

SURREY HISTORY



PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

The Diary of a Farming Quaker: Wanborough, 1793-94

R. G. Vevers

The Manual Renovation of Antique Furniture

E. J. Yates

New Material for Surrey Historians: Surrey Record Office
Accessions of Records, 1978

D. B. Robinson

The Photographic Record and Survey of Surrey

John Gent

VOL. II NO. 2

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The Surrey Local History Council exists to foster an interest in the history of Surrey by encouraging local history societies within the county, by the organisation of a one-day Symposium on Local History at Dorking and an Annual General Meeting, which includes a visit to a place of historical interest, and also by co-operating with other bodies in order to discover the past and to maintain the heritage of Surrey in history, in architecture and in landscape.

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Articles intended for publication in *Surrey History* should be typed with double spacing and sent, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to the Hon. Editor, Mr. R. O. Chalkley, Fishers Hill Cottage, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking, Surrey. A copy of 'Notes for contributors' is available on request from the same address. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

SURREY HISTORY

Vol. 2

No. 2

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The Diary of a Farming Quaker: Wanborough, 1793-94 ..	54
by <i>R. G. Vevers</i>	
Nutfield and the Settlement of the Weald	62
by <i>Dennis Turner</i>	
The Manual Renovation of Antique Furniture	66
by <i>E. J. Yates</i>	
New Material for Surrey Historians: Surrey Record Office. Accessions of Records, 1978	74
by <i>D. B. Robinson</i>	
The Photographic Record and Survey of Surrey	83
by <i>John Gent</i>	
Craft Industries in Surrey: The 1978 Symposium	95
by <i>Victoria Houghton</i>	
Surrey Waterways: The 1979 Symposium	98
by <i>Victoria Houghton</i>	
Cover Illustration: Westcott Forge, near Dorking (no date; probably c.1910).	

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PHILLIMORE

THE DIARY OF A FARMING QUAKER, WANBOROUGH, 1793-94

R. G. Vevers

Puttenham and Wanborough History Society

'Myself ploughing in Barn Piece with two horses and reins they went very bad. Woodier, Cook Giles and Waller began mowing grass in West Veer, to witt at 1/6 per acre, no beer. John Collingham was hunting back the fallow of Hither Cow Leas, 12 acres he was 11 days.'

This entry begins 'The Journal and Remarks made on Wanborough Farm beginning with 6th month 17th 1793' (see plate 1). It was written by the bailiff of the tenant who farmed about a thousand acres four miles west of Guildford in Surrey. I was at first interested because I live in the parish and farm some of the same land, but as I transcribed the beautiful neat writing I began to realise that here was something quite unusual. At a time when even a modest degree of literacy could excuse a man from manual labour, here was an accurate, professional and literate description of the day-to-day working of a Surrey farm, written, not by a gentleman farmer or a country-loving parson, but by an employed man who could do, and did, any of the labouring tasks himself. At the end of a long day of organizing, ploughing, sowing or harvesting, he would open his pig-skin covered notebook and record the work done, the weather, the costs and the output, the relationship of man to man, the condition of the animals and the state of the soil.

I know little about the diarist except that he was a Quaker; a plain man who worked hard and was very interested in his job—but see Postscript. His simplicity shows through in his entries and with it an ear for cadence and phrase that I find refreshing. 'Finished stirring Upper Clays, our fallow having had so much parching weather now slack like lime and come as fine as a garden when harrowed after stirring, this field is about 12 acres, the Horse teams were 8 Days and the Ox team 5 days, the former ploughed an Acre per day and the latter 3 Roods as near as can be.' And on a day when little happened he would just record 'Nothing particular has transpired this day.' Through it all, and the record is kept for fourteen months, he uses old Surrey words—Esh for stubble, Trumpery for weeds, Jag for a cartload Stonehorse for a stallion and Plits for a furrow slice. His spelling is no worse than most of us and his calligraphy consistent and clear. I have only two adverse comments; his punctuation is odd—I suspect he had a bag of full stops which he broadcasts through the pages like turnip seed; and secondly that he uses the extraordinary Quaker dating method designed to avoid the usual names for the days of the week and the months. For instance, Monday 8th March becomes 'the 8th of the 3rd being the second day'. At the end of the diary this was proving too much even for him to work out and he abandons it for the conventional pagan way.

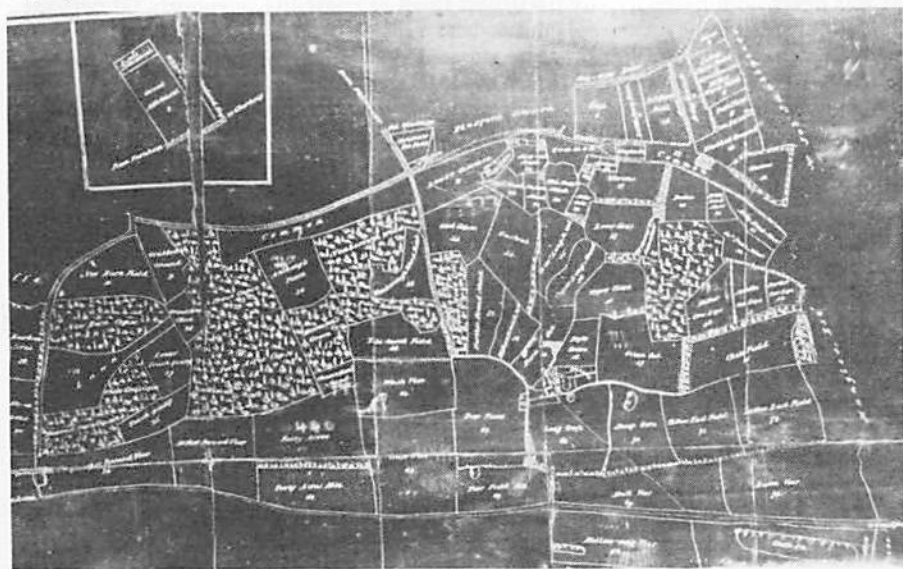
1. First page of the Diary.

Journal & Remarks made
 on Warrasough's Farm
 beginning with 6th Nov^r 1777

17
 myself ploughing in Binn Pice
 with two horses & cows they went very
 bad, Woodier, best, Gales, & Waller by
 wearing grips in & so on to well at
 1/2 pice we had, John Callaghan
 finished ~~ploughing~~, back the fallow
 of Hither Cow Leas, 12 Acres he was
 11 Days.

18
 John Callaghan finished ploughing
 back the fallow of Hither Cow Leas
 was 8 Days ploughing, St. Hill Heath
 and some of the great ploughing was
 say in a ploughing meet.

2. Estate Map of 1828,
 showing field names.
 'Hither Cow Leas', men-
 tioned in the first entry in
 the Diary, is located centre
 right, No. 42.



The reasons for keeping a diary, especially one as full of detail as this, are not always obvious. He was, I suspect, writing for no one but himself; particularly not the Landlord for there are caustic comments about Bruton, the Landlord's steward; nor for the Tenant, his Master, who though not criticized overtly is not agreed with upon all questions, especially the treatment and feeding of animals in which he considered his employer to be rather miserly. Perhaps he felt like Arthur Young writing at about the same time, 'no part of the day can be more profitably employed than to keep a book of miscellaneous observations, queries, speculations and calculations for turning and comparing different ways of effecting the same object'. I think many farmers feel such a record is important but, like myself, have diaries in the back of their desks for several Januaries -- with the rest of the year usually a blank.

Perhaps the most fortunate fact about the diary is the farm at Wanborough which he records. It was, until quite recently, a one farm parish which has remained virtually unchanged since its monastic owners laid it out in the 12th century. The same fields are there today with just a few banks and hedges removed as one would expect. No industrial, and little domestic, development has occurred to make it difficult to follow exactly in the footsteps of the Quaker bailiff in his daily round. The estate map of the time has been a help as it gives the same field names as used in the diary (see plate 2). It is also one of those farms with four different soils which make farming now, as it was at the end of the 18th century, fascinating to study. The farm steading itself stands on the spring-line where the chalk meets the clay; an ideal situation which was often exploited by our forebears, as Professor Hoskins points out in his book *Local History in England* (Longman, 1972). There was none of the constant change which goes with multiple ownership as there was no three-field system to be abandoned, negligible enclosures (a small one in 1805) and, until very recently, no subdivision. There are other reasons for this stable history, with perhaps the most important being that Wanborough is not on the road to other places; there are better ways of going almost anywhere than through Wanborough. It was never dominated by any particular town as a satellite or suburb. Or perhaps it was considered by successive landlords as a block of very fine country, and who can deny that in England beauty and broad acres have always been prestigious to own? It is now designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and so should remain unchanged. Although the Quaker diarist never expressed lyrical appreciation, his concern for the well-being of the soil makes me think that he would have agreed with present day planners. He certainly never spared himself in work or thought in preserving the fertility, improving the drainage and maintaining the hedges; we can even today find some of the work done then left as our inheritance.

The entire social hierarchy can be traced through the pages of the diary. At the top was the landlord, Thomas second Earl of Onslow, who was not one of the aristocracy dedicated to agriculture. His interests lay elsewhere and although many ribald verses were written about him, the polite one I quote suggests a rather limited repertoire:

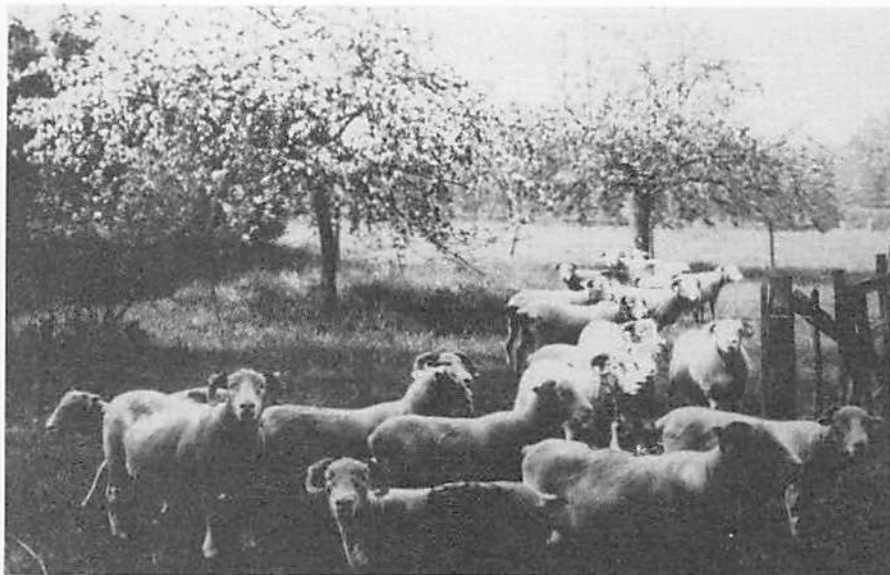
What can little T.O. do? Why, drive a Phaeton and two!!
Can little T.O. do no more? Yes: drive a Phaeton and four!!!!

The Earl left the visiting of Wanborough Manor Farm to his Steward. 'Bruton the Steward and several others came this day to value the repairs, they seem very slow about this necessary work, expect none will be done before winter tho' wanted so bad.' In all fairness to the Earl and his steward one of the main buildings—the Great Barn—was already 500 years old in 1793. Next down the list came the tenant, who was also a Quaker. He was a man who knew his agriculture and spent quite a lot of time in the fields, although I doubt whether he did any manual work. He often negotiated wage rates and piece-work rates himself. He was keen rather than mean to his men and I would think fair by the standards of the day. The Bailiff, the diarist, is next in the pecking order; a kindly man to animal and human alike. His diary includes the care taken of men who had accidents, although the treatment seems to be the same for all complaints as that given to Waller who fell off a load of hay and hurt his shoulder. Waller was taken to a 'woman hard by who could let blood; she took a great quantity of blood from him which in all probability was the means of saving his life'.

Waller was one of the farm servants, the ploughmen and the shepherds, who lived in. There were usually about five or six of these who received two guineas a month and the diary contains a fine description of their working day. There was also a casual source of labour, the workmen, who lived locally and were hired when wanted; they earned between 1/6d. and 2/6d. per day according to the work, or were employed on piece-work which was usually organised so that 2/6d. was the maximum they could earn. Lastly, at the bottom of the social scale came the wives and children of these labourers. The children earned 6d. and the wives 8d. per day. The women were given all the most menial tasks, such as picking corn-cockle out of the bags of tares. This unchivalrous attitude towards women is best summed up by a contemporary, 'A capital improvement has been made on the mole plough by Mr. Lambert of Gloucester which is that of substituting the force of eight women turning 4 windlasses instead of horses. By this method all poaching is precluded and the expense at the same time much reduced'.

In addition to these various grades of people all closely linked with Wanborough, there were the itinerant workers or 'months men' who were paid about two pounds for the whole month. They came for haymaking and harvest although they were expected to do any farm work that was going on and to be available for it from 4 a.m. till dusk. Additional help came in to shear the five hundred sheep. '9 men came this day to shear the sheep at 1^s/6^d pr. score they shored about 40 each man and went through them very well, and considering how they have lived they came out of their wool not amiss.' I keep the same kind of sheep, Dorset Horns (see plate 3), in the same parish today and the yield of wool has increased from 2½ lbs. per fleece to just over 5 lbs.

It is interesting to find that the problems of keeping Dorset Horns have changed little through nearly two centuries. 'Had up this morning the wethers they have proved exceedingly since we last handled them. I suppose there were not less than a dozen whose horns growed into their heads or hurt them very much, required sawing off, one in particular whose horn growed into his head suppose half an inch



3. Dorset Horns on Berthorpe Farm, Wanborough, today.



4. Morris Birkbeck (1764-1825), tenant of Wanborough Farm in 1794.

this shows the necessity of often having stock in hand though they may seem not to require it.' A docile breed generally, the diarist found as I do that the Dorset Horn rams are a law unto themselves for he records that some fifty ewes began dropping their lambs at the wrong time; the result of what he calls 'stolen leaps'.

In spite of the greatly increased yields which we get today I cannot help admiring this Quaker and what he did. For example one field, Tilehurst, in 1793 yielded 14 cwt. per acre of wheat—'a midling crop' he calls it. Today that same field will yield twice as much in a poor year and three times as much in a good one but the difference in inputs is remarkable. In 1793 everything, except the exchange of some 'hedge wheat' with 'neighbour Ellis' at Shackleford, was found or made within the parish, the fertility being maintained by the sheep, hundreds of loads of muck and the spreading on occasion of the 'moulds of the churchyard'—perhaps the ultimate in recycling. Except for the labour of the months men and the shearers Wanborough was independent of outside resources, yet managed to export from the parish large quantities of wheat, barley, mutton and wool. Today Tilehurst, like my own fields, will need 3½-4 cwt. of fertilizer per acre, chemical sprays, machinery and fuel, all of which come from outside the parish and indeed much of it from outside the country. Although I do not hanker after walking ten miles a day behind a horse to plough one acre, I sometimes wonder if we have made much progress. Perhaps if England's population had not quadrupled since the 18th century we should still be content with yields of a ton to the acre and be independent of all except 'neighbour Ellis'.

The anonymous diarist left Wanborough in September 1794 and went to work at Kelvedon Hall in Essex where he kept the diary going for a short time, although the entries are never again so full or interesting; one suspects his heart was still in Wanborough. The reason for his going was almost certainly the arrival of a new tenant, Morris Birkbeck (see plate 4), who took over the day-to-day management of the farm himself. He was to make Wanborough a model farm that was much admired and written about. He is the Morris Birkbeck who infuriated William Cobbett by deserting England for America in 1816 to become one of the founding fathers of the state of Illinois; but that is another story. Like the Quaker bailiff, Birkbeck never forgot his Surrey farm for at the most western settlement in the United States at that time, in what was known as the 'English Prairie', he cleared the land and made a new farm and called it Wanborough.

A copy of the diary is at the Surrey Record Office, Kingston-upon-Thames. The original is at present held by Mrs. Connie Perkins of Dunsfold.

Postscript

The Editor of *Surrey History*, when accepting the account written above, told me that he would consider it important that the name of the diarist should be established. I had, of course, tried to find this out, but had failed and resigned myself to his anonymity. I think it might therefore be of interest to show how research such



5. Great Barn at Wanborough



6. Wanborough Manor

as the Editor initiated added considerably to understanding the diarist and his way of life.

With the help of Miss G. M. A. Beck of the Guildford Muniment Room it was first established that the Land Tax for the year 1793 was paid by the Morris Birkbeck who I had thought had taken over as tenant *after* the diarist had left Wanborough (see p. 59). The fact that the diary was written by someone employed by such a noted agriculturalist is itself of some importance.

Miss Beck also looked up the minutes of the Guildford Monthly Meeting of Friends to check the possibility of a connection with Kelvedon or Chelmsford. She came up with the name John Greenwood (born 1773), and this clue was taken further with the Quakers' records at Friends House, Euston Road, London N.W. 1, where the Librarian was very helpful. All this led me to the Essex Record Office where I was able to confirm that the diarist was indeed John Greenwood, thanks to the excellent practice the Quakers have of sending a certificate of character when a Friend moves from one Meeting to another. The dates for the certificates fitted exactly the dates of the diary being started at Wanborough and finished at Kelvedon; the certificate from the Guildford Meeting was actually signed by the diarist's late employer at Wanborough, Morris Birkbeck.

In this kind of research one does sometimes find more than one expected, for although John Greenwood came to Wanborough with a good report, and returned to Chelmsford with the same, it must be said that within a year a report goes in the minutes at Chelmsford to say that 'his conduct in some instances has not been so orderly as we could desire and has therefore engaged the attention of the Overseers'. By 1796 he was reported associating 'with bad company, was drinking to excess, disturbed several persons at night, broke some panes of glass . . . '.

Of the rest of John Greenwood's life I know nothing, so far, except that he married at Barking in 1806 and died at Chelmsford, aged 81, in 1855. I should like to know more.

NUTFIELD AND THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WEALD

Dennis Turner

At the turn of the present century it was considered that the Wealden forest had been largely unsettled at the time of the Domesday survey (e.g. Malden 1900, 5-6). More recently, the view that there was settlement on the Weald Clay before 1086 has gained acceptance but it is still usually held that the period 1100 to 1350 saw the greatest rate of forest clearance and establishment of new settlements (e.g. Millward and Robinson 1971, 39-40).

Much of the Wealden part of the Reigate Hundred appears to have been held in 1086 as detached parts of more or less distant manors. For example, Burstow is thought to have been held as part of Mortlake, Leigh of Ewell and Banstead, Charlwood of Merstham, and so on. In 1086 Newdigate—a territorial enclave at the south west corner of Reigate Hundred—was even counted as part of Copthorne Hundred. In such cases little can be inferred from the Domesday record about the state of settlement in the late 11th century. However, in the case of the Weald-edge manors or townships for which there is a Domesday entry, it is possible that something can be deduced.

Nutfield is one such township with a narrow parish a mile and a half wide and five miles long running from the Gault to the Weald Clay, with its main settlement (at least from Tudor times on) around a crossroads on the Lower Greensand ridge. There is no reason to think that the mid-19th century parish boundary departs markedly from the early medieval township and manorial boundaries. In strip parish terms (Topley 1872), Nutfield is truncated by Merstham in the north and by Burstow in the south; it does not run from the Chalk to the Sussex border as do the 'classic' strip parishes. Nevertheless, it has many of the characteristics of a strip parish.

The village name is non-habitative (open land of or by the nut trees) and suggests that the place may have been named before it was inhabited, but the element—*felde* may have some habitative connotation (Gelling 1978, 126-8). It is possible to suggest that Nutfield started out as an appendage of Merstham but the townships had become separated by the time of the well-known 10th-century charter (Rumble 1971).

In the Domesday Book, Nutfield is recorded as a vill independent of its neighbours, with its own church and a population of thirty-five peasant households and ten serfs. The location of only two settlement sites in the parish can be inferred with any confidence from the Domesday entry, viz. Nutfield church and manorial centre (on the Lower Greensand at TQ 309508) and Kings Mill (on the Weald Clay at TQ 298488). No record of either of these sites has survived from before 1086.

There is, of course, no *certainty* that the 11th century manorial centre of Nutfield, or even the church and mill, were precisely on the sites occupied by the later buildings. However, until evidence to the contrary emerges, it would seem to be a reasonable simplifying assumption to accept that this was so. There is no certainty of a nucleated village in 1086.

In 1332, the Lay Subsidy Return of Edward III (*LSR*) nominally recorded the names of the householders owning at least 12s. 0d. worth of goods. The hazards of using the *LSR* as a source of population statistics are well known (Prof. J. F. Williard in *LSR*, viii; Russell 1948, 364) but one characteristic of the Surrey returns offers the possibility that they can be used with more confidence than hitherto accepted. In Surrey the number of persons taxed at the minimum rate of 8d. leads to uncertainty as to whether the taxators did or did not apply the minimum rule properly. The statistical improbability of there being so many people owning just the right amount of goods to be taxed at just that rate suggests that, in many Surrey vills, 8d. was levied as a flat minimum rate on all but the very poorest peasant. The probability can be suggested, therefore, that the thirty-nine householders (twelve at 8d.) of Nutfield taxed in 1332 represent all but a small minority of householders in the territory of the vill at that date. These thirty-nine householders include thirteen 'ate' names and by 1332 between seventeen and twenty settlements can be inferred (Table I) in addition to the village centre on the Greensand at TQ 309505.

Later evidence of medieval settlement away from the village can be adduced for only three additional locations—Bray's Farm (TQ 302494 at the foot of the Greensand scarp—1496 Nicholas Bray, FF, *PNS*): Porter's Barn (TQ 312498 at the foot of the Greensand scarp—1402 Richd. Porter, FF, *PNS*) and Shepherd's Hurst (TQ310463 on the Weald clay—1396 Richd. Shepherde, FF, *PNS*). None of these places need have been inhabited as early as the families are recorded. The picture provided undoubtedly supports the view that the major part of medieval settlement in the Wealden end of Nutfield parish was complete by 1332. By this date there were eight firmly documented settlements on the Weald Clay and there are no certain additions to these until Tudor times. However, there is no evidence that the settlement took place between 1086 and 1332: the first record of a settlement in the documents only provides a probably *terminus ante quem* for the settlement.

Comparison between the Domesday and 14th century population figures suggests, in fact, that Wealden Nutfield may have been settled before 1086. It is generally accepted that settlement expansion reflects population expansion. The similarity of the DB household figures (35 plus 10 serfs) and the 1332 household figures (39) implies precious little population expansion between these dates. One or two of the place-names extant by 1332 are unlikely to have been coined before the Conquest (e.g. Logge and Nash), but there is evidence that settlement names could change in the medieval period and so even this is inconclusive. It can be argued, therefore, that the settlement of Nutfield expanded little between 1086 and 1332 and that the medieval settlement pattern of the Wealden parts of *Nutfield* was substantially complete by 1086. This is not to say that the area of arable or

otherwise cleared forest did not increase after 1086 but the picture of Nutfield that emerges is different from the conventional view of Wealden settlement history. Whether or not this contrasts or equates with the situation in neighbouring parishes only further work can show, but one piece of archaeological evidence may be of some significance—the distribution of moated sites.

Nutfield, like Blechingley and Godstone, is not rich in moated sites whereas Horne, Burstow, Horley and Charlwood are. This could suggest broad differences in the mechanism of settlement or in the date at which settlement took place in the Wealden parts of these different parishes. The construction of moats is today thought to have been largely a 12th and 13th century activity and, where non-manorial moats are found away from villages, as they generally are in Surrey, they are thought often to have been related in some way to the creation of new settlements and forest assarting (Le Patourel and Roberts, 1978). The one known moated site in Nutfield (South Hale) appears, from its name, to be an offshoot of another holding in the parish.

The failure of the population of Nutfield to rise substantially between 1086 and 1332 is noteworthy. The national increase between these dates is thought to have been from just over one million to between three and four million (Russell 1948, 280; Pollard and Crossley 1968, 26) and the reason for the apparent stagnation at Nutfield needs to be found.

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Ass.R. Assize Roll

FF Feet of Fine

LSR SRS Vol. XI Surrey Taxation Returns

PNS Gover, J. E. B. *et al Place Names of Surrey*, 1934

DB Domesday Book

TABLE I

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date location first recorded</i>	<i>Source</i>
On Gault or foot of Lower Greensand dip slope			
Chilmead Farm	TQ 296512	1196	Chilemade mentioned in Charter. (PNS)
*Marchants Farm	TQ 305513	1285	John le Marchant mentioned in Ass.R. (PNS)
Hall Lands	TQ 297517	1296	Robt. de la Holilande named in F. F. (PNS). John ate Holilond (LSR)
*Cormongers	TQ 296512	1332	John Cornmonger (LSR)
Nutfield Marsh	TQ 305515	1332	Bartholemew ate Mershe (LSR)
At foot of Greensand scarp			
*Kentwyns	TQ 311497	1255	John Kentwine mentioned in Ass.R. (PNS)
Bower (Hill)	c. TQ 298495	1263	Wm de la Bure mentioned in Ass.R. (PNS). Stephen ate Boure (LSR)
Thornfrith	TQ 293496	1332	John ate Thornfrith (LSR. Merstham)
On Weald Clay			
Hathersham	TQ 307477 (signs of earth-works)	1196	Heddresham mentioned in charter (PNS)
Hale Farm	TQ 303483	1231	Ralph de Hale (PNS cit Lambert, 1929). Nicholas & Richd. ate Hale (LSR)
Ham Farm (anciently, Blechingly detached)	TQ 298487	1255	Hughenild atte Hamme mentioned in Ass.R. (PNS). Richd ate Hamme (LSR, Blechingly)
Woolborough	TQ 307457	1279	Wilberewe mentioned in Ass. R. (PNS)
Ridge Green	TQ 305485	1317	John de Rugge mentioned in Patent Rolls (PNS) Richd ate Rughawe (LSR)
Hatch	c. TQ 308466 (Hatch Lane only survives)	1332	Robt. ate Hacche (LSR)
Kings Cross and Mill	TQ 299490 TQ 298488	1332 DB	Michael Kyng (LSR) DB Mill
South Hale Farm	TQ 305471 (moated)	1332	Richd ate Suthhale (LSR)
Location lost but probably away from village			
Lodge		1332	Walter ate Logge (LSR)
Milkstreet		1332	Wm. ate Mulkstrete (LSR)
Nash		1332	Robt. ate Nasshe (LSR)
Sande		1332	Wm. and Stephan ate Sonde (LSR)

*These names probably derive from the family and not the family from the place. It cannot be assessed whether or not the present settlement carrying the name was inhabited by the date at which the family is first recorded in the village. Kings Cross and Mill is of similar form but the mill is probably close to the site of that recorded in DB.

THE MANUAL RENOVATION OF ANTIQUE FURNITURE

E. J. Yates

It was necessary to omit many details from my previous article, 'Memories of a Cabinet Maker's Apprentice' (*Surrey History*, Vol. 2 No. 1), and I thought that an introduction to some of the methods used when I was with W. Williamson & Sons of Guildford might help the layman to understand what was involved in the manual repair of antiques.

When I draw you inside the workshop of the 1920s the most important fact you need to know is that all the renovation was achieved with hand tools.

After a period piece was brought into the workshop for repair the treatment it received depended to a certain extent on its age and condition. Each piece was assessed on merit and on its potential from a sale angle. The power of the dollar in particular was very evident. Americans who entered our galleries would casually wave a hand at a Queen Anne armchair, a Tall-boy, a set of Chippendale chairs and say 'I guess I'll have that and that'—a purchase maybe of £1,000 or more. What they pay now is a different matter!

Once the antique had been photographed, a sketched drawing with all relevant details followed. Any part which was not original would be shaded or marked. After these preliminary details and documentation were completed, the piece was handed over to a specialist workman. Each man restored the furniture of one period: Tudor oak (1485-1603) at one bench, Queen Anne, William & Mary walnut furniture at the next. Chippendale, Hepplewhite, Sheraton, Adam mahogany-based and inlaid styles, Marqueterie and Boulle decorated examples, were divided between the other cabinet makers.

Replacement of William and Mary Chest Stand

Occasionally a chest of this period was bought from another dealer, or at a sales auction, minus its stand. Careful preparation was necessary to replace it by studying authentic designs or an original piece already displayed in our galleries. First of all, walnut was selected from stock, and the twist legs were turned on the ancient foot treadle lathe that I referred to in my previous article. Then the base of the stand was the next step. This took the form of a shaped stretcher, roughly one inch in thickness. When it had been made, it was cross-banded with walnut veneer chosen to match the original surface and colouring of the chest, involving the use of many planes and consequent procedures.

Planes

With a few exceptions the planes used were made of wood. We have an example of their production in the family business of Robert Woodford founded at the

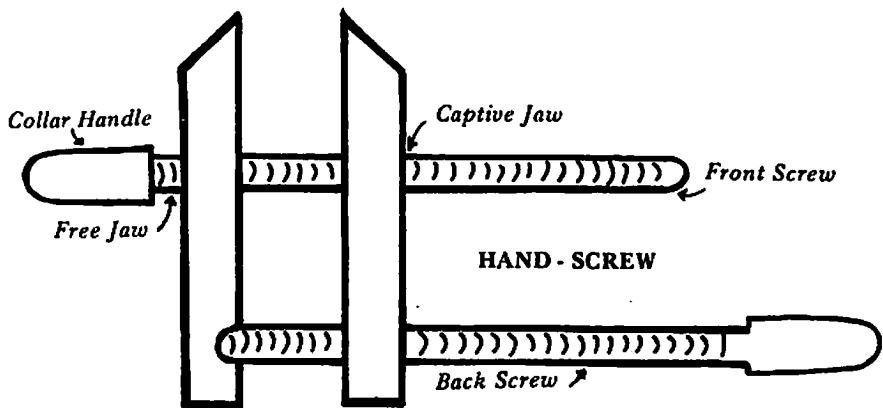
A hand-screw (see p. 68) consists of four separate components: two jaws and two threaded rods fashioned in beechwood. The jaws are rectangular pieces of wood, 7 x 1 3/8 x 1 1/8 inches, bevelled at one end. Each contains two holes, those in the captive jaw being threaded to match the rods. The threaded rods are about 12 to 15 inches in length, approximately 1/2 inch in diameter, with a conical bevel at one end, and a handle at the other. The front threaded rod has a handle with a projecting collar to prevent it passing through the hole in the free jaw. In use, work to be cramped is placed between the bevelled jaws, and the front screw is manipulated to hold the work loosely. Finally the back threaded rod provides leverage to tighten

Hand Screws

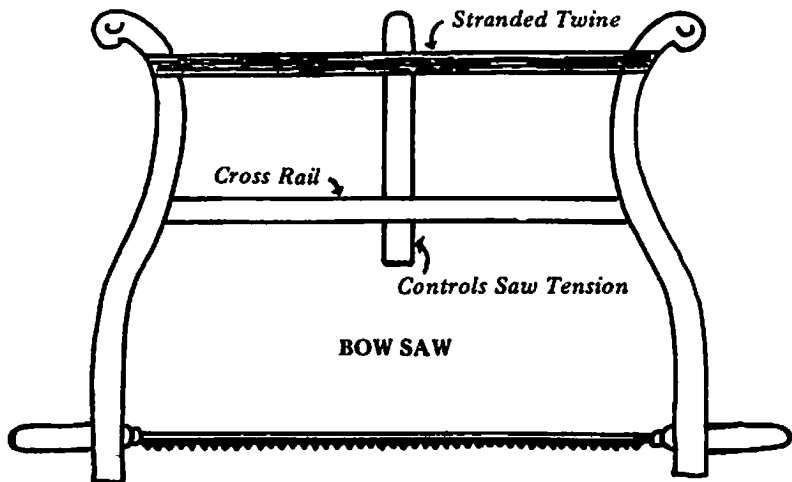
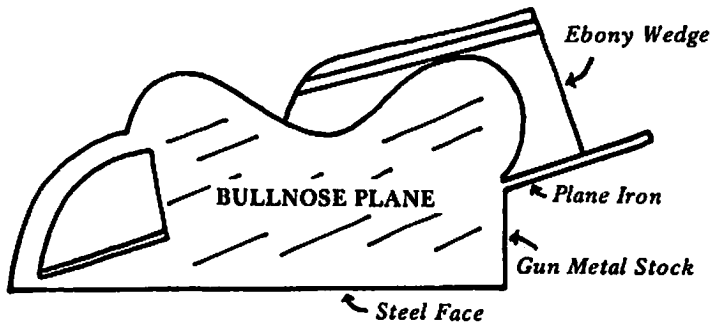
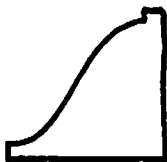
Covering the stretcher of a William and Mary chest stand demanded careful treatment. The underside of the walnut veneer and the surface of the deal base to which it was applied were roughened by using a 'toothing' plane. The iron edge was serrated to make it suitable for this initial phase. Further preparation involved the sizing of the stretcher before the veneer was attached. This gave a firmer gripping bond between the two surfaces when they were glued. Having reached this stage satisfactorily, the following procedure was put into action: glue the veneer, place it in position and lay paper on its surface. This is to prevent the surplus glue which oozes out from adhering to the caul, which could possibly remove the original colour. Lead or zinc cauls already heated on the glue tank are placed on top, with blocks of thick wood to cover them. At this stage the hand-screws are applied and tightened to make the bond already referred to. They are left on, usually all night to dry. Scotch sheet glue was always used; such adhesives as 'Evo-stik' and other modern counterparts were still unheard of. To cross-band the whole stretcher took a long time and needed an additional virtue—patience.

Veneering

beginning of the 18th century. The heyday of wooden planes came in the 19th century, when makers of repuric stamped their name on side or end. Most of mine were produced in the latter half of the 19th century (Stanley steel planes came on to the market just after I entered my apprenticeship). The wood generally utilised for making the smoothing, jack and tri-planes was beech, or at least it was before and during the years I spent in the trade. The first-named was small with coffin-shaped sides and tended to be used in the final treatment on small pieces of wood. The jack plane, on the other hand, came in mainly for the initial preparation, and was usually set on the coarse side. The last-named was the longest, its principal application being the churning of joints or final finishing of larger pieces of timber, when the iron was set at a fine limit. Another member of the family was the 'bullnose' plane (see p. 68), shaped as indicated by its title. This was a very small plane, its use related to close confined work. The one I possessed was made of gun-metal, extremely heavy, and could have been of pre-First World War manufacture. One other worth mentioning, though more of a rarity and applied where shape was essential, was the 'compass' plane, made of beech.



MOULDINGS



with a mechanical advantage of about 2:1. The hand-screw was made in all sizes, the one described being an average one. I would think it probable that the hand-screw has been used as a practical appliance for furniture repair for well over one hundred years. This unique tool proved invaluable when replacing veneer for restoration, and it had a variety of other uses where renovation was involved.

Saws

The 'keyhole' saw, another useful tool, had a narrow blade set in a boxwood handle. An adjustable metal screw was used to shorten or lengthen the blade. Where chests are fitted with locks, holes for keys are cut with this saw, and then inset with a small brass escutcheon.

A 'dovetail' saw, because of its size and fine teeth, was ideal for this precision joint. Caskets, chests-of-drawers, and portable writing desks such as the Victorians made are examples in which this joint was extensively employed. The secret dovetail is a fascinating illustration of where the mitre at the corner of a casket made secret the dovetail it enclosed, adding strength to the final product.

In the 'tenon' saw we find the tool that has no equal when making chairs and their wooden-based seat-frames. (Incidentally, in all upholstered chairs up to and including the Victorian era, with the exception of those of the Tudor and Jacobean periods, horse hair was the padding that filled out the frames before they were covered. Its springy nature moulded the shape, adding durability to the exterior fabric.)

The 'panel' saw I term the general maid-of-all-work in cutting up the choicer woods which restorers use, as the cuts can be made to finer limits.

Finally the 'half-rip' and 'full-rip' saws dealt with (if only by the set of their teeth) the problem woods where wide clearance was necessary in the cut. In old oak of uncertain age many nails could be concealed, and when sudden contact was made by the saw the sound was unmistakable. Reaction in the shop was one of ribald amusement, while the unfortunate victim threw down his tool in disgust. The immediate re-sharpening of the saw was imperative.

Mouldings

Two mouldings extensively employed to complete the line and finish to chests-of-drawers, writing tables and book-cases at the base and cornice, were the ovolo and ogee (see p. 68). The ogee moulding had a double curve, concave to convex; the ovolo's curve was a convex quarter circle. The two mouldings combined give us the broken ovolo. My illustrations I hope convey what can be accomplished by the use of curves to enhance the top of a bookcase or improve the finish of its plinth. Wooden planes to prepare these mouldings are called 'hollow' and 'round', perfectly simple functional titles. They were made in sets of various sizes, dependent on the width of the moulding and the type of furniture on which it was placed. There were also planes that combined the hollow and the round. The 'rabbet' plane, or 'rabet' or 'rebate', can cut a step at the edge or face of the moulding to complete its embellishment. The 'plough' was another wooden plane which had its particular uses in the shaping

of mouldings. As its agricultural counterpart cut a furrow, so this tool cut a groove with its steel blade.

The Bow Saw

A bow saw was necessary for re-shaping chair legs such as the cabriole leg of the Queen Anne period, Chippendale ball and claw, and Regency furniture in the early 19th century. Most of those in use at the time when I was a cabinet maker were hand made; I possessed one myself. They were passed from one generation to another of cabinet-maker craftsmen. The same indeed could be said of most tools, or that they were bought by an apprentice from a senior man when he retired.

The construction of a bow saw (see p. 68) was based on two shaped uprights of hardwood crooked at the top, with a cross rail tenoned into them. A skein of cord was placed round each crook of the uprights, a thin slat of wood inserted into the middle of the cord, free at one end, and the other braced across the horizontal cross rail. At the base of the uprights were two handles with small metal sleeves containing the saw blade. To make ready for use, the slat of wood enclosed within the cord was twisted until the blade was tightened to the right tension. The blade being only about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide enabled the tool to cut at any curve required, so the bow saw had many uses.

Period Furniture

The work of the cabinet maker assumed a new importance in the middle of the 17th century, the Stuart period. Widely selective styles of furniture came into vogue during the reigns of that dynasty, followed in the next century by beautiful pieces introducing the Queen Anne period. The craftsmen during these reigns made extensive use of walnut, which is borne out by the furniture still in existence today. Queen Anne winged-back chairs were distinctive products of a fabulous decade, showing the craftsmanship of English cabinet makers not only in their graceful lines, but in their beautifully-shaped cabriole legs. After two centuries of use, however, renovation of the legs became urgent and necessary. The bow saw with its partner the spokeshave were invaluable tools for this purpose.

When due consideration is paid to the quantity of walnut that was required to make this furniture, with the additional fact that it was home grown and easily accessible, you arrive at the conclusion that it must have been difficult to find timber-bearing trees by the mid-18th century. This may have been the reason for the introduction of mahogany, and the beginning of a new era in furniture design. In the mid-16th century, during Queen Elizabeth's reign, there existed a lane called 'Walnut Tree' outside Guildford's boundary; also the 'Walnut Tree Inn' could be found here, with a few houses huddled round it. History records that by the River Wey there was a large wood on part of Dominican Friary land, granted by Edward I in the 13th century, containing many walnut trees. We recognise the area today as 'Walnut Tree Close'.

Repairing Chair rails, Marqueterie and Veneered Furniture

There was a procedure which my firm often used when the seat rails of caned Jacobean chairs and others of a similar type were riddled with woodworm, and possibly about to crumble if sat on without care. The rails were taken out to be subsequently cored, i.e. the centre of each rail was removed. Literally all that was left was the shell on three sides, at the thickness of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. It is not difficult to realise that to achieve the desired result needed delicate handling and treatment. One false stroke with saw or chisel could destroy the shell and defeat the exercise. A sound piece of oak or beech, whichever was appropriate and of identical age to the original, was selected. The shell was thoroughly sized until all worm holes were permeated inside and out. After the prepared piece had been fitted and glued into position it would be difficult to detect the repair. Finally the tenons were recut and the chair reassembled, and a new lease of life by contrivance and skilled attention had been given to a valuable piece of furniture. The firm of Cobbetts, originally sited at the lower end of the High Street by the side of the bridge, recaned the chair seats to the original design.

Where marqueterie and veneered surfaces were under repair, the same careful technique was followed. The veneer chosen to replace the damage caused either by neglect or wear and tear during centuries of usage was checked for age, colour and grain texture. Every piece fitted was cut at an angle, or shaped to blend, knitted in (if I can use such an expression) to escape detection when examined. I can say, even tempting contradiction, that once a piece of furniture had been restored in our workshops the ordinary layman would find it difficult without guidance to see any sign of repair. Examples of practically all the tools I have described can be seen in the Guildford Museum, to which my small collection has been donated.

The Application of Timber to Furniture

I have dealt with many aspects, methods and tools used in the antique restorer's trade; I now propose to write briefly about one of the most interesting fundamental materials which make furniture possible. Furniture for comfort and decor in every home was contrived from timber by craftsmen who applied the skills and abilities handed down from one generation to another.

The maturing and seasoning of timber used to be a long process carried on out of doors, with no corners cut as they are today, as by kiln drying for example, Home grown timber was plentiful, and no warped or sappy wood subject to dry rot and woodworm was used as it is now. The man in the street during my youth would be aware that oak, mahogany, walnut and deal were all used in the making of furniture; the last-named did not flood the market at that time. Today all kinds of bastard woods can be procured, most of them far removed from all I ever knew, but they can serve a purpose commercially.

Without any question English oak is one of the hardest and most durable in the world—consider, for example, the coffers, cope chests, refectory tables, buffets and chairs, all of the Tudor period, which are to be found in our churches, cathedrals, stately homes and museums.

Walnut revealed a sumptuous colour which age improved. It was a pleasure to work on, and it is easy to understand why it became such a favoured wood from the craftsman's point of view. Our stock was built up mainly from furniture beyond repair, and it was stock-piled on racks at the end of the workshop with a large variety of other woods.

Cuban, Honduras and Spanish Mahoganies

Spanish timber was the finest and one of the most beautiful you could ever wish to see: rich in colour, fine in grain and of excellent working quality. Honduras and Cuban mahogany also presented the same combination. In fact any superlatives I applied could not overrate this specialist wood. Lovely veneers were cut from these mahoganies, especially when they were paired on cabinet doors or the drawers of chests. Mahogany was used not only during the Georgian reigns, but also extensively during the Victorian era. These timbers are now so expensive that they are priced out of the market for normal furniture production, even if it is possible to procure them. They have been largely supplanted by a manufactured mahogany-based ply.

Of all lovely trees, beech in spring or summer surpasses the majority with its beautiful foliage, especially the copper-leaved variety, enhanced by height and the girth of its trunk. The medullary ray is a distinctive feature of the grain exposed when this wood is prepared. Its uses were manifold: seat rails of chairs, main supporting rails of four poster beds, and in the wooden tools of the 18th and 19th centuries; I cite these as examples. Its one weakness is its vulnerability to woodworm, which is remarkable in a timber so hard, strong and durable.

Yew can be used as a fancy wood. I remember how it could be coaxed by steaming and bending into the many elegant artistic examples of the Windsor wheelback chair. There is a special appeal about this unusual style, allied to a depth of colour enriched by age, which makes it quite unique.

The softer woods were extensively utilised for the lining or backs of furniture. Pine was one of those in common use—a soft even-grained timber, much thought of for its easy working qualities. Its durability was evidenced over a long period in the history of furniture, in spite of harsh treatment. All these points, when added together, may account for the inevitability of its eventual disappearance. Deal and American whitewood were introduced from Europe and the American continent, superseding home-grown timber.

What I term the fancy woods were adapted in a varied decorative sense by the designers Sheraton, Hepplewhite and Adam when cross-banding; inlay and floral innovations were also incorporated with remarkable effect. This was an entirely new vogue, with original graceful lines that appealed to the eye. The majority of these pieces were mahogany-based.

The following are all hard woods: rosewood, imported from Brazil and Honduras, dark reddish in colour with purple-black graining; tulip wood from Brazil, close textured with some resemblance to a pink and yellow striped tulip; satin wood, grown in the West Indies and India, possesses a lovely yellow sheen with a finely-mottled silky appearance, and it was most effective when cross-banding the margins of

tables and chests; king wood had characteristics similar to rosewood; ebony, sycamore and box were used for stringing, to finalise the outline after cross-banding, and to complete the contrast.

You will have noticed that the names of tools I have tried to describe are easily understood by the layman, because they are descriptive of their different uses. Is it not a fact that the simple things which actuate our lives often bring most pleasure? I hope my explanations are not too difficult to understand, though it is easier to demonstrate than to explain on paper. New approaches in tool manufacture and in working methods have changed the cabinet trade considerably in the past fifty years. I have tried to give a professional view of the antique restoring trade as I knew it.

In conclusion, can we ever forget the philosophy of those craftsmen of the past who did not count the cost, but were always prepared to put into their effort a conscientiousness unmatched in this modern world? The beautiful furniture they created is not only a living example of their work but a source of pleasure, bringing delight to the eye of connoisseur and layman alike, to this very day.

NEW MATERIAL FOR SURREY HISTORIANS

Surrey Record Office—Accessions of Records, 1978

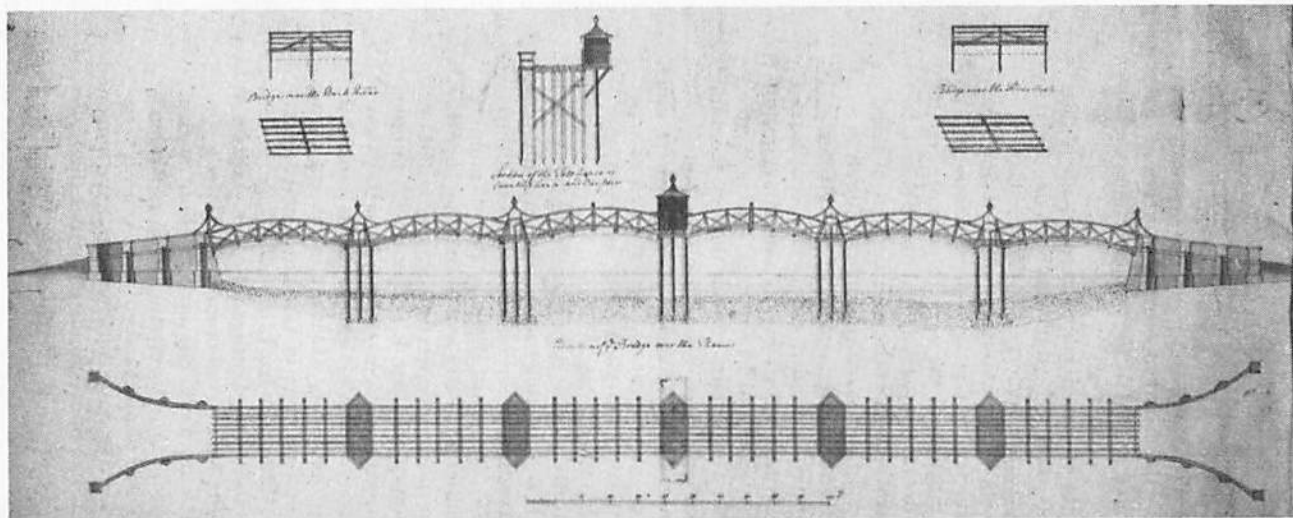
D. B. Robinson (County Archivist)

Although 1978 did not see accessions to Surrey Record Office, either at Kingston or at Guildford, to match the scale of the Broadwood and Attlee records received in the previous year—two accessions which between them comprised about 1,000 volumes and 500 boxes of loose papers, taking up 400 linear feet of storage space—the total number of accessions remained as high as in 1977.

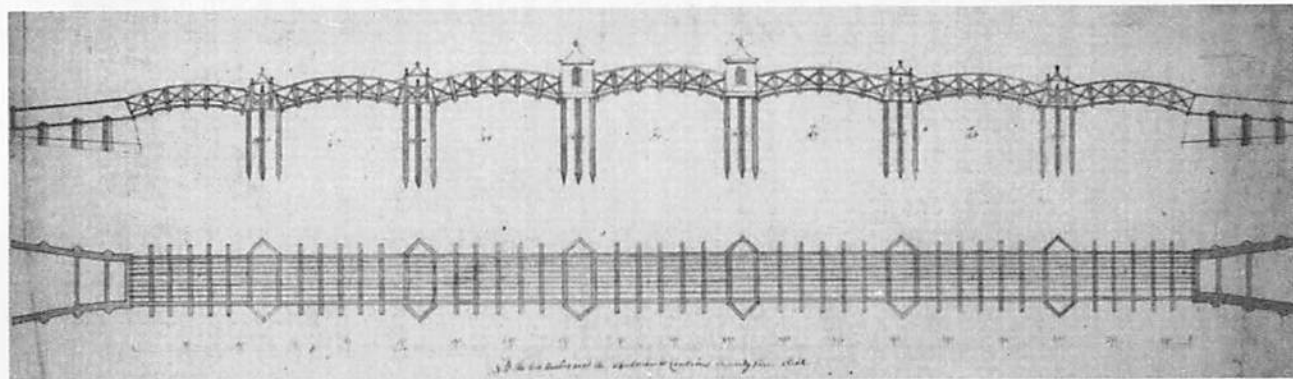
There were 125 separate accessions of records at Kingston and 56 at Guildford, and they came from the usual wide range of sources: churches, local authorities, business firms and private individuals.

Two documents of particular importance, articles of agreement for the construction of the first Hampton Court Bridge, were deposited by Eland Hore Pater-son, a London firm of solicitors, through the British Records Association. In 1750 James Clarke obtained an Act of Parliament for the construction of a bridge near the point then used by the Hampton Court Ferry which, together with the manor of Moulsey Pryor, had been leased by his family since 1677. The agreements are between Clarke and two carpenters who contracted to build the bridge, Samuel Stevens of St. Clement Danes and Benjamin Ludgator of Southwark. The earlier agreement, dated 15 August 1752, describes the proposed six-arch structure in detail and includes a plan and elevation (see plate 1). The cost was to be £2,420. The second agreement, of 10 February 1753, states that 'whereas the said Benjamin Ludgator and Samuel Stevens in raising and building the abutments of the said Bridge on the Moulsey Side were obliged for the better Sustaining and Supporting the said Bridge to advance so much further than was first proposed into the Banck Side there for good Bottom and Holding for such purpose that it became necessary to Extend the dimensions of the said Bridge and plan so as to make an Addition of Fourty Five Feet or thereabouts to the same and whereas it have been considered by the said Benjamin Ludgator and Samuel Stevens how to make such Addition and yet preserve the order of Building and the Model of Plan thereof . . . It may be best done by Adding one Arch to the other Six making the same and such Additions of Work on the Top thereof as is more particularly described in the new plan'. The additional cost was £100. It was also laid down that 'They will make Use of such Planking in the course of the building of the said Bridge as shall be as free from Sap as what is used in the King's Yards in the Building of his Majesty's Ships of Warr and that the points of the piers on the upper Side of the Bridge be guarded by Iron Cutters of Sufficient Strength to defend the Bridge from any Barges or other heavy Vessels driving against it.'

The bridge (see plate 2) has been described as 'a peculiar, crazy affair of very frail construction . . . not picturesque it was reminiscent of the Chinoiserie of



1. Plan of proposed six-arch Hampton Court Bridge, attached to articles of agreement for the construction of the bridge, 15 August 1752.



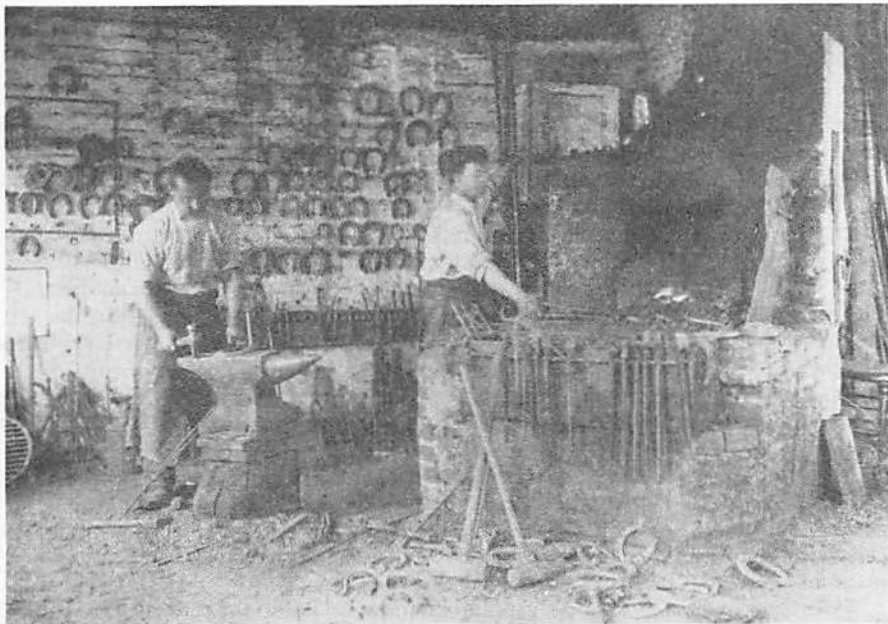
2. Plan of proposed seven-arch Hampton Court Bridge, attached to articles of agreement for the construction of an additional centre arch, 10 February 1753.

the 'Willow Pattern'. (R. G. M. Baker, *East and West Molesey (Surrey). A Dictionary of Local History*.) It was a toll bridge and had a life of 25 years from 1753 until 1778. The articles of agreement form part of the archive of the Standish family of Scaleby Castle, Cumberland, and were deposited together with deeds of the Red Lion Inn, Kingston, 1555-1807. The greater part of the Standish family archive is held in Cumbria Record Office.

Completely different in character but also of considerable interest is the Minute Book of Charlwood Cottage Garden Society, 1867-87, which has been deposited by Mrs. J. Shelley, Chairman of Horley Local History Society. The Cottage Garden Society was founded in or about 1863 'to encourage Labourers and Working Men in cultivating the best and most useful Specimens of Cottage Garden Produce . . . to keep their Gardens neat and well stocked throughout the year, to promote economy and industry in the Cottage by the use of Bread, home made and home baked, to induce bee-keepers to adopt the latest improvements in the management of Bees, and exhibit Honey of the purest and best descriptions, to stimulate children to observe—and take an interest in the collection and arrangement of wild flowers, etc.' The minute book includes, in addition to the minutes themselves, accounts, lists of exhibitors, posters, programmes and press reports for the annual exhibition. The exhibition comprised 29 classes for vegetables and 17 for fruit, among them figs and quinces, together with classes for flowers in pots and cut flowers, including 'Best Floral Device' and 'Best Miniature Garden'. There were classes for honey and home-made bread and children's classes, including 'best basket of wild flowers' and 'prettiest garland'. Prizes were also given for the 'neatest and best stocked cottage gardens throughout the year', the 'best cultivated allotment plots' and even 'the greatest number of Wasp's nests, exhibited in Glass Cases'.

The most important body of local authority records deposited during the year were the records of the former Guildford R.D.C., dating back to the formation of the Council in 1895, and also including records of predecessor bodies, Guildford Rural Sanitary Authority (minutes 1864-95), Guildford Highway Board (minutes 1864-95), Blackheath Highway Board (minutes 1864-81) and Godalming Highway Board (minutes 1864-82). Also included in the deposit were records inherited by the Rural District Council on the dissolution of Farnham R.D.C. in 1933: minutes of the R.D.C. itself, 1895-1933, and of its committees, and of Farnham Highway Board, 1864-98, and Rural Sanitary Authority, 1873-94. These records contain a wealth of material for the understanding of the history of local government during the past century. They reveal, for example, that members of Farnham Rural Sanitary Authority visiting Camberley in April 1875, 'found the Backs of the Cottages at Cambridge Town in a very filthy state, the W.C. close to the Cottages, the Well within 6 ft. and also a filthy Slush Hole within 10 ft. of the Well. In our opinion the Water is contaminated by the Soakings of the above into the Wells. The analysis confirms this.'

Through the good offices of Miss Herridge, of the Domestic Buildings Research Group, Mrs. N. Ryde of Westcott has deposited photographs of the Forge at Westcott in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The forge is believed to have remained in the hands of the Ryde family from 1763. The photographs show that the Rydes



3. Making horseshoes at The Forge, Westcott, near Dorking (no date; probably c.1900). The men are probably Arthur and Philip Ryde.



4. Bomb-damaged shops opposite New Malden Baptist Church, 17 Aug. 1940.

were not only blacksmiths but wheelwrights, iron-mongers and cycle manufacturers and later engaged in car hire and garage work (see plate 3 and cover picture). Mrs. Ryde has also deposited an inventory and valuation of the goods of Henry Ryde, blacksmith, in 1864, and other records.

Photographs of more recent date were kindly presented to the Office by a lady from Essex. These photographs showed bomb damage in New Malden in 1940 (see plate 4), in particular damage at New Malden Baptist Church. They are an interesting record of wartime damage in the area and complement photographs of the destruction by bombing of St. Mark's, Surbiton, also in 1940, which were deposited together with other records of the church. Fortunately, both our depositors of photographs provided detailed captions: too often, photographs lose a large part of their value as historical evidence because they are not precisely described and dated –sometimes indeed they are quite unidentifiable.

Mr. Paul Sowan, of Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, who has frequently deposited records of stone and lime workings in the past, deposited annual reports of Brockham Brick Company, 1894-1916 (incomplete), letter books, cash books and other records of Brockham Lime and Hearthstone Co. Ltd., and plans and correspondence of Dorking Greystone Lime Co.

Several accessions in the past year have comprised additions to records already held in the Office. There have been two small additional deposits of Broadwood documents from Lyne and we have purchased from a dealer in Hampshire an order book of Attlees of Dorking, 1818-20. The largest such additional deposit was an addition to the archive of the Royal Philanthropic Society. The main body of records of the Society, whose reformatory or farm school was moved to Redhill in 1849, was deposited some fifteen years ago, a fact which recently received favourable mention in *The Local Historian*. The additional deposit includes copies of a number of early printed papers, among them the Society's first report, published in 1788. This explains, 'It is about eight months, only, since the Philanthropic Society was founded; its primary object being to reform the morals of the poor . . . The Society is formed rather on the principles of police than of charity . . . The consequence . . . of excessive and misconducted charity is plainly to produce a spirit of indolence . . . Of the two classes of poor, the industrious and the idle, there is no question which is the happier; those only who are useful are comfortable and respectable . . . The object of the Society is . . . to unite the Spirit of Charity with the principles of trade, and to erect a temple to philanthropy on the foundation of virtuous industry.' This was to be achieved 'by seeking out, and, as Orphans, training up to Virtue and usefulness in life, the Children of Vagrants and Criminals, and such who are in the Paths of Vice and Infamy'. Property was soon acquired, first at Bermondsey and later in St. George's Fields, but the Society's early ideal of a farm school was only achieved with the move to Redhill. The remainder of the accession is predominantly of 20th-century records.

Some of the most interesting accessions at Guildford Muniment Room have been documents which throw light on social life in south-west Surrey in the 19th and early 20th centuries. A small glimpse into life in Pirbright vicarage in the 19th cen-

tury is provided by the journal kept by Eliza Owsten, the vicar's wife, between November 1875 and August 1878. This journal is the record of a very quiet life in which the chief events recorded are letters from and to, and visits from, her children. In the Christmas holidays of 1875 Mrs. Owsten took her 11 year old daughter Bertha into Guildford to buy winter clothes and 'spent a good deal of money'. Bertha was 'much pleased with a new Hat that transforms her into a Russian. Vanity', commented her mother sadly, 'seems innate in women'. Mrs. Owsten's reflections show her as a genuinely pious woman, but she does not seem to have felt called to do a great deal of parochial activity, apart from supervising the needlework teaching in the school and running a village clothing club. She decided not to help when a local branch of the Girls' Friendly Society was started, thinking it unnecessary. ('Girls should look to their mothers for protection in worldly matters.') The sound of 'uproarious singing' coming from the Fox on Christmas Day made her write 'How I wish that every public house was shut up and that the labourers' wives had proper dwellings'; this is one of the very few 'social comments' in her journal. There is very little mention of outside affairs, even local ones, but she did go to watch Captain 'Savin' (Capt. Salvin of Sutton Park) hawking and, on another occasion, using cormorants to catch fish. Both of these she thought pretty poor sport from the spectator's point of view; the hawking she felt, should have been done on horseback. The journal also contains much detail about local weather conditions.

Another insight into social life in Victorian Surrey is given by the minute book of Frensham School Management Committee, 1845-70, which was deposited with other records of the parish. The book gives an idea of the immense amount of voluntary effort which went into providing even a meagre amount of schooling. A school was built by subscription in 1845-6 and in April 1846 a committee of management was set up. Each member was entitled to nominate ten boys for whose fees (2s. 6d. per half-year) he would be responsible and another two boys whose parents could pay. A master was appointed at a salary of £30 per annum plus the half-crowns from the fee-paying pupils. By July there were 60 boys on the books but attendance in the early years was very irregular and there was continual difficulty in collecting fees from parents and also, perhaps not unconnected with this, difficulty in finding suitable masters. In 1853 it was resolved to establish a girls' school on the same lines. In 1854 the Committee decided to affiliate to the National Society and in 1858 took steps to improve the school in order to qualify for a grant from the Committee of Council (i.e. the Privy Council) on Education. A master from the Winchester Training College was appointed and in 1859 the Government Inspector's report said that this master 'seemed to have had to make a beginning in everything'. The master now had £40 per annum and there were also a certificated mistress (paid £30) and a pupil-teacher.

One interesting book came to light when it was discovered at a jumble sale in Guildford and given by the purchaser to Guildford Muniment Room. The survival of the records of small extinct institutions is subject to many hazards and without this volume, which covers the period 1902-1927, little would probably be known

of the Men's Christian Band of the Guildford Railway Mission, although a building known as the Railway Mission Hall survived until at least 1953. The Mission seems at first to have had only seven or eight members but by 1910 it had increased sufficiently to acquire the former Baptist Chapel in Martyr Road, Guildford. Mission visits to railwaymen remained an important part of its work but it also considered itself sufficiently influential to comment on public affairs: 'The Congregation assembled in the Railway Mission, Martyr Road, unanimously passed a resolution strongly deprecating the attitude of the Town Council in the action of granting facilities for sports on the Allen House grounds on Sundays; and the creating of Sunday labour; and calls upon the Council to take steps to revoke the decision at once'.

Two small groups of papers relating to Reigate have been deposited by the Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. One of these comprises papers of Wilfred Hooper, the historian of Reigate, including extensive notes on and transcripts of manorial and other documents; the other, which had been presented to the Borough by Reigate Conservative Party agent in 1956, consists of song sheets, advertisements and broadsheets for the February 1858 election.

Records of the manor of Byfleet have been deposited with us pending a final decision by heirs of the previous owner. The records include court rolls, 1603-1930, minute books, 1794-1810 and 1828-67, and minutes of proceedings of the Commissioners for the Byfleet and Weybridge Enclosure Act. They are, of course, an important source for the history of the area covered by the manor, which extended into Weybridge.

Among records deposited by the Clerk to the Kingston Petty Sessions was the minute book of Kingston Highway Board, 1879-85. The Board was responsible for the upkeep of roads in an area extending as far as Merton in the east and Cobham in the west and the minute book is a detailed record of the problems of road maintenance in the late 19th century.

As always a considerable proportion of records received in the past year comprised deeds. The main deposits of deeds have related to the manor of Bletchingley and the Clayton estates there and elsewhere in eastern Surrey (copies, dated 1777, of deeds from 1677), deeds of property in central Kingston, 17th-19th centuries, and accumulations of 19th-century deeds of properties in Reigate and Mickleham.

Parish records have been received from St. Mark and St. Andrew, Surbiton, St. Philip, Cheam Common, St. Mary, Horsell, and St. Olave, Mitcham (K) and Little Bookham and Effingham (G) and additional deposits from Christ the King, Salfords, St. Mary, Barnes, St. Luke, Kingston, St. Lawrence, Morden, and St. Margaret, Chipstead (K) and Ash, Bisley, Capel, Frensham, Holy Trinity and St. Mary, Guildford, and Westcott (Surrey) and Bentley and Holy Trinity and All Saints, Hawley (Hants) (G). The Bookham and Effingham records consisted of two small notebooks. The first, from the Great Bookham parish records, contains a variety of notes in different hands made between 1677 and 1710. They include an account of the glebeland of Effingham, lists of tithes and a copy made from a sale catalogue of seeds and plants, as well as various useful notes: 'the plague to avoid, the smell of gunpowder

is good', and 'the toad stone good against any sting'. The Effingham booklet is a catalogue of the books of John Miller, vicar of the parish from 1696 until his death in 1724. Miller was described by Manning and Bray as 'a man of research', and the book contains closely-written notes, many of them relating to North America and possibly not all derived simply from Miller's reading (he had been Chaplain to the King's Forces at New York).

Two deposits of Methodist records were received: from Kingston circuit and an additional deposit from Redhill and East Grinstead circuit. The Kingston records include the circuit steward's account book, 1863-91 (until 1872 the contributing societies ranged as far as Walton on Thames, Cobham and Ripley), and a trustees' minute book for Esher, 1886-1951.

In addition to describing records deposited in the past year, it may be useful to describe one class of records which, although not newly received into the Office, has recently been made readily accessible to searchers by the preparation of improved finding aids.

Between September 1977 and March 1978 three graduates hoping to be accepted for archives diploma courses were employed at Kingston working on our deposited plans—plans of public undertakings deposited with the Clerk of the Peace (more recently the Clerk of the County Council) between c. 1790 and the present day. These plans relate to such undertakings as canals, railways, water, gas and electricity works, dockyards, improvements to the Thames navigation and sewage works. The pre-1889 plans may cover any part of the area of 'old' Surrey and they therefore show, for example, the various proposals to construct docks in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe (the 'Surrey Docks') in the early 19th century, the development of tramways in Southwark and the growth of the railway complexes at Clapham Junction and Norwood Junction, as well as, for example, the Basingstoke and Wey and Arun Canals, improvements in the Thames between Egham and Kingston, the development of Surrey's railway network and early 19th-century improvements to the Brighton road. Some of the most interesting plans relate to proposals which were never executed. In the early 19th century there were repeated proposals to dig a canal (on one occasion described as the 'Imperial Ship Canal') linking London with Portsmouth; another abortive canal would have joined the Itchen at Winchester with the Wey at either Farnham or Godalming.

The plans, of which one copy was deposited with the records of Parliament and one with the Clerk of the Peace for each of the counties affected, show the area to be covered by the proposed undertaking; the books of reference which accompany them list the owners and occupiers and give a brief description of the property affected. The early plans represent in some cases the first large-scale mapping of the areas covered, although the areas covered are generally small or, as in the case of railway and canal maps, cut a narrow swathe through the county.

The students provided a detailed description of each undertaking and its documentation, together with indexes arranged by place, engineer/surveyor and nature of scheme. The place index shows, for example, that 46 of the plans include parts of Guildford, 42 include parts of Woking and 82 parts of Reigate. The catalogue

and indexes have already been found invaluable by researchers and staff.

In conclusion, I must, as always, express our grateful thanks to all those who place their records in our care for safe custody and consultation by researchers. There are now more than 3,000 visits paid each year by researchers to Kingston and Guildford, which illustrates the importance of the records we hold. I am especially grateful to those members of local historical societies who help us to ensure the permanent preservation of original records relating to their own parts of Surrey: their action is a considerable service to the history of those localities and will put future generations in their debt.

Note

Accessions at County Hall, Kingston, are indicated in the text by (K); accessions at Guildford Muniment Room are indicated by (G).

Annual lists of *Accessions of Records*, providing details of all accessions received during the year are available for 1975 (25p plus 20p p & p), 1976 (35p plus 20p p & p) and 1977 (50p plus 25p p & p). A similar list for 1978 is in progress. Copies are obtained from Surrey Record Office, County Hall, Kingston, and (to personal callers only) Guildford Muniment Room, Castle Arch, Guildford.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY AND RECORD OF SURREY

John Gent

Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

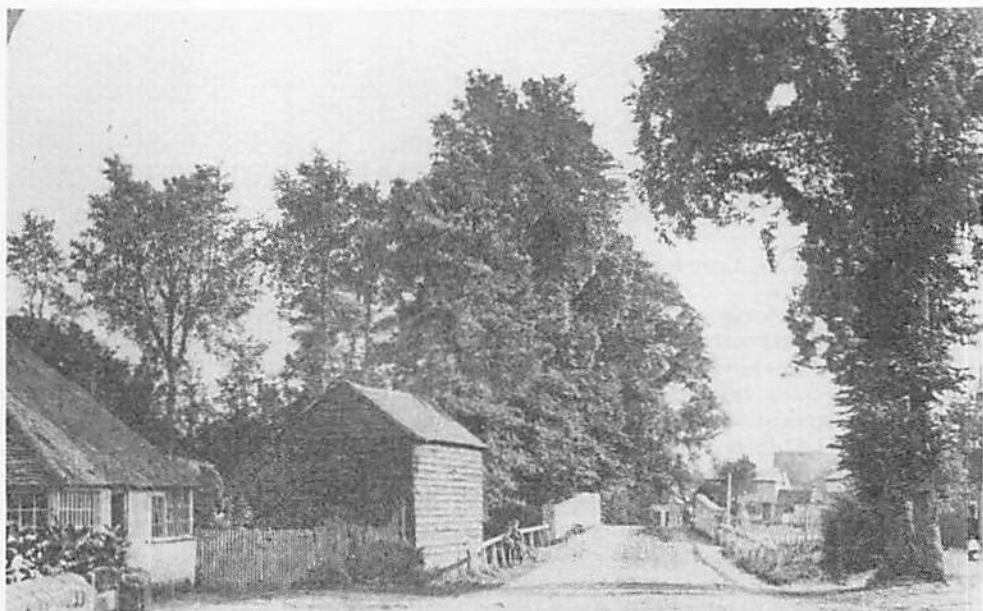
Historical records can be grouped broadly under the four headings of material objects, written records, oral traditions and graphic records. Until the mid-19th century the latter depended on drawings or paintings and frequently suffered from lack of accuracy, being affected by the personal impressions and style of the artist. The development of photography made it possible to record instantaneously events, places and buildings with an accuracy hitherto only dreamt of.

The use of the *camera obscura* was common knowledge amongst educated people by the 18th century, and from the mid-17th century the optical apparatus available could have been used for photography, but there was insufficient knowledge of the chemical processes needed to produce a permanent image. It was not until 1826 that Nicéphore Niépce took the first successful photograph, but it needed an exposure of eight hours. It was several years before Jacques Mandé Daguerre, who for a short period worked in partnership with Niépce, managed to reduce the exposure time to 20-30 minutes, and 1837 before he found a satisfactory method of fixing the picture with a solution of common salt. Details of this first practicable method of photography were revealed at a joint meeting of the Académies des Sciences and Beaux-Arts at the Institut de France on 19th August 1839 and this is regarded as the official birthday of photography. Meanwhile, in England, William Henry Fox Talbot in 1835 had successfully taken some tiny views of his home, Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire.

By the 1850s improved methods had been introduced although the equipment needed was heavy and cumbersome. The work of Philip Henry Delamotte, who took several hundred excellent photographs for the Crystal Palace Company recording the reconstruction of the building on Sydenham Hill between 1852 and 1854, and of Roger Fenton, who recorded scenes during the Crimean War in 1855, demonstrated the wide possibilities of photography and its value for historical record purposes.

Many people took up photography as a hobby in the latter years of the 19th century, photographic societies and clubs grew up in many towns and districts, and numerous photographers recorded their own locality in some detail. The earliest local photographic survey, of Warwickshire, was founded by W. Jerome Harrison and Sir Benjamin Stone, following a paper read by the former to the Birmingham Photographic Society in 1889. Sir Benjamin Stone was responsible for forming the National Photographic Record Association in 1897 and was probably the greatest personal force in the movement for photographic recording.

On 5 May 1902 a meeting was held at the Lecture Hall, Town Hall, Croydon with the intention of setting up a Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey and a pro-



1. Chobham about 1866.



2. Oxted about 1890.

visional committee was formed. It was decided to invite various societies to send delegates to a further meeting, and that gentlemen interested in the movement be invited to join the provisional committee.

A second meeting was held on 9 May 1902, when by resolution the Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey was incorporated and a Council formed, consisting of the provisional committee and the delegates of societies willing to co-operate.

The first Council meeting was held on 13 June 1902 and the following officers were elected: Chairman, William Whitaker; Local Vice-Chairmen, Hector Maclean (President of Croydon Camera Club) and John Bulbeck (Vice-President of the West Surrey Photographic Society); Hon. Treasurer, William Topley; Hon. Curator, Louis Stanley Jast; Hon. General Secretary, Dr. John Morrison Hobson; and Hon. Survey Secretary, Harry D. Gower.

It was then resolved that Viscount Middleton be asked to be President and that the Surrey County and Borough Members of Parliament, the Chairman of the Surrey County Council and the Surrey Mayors be asked to be Vice-Presidents. At the following meetings of the Council rules were drawn up and the organisation of the Survey was completed by forming the Executive Committee, the Photographic Committee, and Sectional Committees for Architecture, Art and Literature, Anthropology, Geology, Natural History and Scenery and Passing Events.

The Croydon Microscopical and Natural History Club, formed in 1870 as the Croydon Microscopical Club and retitled the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the beginning of this century, had in 1889 formed a photographic section. The Society enjoyed the active support of many of the leading professional men in the town, and all the officers (with the exception of the local Vice-Chairmen), of the newly formed Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey were active members of the Society, and were involved in its photographic section while all except Jast were members of its Council. William Whitaker was a well-known geologist who had retired to Croydon in 1896. William Topley was Secretary of the Croydon Gas Company, a local councillor, and a member of the libraries committee. Louis Stanley Jast became Chief Librarian at Croydon in 1898, where he remained until 1915. He is credited with many innovations in public library practice. John Morrison Hobson was a doctor and also a local councillor (he was later to be author of *The Book of the Wandle*, (London 1924)). Harry Gower was a keen photographer and it appears largely due to his enthusiasm that the Survey was formed.

At the next Annual General Meeting of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, held on 20 January 1903, the President, James Epps (Jnr.) expressed his disquiet at the formation of the new Survey in the following terms:

'Since our last meeting a society has been formed in Croydon with the title of the Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey. This Society is in no way antagonistic to ours. At the same time, I personally am of the opinion, that had our society been active, and doing its duty in Surrey, and had it been collecting and recording everything of interest as it should have been doing, such a survey would not have been called for. Now that the survey has been formed, I am in no way opposed to it; at the same time considering so many of our members have joined

it, I fear it shows that at the present time there is an amount of restlessness even with our own members, and a desire to fly to something new.

I must say that I think our Society should have been capable of doing all that the Surrey Survey and Record is prepared to do. No man can serve two masters and if our members who have joined the Surrey Survey and Record are working for it they cannot be working for the Natural History and Scientific Society as a man has but a limited time for recreation.'

James Epps' fears were not without foundation, as in 1904, the Annual Report of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society commented on falling attendances at meetings of its photographic section, and by 1907 the section had ceased to organise meetings, although a photographic committee continued in existence for some years afterwards. There is, however, no evidence of any serious rift within the Society as many of those involved with the newly-formed Survey continued their association with both bodies for many years and it seems likely that an independent county-wide organisation, bearing the name of the county, was considered far more likely to achieve its objects than one associated with a single town on the eastern extremity of the county.

The Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey flourished. At the second Annual General Meeting held in Croydon on 12 March 1904, Viscount Middleton as President observed that the western part of the county with which he was most intimately connected had not done its share of the work. At this time the objects of the Survey were stated as 'to preserve by permanent photographic process, Records of Antiquities, Anthropology, Buildings of interest, Geology, Natural History, Passing Events of local or historical importance, Portraits of Notable Persons, Old Documents, Rare Books, Prints, and Maps, and Scenery so as to give a comprehensive Survey of what is valuable and representative in the County of Surrey.'

The 1905 Report included a note to contributors that 'All photographs are subject to approval by the Council of the Survey: and must be sent in trimmed but unmounted, preferably of whole-plate, half-plate or quarter-plate size, but larger sizes will not be excluded: Platinotype or carbon are preferred, although under exceptional circumstances, untuned Bromide may be admissible: each print must be accompanied by the following particulars written on a separate slip:—

a) Subject; b) Date of Negative; c) Compass point where known (i.e. direction in which camera is pointing); d) Name and Address of contributor; e) Brief description; f) Process; Printed slips will be supplied on application to the Survey Secretary. It is desirable to indicate in some manner the scale of pictures, and for the purpose the scale selected and used by the Society of Antiquaries is recommended.'

High standards obviously were required from contributors who not only had to pay a small subscription, but also provide the photographs free of charge.

The Survey continued very successfully until the first World War. During its first few years, prints from the collection were exhibited at places as far afield as Dover, Maidstone, and Newcastle, apart from Guildford, Reigate, Kingston, Croydon and other places in Surrey. At the Crystal Palace in 1907, 700 representative prints were



3. The old custom of playing football in the streets of Dorking on Shrove Tuesday, 1901, being put down by the police at 4.45 p.m.



4. Linkfield Street, Redhill, 1887.



5. Toll gate, Woodhatch, Reigate, looking south ? in 1860s.

6. Wardle's (Builder's) Yard, Lower Street, Haslemere, 18 August 1886.





7. Wandsworth High Street and All Saints' Church, late 1890s.

8. Shopping by sleigh at Banstead, 27 January 1926.



exhibited and Sir Benjamin Stone addressed the Annual General Meeting held in the Electric Theatre, in the South Nave of the Palace.

By 1910 there were some 5,000 photographs in the collection and the Survey took the initial steps in forming a Federation of Survey Societies. Reports of the 1912 Annual General Meeting appeared in the National press and at the 1914 Annual General Meeting, Mr. G. E. Brown, Editor of *The British Journal of Photography* said that 'in the early days of the movement, Sir Benjamin Stone made a fatal mistake of burying the results of his efforts in the British Museum' (presumably a reference to the National Photographic Record Association collection). 'Surrey as his information went was first to lay down the doctrine that the proper function of a photographic survey was that it should be local and locally preserved.' By this time the collection numbered over eight thousand photographs.

The activities of the Survey were severely curtailed by the first World War. The Thirteenth Report (for 1914) recorded that 310 photographs were added during the year, and the Fourteenth Report (covering 1915 to 1919) recorded the addition of only 155 photographs.

The Fifteenth Report (covering 1920 to 1924) was the last to be produced in printed format and it recorded the addition of 450 photographs. An appeal was made for young people to come in and continue the work of the survey.

From 1925 until the outbreak of the Second World War annual publication of the reports was resumed, but in typewritten, duplicated format. The number of photographs added to the collection annually during the period rarely exceeded two hundred. Whereas before 1915, Annual General Meetings had been held in other parts of the county, such as Reigate, Guildford and Wimbledon, they were now invariably held in Croydon. No longer were the Surrey Mayors and Members of Parliament involved as Vice-Presidents, although Lord Ashcombe, Lord Lieutenant of the County, was President.

An attempt was made in 1935 to set up branches of the Survey in Kingston and Wimbledon, but apparently without success.

The Annual General Meeting held in June 1938 was the last before the Second World War, when all activities of the Survey ceased. However, the next Report of the Council, for 1947, commented on the economic difficulties in getting restarted and also commented on the loss of members due to removal from the district, or death.

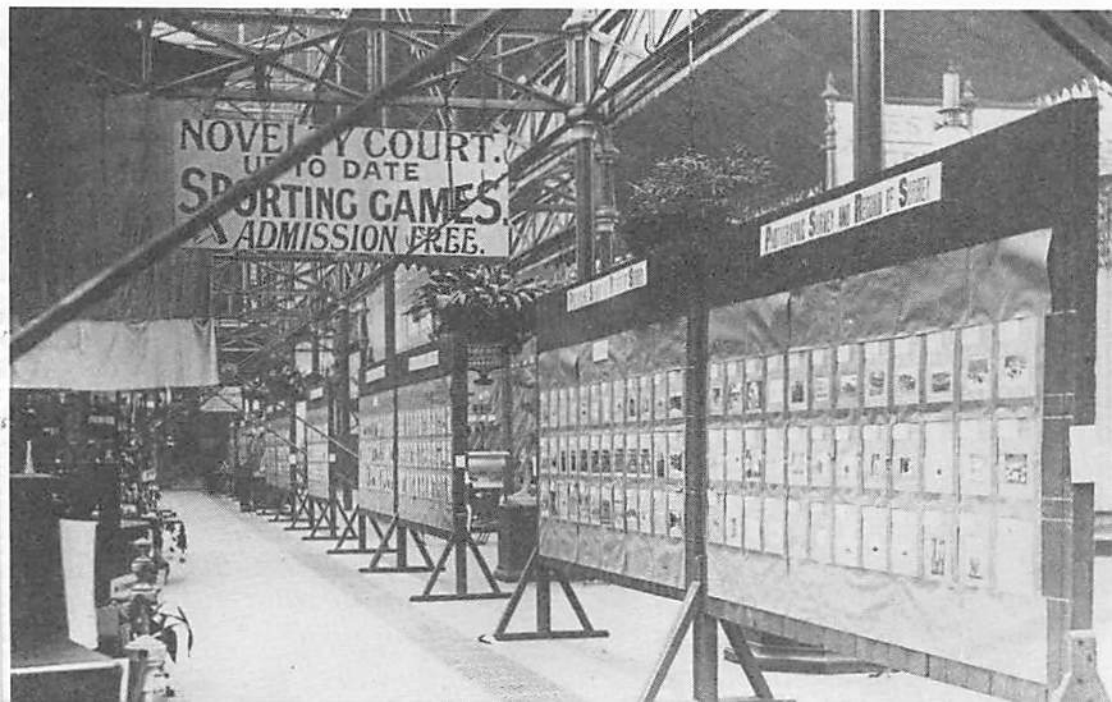
The Survey continued for a few more years until 1952 when the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer resigned. The latter, A. G. Thompson, had replaced William Topley in 1924, and undoubtedly continuity in this post had been very useful to the Survey. A meeting was held on 20 May 1953 at which it was decided that the Survey should cease to exist as a Society with officers and members holding annual or any meetings, that the collection should be kept together at Croydon Public Library, and that anyone wishing to contribute prints in future could still do so.

By coincidence, Harry Gower died later that year, aged 87 years. He had been a member of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society for 70 years and although unable to take an active part in the activities of the Society or the Survey



9. Unstead Farm, the great kitchen, pre-1904. (photo by Gertrude Jekyll)

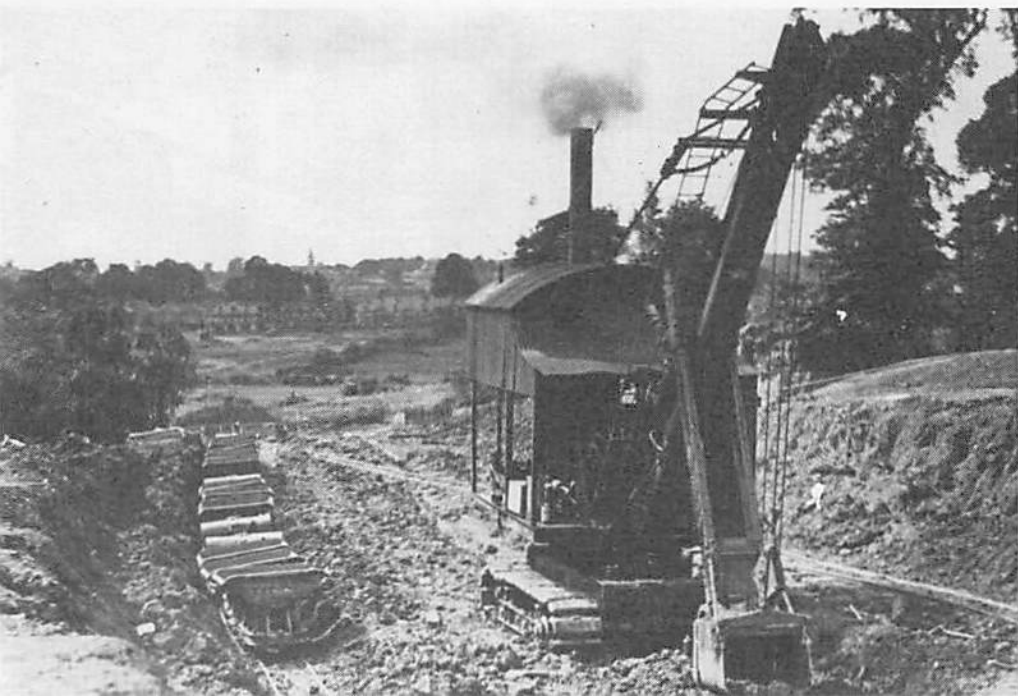
10. Sixth exhibition of Survey Photographs (of PSRS) at the Crystal Palace, 21 March 1908, 3.45 p.m.





11. Sawpit on Wimbledon Common about 1880 (abolished soon after 1888)

12. View taken during construction of Sutton—Wimbledon railway branch line, at Sutton. Cheam church on horizon, 25 August 1928





13. Charcoal burners' huts, The Chase, Haslemere. These huts accommodated a family of six. The huts had a framework of wood, and were covered with sods. The measure (on ground—white) is one foot. 16 August 1910

for some years, he had maintained a keen interest in their activities. There is little doubt that it was largely due to his efforts that the Survey had been formed.

Thus, 50 years after its formation, the Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey effectively ceased to exist. It was perhaps doomed from the start. Surrey is not a homogeneous county, and the interests and character of East and West Surrey differ considerably. Lines of communication across the county have never been strong, and the Survey was Croydon inspired and based. It was started at a time when there were few public libraries and was under the sponsorship of Croydon Public Library, then the only large system in the county, and a very advanced and progressive institution. The Survey's most successful years coincided with those of Louis Stanley Jast as Chief Librarian. One of the most famous librarians of this century, he no doubt was a source of inspiration and encouragement in the Survey's early years.

Moreover, the Survey had stressed that the proper function of a photographic survey was that it should be local, and locally preserved. Local historians will appreciate the difficulty in adequately covering a small parish. A county-wide survey, depending on amateur, voluntary effort and without funds even to cover minimum

expenses, is at best likely to be very patchy in its coverage. As local libraries were established in other parts of the county, it was a natural and logical step for them to build up local photographic collections. The First World War dealt a serious blow to the Survey from which it never fully recovered, and as with most voluntary organisations, it depended largely on a small body of enthusiasts, and found difficulty in replacing them. This all leads to the conclusion that the Survey had served its purpose, but there is little doubt that its achievements were considerable. First, there is the collection of some 10,000 prints and 1,800 lantern slides. Many of these would undoubtedly not have survived if they had not been passed to the Survey. Secondly, there is the influence which the Survey had nationally, and on the principles of photographic survey work. Members of the Survey travelled to various parts of the country during the Edwardian period and lectured on the work of the Survey. Assistance and advice was given on the formation of similar Surveys in other counties. In 1916, Gower, Jast and Topley were joint authors of *The Camera as Historian*, a book which is 'still regarded as the standard book on photographic surveys'.*

The Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey was a pioneering body and the foundations laid in 1902 have had a far-reaching effect on photographic survey work. It is only in recent years that most local historians have appreciated the value of photographic records and even today far too little serious, methodical photographic survey work is undertaken. There still tends to be an attitude that history happened before the 19th century, and a lack of appreciation that history is happening today. But frequent requests were made to members of the Surrey Survey to record passing events and scenes of everyday life as being of at least equal importance to that of buildings.

To the Surrey local historian, frustrated by gaps in the photographic records of his own area of interest, reference to the collection of the Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey could be rewarding, and we should be grateful for the enterprise and initiative of its founders nearly eighty years ago. Their example could, with advantage, be followed by local libraries and local history societies today.

Notes:

*Philip Hepworth, *Victorian and Edwardian Norfolk from old photographs* (Reprinted 1972), Introduction.

Annual Reports of the Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey deposited in Croydon Reference Library.

Proceedings and Transactions of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society.

Further Reading:

Helmut and Alison Gernsheim, *A Concise History of Photography*, second printing, revised 1971.

CRAFT INDUSTRIES IN SURREY The 1978 Symposium

Victoria Houghton

An enthusiastic audience of more than 300 people attended a Symposium on 'Craft Industries in Surrey' held by the Surrey Local History Council at Dorking Halls on Saturday 18 November 1978.

In the morning Mr. J. Geraint Jenkins spoke on 'An Introduction to Traditional Country Crafts'. In the afternoon Dr. A. Crocker gave a talk on 'Catteshall Mill, Godalming—Wool and Hand-made Paper', followed by Mr. P. Barron on 'Craft Potteries of West Surrey'.

The popular theme of the meeting was reflected in great variety through the displays mounted by more than twenty member societies and invited organisations.

With the title 'Surrey Watermills' the Bourne Society displayed (a) colour photographs, sketches and newspaper articles on Surrey watermills, (b) a cut-away drawing of how a mill works, (c) brief histories of some Surrey mills that can be seen today, (d) 2 model watermills and (e) tape-recording of a 'miller'.

The exhibits sponsored by the Surrey Small Industries Committee of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas featured products from traditional rural industries: wrought ironwork, saddlery and leatherwork, handmade bricks, horticultural pottery and furniture restoration. These and many others, contrary to popular belief, are still flourishing today.

The Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society exhibited photographs and extracts from published and manuscript documents to illustrate mining and quarrying in Surrey. The Mining Records Office was established by the Government about 1839. The 1858 Mineral Statistics included an appendix devoted to non-metalliferous miners' products in Surrey. Other Acts and statistics gave a good picture of Surrey's underground workings, sand, stone and fuller's earth. Aspects of present-day safety were touched upon in the display, as well as incidents which occurred whilst the workings were in operation.

The Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) showed some houses of Surrey's craftsmen. These ranged from the small cottages of weaver and blacksmith to the splendid homes of the ironmaster and skinner. To date over 1,000 reports on the smaller domestic buildings in Surrey have been deposited with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. In front of the display a spinner showed her skill.

Dorking and Leith Hill District Preservation Society's Historical Group: although well endowed with natural resources Dorking has never allowed any one industry to dominate it. The stand showed this diversity with a display of 19th-century letter-heads with associated exhibits, a section on chalk, lime and brickmaking, and lastly the 'tourist industry' of the town.

East Surrey Museum Project: the Cobhams of Lingfield, the Gaynesfords of Crowhurst, the Evelyns of Godstone, the Clares of Blechingley—these are some of the East Surrey families that were illustrated in heraldry and brass rubbings. The East Surrey Museum Project hopes to have a worthy home at Caterham for its history and archaeology.

Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society displayed 19th-century posters recovered from a derelict printing works in Egham High Street, where they had been stuck on the wall, layer upon layer. The earliest dated from 1810. A method had to be developed to separate them and mount them on suitable backing paper.

Esher District Local History Society: there were many cornmills on the Mole, several later becoming wire or paper mills or even gunpowder works. Boats were built by the Thames and bronze statues cast until 1939. The motor industry still survives. Claygate bricks were used at Hampton Court. The display mounted by the Society touched on all these aspects of Esher's history of industry and manufactories.

John Evelyn Society: Wimbledon Windmill, a hollow post corn mill built in 1817, is believed to be the last of its kind. The mill, recently restored at a cost of about £25,000, has been opened as a Windmill Museum. This display included past and present views of this interesting landmark.

The exhibit of the **Farnham & District Museum Society** showed the history of the Farnham coach-builders Abbots, who built gliders, as well as hand-made bodies for expensive motor cars, from before the First World War to 1972.

The plain needlework, embroideries and needlework implements on show from Guildford Museum illustrated a few of the many techniques employed during the 18th and 19th centuries and were taken from the Museum's collection of British domestic embroidery, which ranges in date from the 18th century to the present day.

The **Holmesdale Natural History Club, Reigate**, exhibited Bronze Age flints collected in the Reigate area—Earlswood medieval pottery of about 1300 and a drawing of an early kiln—some clay pipes found during archaeological excavations—pictures of four Windmills used for grinding corn, and two water mills—the last working forge, in West Street (once there were three)—the Redhill Tannery, Linkfield Street (demolished 1974).

Leatherhead and District Local History Society: one of the oldest of Surrey's industrial sites, the Roman tileworks at Ashted were well qualified for inclusion in the Symposium. Photographs of the excavations, maps, examples of its products and descriptive material helped to demonstrate some unexpected facets of Roman life in Surrey.

Mayford History Society: in 1898 for a few years a manufacturer of artificial stone flourished in Mayford. The works were established on a siding adjacent to Worplesdon Station. The exhibit included an illustrated article from the *British Architect* of 18 November 1898, together with contemporary photographs and other material.

'The Physic Gardens of Mitcham' was an adaptation of the Merton Historical Society's exhibition for the Merton Festival in the previous May. More land was used in Surrey for the cultivation of physic plants than in any other county, and the majority was in and around Mitcham.

Minet Library: the display arranged by the London Borough of Lambeth Archives Department concentrated on industries carried on in the northern part of Surrey, near or along the Thames.

The Shere and Gomshall Local History Society divided their display into three parts: (1) The Tannery, Gomshall—there is evidence of tanneries in Gomshall since Saxon times. The present tannery dates to the early part of the 17th century. Skins are imported from all over the world. (2) Water-cress—the Coe family have farmed water-cress in this area since the 17th century. (3) Fustian Weaving— Mr. T. Reid still carries on the craft of weaving in Shere. Records show Fustian weaving was done from 1603 to the middle of the 17th century.

The display of the Surrey Archaeological Society's Industrial Archaeology Committee illustrated the work of the Committee in (1) locating and surveying industrial remains, (2) attempting to identify their importance and seeing to the preservation of those of outstanding significance, either for industrial history generally or for the history of the development of the county, and (3) educating members of the Society and of the public to understand and appreciate our industrial heritage.

The Surrey Record Office mounted a display illustrating crafts and craft industries in Surrey from the 14th to the 19th centuries, using documents held at Kingston and Guildford, with particular emphasis on woodworking, windmills and water-mills, and the leather industry.

The exhibit of the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society was entitled 'The Art of the Monumental Mason as exemplified at Weybridge', based on a survey recently completed of the monumental inscriptions in Weybridge parish churchyard. Photographs of monuments and plans showing their position were included.

The Wealden Iron Research Group, our guests at the Symposium, exhibited photographs showing the remains of the industry both above and below ground from the Roman period up to about 1830. Also on display were various pieces of iron ore and slag which helped to identify the type and operation of Wealden iron-working sites.

Weybridge Museum: as well as being dubbed 'The Cradle of British Motor Racing', Brooklands was also the birthplace of the British aviation industry. In September 1907, four years after the Wright Brothers had made the first ever powered aeroplane flight, Alliot Verdon-Roe took to the air at Brooklands with what was little more than a 'flying bicycle' powered by a 6 h.p. JAP engine. It can be justifiably claimed that Brooklands has witnessed a greater range of aeronautical technology than any other single site in the world.

SURREY WATERWAYS

The 1979 Symposium

Victoria Houghton

'Waterways' was the theme for the 1979 Symposium organised by the Surrey Local History Council at Dorking Halls on Saturday 1 December, when more than 300 people were present.

The introductory talk was given by Dr. P. Brandon, who spoke on 'Surrey Waterways: The Geographical Background'. In the afternoon the speaker was Mr. C. E. Woodrow, whose subject was 'Watermills'.

Some 25 member societies found a variety of ways to illustrate the subject of the Symposium.

The Bourne Society illustrated the Bourne with unusual photographs, chronicles since 1471, Water Company records, and their 30 inexpensive publications. Famous as the Woe-Water-to-Camden, Aubrey and Defoe, its ominous risings still inspire Bourne Society writings, television features and the 1300 members of Britain's largest local history society.

Croydon Natural History Society had on sale its publications *Victorian Croydon Illustrated* and *Croydon: The Story of 100 Years*.

The Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) showed well-heads and recent discoveries. The finds included a stone tithe barn, the only Surrey cruck so far recognised by them, and Range Farm which may have been moved.

Dorking and Leith Hill District Preservation Society Historical Group depicted Dorking's Waterways in relief, from Westcott to Betchworth. They showed mills, bridges, industries, floods and those unusual geological phenomena: The Swallows.

Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society displayed the River Thames where it separates Egham from Wraybury, and the artificially created Virginia Water Lake, shown in relief. The Lake feeds the small River Bourne which powered three mills: Harpesford Mill, site unknown; Trumps Mill, still standing, and Thorpe Mill, destroyed by the M25 Motorway.

Esher District Local History Society took the River Mole as its subject, showing a map of the Mole and places of interest and people of notability who have lived in, or been associated with, the immediate vicinity of the river.

The John Evelyn Society Museum featured the River Wandle within the London Borough of Merton with a display of photographs illustrating conservation as well as residential and industrial properties. A trout taken from the Wandle in 1891 was a reminder of the pollution of our own time, happily now being remedied.

Farnham Museum and William Cobbett Society combined their exhibit and offered for sale *Cobbett's New Register* Vol. 3 Nos. 1 and 2, and *William Cobbett* by S. A. Booth. Farnham Museum showed a collection of William Cobbett personalia. Cobbett was the author of *Rural Rides*, *Cottage Economy*, *The English Gar-*

denier, and about 200 other books and pamphlets. He was born in Farnham in 1763 and died at Normandy, Surrey, in 1835. His tomb is in Farnham Churchyard. The William Cobbett Society has been formed to increase the public's awareness of one of Surrey's and England's greatest writers.

Guildford Museum concentrated their display on the Guildford end of the Wey and Godalming Navigations and included a model barge made by one of the Wey Navigation barge builders.

The Historical Association had seven of their publications on display, each selected for its bearing on local history. These and many others on a wide range of historical themes can be obtained from the Association headquarters.

The Holmesdale Natural History Club put on a display of items kindly lent by the East Surrey Water Company; these included two old wooden water pipes. A plan and pictures of watermills in the vicinity of Reigate and Redhill on the River Mole and its tributaries were shown.

The Leatherhead and District Local History Society celebrated in 1979 the opening of their own Museum in Hampton Cottage, Leatherhead. In their display at the Symposium the central stretches of the River Mole were shown in pictures; floods in 1968; adaptation of Fetcham Spring to public water supply; Grand Imperial Ship Canal (1826), which would have come through Leatherhead, Dorking, Holmwood and Horsham; and the Mill at Slyfield at Stoke D'Abernon.

The Mayford History Society illustrated how in 1619 the agricultural pioneer Sir Richard Weston cut a three-mile channel—he called it 'my new river'—from the Wey at Stoke, through the grounds of Sutton Place, to irrigate the fields and improve their yield of grass and hay.

The Minet Library brought along publications.

Send History Society. River Wey Navigation Workshop at Worsfold Gates, Send. The Workshop was built for the construction of lock gates at about the time the Navigation was completed in 1653. It has been in continuous use for the same purpose ever since, and the method of making the gates has changed little. The tools on display were typical of those always used, and a section of a gate gave some idea of the work involved.

The Shere, Gomshall and Peaslake Local History Society showed in their exhibition how the River Tillingbourne has not only enhanced the beauty of the valley through which it flows, but how it has also brought industry and prosperity.

Surrey Archaeological Society's Surrey Industrial Group. We welcomed this newcomer to the Symposium. To publicise the formation of the new Group its exhibits showed the various projects and research work being undertaken by the members:

1. The Basingstoke Canal Group brought their display unit to show the type of work undertaken in canal restoration.
2. A quiz on identifying various industrial sites throughout the county.
3. A small display describing with photographs the history of the water-mills in the Dorking area.

The Surrey Archaeological Society's Library display consisted primarily of a series of photographs of some of their extensive collection of prints, maps, drawings and manuscripts relating to canals and waterways in the county.

The Surrey County Library showed publications on the subject of waterways.

The Surrey Record Office display was based not upon the theme but on displays mounted by them for International Archives Week (5-12 November, 1979). The title was 'Archives: Surrey and worldwide'.

Sutton Central Library combined with the Wandle Group to show material from the Wandle Exhibition: known mill sites and material relating to the industries along the banks of the Wandle.

Walton and Weybridge Local History Group had a display of the River Thames at Walton-on-Thames and Weybridge, showing maps, prints, and early postcards, with special emphasis on the bridge over the Thames at Walton.

The Weybridge Museum and the Walton & Weybridge Natural History Society combined to illustrate the wild-life along the Wey Navigation today. Now that its original use is ended the Navigation, as part of the National Trust, has much to offer the holiday-maker, Rambler, botanist and bird-watcher.

We welcomed the Wey and Arun Canal Preservation Society who are working on the restoration of the canal.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS ON SURREY FROM PHILLIMORE

A HISTORY OF SURREY

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Published in December 1977, this important book has rapidly established itself as the basic introduction for local history in the County, and should be on the bookshelves of everyone with an interest in the making of the Surrey environment of today. Profusely illustrated, it is certainly the most attractive book in print on the County, and at only £6.95 it represents a considerable bargain for general readers and tourists alike. As with other volumes in the same Darwen County History series, the work contributes greatly to general interest in local history and introduces many new enthusiasts to its pursuit.

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SURREY INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY, A Field Guide: Gordon Payne has provided a concise account of more than 200 sites; an essential and inexpensive working handbook for local historians, teachers and students; at only £1.95, with 38 half-tone plates.

A HISTORY OF BAGSHOT AND WINDLESHAM: This well-written study by Marie de G. Eedle has quickly achieved widespread recognition as a valuable addition to the published history of the County and is excellent value at £5.95.

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