so many deaths in Dorking before'.

The 'Eaton Cottage Herald' was a home-produced family newspaper, collectively written by the Brockman family of Thames Ditton in 1915–1916 (SHC ref 9497). At the time the newsletters in this collection were written, the household comprised Herbert Brockman, his wife Isabel, their two children, Miles (b.1903) and Nancy (b.1906) and the children's nurse Elsie May Taylor (1891–c.1982). Herbert was a cashier for a cement company and did his bit during the war by enlisting as a Special Constable. The newsletters paint a charming picture of middle class life, with references to the family's voluntary labours on behalf of the war effort: 'the fretwork craze has given us many hours of labour and has resulted in our being able to send several picture puzzles to the hospitals for the amusement of our wounded Tommies' (Mar 1915); 'Our Day [Red Cross fundraising day] found Mother busily engaged in selling flags with the great assistance of Nancy and Elsie, and, let us add, Jim [the dog], who ran around and fought dogs who did not agree with flag days' (Oct 1916); 'The ladies of the house are knitting very industriously for the soldiers while Nancy sits and sews' (Nov 1916). A 'Storyette' included in the February 1916 edition vividly demonstrates the anti-German feeling the war had generated: 'Teacher to very small girl in Sunday School class, "Now, what would you say if Satan were to speak to you?" "I don't speak German" came the cutting reply'.

Another group of papers received this year also relate back to the war. They are a set of inventories and sale particulars for the 'Bron-y-De' estate in Churt, the former home of Britain's wartime prime minister David Lloyd George, drawn up after his death in 1945 (SHC ref 9421). The 'Welsh Wizard' had forged close connections with Surrey. During the war he had spent much time in a house on the edge of Walton Heath golf course, where he found refuge from the bombs and could pursue his relationship with his mistress Frances Stevenson. He clearly acquired a taste for Surrey's heathlands and went on to purchase 60 acres of land at Churt in 1921, on which he commissioned the architect Philip Tilden (who also designed Churchill's Chartwell) to design him a house, which he named Bron-y-de (the breast of the south). The estate was extended over time to some 700 acres. The soil was poor but Lloyd George reclaimed it from scrub and, using a water diviner to locate a water supply for irrigation, created an impressive fruit farm, the produce of which was sold from a stall opposite the Pride of the Valley pub. He also established an apiary, selling the honey to stores such as Harrods, and a model pig farm. His secretary A J Sylvester was somewhat scathing about Lloyd George's capacity to alienate his farm managers by his interference and was dismissive of the profitability of the estate: in February 1940 he wrote 'Churt becomes a bigger mystery to me every day. Nobody knows what are the true facts about the financial aspect. The agricultural aspect is totally



Figures 7 and 8 Cover and cartoon from the 'Eaton Cottage Herald' (SHC ref 9497/1)

mucked up and discontent is rife amongst all the staff. It is an unhappy place and is a cemetery to many an innocent and enthusiastic person'.

Frances Stevenson was with Lloyd George much of the time. She had her own bedroom in Bron-y-de, but also had built a bungalow called Avalon, adjacent to the estate, where she and her daughter Jennifer could live. The finest room in Bron-y-de was the 36 foot long library, with a curved ceiling and a mural by John Churchill of The Gulf of Tigullio. It was in this room that Lloyd George wrote, or dictated, much of his self-serving war memoirs in which he settled scores with his opponents, including the long dead Haig. The most spectacular feature of the room was the huge window with a fine prospect over the azaleas and grounds and a view over distant hills. Notoriously, the inspiration for this window came from Lloyd George's 1936 visit to Hitler's mountain retreat, the Berghof in Berchtesgaden. He had been much struck both by Hitler himself but also by the enormous panoramic window that had just been installed in the greatly extended Berghof. When war broke again, some people argued that Lloyd George, long in the political wilderness and by now an old man, should be brought back to lead his country again and Churchill made strenuous efforts to include him in his government. But by now his powers were failing and his old terror of air raids reasserted itself, causing him to have constructed at

Churt, far distant from any likely raid, a luxurious four-roomed air conditioned shelter, which Sylvester likened to a ‘Piccadilly underground station’. Finally, after the death of his wife Margaret, Lloyd George married Frances Stevenson at Guildford Registry Office, Artington House, on 23 October 1943. He left Churt for North Wales, terminally ill, for what turned out to be the last time in late 1944 and died on 26 March 1945. Frances continued to reside in Churt for many years and ended her life as a ‘conspicuously pious and active laywoman in the diocese of Guildford’.

The inventories, drawn up for valuation purposes, list the contents of all the farms and houses on the estate, including ‘Bron-y-de’ itself. They describe the hall with walls lined with photographs of Lloyd George and various celebrities; the bronze classical figure ‘Deliverance’ and portrait of socialist Robert Owen in the dining room; the study with its 44 gramophone records of Lloyd George’s speeches, a figure of Napoleon, and a set of silver, gold and gilt freedom caskets with illuminated addresses and other presentation gifts; the extremely well appointed wine store, with several hundred bottles; and the library with many Welsh books, war cabinet and parliamentary papers, books on history and current affairs, Hitler’s published speeches, and books on fruit farming, poverty and labour matters. The elaborate brick and steel ARP shelter of 4 rooms, with kitchen, toilets, air conditioning and telephone gets a special mention.



Figure 9 Bron-y-de, Churt, showing the Hitler-inspired panoramic window (SHC ref 5031/1/20)

Letters of the Budd family of Reigate and Leatherhead (SHC ref 9461) reflect the cost of the war. The majority relate to Edward Budd (1894–1918), the son of Cecil Lindsay Budd (1865–1945) and Bloom Budd (nee Woolf). Cecil was a businessman involved in non-ferrous metal broking, tin mining and smelting, following his father into the firm of Vivian Younger & Bond. He later became Chairman of the London Metal Exchange and founder of the British Metal Corporation. He was awarded a KBE in 1918 for his services during World War I and the Legion of Honour in 1919. Cecil and Bloom were married in 1892, living at St Giles, Chilworth. She died of consumption in 1904, leaving three children, Edward (b.1894), Joan (b.1895) and John Cecil (Jack) (b.1899). Cecil subsequently remarried and lived at Dovers and The Briars, both in Reigate, before moving to Burley House, Ringwood, Hants, in the 1930s.

Edward enlisted in the army on the outbreak of war in 1914, beginning as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps, before transferring to the 1st Battalion, the Irish Guards, in July 1916. He was awarded the Military Cross in May 1917, and two bars were added to his MC for subsequent acts of gallantry. Promoted to Acting Captain, he was killed in action when a German mortar fell on the post he was in during the early hours of the morning on 8 May 1918 in the Ayyette sub-sector in northern France. Edward's character was described by Rudyard Kipling in his celebrated history of the Irish Guards in the Great War (1923): 'he was a large and silent man, on whom everyone could, and did, lean heavily at all times. He knew no fear and was of the self-contained, intensely alive type'. His letters capture the terror and tedium of life on the Western Front: 'I had a good four days in trenches but had my servant killed and all my trench kit blown up We are now out of the line and are making roads which is far worse than being in the trenches' (24 Mar 1917); 'We had a poor time in trenches as they were very bad indeed. The weather is very cold and the mud worse than one can imagine. We are at present in tents in a very muddy field' (21 Nov 1917). His self-effacing nature comes across: 'I have just been given the Military Cross. I suppose one can't escape it if one lives long enough, it will probably not be in the paper for months. But if anyone puts M.C. after my name on the address I will not speak to them again' (10 Apr 1917).

The collection also includes letters of Jack Budd who passed out of the Royal Military Academy in 1917 and served with the Royal Artillery first at Trowbridge, Wilts, and later on the Italian Front and some letters of his father, Cecil, including one giving his reaction to the news of the death of Captain Scott and his companions in Antarctica, which reached England nearly a year after Scott died: 'I have been twice to the Abbey [Westminster] ... Bridly played the Dead March magnificently for Scott and his comrades Scott's letter is I think the most moving and stirring thing I ever remember – men and gentlemen in every sense of the words. Oates' "I am just going outside & I may be some time" and walking out into the blizzard to die because he was ill & keeping the others back & so spoiling their chance was a magnificent piece of heroism ...' (16 Feb 1913).

A number of smaller collections are also worth mentioning. The letters of Private Malcolm Sidney Scrivener, who served with 9th Battalion, the East Surrey Regiment, are wonderfully vivid (SHC ref ESR/25/SCRI). 'We returned ... and found that the ice in the trench had melted and there was a miniature Niagara Falls down the steps of our dug-out. We investigated and found our packs half submerged and scarcely a dry spot at the bottom ... That night it snowed and froze again ... it froze our greatcoats ... and they became as sheets of cardboard and clanked against our legs as we walked ... we took them off and they stood up in the trench like a row of tailor's dummies' (15 Jan 1918).

The photograph album created by Private William Topp of 244 Company, Mechanical Transport Army Service Corps captures his experiences on active service in Egypt and Salonika (SHC ref SGW/1). 244 Company were also known as 'Watney's Men', so named after Major Gordon Watney of the South Lodge Motor Works, Weybridge, who had been appointed by the War Office to form a Mechanical Transport Supply Column within the Army Service Corps (MTASC), Home Counties Division. Major Watney enrolled over 250 men into his unit and turned part of his factory into a drill hall.

Stephen Thomas Woodhouse lived at 67 Priory Road, Reigate, with his wife Ellen and five children, Edward, Daisy, Ernest, Florence and Dorothy. In 1911, he was a plumber, but we know that he also served for four years with the Reigate Borough Fire Brigade when the war broke out. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers, as a sapper in the Wireless Service, Cable Section. A small group of papers (SHC ref SGW/2) relate to his death on 6 July 1917 at no. 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, Belgium, after receiving shell wounds to his chest and knee. The papers include a moving letter to his wife from nurse Helen M Drummond, who found the time to write as she ministered to the dying man: 'Your husband, who is a patient in my ward, has asked me to write to you and tell you how he is. I am so sorry that he is so very ill tonight, and that I can give you so little encouragement as to his condition. The poor fellow is so patient and so cheery that it is hard to have to realise how dangerously ill he is. I have just been down to his bed, and he has told me about his children and about you. But dear Mrs Woodhouse, I want you to realise that nothing we can do now is of any avail, and I can only make the passing as quiet and pain free as possible. The chaplain, whose heart is full of kindness, has been in to see him and will be in again shortly. I will stay beside him, and do anything that I can to relieve his pain. Believe me, I only wish that you were here to be to him, what a wife only can'. A postscript written the following morning adds that Woodhouse had 'passed away very quietly at 9.45am. He died not suffering at all, I think. If you would care to write me I will be only too pleased to let you know anything I can.'

Surrey Estates

Maps are among the most rich and versatile of our historical sources. The Ordnance Survey is of course unrivalled in its coverage, consistency and large

scale detail of the county (25" series date from the late 1860s onwards) – no study could ignore these, nor indeed the tithe maps of the 1840s. However, the pre 19th century map is a scarcer thing, with an individuality and unique origin which lays a special claim on our interest. Such maps may be quirky and perhaps unreliable, but they offer intriguing evidence of earlier perceptions of the landscape and the distribution of ownership and rights within it. We were very fortunate to receive the generous donation of a striking early 17th century map of the environs of Banstead (SHC ref 9468), a frustrating and yet tantalising record, which we hope will continue to excite the ingenuity of local experts to improve our understanding of it.

The untitled map has been consulted by local historians over the last 200 years: a portion was hand-copied and reproduced in Manning and Bray's *History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey*, Vol II (1810), and the historian Henry Lambert later owned and studied it in detail. Manning and Bray describe it as 'ancient and very rudely drawn', and indeed the draughtsman, working in water-based coloured inks on a large piece of rubbed leather, shows no regard for scale or angle. Cleaning and the creation of a high-resolution digital copy of the map has enabled better study of faint text and over-painted or cancelled features.

Areas of the manors of Preston and Burgh are shown and the map is most likely to have been produced around the time these manors were bought by Christopher Buckle, then of Mitcham, in 1615. (The Buckles subsequently became the established major landowners in the area, where they remained until the mid 19th century.) The left side of the map is a large-scale rectilinear depiction of the manor house of Great Burgh and its immediate surroundings, showing the relative positions of gates, footpaths and tracks, gates and wooded areas. The right side shows the undulating downlands in which the estate is set, principally recording boundary features between the neighbouring manors of North Tadworth, Preston, Burgh and Ewell, and including primitively drawn animals, probably sheep, with the note 'the distress taken'. It is in this area that the greatest fascination of the map lies, in that a series of prehistoric barrows is depicted on Preston Downs, which had already long disappeared by the time of Manning and Bray. Precious clues to a distant past, yet they raise many questions. Given the problems of distortion of scale and orientation, where do these notable features and others really lie? Was the map drawn up from verbal testimony alone (as Lambert suggests), so the positioning of features is purely indicative? Why have areas of the map been over-painted, perhaps in an attempt to cancel them? Was the map created at one time, for a single purpose, or has it been re-used? The answers may always be elusive.

Also within the year, and by a coincidence also one time possessions of the Lambert family, we received deeds and papers, 1597–1861 (SHC ref 9482) relating to their possessions in the Woodmansterne area. Two early 19th century maps of the family's lands in Banstead and Woodmansterne were among yet more Lambert records, including photographs and family history and pedigrees, which we received in 2016 (SHC ref 9593). We look forward to cataloguing the



Figure 10 Map of the manors of Preston and Burgh, c.1615 (SHC ref 9468/1/1)



Figure 11 Detail of map of the manors of Preston and Burgh (SHC ref 9468/1/1), showing boundary markers including barrows on Preston Down, and a large tree; an impossible town of Leatherhead is presumably included as a direction indicator, as it is a considerable distance from the area shown

deeds and other material in more detail, so that we can better appreciate their inter-relatedness.

By contrast to the erratic cartography of the mysterious map of Banstead, two delicately pencilled mappings of the countryside around Farnham and Aldershot are fine miniatures of the art of surveying and draughtsmanship which we purchased for our collections (SHC ref 9484). The cartographer, A B Rooke, is in all probability Alexander Beaumont Rooke (b.1821), Gentleman Cadet of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He is shown in the Sandhurst cadet registers as being at the College from 1835 to 1838, and he presumably produced the maps while training there. The maps comprise 'Plan of Brickbury Hill with its ancient Encampment and the country about Farnham and Aldershot sketched from sextant points on a scale of 4 inches to one mile' and its companion 'Sketch of the country between Farnham and Guildford', and depict principally the topography of the open landscape of this little populated area, finely scattered with individually marked buildings.

Two accessions reflect the shaping of the landscape around Woking. The first to be briefly mentioned is in fact a very welcome return: the records of The London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company, later the London Necropolis Company Ltd, and of Brookwood Cemetery, 1853–1976 (SHC ref 2935). They had been withdrawn from our custody in 2011 but, following acquisition of the cemetery by Woking Borough Council, were again placed in our care. The enormous cemetery, intended to relieve the pressure on London burial grounds, and served by a railway link to Waterloo, has been a Woking landmark for over a century and a half.

The other accession comprises a set of garden plans and models relating to the remodelling of the gardens of Sutton Place (SHC ref 9517) by the great garden designer, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900–1996). In 1980 Stanley Joseph Seeger, Jr (1930–2011), an American born art collector, bought the Grade I listed Tudor manor house of Sutton Place, near Guildford, the former home of the American oil magnate Paul Getty. Seeger and his partner Christopher Cone commissioned Jellicoe to redesign the landscape and gardens, which he accomplished between 1980 and 1983. Seeger sold the Sutton Place estate in 1986 but the garden has survived and Jellicoe's designs, incorporating a Paradise Garden, a Moss Garden, a Music Garden, and a Surrealist Garden, reveal the original creative process and his vision, influenced by the theories of psychoanalyst Carl Jung. The garden designs were accompanied by two court books for the manor of Sutton next Woking covering the years 1742 to 1817, the survival of which came as a welcome surprise.

Surrey Businesses

The most extensive collection of business records received in the course of the year was the archive of David Fry and Son Ltd, builders of Godalming (SHC ref 9510), which came to us from Godalming Museum, with the assent of Mrs L Fry, widow of David Fry (1932–2000).



Figure 12 Photograph by Sidney Francis of Woking Trades Exhibition at the Old Maybury Laundry (latterly the Sorbo sponge factory) in Maybury Road in October 1927. The *Surrey Advertiser* (22/10/27) reported: ‘As one entered the premises, the suggestion of travel was conveyed by a gigantic picture of a Canadian National locomotive which appeared to be thundering through the entrance hall’

David Fry & Son Ltd was an extremely well-respected construction firm, responsible for a number of Godalming landmarks including the Fire Station in Queen’s Street, Moss Lane School, the Masonic Hall in South Street and the Roman Catholic Church of St Edmund. Further afield the company erected Shoreham College and Petersfield Isolation Hospital. The first David Fry is recorded in the 1881 census returns as a Farnham-born journeyman carpenter aged 24, visiting John Beagley and his family at their home in Carlos Street. The firm of J Beagley, builder and undertaker, Godalming, became Beagley and Fry when David Fry married Annie Beagley in 1892. Fry bought the former Baverstock Brewery in Bridge Street, Godalming (the yard now known as Fry’s Yard), after the brewery building was severely damaged in a fire in 1895 and the premises were refurbished as ‘David Fry & Son Steam Joinery Works’, housing a steam-powered saw mill, initially fuelled by coal and later by gas. He died in 1920 and was succeeded by his son, Leonard John Fry (1893–1963), who was in turn succeeded by a son, David John Fry (1932–2000). At one time David Fry,

jnr, employed 88 men. The foremen, Sid Holt, George Jeffries, Fred May and John Young, all of whom started as bricklayers, supervised the building of many large houses in the area. John Young, who started at Fry's in 1948, was foreman for more than twenty years. After he left in 1972 the company was restricted to small scale work, and were no longer contracted to construct whole buildings. David Fry stopped trading as a builder in 1985, but the company was only closed down in 2003, after his death. The extensive records include customer ledgers going back to 1893, day books, bought ledgers and wages books

On a much smaller scale a letter from Thomas Nash to James Smallpeice of Worplesdon, nurseryman (SHC ref 9479), testifies to the flourishing market gardens and nurseries in the north of the county. In the letter, sent 5 February 1833, Nash sends an order for 'quick and stock' for a gentleman just starting in business, including 1000 pare [pear] stock, 2000 mussell [mussel plum], 500 'pare plum', 500 paradice [paradise apples], 500 quince and 2000 quick. Nash also orders for himself peaches, nectarines, roses, hydrangeas, runner beans and marrow peas.

A further tantalising accession was 18 boxes of glass plate negatives collected by local author and historian, Lyndon Davies (SHC ref 9524). Many are the work of Woking professional photographer Sidney Francis and offer a fascinating pictorial insight into life in the 1920s and 1930s. Volunteers Linda and Barry Oliver are diligently sorting through the slides, using their local knowledge to identify the many uncaptioned images. They cover an extensive range of subjects, including family weddings, Eid celebrations at the Shah Jehan mosque, local businesses, sports teams, buses, Brookwood Cemetery graves and photographs of local events such as Woking's 1929 trade exhibition 'Wokympia'. Back copies of the *Woking News and Mail* have been invaluable as Francis's photographs were frequently published in the paper. There are still a number of unidentified images, some of which we will post online in the hope that we can discover more about the people and places in this wonderful collection.

Surrey Churches

The most significant deposit of church records we took in were those of Farnham United Reformed Church, formerly Congregational Church, which stretched back to its foundation in the late 18th century (SHC ref 9495). Farnham had a history of non-conformity dating back to the 17th century when Puritan clergy preached to Farnham dissenters in private houses. In 1786 the Rev William Alphonsus Gunn, afternoon preacher at Farnham parish church, was dismissed for outspoken preaching and evangelical activities. Some of the congregation left with him, and they met at different places in the town for prayers and scripture reading. Their worship was frequently interrupted by mobs, incited by the 'wealthy' and 'opulent', who pelted the congregation with stones and brickbats, causing them to move from place to place, and their predicament was recorded in the 'Case of the Farnham People' dated 1793. The 'Case' asserted that the Gospel had not been preached in Farnham for over one hundred years until the

preaching ministry of Gunn, 'whose faithful labours, in public and private, for the space of six years, were remarkably owned and blessed to the turning great numbers of the inhabitants of Farnham and the adjacent villages from darkness to light'. Refused any accommodation, the congregation decided to purchase land in East Street, Farnham, and build their own licensed place of worship. The Independent (Ebenezer) chapel was opened in October 1793.

By 1871, the congregation had outgrown the Ebenezer chapel and, under the leadership of the Rev H Arnold, a decision was made to build a new Congregational Church. A site in what is now South Street was chosen, and Thomas Wonnacott was appointed architect. The foundation stone was laid by Kemp Welch on 22 October 1872 and the church was dedicated on 16 July 1873. The total building cost was £4,836 10s 1d. In 1893, to celebrate the centenary of the original Ebenezer chapel, a new hall and vestry were added to the Congregational church in South Street. The vestry was replaced in 1929. The Ebenezer chapel in East Street was demolished between December 1987 and January 1988, and the land redeveloped by Swain and Jones as new workshops and a car showroom. The remains of 29 people buried in the East Street burial ground were reinterred in Farnham cemetery, including the minister of the Ebenezer chapel, the Rev Joseph Johnson and his wife.

A number of independent congregations in the villages surrounding Farnham were started mainly through the labours of the Congregationalist Surrey Mission in the 18th and 19th centuries, including The Bourne, Frensham (Shortfield) and Wreclesham. These became stations or branches of Farnham Congregational church and often had their own minister.

The extensive records of the church include a copy of a register of the original members, church meeting minutes going back to 1843, when Joseph Johnson resigned as minister, and minutes of deacons', later elders' meetings from 1876. The minute book of the Mutual Improvement Society, 1889–1903, details meetings at which members of the congregation heard and debated educational, social or political issues of the day, such as whether there should be a national ban on the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors (rejected) or whether the suffrage should be extended to women (approved).

A Surrey Miscellany

The Royal Skating Club, formerly Wimbledon Skating Club, the records of which we recently received (SHC ref 9460), traces its origins back to 1830, when The Skating Club was formed, with rules and regulations based on those of Edinburgh Skating Club (the world's first organised skating club). Henry Chilton wrote to several gentlemen who had been in the habit of skating together for some years on Regent's Park frozen water, proposing that a skating club be formed whose object would be 'to have immediate notice when the ice will bear, to have the ice properly swept and watched, a convenient booth for putting on skates, keeping great coats, &c..'. The club's first meeting was held on 28 April 1830 at the Argyll Street home of its chairman, William Newton, miniature-painter in



Figure 13 Caricatures of skaters by 'M' [Lord Archibald Campbell] (SHC ref 9460/6/1)

ordinary to King William IV and Queen Adelaide, and later to Queen Victoria. The club's first president was the Earl of Clanricarde, a former ambassador to the Court of St Petersburg. From the beginning the Skating Club attracted members of the royal family. Prince Albert became a patron, and was succeeded by the Prince and Princess of Wales (later King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra), and then by King George V and Queen Mary. Other high profile members were

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Figure 14 *How to Keep Rabbits*, published by Fur and Feather (SHC ref 9426/18)

Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe, Sir Samuel Hoare, and Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding. Women began to be admitted to the club in the 1870s.

Members of the club developed a form of skating known as 'English Style'. In its early days, The Skating Club met at several venues, including Regent's Park, The Serpentine, the Long Water and the Round Pond, depending on the state of the ice. As the public lakes became increasingly crowded, the club secured, from 1879, an area of Regents Park that was flooded in the winter to make a surface that froze easily. This private rink was used for nearly 50 years. The Skating Club then moved to Moor Park, but the lake's inaccessibility led to a move to Wimbledon Lake. Wimbledon was home to Wimbledon Skating Club, established in 1871, which for years had produced some of the finest English Style skaters, making it The Skating Club's principal rival. In 1929, the two clubs amalgamated to form the Skating Club, Wimbledon, but in September 1932, by command of patron King George V, the name was changed to The Royal Skating Club. Wimbledon Lake continued to be used occasionally until 1951. From 1930, indoor rinks were used, principally the Westminster Ice Rink at Millbank. In 1942, when Millbank was requisitioned for war purposes, The Royal Skating Club moved to Queen's Ice Skating Rink until 1962, and the Arosa Rink, Richmond, until its closure in 1992. Following a number of temporary homes in and around the south east of England, the club currently meets at Guildford Spectrum. The rich collection includes minutes of The Skating Club and Wimbledon Skating Club from their respective foundations, membership records, competition records, club histories and two scrapbooks of skating illustrations and memorabilia. The latter contain some splendid ink caricatures of skaters by Lord Archibald Campbell, known as 'M'.

An intriguing small cache of papers relate to Leatherhead Rabbit Club, 1942 (SHC ref 9426). The club was set up as part of a wartime government drive 'to produce more domestic rabbit meat, furs and wools for yourself and for the nation'. The local coordinator was the inappositely named Miss L V Hamburger of 'Kootenay', Hawkshill, Leatherhead. Membership cost two shillings and members were entitled to seven pounds of bran for each breeding doe. Half of any litter had to be handed over to the Blind School Emergency Hospital (for which the market price per pound would be paid). The papers include some membership records, publicity and flyers for Domestic Fur Producers Ltd of Bradley Mills, Newton Abbot, Devon, set up by the British Rabbit Council 'to enable breeders to market tame rabbit skins co-operatively to the best advantage'.

Post war concerns are reflected in the minute book of the Woking Branch of the United Nations Association, 1958–1965 (SHC ref 9515). The UNA was established in London in June 1945 to enhance the relationship between the UN and the people of its member states, to raise public awareness of the UN and its work, and to promote the general goals of the UN. In January 1947, a special meeting was held at Woking Boys' School to establish a Woking branch of the UNA and this minute book records its activities during the Cold War. Speakers

addressed meetings on such subjects as 'Nations Growing Up', 'Guarding the Peace' and 'Hungry Men', fundraising drives were held for refugees and other causes and work camps organised to assist the Woking-based refugee charity, the Ockenden Venture.

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