SURREY HISTORY

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SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

Chairman: Kenneth Gravett, M.Sc. (Eng.), F.S.A.

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 meetings including a one-day Symposium on Local History 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.

Annual Subscription to the Council for local history societies is £10.00. Membership on the part of local history societies will help the Council to express with authority the importance of local history in the county.

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SURREY HISTORY

Vol. 3 No. 5

Cover illustration: 'The World's largest Transformer', built at Hersham, Walton-on-Thames

Editor: Anne McCormack
Published for the Surrey Local History Council

PHILLIMORE

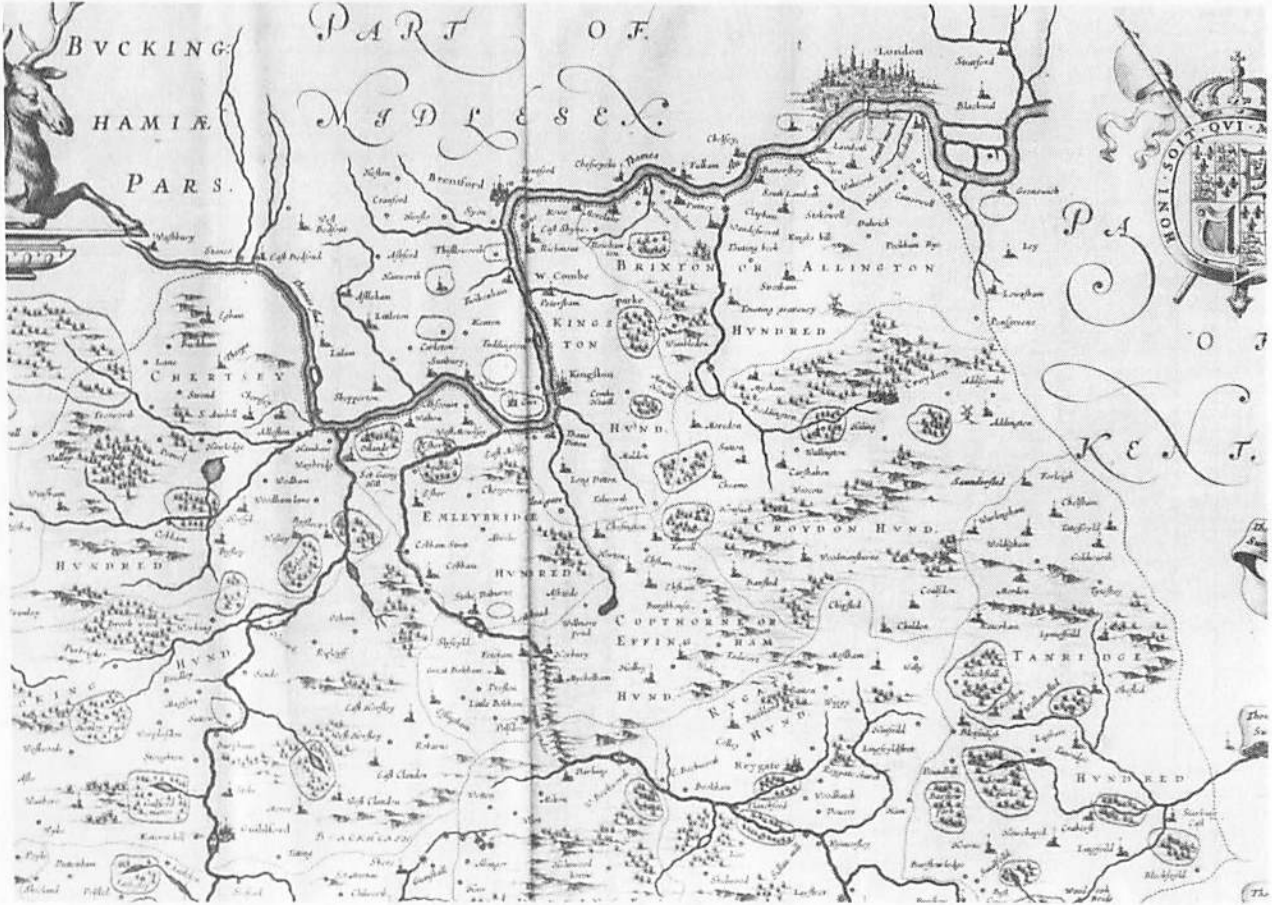

Fig. 1. North-East Surrey in 1645. From J. Blaeu's map of the County (*courtesy of Surrey Record Office*).

THE CIVIL WAR IN NORTH-EAST SURREY

Richard Milward
President of the Wimbledon Society

Sir Richard Wynn

Above the crown of the hill overlooking the All-England Lawn Tennis Courts, Wimbledon, there rises the imposing spire of St. Mary's Parish Church. Inside the nave, just in front of the altar rails, lies one of the least known monuments of the English Civil War. It consists of a large black stone slab, with a badly worn Latin inscription. Roughly translated, this reads:

> Here lies Richard Wynn of Gwydir in the county of Caernarvon, Knight and Baronet, Treasurer and Councillor to the Honourable Princess, Queen Henrietta Maria, and descended from an old and illustrious family of North Wales. He died 10 July 1649, aged 61.

Sir Richard was a leading courtier and close friend of both Charles I and his wife. As Queen's Treasurer he looked after Henrietta's many estates, seven of them in Surrey, including Nonsuch and Wimbledon. He was also a wealthy country gentleman and was regularly elected to Parliament, in 1640 as MP for Liverpool, a Court borough.

At the outbreak of Civil War in 1642, like the majority of Englishmen his loyalties were divided. Unlike most, however, he managed to stay sitting on the fence throughout the war. On the one hand he kept his seat in Parliament and remained on friendly terms with John Pym. On the other he continued to serve the Queen, as Keeper of her Park and great Elizabethan house at Wimbledon.

Throughout both Civil Wars he stayed at his post, trying with decreasing success to defend the 'Popish' Queen's property against incursions by off-duty soldiers. Among the innumerable tasks he noted in his Account Books were mending 'the Park pales which troopers had thrown over', paying a man for 'watching in the Park two nights for the safeguarding of the deer', and counting the cost of soldiers who burgled the house and 'destroyed the fish ponds'.

No wonder that after six and a half years of unending strain and worry he became seriously ill. In July 1649, he died, only a few months after the execution of the King, and was buried in the parish church at his special request. He was one of the many indirect casualties of the Civil War and an example of the harm such wars can inflict even on individuals who do their best to keep out of them.[1]

Surrey and the War

Left to themselves, most people in Surrey would have followed Wynn's example and kept out of the war. Their county is usually rated as one of the main centres of support for Parliament. In fact its backing was mainly secured by the prompt action of one man, its Deputy-Lieutenant and MP, Sir Richard Onslow of West Clandon. He raised a regiment as soon as he saw war was near and seized control of the Militia arsenal at Kingston and the gunpowder mills at Chilworth. He seems to have taken the Royalists by surprise and encountered little opposition.[2]

In the north-east of Surrey (an area bounded by the Thames, the Wandle and a line linking Thames Ditton and Croydon) there is little sign of enthusiasm for his action. Only at Mortlake do there seem to have been many active supporters of Parliament. Here the people still bitterly resented the King's compulsory purchase of half their fields and common in 1636 to make his 'New Park'.[3]

Elsewhere, especially in small towns like Kingston and Croydon, there is evidence of many Royalist sympathisers. For the vast majority of people in small villages like Wimbledon or Merton, however, the impression from local records is of bewilderment, typified by the intercepted letter to a Surrey militiaman from his wife:

Fig. 2. *Ye Olde Post House*, Kingston, formerly the *Crane Inn*, where the County Committee met regularly.

I pray you to come home, if you can come safely... You do not consider I am a lone woman. I thought you would never have leave me thus long together.[4]

Somehow Parliament had to persuade such unenthusiastic people to support their war effort. Pym and his fellow MPs realised the importance of north-east Surrey, above all control of Kingston, which not merely was the site of the Militia depot and a Royal Saltpetre House, vital for the making of gunpowder, but also had one of the few bridges over the Thames. So, as in other areas they controlled, they set up a 'Committee for the Safety of this County' or a County Committee. It was composed of leading landowners, like Sir John Dingley of Kingston, Henry Tunstall of Croydon and Thomas Locke of both Wimbledon and Merton. It met regularly at the *Crane* in Kingston Market Place or at the *Greyhound*, Croydon, and issued a stream of orders for raising, feeding and financing Parliament's armies.

Its records now lie at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, ten large parcels of documents among the Commonwealth Exchequer Papers.[5] They provide a picture of how each village in Surrey was drawn into the War and bring home in a way few other records do the effect the Civil War had on the lives of ordinary people, even far from the battlefield. North-east Surrey saw very little fighting, but it could not escape close involvement through the billeting of soldiers, the paying of never-ending taxes and the imposition of major changes in both religion and society.

Billeting of Soldiers

Perhaps the change they resented most was the appearance on their streets of growing numbers of soldiers, probably for the first time since the Armada. In November 1642 the people of Kingston had a preliminary taste of military occupation. In the weeks following the failure of the King's attempt to advance on London, they had to provide billets for an entire Parliamentary regiment led by Colonel Sir Henry Cholmeley. When the soldiers began to take up winter quarters, the town council complained that they cost 'many thousand pounds by losses, charges and damages' and petitioned that 'they may be removed to some other place in the county'.

Instead of being removed, more soldiers arrived and 'other places' were involved. During 1643 Quarter-Masters demanded 'free quarter' in most towns and villages in north-east Surrey. Colonel Cunningham's Regiment settled in Richmond, Colonel Bartlett's in Mortlake, while both Colonel Cooke's and Sir Arthur Haselrig's regiments descended on Croydon. Most households had to put up at least one soldier, often for weeks at a time. The owners of large houses inevitably came off worst. For instance, at Merton Grange Rowland Wilson, though a leading supporter of Parliament, had to find room for 'divers commanders and other officers of the life-guard of the Earl of Essex'. No wonder the people of Richmond compared the soldiers to 'so many Egyptian locusts who feed upon us at free cost'.

As well as Free Quarter the soldiers commandeered whatever else they needed: bread, cheese, bacon, hay and oats for the Army at Farnham; linen and bedding for the troops besieging Basing; horses for the cavalry and artillery. In August 1643 30 teams of horses with their drivers were taken to pull 'the train of artillery now in Kingston churchyard'. Such horses were rarely seen again by their owners, even if they supported Parliament,

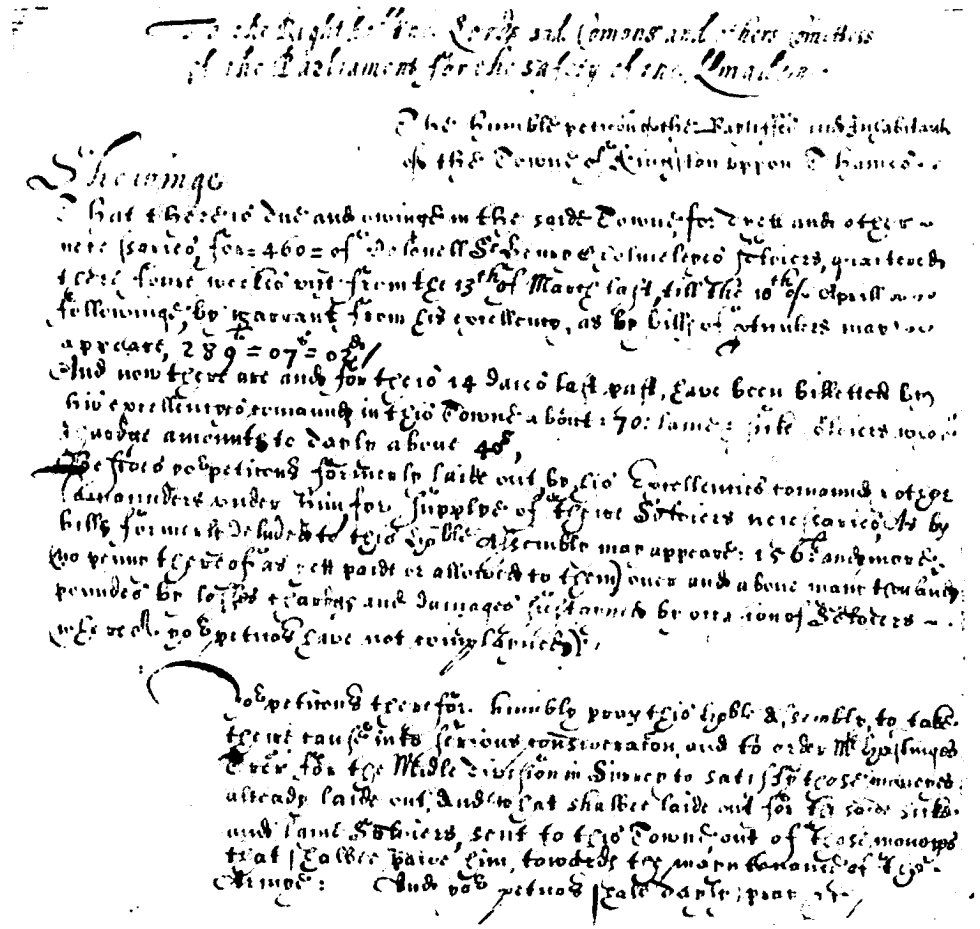

Fig. 3. Copy of a petition by Kingston Borough to Parliament asking for compensation for the billeting of soldiers in the town, 22 April 1643 (*courtesy of Kingston Borough Council, KH1/2/1*).

as did Richard Ferrand of Mitcham. He complained that his team 'had been pressed upon pretence they were to return again next day', but six weeks later there was no sign of them.

On top of all this the soldiers caused damage, stole (especially food for the pot like hens or fish) and above all brought the dreaded plague from London. In 1643 there were serious outbreaks of the disease at Wandsworth, Putney, Barnes, Kingston and Wimbledon. One innkeeper, Richard Edwards of Barnes, claimed he had lost £20 in business 'because of a foot soldier that died in my house of the plague'.

These soldiers should have been local men. Every year a number had to be provided for Parliament's armies by every town and village, according to the size of its population. Croydon had to provide 20, Kingston 10, Putney 8, Merton 4 and Wimbledon only 3. But not one of the Wimbledon soldiers were local. In fact the only Wimbledonian who probably fought in the war was the blacksmith, John Barton. He suddenly vanishes from parish records in 1643 and only reappears in 1647 after the end of the fighting.

Taxes for War

To pay these soldiers and provide them with munitions, Parliament taxed the counties under its control on a scale never known in England before. In the 1620s for instance, Mitcham had had to pay occasional war subsidies of about £20 to the King. In the 1630s it had to find the unprecedented sum of £50 a year to meet Charles I's demand for Ship Money. By the 1640s, however, it was faced with Parliament's even more revolutionary taxes of over £200 a year, four times as much as the villagers had ever paid before.

The two main taxes were the Monthly Assessment and the Excise. The first taxed every town and village according to the size of their population. So Croydon had to pay £10 a week, Kingston £5, Mitcham £4 and Wimbledon only £2. the sum was divided among the householders by the local Constable, on the advice of two senior inhabitants. The bulk of the money was paid by wealthy landowners like Sir Thomas Dawes of Putney Park (£2 a week), but even the relatively poor, such as William Penn, a Mortlake carpenter, had to find two pence a week. Taxation at such a level was very unpopular, but even more hated was the second tax. Excise was a novel sales tax imposed by Pym in 1643 on a wide variety of goods: from tobacco, wine, cider and beer to pepper, salt, soap and even meat. It affected everyone from the highest to the lowest and was especially unpopular with butchers and innkeepers.

As a result of such taxation, every householder in small villages like Merton would have had to find on average £10 a year to finance Parliament's war effort, whether they approved of their cause or not. Suspected Royalists were even worse off. They had to pay extra taxes or even had their estates confiscated. At East Sheen Francis West was taxed £12 to provide 'light horse' for Parliament and a further £400 for 'the relief of the commonwealth by such as will not contribute to Parliament'. In addition his house was searched three times and plate, weapons, money and horses were seized. No wonder Sir Thomas Dawes recorded in his diary for November 1644, just before his arrest as a 'delinquent', that he had hidden 'everything precious in the house underground'.[6]

No wonder too that many people did their best to avoid paying. At Mortlake there were about 50 'regulars' listed as tax-dodgers, and many more at nearby Barnes and Putney. In the end, however, the House of Commons Accounts Committee tracked them down and enforced payment. The MPs demanded that each village should submit detailed

accounts of all taxes collected during the war. They particularly approved of the clear statement submitted by the Constable of Mitcham and in the 1646 sent it on to Esher as a 'precedent' to show how accounts should be drawn up.

Change in the Church

By 1646 not only had the taxation system been transformed, but so had the Church. Ministers described as 'delinquent', in other words Royalists and High Churchmen, like John Cutts at Barnes and Richard Avery at Putney, were ejected from their parishes and their property seized. At Croydon, the Vicar, Samuel Bernard, was accused of 'error in doctrine, superstition in practice and malignancy'. At Ewell, Mr. Hilliard was said to have abused Parliament and to jeer at 'preaching and praying by the Spirit'.[7] Schoolmasters were also affected. At Richmond Robert Mossom was forbidden to teach because he read the Book of Common Prayer. For the next six years he remained unemployed till he made a personal appeal to Cromwell.

Church buildings too did not escape. At Mortlake the font was taken down in 1645 and the Anglican Prayer Book given up. At Kingston soldiers used the parish church as a stable and smashed pews and monuments. At Croydon a scrivener was employed to write out 45 warrants 'for the better observation of the sabbath and the days of humiliation'. A Presbyterian system was set up in the Kingston area and the Calvinist Directory of Worship used at all services. By 1649 the celebration of Christmas had been banned, along with 'drunkenness, blaspheming and taking the name of God in vain'. Such enforced 'Godliness', however, does not seem to have been very successful, except in stirring up further discontent.

Serious Discontent, 1648

A year earlier, on the morning of 16 May 1648, hundreds of Surrey gentlemen and farmers had assembled on Putney Heath to escort a petition to Parliament. Signed by about 5,000 people from all over the county, the petition asked for 'the full redress of the grievous miseries of this Kingdom', especially 'the insupportable burthen of free quartering of soldiers'. As in Essex and Kent where similar petitions had been drawn up, people were weary of the never-ending taxes and the ever-present soldiers, and longed for a return to the 'known ways'. Outside Parliament, however, the petitioners got into trouble with the Army guards and were dispersed by force. Over a hundred were injured and six killed, among them one of their leaders, 'the miller of Wandsworth'.

The Royalists tried to exploit popular fury at such treatment. They felt that an armed revolt in Surrey to support those already started in Kent and Essex, along with others in South Wales and the north of England, and the promise of help from a large Scottish army across the border, might prove decisive. They therefore planned to use the cover of a race-meeting at Banstead to start a new rising.

The Surrey revolt was hopelessly mismanaged. Led by the incompetent Earl of Holland, it started prematurely at Kingston with a small force of only 600, did not wait at Banstead for greater support, but pressed on to Reigate. There it was attacked by an equally small Parliamentary army from Kent and promptly retreated towards Kingston. Just to the south of the town on Surbiton Common it was finally routed by a cavalry charge.[8]

The only serious fighting in north-east Surrey during the Civil Wars was soon over, but its results were tragic. The very thing the petitioners had dreaded, the presence of soldiers in Surrey, was now more visible than ever. Whole regiments of the New Model Army were quartered on the chief 'delinquent' towns and villages, above all Croydon, Epsom and Ewell. In addition the ruins of Merton Priory were blown up and 'rendered indefensible, lest it should endanger the peace of the Kingdom'.

Confiscation of Estates

The victors in this Second Civil War, both military and civilian, then proceeded to claim their reward. In 1649, shortly after the execution of the King, all property belonging to the Royal family and the Bishops was confiscated. It was carefully surveyed and put up for sale at very reasonable prices.

The King's palace at Richmond was bought by one of the Regicide MPs, Sir Gregory Norton. Nonsuch Palace and some of the Park went to Colonel John Pride. The Queen's house and park at Wimbledon was sold for £17,000 to the youngest and ablest of Cromwell's senior officers, Major-General John Lambert. And over at Croydon the Archbishop of Canterbury's fine palace became the home of a leading Cheshire MP and soldier, Sir William Brereton. The new Surrey gentry promptly took their places as leaders of the county community.

Such sweeping changes in local society were not always to the liking of ordinary people. The new owners still needed the services of local craftsmen who kept the houses in repair and of local tradesmen who supplied them with food and drink. Some like General Lambert at Wimbledon really cared for their property and became popular locally. But others, like Sir William Brereton at Croydon and Sir Gregory Norton at Richmond, turned the townspeople against them. Both Brereton and Norton put up brick walls across part of the green in front of each palace and, while Brereton enclosed part of Norwood Common, Norton blocked a short cut by the side of the palace to the river.

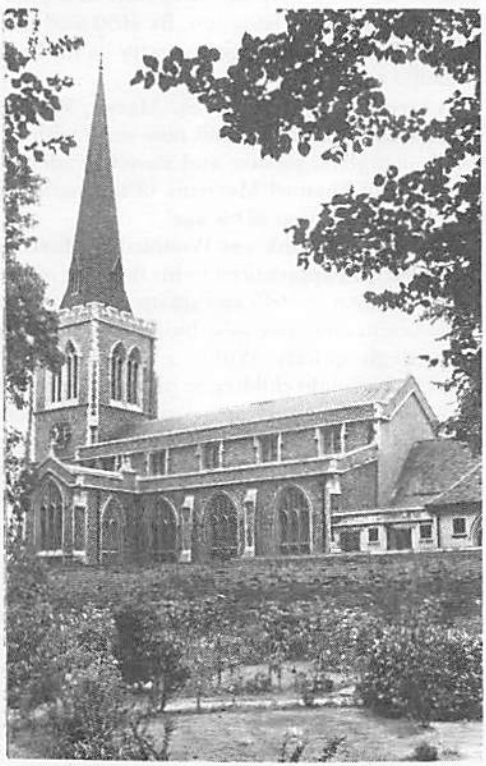

Fig. 4. The east end of St. Mary's church, Wimbledon. It contains two graves with Civil War associations. Sir Richard Wynn is buried in front of the altar rails. Phanuel Maybank's headstone is against the wall of the vestry in the foreground of the picture.

So his sudden death in 1652, 'raving mad' according to Royalists, was greeted with a sigh of relief.[9]

Phanuel Maybank

The two Civil Wars of the 1640s obviously made a considerable impact on the lives of people in north-east Surrey. But their effect was arguably less than harvest failures and plague. Between 1646 and 1649 three of the harvests were poor and a further outbreak of plague occurred in Kingston. By 1650 food prices had risen 50 per cent above normal.[10] Yet somehow life managed to carry on in the traditional way and some ordinary people even did well.

A second gravestone at St. Mary's, Wimbledon bears witness to this. Let into the outer wall of the vestry and now worn with age, it still bears the grisly decoration of a skull, hourglass, pickaxe and shovel. Under this is the inscription: 'Here lieth interred the body of Phanuel Maybank of this parish, who departed this life, May 22 AD 1684 and in the 65th year of his age'.

Phanuel Maybank was Wimbledon's first butcher and a very successful one. Born in Kingston and apprenticed to his father, a master butcher, he travelled the short distance to Wimbledon in 1645 and set up on his own. He arrived at the right time: the war was at its height and there were hungry soldiers billeted in the village. Probably as prospered surprisingly quickly. Within a year he had himself taken an apprentice, and married. Soon he had eight children to provide for. Evidently he managed well; by the early 1660s he was rated for the Hearth Tax as the equal of a prosperous farmer. And in his own way he was a live-stock farmer. At the time of his death towards the end of Charles II's reign he owned a large supply of fresh meat on the hoof: four cows, 60 sheep, 15 lambs, a sow and nine pigs. If only he had kept a diary or even an account book like Sir Richard Wynn, we might now have a rather different picture of the Civil War in north-east Surrey.[11]

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PERRINGS IN SURREY AND KNIGHTS OF REIGATE: An Illustrated History of Two Family Firms

We are most grateful to Sir Ralph Perring and Mr. Michael Knight for permission to reproduce an edited version of their lectures to Surrey Local History Council Symposium in November 1986 –

Editor.

PERRINGS IN SURREY

by Sir Ralph Perring, Bt.

The story of how our furniture business of Perrings established itself in Surrey, with a head office in Worcester Park, has only once been told before publicly.

Business Trading in the 1890s

The late 1890s was certainly the age of the train – supported by the horse and cart. Each railway station had its goods yard to receive loaded covered trucks and to distribute their contents locally by horse and cart.

It followed, therefore, that in the furnishing of their homes, the public either resorted to 'bespoke' pieces of furniture fabricated locally – or made the journey to the Tottenham Court Road, London, known as TCR. There, from end to end, were the main suppliers of furniture to the community in the South of England. They sold a restricted range of designs of basic products which were then packed in canvas and crates, collected by the appropriate railway line and transported to the local station by covered truck for onward delivery by horse and cart. Much of the furniture was made in the East End of London.

1893-1920

Our John Perring and his brother William were the sons of Henry Perring, born and living in Camden Town, the family having earlier moved from the Bishops Stortford area. The family originally came over in the Huguenot exodus from France, some to settle in Devon, others to Essex.

I am indebted to my cousin Douglas Perring, (who spent up to eight years delving into the Parish Records, Rental Rolls of Rickling Manor in Essex and Pipe Rolls). During the 18th and 19th centuries he writes, for generation after generation, the Perrings were village carpenters, tenant farmers, labourers.

Henry Perring, the father of John and William, had opened a small furniture shop in Cleveland Street, (off the TCR) where the two youngsters worked all day, and often up to midnight. Eventually, they both decided to become their own 'guvners' and to move away from Henry, who was not a very good business man – a better supporter of and

lay preacher at Whitfields Tabernacle, in nearby TCR. Each youngster had a saving of about £150. William bought his first shop *north* of the River Thames at Paddington – John bought his first shop in 1893 *south* of the Thames in the County of Surrey at Richmond. The Thames was their dividing line.

They taught themselves, and each other, the basic rudiments of business accounting, and by their hard work and determination to give good service to their customers, they prospered.

Within a couple of years each opened a branch within only a mile from base, because they had to control each branch separately and that meant walking. As the son of John, I recall that my father had installed a private telephone, personally and by hand between his two shops in Richmond before the start of the GPO telephone service. He threaded his cable across the house tops, and across Richmond railway bridge for more than a mile in distance.

For the next 25 years, and through the First World War, each opened seven branches north and south of the Thames, each branch being sufficiently near to its neighbour to be supervised by means of public transport, for this was *still* the era of the horse bus and train!

There were problems at that time of receiving supplies of stock from the factories in the East End of London and much cae from wholesalers who built up their quantities from the small backyard family units that abounded in that area. There was no mass production as we know it today.

Fig. 1. John Ernest Perring, 1870-1948.

Fig. 2. Sir Ralph Perring, Bt.

Recent research from an elderly friend of mine, now aged 93, who supplied us with cabinet goods at that period illustrates the transport problem. His father's and uncle's small factory in Hackney could only deliver as far as Staines in one day, by horse and covered wagon; this was provided that 'Old Bill' started from Hackney at 4.00 a.m. and was home again by midnight. A typical load was about 27 chests of five drawers invoiced to us at £1 1s. each. That is, under £30 for the complete load delivered free. His wages weekly were around £1 10s. without any overtime rate, and proud to have the job! I remember the son of 'Old Bill' well when I started with our firm in the early twenties. You will appreciate the excitement when John and William bought their first motor vans – solid tyres and rear wheel brakes only.

1920-1939

My knowledge of trading conditions just after the First World War was very personal. I was indentured as an apprentice with Oetzmann's of TCR for two years, when I experienced three months in each division of that very large firm, starting in their despatch department and passing through marketing, selling and accounting. This was followed by 12 months in the United States and Canada to study business administration.

I joined the family business in the early 1920s. In 1929 at the tender age of 24 I became Vice-Chairman.

Guildford was my first branch property development in 1931 (in my early 20s) at the lower end of North Street, from where after 55 years we have now moved nearby (still in North Street) to larger premises.

Living in Kingston Hill in 1935 I received a letter from a doctor in Richmond Road, Kingston (opposite the bus station) stating that he was about to retire and would we take over his house and large garden facing Richmond Road and Fife Road. Within the year we had acquired his considerable property, obtained the co-operation of Kingston Council to develop the site, and erected our three storey building. We opened our Kingston branch in the summer of 1936.

To sum up the business activities of Perrings to 1939: it was a period of consolidation by both John and William Perring, north and south of the Thames, but completely independent of each other. The greater reliability of motor transport enabled us to service furniture stores further afield, with our suppliers delivering direct to our branches.

1939-1946

It was then a quirk of history completely changed our lives. I refer, of course, to the Second World War.

In 1938 (after Munich), my brother, Lt.-Col. Jack Perring, had persuaded me to join the 'Terriers'. For several months at night I learned to be a Training Officer for a new Regiment of Searchlights after a full day's work running the business. Alas, one week after passing the final training exam, my health collapsed completely, and I am told I was on the 'danger list' for many weeks. By the time we experienced the evacuation of Dunkirk I found myself again a civilian (grade 4) at the head of a retail chain of stores, completely frustrated, and not interested just to sell furniture which was not available anyway to market.

Fig. 3. Perring's first Guildford store in North Street, 1945.

Fig. 4. War work at Perring's stores.

Of William's side of the family, all three sons volunteered for immediate service, leaving Sir William's widow to hold the business together throughout the five years.

After convalescence, I heard that because of national conscription of women there was a great difficulty to find female production workers at the great Hoover factory at Perivale in the manufacture of Armature Coils. Also that certain categories of women were *non-conscriptable*: e.g. those under 18 or over 40; all who had children at home, and anyone with a physical problem.

My single insertion in a local paper for 'volunteers to help win the war' produced 264 applicants. It took several frustrating months to convince the Air Ministry and Hoovers that a *retail* distributor could produce *war production output*. But owing to Hoover's need for expansion we were permitted to start *six volunteers* trained for part-time work.

This enterprise took place on the upper floors of our showrooms at Kingston. My business colleague, Harold Legg, and I worked and slept at the Kingston branch when air raids permitted, at least the majority of each week. Machinery was installed by Hoovers and by careful selection of staff (every one a volunteer) we employed eventually in all more than 1,000 ladies, based in the upper floors of Kingston first – then Sutton, Guildford, Staines, Reading and Oxford branches. Our volunteers were beyond praise in their tenacity to perform their five hours a day (so often after a night's 'blitz'). I recall that on one individual day 23 German 'Doodle Bugs' flew over the showroom factory at Sutton. Fortunately, they did not 'cut out' their engines and come down near to any of our branches.

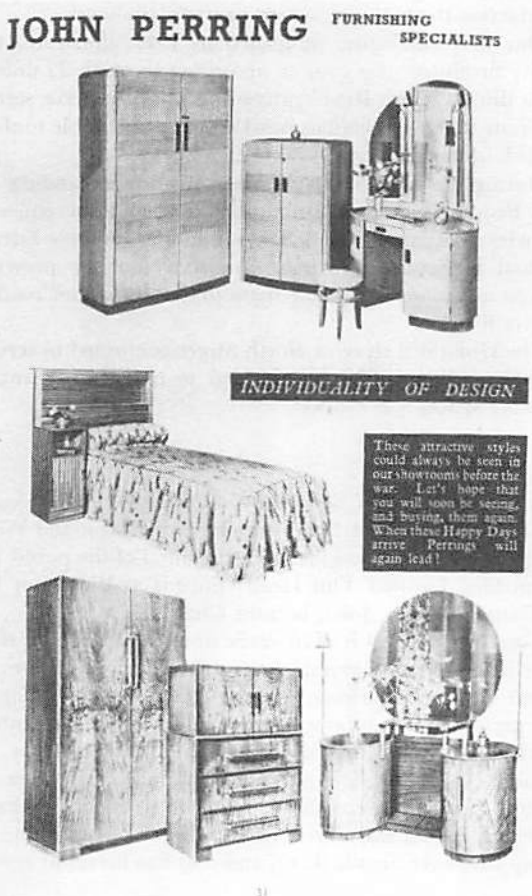


Fig. 5. Pre-Second World War furniture.

Total coil production in three years was 8,500,000 and we had the satisfaction of knowing that Hoovers closed down their own department, until the end of the war, after we had proved our efficiency.

Post War, 1946

So, after the production excitements of the war years, we disentangled ourselves from Hoovers to regain our impetus in the furniture industry as a family businesscustomer satisfaction the most important part of daily work.

Our first catalogue, published in 1947, illustrates the only means of purchasing utility furniture – by coupon according to need: 22 units for a bedroom suite, 18 units for a dining room. Retail prices and selection were secondary and fixed by the Board of Trade. Such restrictions must seem unbelievable to those who walk around a Perring branch in the 1980s.

During the early 1950s we were steadily expanding again in Chichester, The London Bedding Centre in Brompton Road and subsequently in Sloane Street, Croydon, Crawley, Portsmouth and Southampton. Our new Eden Street store in Kingston was opened in September 1966. Our move to our present location was motivated by Kingston Council to enable them to develop a new road layout. We now have displays on five floors.

The Guildford store in North Street continued to service the public with remarkable growth until, in 1986, we decided to move to alternative premises in order to give us more space.

The Family Merger

It was in 1967 that we were able to agree something that frankly some of us had hoped for 30 years earlier. We merged the John and William companies into one. This merger saved much confusion in the mind of the public and we are now Perrings Home Furnishing Limited. Our Head Office is at Worcester Park and distribution centre at Norbiton. My son, John, became Chairman in 1981.

Time passes, and it is 20 years since our merger of the two families. In that time we have made great progress. We have 31 large retail stores, the majority with coffee shops, Home Living Departments, and curtainings (with emphasis on colour co-ordination). We are a major exhibitor at the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition where we test the market for design and colour each year. Incidentally, Perrings are one of the oldest regular exhibitors there and I can happily claim now to be as enthusiastic as I was when I first became a stand holder in 1929: more than 50 years ago, and (with the exception of the war years) never a break of exhibiting in any year. We have made so many customer friends there, and that has been our reward.

KNIGHTS OF REIGATE

by Michael Knight

James and John

In the 18th century John Knight, a farmer, lived with his wife Mary and their eight children at Slaugham near Crawley. A son born in 1804 was christened

Thornville Royal. He was to become miller at Dorking, an innkeeper at Horsham and miller again at Bewbush near Faygate. He married Eliza Pepper and they had a family of nine.

Two of Thornville's sons, John, born in 1838, and James, born at Horsham in 1842, were trained as drapers. This choice was probably because two of their cousins were tailors, a John Knight at Ifield and Daniel Knight at Ditchling. Also Thornville's sister had married John Hammond, a member of the family whose drapery and tailor's shop in Bell Street had been established since 1797. James was apprenticed to John Hammond. Later, as did so many of the future retailers of his day, he followed his trade to London at Jonathan Crocker & Co., calico printers and drapery warehousemen, on the corner of Watling Street and Friday Street, east of St. Paul's. He married Mary Craven in 1868 and continued with Crockers, living with his family in Camberwell. His brother John had been apprenticed in London but in the 1870s he came to Reigate, to Henry Austen, draper, clothier and milliner, also in Bell Street. By the early 1880s he was with John Hammond as head assistant of a staff of eight.

The Bell Street Shop

James did well at Crockers and eventually became silk buyer. Reigate was a prosperous expanding town in the 1880s and James appears to have decided to invest his savings in a business there. He acquired the lease and goodwill of Wigg Bros., tailors and drapers, of 10 Bell Street. He enlisted his brother John to manage the new shop, J. Knight & Co. An account was opened with the Reigate branch of the London County Banking Co. in March 1883; their successor, The National Westminster, still keep Knight's account today.

William Bryant's survey of 1786 mentions the site of 10 Bell Street. It was 'formerly in the possession of William Huggett, tallow chandler, since of William Everest, but now of William Charman'; no mention is made of his occupation. In 1822 William Ridgeway describes the shops and houses in Bell Street: 'next Heaths, tailor, is Doubles, carpenter, joining is Mr. Silvers, butcher. The next is the Grapes Inn kept by a Mr. Crunden, next Mr. Elgers, linen draper'. In 1855 Charles Charman Elgar was listed as a linen draper and tailor; he appears to have had a family connection with William Charman. The Elgars continued until 1870 when they sold to Thomas Goodman who was followed by Wigg Bros. By 1883, when Knights took over, the shop already had a long tradition as a draper and tailor, and by 1985 this amounted to as much as 175 years of continuous specialist trading.

We know little of the beginnings of the business, but early advertisements emphasise cheapness and plainly marked goods. This was typically Victorian, only shops with an upper class clientele could afford not to show prices and from the start Knights aimed at honest trading for middle-class customers. The early years were not too successful. It may have been due to the recession which followed the disastrous harvest of 1879, to intense local competition or to John's lack of managerial experience. James decided to leave Crockers in 1884 and take control in Reigate. He bought Holmesdale Lodge, in the then fashionable Holmesdale Road, and moved in with Mary and their family of six. With James in the business John set up on his own, first in Effingham Road, and then in 1888 at Albion House, Chart Lane, again as a draper. Early improvements by James to

Fig. 6. James Knight with his son Frank, outside their shop in the 1880s.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR, 1892-3.

Having secured a very fine lot of

MEN'S, YOUTHS' & BOYS' OVERCOATS

In all Colours and Styles, we intend offering them at SPECIAL PRICES. This is a grand opportunity for securing a good garment at a low price.

HEAVY ♦ BLUE ♦ BEAVER ♦ CLOTHS,

Velvet Collars, Tweed Linings, 16/6, 18/6, 21/6, 25/6, 30/-, and 35/-. A Special Line in WITNEYS at 15/11; worth 18/6.

A Special Line in Dress Overt Coats, Blue or Drab, Melton Cloth, Velvet Collar, Check Lining, 17/6.

WE ARE ALSO SHOWING A GREAT VARIETY OF

...es, Collars, Silk and Cashmere Mufflers, Silk Handkerchiefs, Kid Gloves, Lined Kid Gloves, ...ined Gloves with Kid Palms and Astrachan Backs, Braces, Shirts, Woollen Undergarments, Hats, Caps, &c.

CARDIGANS are our Speciality. From 1/11; Extra Good at 3/6, 4/11, 5/6, 6/6, 7/6, and upwards.

Our Entire Clothing Stock is now well assorted.

...en's Suits, from 16/6; Splendid Value at 21/6, 25/6, and 30/-. Black Jackets and ...ests at 17/6, 21/6, 25/6, and 30/-. Tweed Trousers at 4/11, 5/6, 6/6; Special Value at 7/11, 8/6, 9/6, 10/6, and 11/6.

TAILORING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

BOOTS. Gents' and Youths' Light Lace Boots, at 4/6, 5/6, &c., and upwards. Our 10/6, 11/6, 12/6, and 14/6 Boots are noted for elegance, strength, and comfort, in Broad and Narrow Fittings. A few pairs of Gents' Kid Leg Boots, at 6/11; worth 9/6 (Sewn). Gents' Hand-sewn Calf Boots to Measure at 16/6. Waterproof Boots, Hand-sewn, at 14/6 and 16/6.

NOTE THE ADDRESS

JAS. KNIGHT, Bell St., Reigate.

...Open at 7 on Wednesdays in the Winter, and 2 in the Summer.

Fig. 7. An early handbill.

the Bell Street shop included lowering the floor and extending to the back of what had been the original house. Previously customers had to climb steps from the pavement. The next development was to open a furniture shop, first at 45 Bell Street, including what is now the Ancient House. In 1901 they acquired The National Furniture Stores in London Road.

James's Sons

During the years of expansion, four of James's sons had developed into experienced tradesmen. Arthur, the eldest, was first to set up on his own. In 1902 he opened a drapery shop, Bon Marche, at 20 Station Road, Redhill. The shop prospered and in 1909 he moved to Warwick House, Station Road, where amongst the drapery he also had a coal office. He traded there until 1936 when he sold to Mr. Walter Pendered whose family business still flourishes in Redhill today.

Cyril, the youngest son, managed the London Road furniture shop. Later he joined with a Mr. Gealer and in 1915 as C. Knight and Gealer took the business to Bell Street: Bridger's and Clear's shops today. These were the very same premises once occupied by Hammonds where James had been trained as a youth and uncle John had been senior assistant. That business continued until after the death of Cyril in 1944.

Two of James's sons remained with him at Bell Street. Frank was responsible for the mens' outfitting and footwear; he had been apprenticed at Pimms in Guildford and met his wife, Mary Ann Burdett, there. Percy had learnt his trade with the Landport Drapery in Portsmouth and he concentrated on the drapery departments. His wife Catherine Young was from Reigate.

The Grapes

Continuing his expansion in 1908, James acquired Tebb Brothers, drapers in West Street, Dorking. Before there was time to develop this business, *The Grapes*, next door to the Bell Street shop, became vacant. In 1911 James took over the lease and Knights secured the extended shop frontage they so badly needed, and they sold the Dorking shop.

Bryant in his survey of 1786 writes 'The Messuage (the newly built Grapes), yard, Gardens and Appurtenances abbutting east on Bell Street, south on the Warehouse, westward and north on the yard of the Swann Inn, was formerly in the occupation of Thomas Sanders and Thomas Morer, since Richard Cheesman, (formerly tenant of The Swan) but now of Henry Cruttenden, and the sign of The Bunch of Grapes'. Thomas Morer was also the postmaster and the post office remained at *The Grapes* until 1807.

In 1825 *The Grapes* was shown as a staging point between London and Brighton for the Comet, Sovereign and Vivid coaches. The *Dorking Handbook* for 1855 carries an advert for *The Grapes*:

> Market dinner every Tuesday, comfortable beds, excellent stabling and lock up coach houses. Omnibus meets every train to Reigate Station gratis.

Fig. 8. The London Road Furniture Shop, later the Reigate Auction Rooms.

Fig. 9. *The Grapes*, c.1900, with the first Knight's shop on the left.

When *The Grapes* finally closed in 1909 it was due to the excess of licensed premises in Reigate, which must have delighted the freeholder and teetotal campaigner Lady Henry Somerset.

Life in the Draper's Shop

It was a tradition of the drapery trade that apprentices and single members of staff were provided with board and lodgings. At 10 Bell Street this had been difficult and rooms nearby were rented. With the acquisition of *The Grapes* the problem was solved. Mrs. Beasley, the firm's housekeeper, had at times as many as 15 living-in: men over No.10, girls over No.8. At lunch time there were even more to cater for in the former hotel kitchen out of around 30 staff. Living-in ceased in 1930, but not before frequent sightings of 'The Purple Lady' who haunted *The Grapes* – she is still held in fear by young employees today.

An apprentice, who joined Knights in the First World War, Winnie Donaldson, later Mrs. Walker, recorded clearly her experiences. Her weekly wages were 7s. 6d. (37½p) the first year, 10s. (50p) the second, 12s. 6d. (62½p) the third. All told she stayed at Knights for 50 years, with a break to bring up her family, and she retired in 1973. Her memories were mostly happy in spite of hard work and long hours.

> In summer the Governor would take us to Brighton for the day by coach and gave us 2s. 6d. (12½p) for our lunch. Christmas times we would have a concert in Mr. Frank's house. I always had to sing and there were violins, piano and recitations, a nice evening. Christmas time, customers came from the country with their Christmas Club cards to spend the money saved all year. The Governor would give them cups of tea, fruit cake and a sit down. The gentry would come and buy their servants new dress lengths for presents.

Frank and Percy – The '20s to '40s

Frances, daughter of Frank Knight, joined the business at the end of the First War, for many years she was to devote much of her time to the counting house. Another of the next generation, David, Percy's younger son, also came into the business after leaving Reigate Grammar School in 1920. Later, he spent several years widening his knowledge with wholesalers Robert Outram & Co. in Watling Street. He remembers well travelling to London by motorcycle each day during the 1926 General Strike.

James lost his wife Mary in 1920 and soon afterwards he passed the business to a partnership formed by two of his sons, Frank and Percy. James however continued an active interest through the '20s. It was his great delight to greet his customers at the door, sit them down and discuss their needs. In 1921 Mr. Somers Somerset put most of his estate on sale in a remarkable auction of the Town of Reigate. Knights, like many other tenants, were able to purchase the freehold of the Bell Street shop. When James Knight died in 1930, 46 years of hard work and shrewd business sense had more than doubled the size of the shop and its range of goods.

On the outbreak of the Second War, David, and his brother Geoffrey, who were Territorials, were mobilised at once. Frank, Percy and Frances were left to carry the shop through the years of shortages and rationing. The yearly allowance of clothing coupons in 1941 was 66 of which a suit took 35 and an overcoat sixteen.

The shop was used as a firewatching centre and it was reassuring to have not only the *Grapes's* cellars but the sandstone caves of Tunnel Road nearby as air raid shelters. The

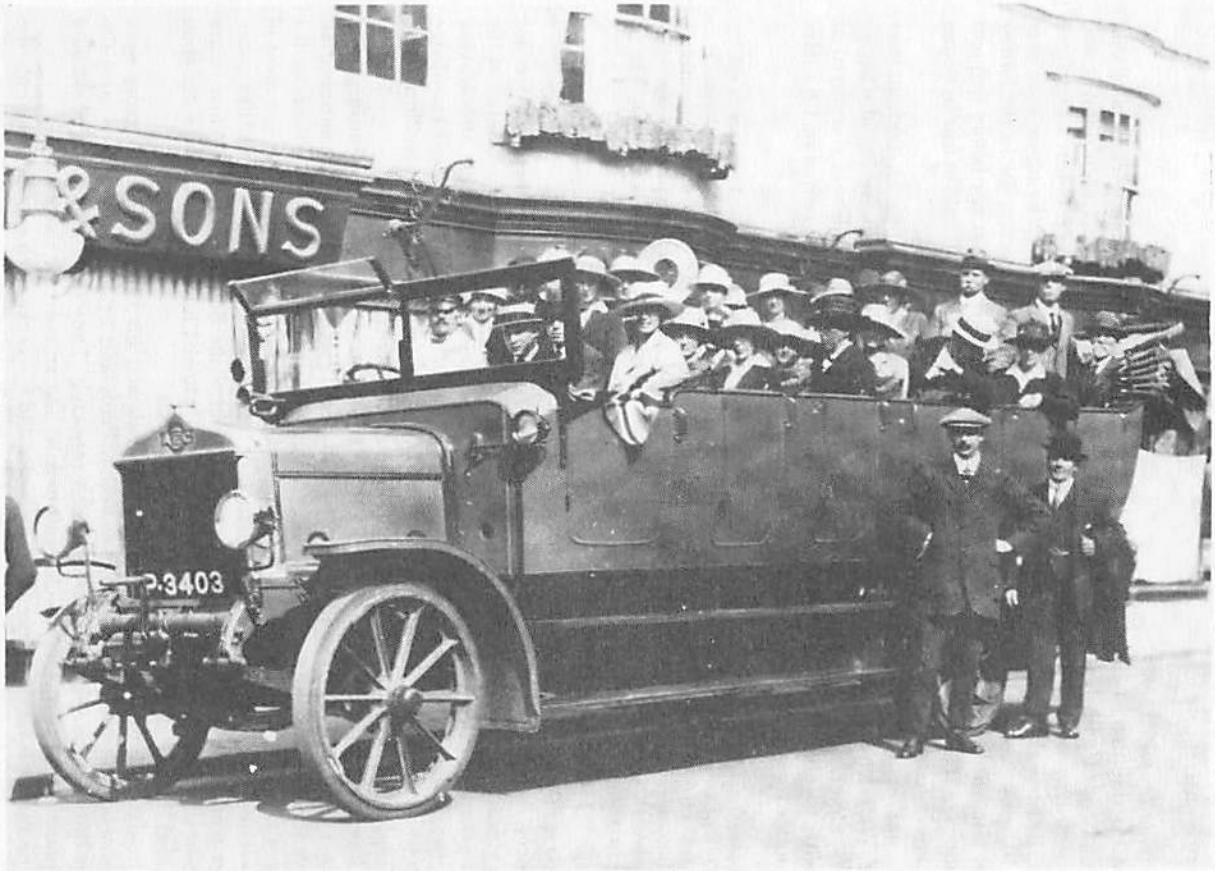


Fig. 10. The annual outing for Knight's staff in the 1920s.

shortages continued: the 1944 stocktaking lists 'NO sheets, blankets, pillowslips, curtain nets or fancy linens'! When David returned from the Royal Artillery in 1946 after service in North Africa and Italy he found empty shelves in his Manchester Department. A buying list to London found him only a few used Army blankets!

Geoffrey and David – The '50s to '70s

On Percy Knight's death in 1954 his son David was joined in the management of the drapery departments by his brother Geoffrey. His experience in his own surveying practice of Holdsworth and Knight was to be a great help in the firm. David's wife, Barbara, also joined in at this time: she took over the dress fabric department, which continues as her interest today. Frances Knight had been running the men's outfitting department for several years but in 1960 she retired to devote her time to her father Frank. He died in 1963, 93 years old, the last of James Knight's sons.

David and Geoffrey put in hand much needed renovation to the building and included the opening up of the old *Grapes* kitchen for curtain fabrics. In 1972 David's son, Michael, who after Reigate Grammar School had spent 11 years at Harrods, came into the firm. Geoffrey and his wife Majorie, who had helped with the administration, graciously retired.

The Shop Today

The last ten years have seen a gradual refurbishing of much of the shop. In 1975 the former hotel dining room and upstairs shoe department were converted into a new curtain showroom. In 1982 the main staircase was renewed and the frontage given a facelift, which included replacing the original iron lamp bracket from the *Grapes*.

In the 1980s, as the business begins its next hundred years it is still entirely independent. The M25 motorway is complete, peace has returned to the streets of Reigate, where there will be an attractive new shopping complex as a new neighbour for the next generation of Knights in the 2000s.

SOURCES

Sir Ralph Perring, Bt.: Lecture to Surrey Local History Council Symposium, November 1986. The illustrations here reproduced are part of Sir Ralph's private family collection.

Michael Knight: *Knights of Reigate, 100 years, 1883-1983: The Story of James Knight and Sons, Drapers in Bell Street, Reigate* (privately printed in limited edition, 1983), reproduced here by kind permission of Mr. Knight.

'AS GOOD AS A SON'
BERTHA BROADWOOD OF LYNE HOUSE, CAPEL, 1846-1935

Sheila Himsworth
Surrey Record Office

Background

The 19th century gave prominence to a number of remarkable women whose achievements are well documented and recognised. They were mostly the daughters of professional men or of highly successful business men, whose life-style gave them 'a room of their own' in which to develop their interests. In this gallery of competent and energetic women a little place ought to be made for one who spent most of her life in Surrey and made the family home at Lyne House, Capel, the base for many of her activities.

Bertha Marion Broadwood was born on 27 March 1846 at 46 Bryanston Square, London. She was the fourth daughter of Henry Fowler Broadwood, one of the partners in the piano manufacturing firm of John Broadwood and Sons, and Juliana Maria, daughter of Wyrley Birch of Wretham Hall, Norfolk. She died two days before her 89th birthday in 1935. Four more daughters were born to Henry and Juliana before the long awaited son, followed by a second son and another daughter, Lucy. Lucy Broadwood was an accomplished musician and the story of her achievement as a collector of folk songs belongs more to the history of music than to that of Surrey.

Family relationships

Bertha's eldest sister was the talented, and much loved Katherine, who married Edmund Craster of the Bengal Civil Service. Katherine's letters from India were mainly addressed to her mother. In a letter of 1863 she wrote

> that Bertha is altogether a very remarkable person, self-contained, self-possessed, self-controuling [sic], without being selfish. She is in many respects the very ditto of my father and was born a woman and not a man for some very inscrutable reason – perhaps to take the conceit out of "young England" of both sexes or for a perpetual sobering trial to her own ardent aspiring nature on which the necessary feminine conventionalities are a real clog: though a wholesome one of course.

Katherine's early death in 1874 at the age of 33, leaving four young children, brought great sorrow to the family and their many friends. Another sister, Edith, wrote to Bertha '... you, of whom she was especially fond. You will be the one to help everyone.' Bertha's own grief was expressed in verse, assumed, although undated, to have been written by her on this occasion. In it she writes poignantly of death clothing the beloved 'with radiance':

> And tracing to their hidden source,
> Deeds scarcely noticed in their course
> This little, loving, fond device,
> That daily act of sacrifice,
> Of which, too late, we learn the price.
> Opening our weeping eyes to trace
> Simple unnoticed kindnesses,
> Forgotten tones of tenderness.

Fig. 1. Bertha Broadwood, c.1903. (Reproduced by permission of the Broadwood Trust from David Wainwright's book, *Broadwood by Appointment* (1982).)

Fig. 2. Lyne House, Capel, c.1975

Bertha Broadwood carried on an extensive correspondence. These letters, together with memoranda, drafts, pamphlets and printed material were preserved by her in great quantity, and were found in the house at Lyne. In a letter to her cousin, Charlotte Digby, in 1928 Bertha refers to herself as 'the archivist of her generation', and there is some evidence that she asked for family letters to be returned to her and that she intended to compile a family history. 'It is delightful to think that the arranging and editing of family papers will soon be undertaken, and by yourself, they ought to make a very interesting book', wrote another cousin.

The Broadwood girls were educated at home. At one time Bertha had singing lessons, but there are no other references to her taking an active part in music making, although she claimed to have a good musical memory and attended concerts. Her teenage diary contains this entry for 19 April 1864:

> This afternoon E[dith] and I went to the Musical Union with Aunt Agnes who had come up from High Elms. Halle played that sonata of Beethoven in E flat opus 31, which is a great favourite of mine. Wonderful to say this is the first concert I have been to this year.

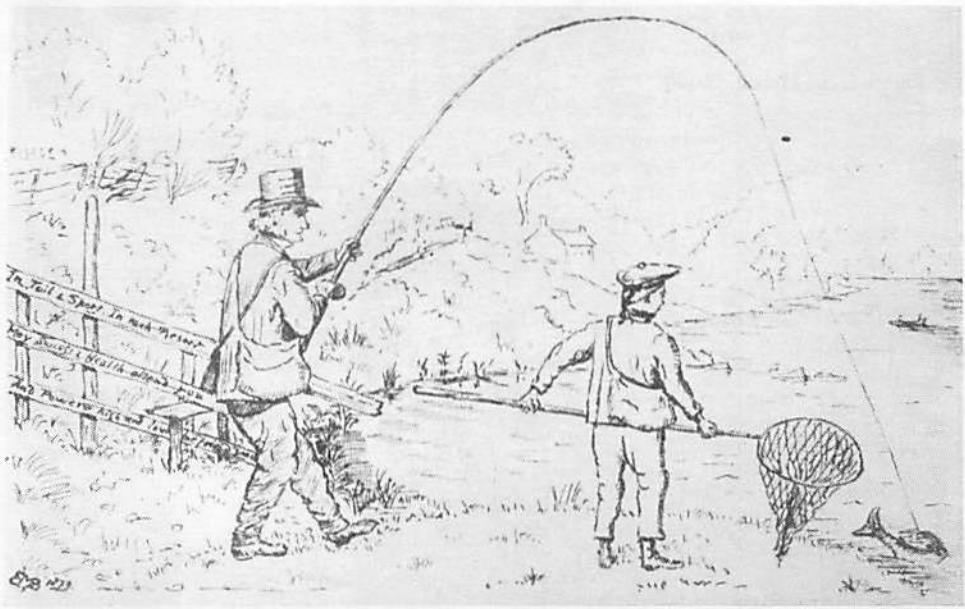


Fig. 3. A sketch by Bertha of her father, Henry Fowler Broadwood.

In 1875 she commented unfavourably on the piano playing of Hans von Bulow, which shows she was a critical listener.

There is much more evidence of Bertha's talent for drawing. a set of postcards

survives printed from drawings of scenes of highland life, which include a sketch of her father commended for its accuracy.

The influence of her father on Bertha was strong and she paid tribute to him in her autobiographical note:

> ... a man of very remarkable gifts and abilities and of marked independence of thought, to live with whom was in itself an education of the best kind. His high ideals, earnestness, thoroughness with regard to sport, work, manners and morals acting as a guide and rule on which his daughter, who was entirely devoted to him, moulded her actions and character.

In 1864, on the death of the Rev. John Broadwood, his half-brother, Henry Broadwood inherited the estate in Surrey and the family moved to their beloved Lyne House in Capel already familiar from frequent visits. Bertha was then 18 and recorded the move in her diary:

> 29 Apr. 1864. Today we all moved down to Lyne. I do hope the children will get to love the dear place as much as we elder ones have always done ... I spent this afternoon in planting the few ferns I had brought from London with me and in watching the little summer house on the brickwalk being turned into an aviary for the children's canaries.

Bertha was an instinctive organiser. After the marriages of her elder sisters she quickly became a key person in the family and in the locality. She took great interest in her nephews and nieces and was ever ready with suggestions as to their education and careers. 'James's children seem to enjoy having Aunt Bertha, who reads to them', wrote her mother. She was also outspoken in her criticism, and her interference was not always appreciated.

A younger sister, Mary, wrote in 1876 to Bertha 'don't try to do everything for everybody in your usual unselfish way'. In about 1874, one of Henry Broadwood's sisters wrote:

> List to the valorous deeds that are done,
> By Bertha the dauntless as good as a Son!

From the 1880s Henry and Juliana had good cause to value Bertha's capabilities. They became more and more dependent on her to manage the family home and from 1888, when her father was incapacitated and becoming blind, Bertha dealt with his business affairs until his death in 1893. After his death she remained deeply involved in the estate as his co-executor and in the firm, especially in the period leading to the setting up of the limited company in 1901. She became a director of the company in 1910.

Interests

As a girl and a young woman Bertha was clearly a lively companion – intelligent and well read. She could hold her own in conversation, undaunted by the fame of those she met.

Writing to her sister, Evelyn, in December 1876 she describes a visit to Aldermaston Court, home of Mr. and Mrs. Higford Burr. 'I ... dreaded that I was to be quite out of my depth in a party of wholly *aesthetic* minded folk. At Aldermaston one always catches up some term fashionable amongst the learned and the above underlined is constantly in their mouths now'. She met, on that occasion, F. W. Burton, director of the National Gallery, with whom she went in to dinner. They discussed churches, *chateaux*,

the Eastern Question and nationalities, she records, adding 'I think on the whole I did rather entertain that learned Art-lover by my audacious and discursive sallies ... Being a Philistine amongst the elect is not unpleasant'. On this occasion she described another guest as 'one of those Radicals, whom one sees at a glance is one from excess of amiability, believing too much in the excellence of Human nature'.

Extended visits to friends and relations, occasional excursions abroad and charitable work in the parish were an accepted way of life for the unmarried daughters of gentry and Bertha's was no exception. The only difference was the care and energy she put into all that she did. Her aunt Sophia wrote in March 1875, 'I hope, dear Bertha, that all your charitable institutions continue to work well – I hope too that their kind energetic Foundress is not overworking herself'. On this occasion she had applied to her aunt for sewing patterns for the children in the village school. Bertha's interest in the schools at Capel, Rusper and Newdigate was to continue. In 1906 she was appointed a trustee of Newdigate school and was evidently involved in building work at Capel as an amateur architect in 1871-2. One letter refers to the school she has designed and another discusses the specifications.

Architecture was one of Bertha's early and continuing interests. She helped her father with plans for the enlargement of Lyne House in 1864. By 1870 she was seeing architecture as a way of using her talents more purposefully. Her cousin, Barbara Lee, wrote in February 1870 'I can so well understand the longing to more active work'. The exasperation of the intelligent young woman, wanting to exercise her brain on meatier problems than the daily round of good works, is here apparent. A letter addressed to Barbara and sent on to Bertha suggests, presumably to avoid professional jealousy, that her friend should confine herself to helping in places where they cannot afford an architect. Fourteen years later Barbara's brother asked her to design him a new vicarage and she had previously been consulted about the building of a lodge. At some stage, probably in the 1870s Bertha had some forms printed to be filled in by persons wanting building plans. Drawings and specifications were to be charged at 2s. 8d. per sheet. A footnote states:

> Miss Broadwood does not wish to interfere with the work of regular Architects, but to meet such cases as have come within her experience, where clearly drawn working plans and practical advice enable local Artizans to carry out their employers' wishes in a satisfactory manner. Within the last ten years two Farms, Five Cottages and a Park Lodge have been built, and a School and Master's Residence have been enlarged entirely from Miss B's plans ...

Another local activity was the setting up of the Rusper Village Club and Reading Room in 1874. At the same time Bertha was involved in the Free Rural Readers' Union, whose object was to provide newspapers, periodicals and books to labourers in rural districts beyond the reach of free libraries. The Popular Lecture Association, of which the joint secretaries were H.E. Malden, editor of the *Victoria History of the County of Surrey*, and Henry Gore, Rector of Rusper, was another sphere of her interest. All these activities illustrate the concern for the education and betterment of the poor, which Bertha shared with many of her contemporaries.

A large selection of Bertha's papers comprises letters, drafts of speeches or articles, and printed matter relating to the politics of the day. She expressed herself forcefully

on a number of urgent topics, but any tendency towards radical change was rejected, sometimes scornfully. Despite her own achievements, from which one might expect her to have supported it, Bertha was vigorously opposed to women's suffrage. In a letter of April 1874 to a newspaper she cast doubt on the advantages to be gained and begged her readers not to be carried away by the admiration and respect they felt for some women, such as Mrs. Somerville, Lady Burdett Coutts and Mrs. Garrett Anderson, 'and the few really superior women amongst our own acquaintance, who may be quoted as possessing the rare combination of physical and mental powers, necessary to do great and good public work'. 'As a rule', she continued,

> women are unfitted to exercise political power by their natural excitability, impulsiveness and variety (which arise out of the very qualities which fit them for their special duties) and want of that practical knowledge, which men of all classes gain by the often painful experience of their rougher training and harder work. As the nature of women cannot be changed the exceptions to this rule, produced by education, will probably always remain few enough to prove this rule.

(It seems more than likely that she viewed herself among the exceptions!) She also pointed out that no one should support the Bill in question, who was not prepared to have women in Parliament, a progression which was overlooked by some.

Socialism and the Trades Union movement also excited Bertha's antipathy. Socialism she saw as unwarranted interference in people's lives by the State, which would undermine individual free-will and responsibility as with the raising of the school leaving age to 14 in 1902. As the manager of an estate she understood well the need for young boys to be available for agricultural work and felt strongly that the parents' discretion should be trusted. Trades Unionism she denounced as unpatriotic in a letter of 1909 to Lady White: 'The point for the Cartoon to emphasize is that rules and regulations for Trades Unions are passed at the International Labour Conferences against which the British delegates often protest but which they return home and enforce.' This was, of course, in a period when fear of German influence in Britain was rife. The attitude was heavily underlined by the strikes of 1911 which provoked a typescript from Bertha's machine, perhaps for an address, in which she writes of the danger of misuse of Britain's communications by an enemy, of 'world-wide coercion', the 'admirable Antisocialist League' (of which she was a member) and Berlin as a spider watching his 'world wide web'. 'Now is the time' she goes on,'because even village radicals, the most pronounced, are alarmed at the progress of "socialism and disorder and strongly condemn" peaceful picketting as coercion and the strikes as "unmitigated evil". Their admiration of the present government is chilled and all are ready to support a strong, active, patriotic coalition'.

During the dockers' strike, (seemingly of 1911 rather than of 1889) she drafted a letter to an oil company, with a depot at Shoreham, suggesting a larger storage there of petrol from the smaller, unaffected south coast ports to defeat the objective of Tom Mann to paralyse transport. This petrol could then be carried by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, or possibly by a motor trolley service if the railway would not co-operate, to supply the villages of West Sussex and Surrey and thus keep transport flowing in the area.

The question of Home Rule for Ireland brought Bertha's patriotism very much to the

fore, especially as it was linked with the plight of the Irish landowners, among whom was her brother-in-law, Robert Dobbs. William Sinclair, another landowner, wrote to Bertha in October 1881 promising to send a programme of the County Defence Association, formed by the local magistrates, and enclosing a receipt for her subscription to the Orange Emergency Committee:

> I am not myself a subscriber ... not wishing to identify myself with the Orange party ... still I think the Orange organisation has done a great deal in the present crisis to steady the wavering allegiance of the protestant lower classes in the face of both trials and temptation.

Another correspondent wrote in August 1886, possibly in response to Bertha's enquiries:

> I have conversed with great numbers of people of all classes and I find them with the exception of three persons averse to Home Rule, sick of the Land Leaguers ... thankful a Government is in office who show firmness ...

In a letter to the press in 1893 Bertha protested 'against the attempt to force Home Rule'. She was also an active member of the Womens' Liberal Unionist Association.

The agricultural depression of the second half of the 19th century, which resulted in the break up of large estates, the loss of rent and the demand of agricultural labourers for land of their own, led Bertha Broadwood to explore the question of land tenure in various parts of Europe and beyond. This resulted in extensive correspondence, including some with the French writer, F. Le Play, of the *Unions de la Paix Sociale*.

In the 1880s she issued two questionnaires: one to discover the present condition of yeomen, small farmers, small proprietors and labourers in Great Britain, and one to discover the state of agriculture in other countries of Europe. Her findings are in the numerous notes and drafts which are preserved and some of them were published in a journal called *Land*, of which there seem to be few extant copies.

In 1883 Bertha visited India where her cousins, Alfred and James Lyall, were Lieutenant-Governors of the North-West Provinces and of the Punjab, respectively, and where a number of her relatives and friends worked and died. Her aunt, Mary Lyall, wrote in 1874 in a letter about the death of Bertha's sister Katherine, 'India consumes how many of our best loved and we pay a higher price as a nation for keeping it than those realize who are not connected with it'.

This family connection and the interest aroused from reading the letters of Katherine and her cousins made Bertha determined to go to India to see the country for herself and to visit her beloved sister's grave. She made an extended tour which lasted until November 1884. For the first part she was accompanied by her brother James, and the hospitality of friends and relations was at their disposal; even so it was a courageous venture for an unmarried Englishwoman of 37 and some credit must go to her father for allowing his daughter this freedom. The letters home, some of them illustrated with little drawings, were preserved by the family and returned to her for her collection. With those of her sister Katherine they give an interesting account of life in India and the Indian scene.

The tour, however, was not all pilgrimage and pleasure. She was asked to report, to an Indian official, on a visit to the Maharanee School. A rough copy of this report survives

REGISTRY AND INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR

COTTAGE NURSES.

Superintendent—Miss B. M. Broadwood.
Committee of Management—
Miss Katherine Twining. Mrs. Selfe Leonard.
Secretary—Mrs. Wm. Digby, Grange House, Cambridge.

With the object of facilitating the supply of Cottage Nurses, the Registry keeps standing advertisements in the principal County papers, and is in Communication with all institutions that give the special training required by Cottage Nurses.

The Registry furnishes full information relating to Cottage Nurses. It aids women of the working-class of suitable age and Character to obtain employment and training as Cottage Nurses and supplies institutions that give the training with a constant succession of useful pupils. It also keeps a complete record of the Nurses so trained.

TERMS :—Information, including printed rules, forms, &c., for persons requiring Cottage Nurses, or for Candidates desiring employment or training, supplied for eight stamps.

Extra information, including a pamphlet describing the Ockley system of Cottage Nursing, reports, &c., useful to persons intending to start Nursing Associations in the country, for 1/6 by postal order.

Each Candidate suited with training or employment must pay a fee of 2/6.

Each Association supplied with a Cottage Nurse, or probationer, must pay a fee of 10/6 by postal order.

The fee for each pupil for training (£8, including cost of Nurse's cloak and bonnet) must be paid through the Secretary of the Registry. £3 when the pupil begins her course and the rest at the end of it.

N.B. Although this Registry is mainly concerned with Cottage Nurses, the Secretary can sometimes supply information about other kinds of sick Nurses.

TABLE SHOWING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VARIOUS GRADES OF NURSES.

Grade of Nurse.	Course of training necessary.	Cost.	Wages during training.	Wages when trained.	Qualified to attend.
*HOSPITAL	In Hospital { 1 year ... / 3 years	£20 to £30 free	none £10 to £15	Working in Hos' or Institution £25 to £30 or privately from 1 to 2 gs. a week	Surgical and Medical cases in Hospitals or private houses.
*DISTRICT	6 to 12 ms. in a Gen. Hospital 6 ms. under District Nurses.	£12 to £20 £5 to £15	none	£20 to £25 a y'r with board and lodging or £39 to £47 without	same cases as above in district, also chronic & incurable cases
MIDWIFE	3 ms. under a Surgical Midwife exam' to pass for certificate.	£20 to £40 7 to 12 gs.	none	£20 to £40 according to whether board or lodging is given by the N.A. Private Nursing 5/- to £15 a case according to class of patient.	Any natural confinement without a Doctor.
MONTHLY	4 to 6 wks. Surgical Midwife	7 to 12 gs.	none	£20 to £25 under an Association. Private Nursing 8/- to 30/- according to class of patients.	Confinement cases after a Midwife or Doctor.
†COTTAGE	1 month in Lying in Hospital & 2 under District Nurses or 3 ms. at a Nurses' Home where a special course is given.	£8 including bonnet and cloak	none	£26 to £28 under N.A. of the Ockley type or £30 to £45 if not boarded or lodged in patients' houses.	Confinement, general and chronic cases not admitted to Country or Cottage Hospital.

*Hospital & District Nurses are not qualified to attend Midwifery or monthly cases unless they have been through an extra and special course.

†Cottage Nurses are not qualified to attend serious surgical cases ; but these cases are seldom treated in Cottages.
The term "Sister" denotes a Nurse qualified by many years service in Hospital to superintend one or more large wards. Hospital Matrons & Lady Superintendents of Districts and Nurses' Homes are chosen amongst Ward Sisters.

Fig. 4. Details of a Registry for Cottage Nurses, c.1891. Bertha was superintendent.

in which she regrets the teaching of European worsted work and knitting when oriental embroidery, 'which is far more beautiful', could be cultivated; 'in designs orientals have always beaten people of the west'. She goes on to say 'My cousin here, Sir Alfred Lyall, tells me he has never heard of any other school of the same. You seems to be leading the way completely in starting a native school for girls'. She recommended the building up of a body of vernacular literature: 'Education without some sort of literature must come to very little'.

Bertha returned to England in time for her brother's wedding on 11 December 1884 and thereafter threw herself energetically into the project, launched just before her departure, which must stand as her main achievement.

Cottage Benefit Nursing Association

Bertha Broadwood founded her first Cottage Benefit Nursing Association in 1883. It comprised a group of parishes on the Surrey-Sussex border and was centred on Ockley. At this time some of the more densely populated parishes were able to employ a parish nurse, but in the poorer, rural areas there was insufficient demand and not enough money to make this worthwhile or practicable. A firm believer in self-help she chose the benefit principle whereby, for a small annual subscription, parishioners in the scheme could have one of the nurses employed by the Association, when required, for a reduced fee. Non-subscribers could also have a nurse, if available, on payment of a higher fee. Other groups of parishes formed similar associations.

The other principle chosen by Bertha was that of residence: in ordinary cottage cases the care of the children and cottage is what is quite as much required as the nursing of the patient, 'we do not want women as nurses who only wish to do actual nursing'. Thus she adopted the Holt system, first established by Mrs. and Miss Holt of Barningham Hall 20 years earlier, whereby the nurse lived in the cottage with her patient, or in a neighbouring cottage, and cared for the family. The system therefore became known as the Holt Ockley system and residence was looked upon as its great strength compared with systems of district nursing which were being worked elsewhere. It is clear that in rural areas, where the distances were too great for a nurse to walk to several cases in one day, and where other help was harder to obtain, the Holt Ockley System fulfilled a great need. One farmer requested a nurse for his wife who could also look after the dairy!

An account of the System was published by Louisa Hubbard in her magazine *Work and Leisure* in 1885 and mention was made in the *Englishwoman's Year Book and Directory* for 1888. In 1887 Bertha published her pamphlet called *Nurses for Sick Country Folk* which described the Holt Ockley System. The booklet was in great demand and similar nursing associations sprang up in other parts of the country. By 1894 there were 36 affiliated associations, throughout England and Wales with regional secretaries for the north, south west, east and south east of England. A Scottish branch joined the following year.

In 1890 a special training scheme for cottage nurses, devised by Bertha, was adopted by Sister Katherine Twining at the St. Mary's Nurses' Home at Plaistow. This home was run by Plaistow parish church to serve the local sick poor and was the principal training ground for cottage nurses until 1900 when Bertha set up her own Nurses' Training Home at Bury House in Lower Edmonton. Other cottage nurses were trained at hospitals, the first scheme being with the City of London Lying-in Hospital.

In 1891 the pressure of correspondence and administration (exacerbated presumably

by her father's illness, her domestic responsibilities as the eldest unmarried daughter, with motherless nephew and nieces, and an increasing involvement in the family firm of John Broadwood and Sons) led Bertha to set up the Cottage Nurses' Registry under the secretaryship of her cousin, Mrs. Charlotte Digby, who then handled the distribution of nurses and arranged for their training from her home in Cambridge.

The first public meeting of Cottage Benefit Nursing Associations was held at the house of Lord Brassey, 24 Park Lane, on 3 July 1893. The following year it became necessary to set up a Central Office and premises were rented at 12 Buckingham Palace Road. Miss Laura Dean-Pitt was appointed Secretary. The associations working the Ockley system now banded together under the title Affiliated Benefit Nursing Associations. Annual conferences were held from 1894, reports and leaflets were published and the number of associations continued to grow. In 1903 the Central Office was moved from 26a Buckingham Palace Road (where it went in 1901) to Denison House in Vauxhall Bridge Road, and in 1906 the association was re-organised to form one large Cottage Benefit Nursing Association with all cottage nurses enrolled as members.

This was a period when nursing was establishing itself as a respectable and skilled profession for middle-class women. Bertha's insistence on using, for the most part, women of the cottage class, who were not highly trained, but who were kind and competent and acceptable to the class of patient they mostly nursed, ran counter to the trend of the times which was to have lady nurses. These, Bertha contended, would not be acceptable to cottagers and would mostly not agree to live in the patient's home.

In 1916 Bertha Broadwood received a letter from the Commandant in Chief of Women's V.A.D.s, Katherine Furse: 'If you can do anything to help us to prevent the really rather disgraceful behaviour of trained nurses towards VADs in many of the hospitals, you will never have cause to regret'. This letter indicates how widely her influence was recognised. Her work with the Nursing Association earned her an entry in *Who's Who* and she was also, in 1897, made an honorary Associate of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

By 1918, however, Bertha's active participation in the Association had ceased. Headed notepaper describes her only as the 'Foundress'. She was then aged 72 and living in Painswick, Gloucestershire. Her last two years were spent at Tile Cottage, Reigate.

In the autobiographical notes, evidently intended as an obituary, Bertha described herself as having inherited from her north-country ancestors the 'imagination, determination and perseverance and doggedness necessary for organising and carrying through a work which has practically revolutionised nursing in country districts'. She lists as her other interests archaeology, architecture, pictures, natural history, especially ornithology, history and foreign politics.

In spite of her claim to imagination Bertha Broadwood was not an innovator. She did not question the foundations of her society; her aim was always to restore and improve within the given framework. Using whatever resources she had to hand she did what she could without yearning for perfection, for as she herself put it *'le mieux est l'ennemi du bon'*.

SOURCES

This article is based on records of the Broadwood family deposited in Surrey Record office by the Broadwood Trust and is published by kind permission of the trustees.

HACKBRIDGE TRANSFORMERS FOR BARKING 'B' POWER STATION AND AN ACCIDENT ON A SURREY ROAD

C.G. Mileham
Mayford and Woking District History Society and
Send and Ripley History Society

Introductory

During the 1930s the Hackbridge Electric Construction Company, whose works were at Hersham, manufactured a number of transformers for the new Barking 'B' Power Station. This station was being built by The County of London Electric Supply Company to supplement their original 'A' Station which had been formally opened by King George V in 1925.

Originally most power stations were relatively small in size and they supplied electricity to domestic and industrial consumers in their own area, and, where they existed, to the local tramway undertaking. Electricity was not normally transferred from one area to another, as at the voltages then used, transmission losses were considerable.

However, following the Electricity Supply Act of 1926, the Central Electricity Board came into being. This set up the National Grid of overhead transmission lines carrying current at 132,000 volts. At this voltage the transmission losses over longer distances were reduced, and as a result power could be transferred more easily between areas.

As a result of this it became the practice to build larger power stations where coal was more readily available, either adjacent to coalfields for short-haul rail deliveries, or at ports or on rivers where sea-borne coal could be supplied. These latter sites had the added advantage of ample cooling water for the machines. Barking, being on the north bank of the River Thames, was an ideal site for this expansion.

At the time that Barking 'B' Power Station was constructed its generators were probably the largest in the country, although shortly afterwards an even larger, 105 MW, generator was installed at Battersea Power Station.

Four 75 MW Turbo Alternators were to be installed in the new station, and the generator transformers to be connected to these were then the world's largest, rated at 125,000 h.p. or 93,750 kVA. They each weighed over 100 tons and included 45 miles of copper conductor and 65 miles of insulating tape.

In order to transport these items from Hersham to Barking, special heavy haulage vehicles were required, and a number of photographs showing these vehicles with the first three transformers have been located.

The first transformers

Fig. 1 shows the first transformer alongside the turbine house at Barking 'B' Power Station, ready to be off-loaded and placed on its foundation plinth. It had arrived on the low-loading articulated trailer of the '100-ton' Scammell operated by M.R.S. (Marston's Road Services). This was the first internal combustion engined vehicle ever to haul a

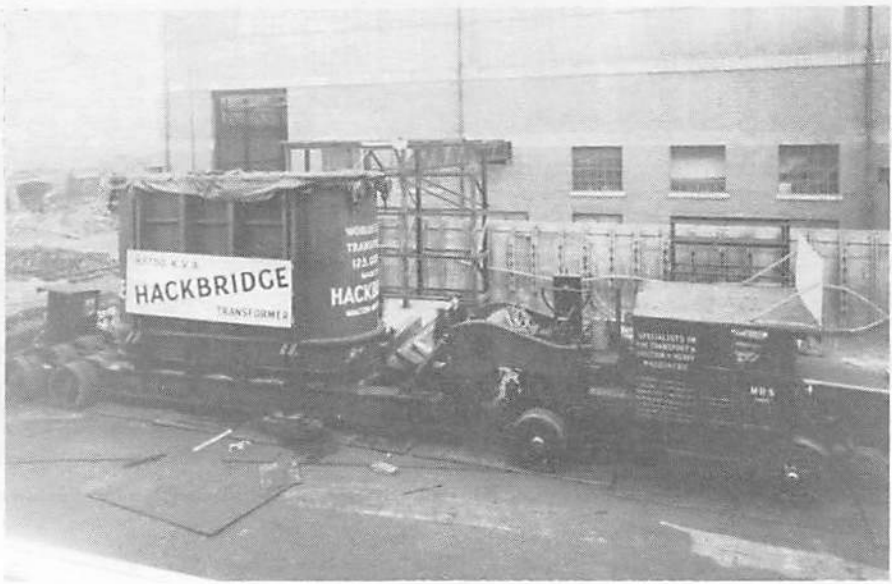


Fig. 1. The first transformer ready for unloading at Barking 'B' Power Station (*from the author's collection*).

load of 100 tons or more. The rear wheels of the trailer could be steered and braked by a man who sat in the 'sentry box' at the back, and a telephone was installed so that the driver could give him instructions. Note that steel plates had been placed on the roadway to spread the load from the wheels so that they did not break through the road surface. This transformer appears to have been delivered towards the end of 1932.

The second transformer

Fig. 2 shows the second transformer, this time with steam haulage, on the Kingston By-pass in April 1933. In this case E.W. Rudd was the haulage contractor, and the transformer was slung between girders supported on multi-wheel bogies at each end. It was hauled by Rudd's Fowler road locomotive, which was traced by a Burrell road locomotive, 'City of London', and another Burrell, 'His Majesty', was assisting at the rear. Both Burrells were owned by J. Hickey & Sons of Richmond.

The third transformer

The journey of the third of these large transformers, in March 1936, has been well documented, as owing to a mishap shortly after leaving the works on Saturday 14 March, it took five days to reach its destination.

As with the second transformer, E.W. Rudd was the haulage contractor, but this time the transformer was carried on a low-loading trailer with multi-wheel bogies at each

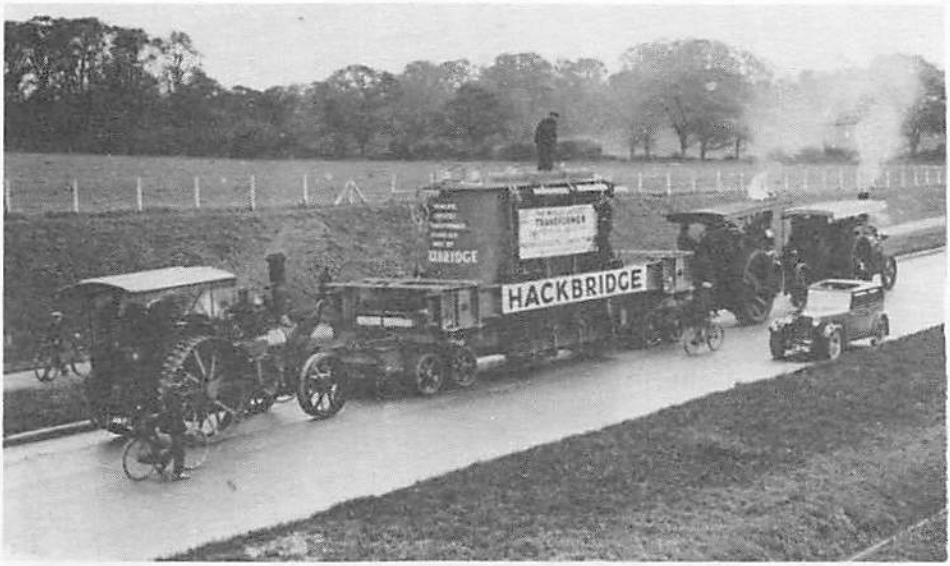
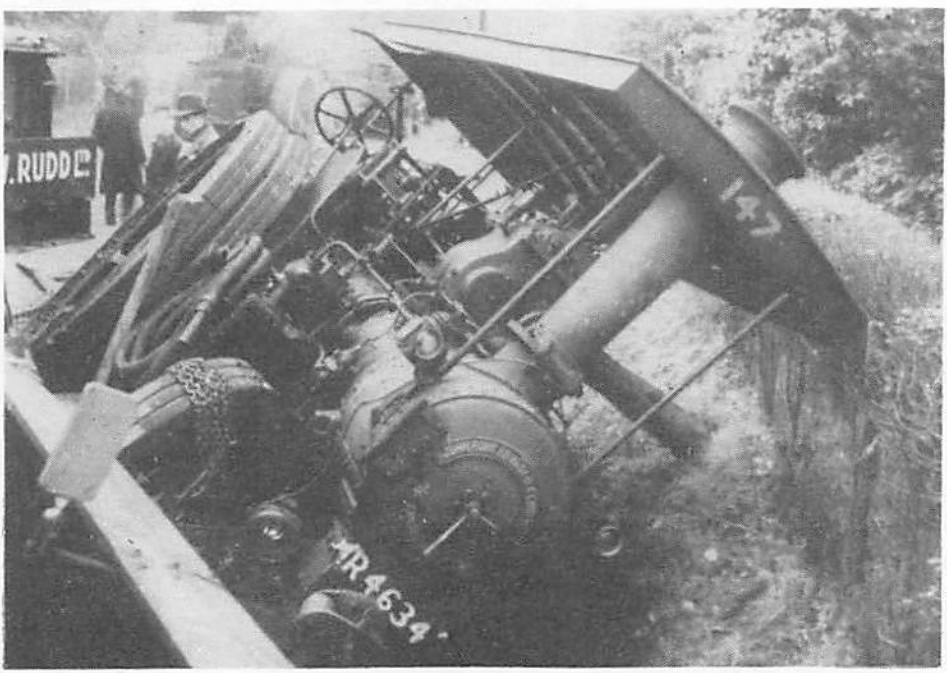


Fig. 2. The second transformer on the Kingston By-pass in April 1933 (*from the collection of Mr. Alan Martin*).

Fig. 3. The overturned engines of the third transformer on the Seven Hills Road in March 1936 (*from the collection of Mr. Alan Martin*).



end. This was drawn out of the works gateway by Rudd's Fowler road locomotive into Molesey Road heading in a northerly direction. The road locomotive was then detached and transferred to the other end of the trailer; another Fowler, owned by Coulsons of Park Royal, was attached to trace it, with Hickey's 'City of London' to assist at the rear, and finally this procession was followed by one of Rudd's Scammell lorries, which would have been carrying jacks, blocks and tackle, and timber packing pieces.

Although it was less than two miles to the A3 at Esher, they had to take a roundabout route of some seven and a half miles via Pains Hill and Cobham, as the trailer would have grounded on the old bridge over the River Mole along Esher Road. All went well along Burwood Road and round into Seven Hills Road, but a short distance past the entrance to Whiteley Village, after stopping to apply the trailer brakes before descending the next hill, the re-start was not co-ordinated very well, with the result that the two leading engines ran off the road, Coulson's engine falling over on its nearside, while Rudd's was tilted over at 45 degrees in the ditch. Fortunately no one was seriously injured, although one driver was slightly hurt. The trailer remained upright on the road as did Hickey's engine. Fig. 3 shows Rudd's engine in the ditch, the trailer still on the road and in the left foreground can be seen the offside valance to the canopy of Coulson's engine with a driving mirror sticking up about half way along it.

Sunday and Monday were spent in recovering the two leading engines; Coulson's, being damaged, was towed away, but Rudd's was still serviceable. During this time the road was closed and traffic was diverted.

On Tuesday 17 March the convoy finally got under way again, now with Rudd's engine being traced by 'City of London' and the Scammell lorry attached at the rear. Good progress was made, and the London end of the Kingston By-pass was reached about 8 p.m. where they had to wait until midnight, when a police escort arrived to pilot them safely through central London. The route taken was via Putney, Putney Bridge, King's Road Chelsea, Sloane Street, Knightsbridge, Piccadilly, and Shaftesbury Avenue to Holborn and then through the City. This journey was finally completed on the Wednesday afternoon, when they arrived on the site at Barking.

The fourth transformer

So far no photographs of this item have been located. The fourth 75 MW generator was not commissioned until some time during 1940, and so it is likely that if this move took place under wartime conditions, it did not receive the same publicity as the previous operations in peacetime.

The haulage units

The motive power units used in these operations are a most interesting collection, and with one exception, they all survive today in preservation.

Rudd's engine was built in 1917 by John Fowler & Co, (Leeds) Ltd. Works no.14921, registration no. HR 4634. Scrapped about 1950.

Hickey's engines: 'His Majesty' built in 1920 by Charles Burrell & Sons Ltd., Thetford, Norfolk. Works no.3829, registration no. PB 9687. Now preserved at Horsham, Sussex.

'City of London' built in 1913 by Burrell. Works no. 3489, registration no. PB 9624. Sold and converted to a Showman's Road Locomotive, with dynamo mounted in front

of chimney and fitted with extended canopy. Re-named 'King George VI' (probably in 1937, Coronation year) and operated first by showman Swales Bolesworth, and later by E. Andrews junior. It is now preserved at Witney in Oxfordshire. Note that it was being used in 1936 on Trade Licence Plate 419 P and carrying registration no. PE 8171, which belonged to Hickey's third engine, 'Black Prince', Burrell works no. 2701, built in 1904. This was also converted to a showman's engine, operated by Harry Gray, and is now preserved at Bressingham, Norfolk.

Coulson's engine was built by Fowler in 1904, works no. 9904, registration no. MT 2430. This is now preserved at Wymondham, Norfolk.

The M.R.S. Scammell was built by Scammell Lorries of Watford in 1929, registration no. KD 9168. It was originally built with a 4-cylinder petrol engine and when loaded used about 3 gallons to the mile on the level, which increased to 5 gallons when going uphill; some years later a Gardner 6-cylinder diesel engine was substituted which considerably reduced consumption to about 5 miles to the gallon of fuel.

Sometimes this vehicle operated under the name of Edward Box & Co. Ltd. (an associated firm of M.R.S.) and it was frequently used to haul railway locomotives for export from The Vulcan Foundry at Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, to Liverpool docks. In the 1940s it hauled its heaviest ever load, a transformer weighing 167 tons. This too was a Hackbridge product.

When nationalised, in 1948, the Scammell was incorporated into Pickfords Heavy Haulage fleet, and was transferred to Glasgow, where it again hauled railway locomotives for export. These were taken from the North British Locomotive Company's Works for loading on vessels on the Clyde. Since being withdrawn from service it is now in preservation, and has appeared at sundry vintage vehicle rallies.

The Hackbridge Companies

The Hackbridge Company was founded in 1919 at Hackbridge (between Mitcham and Sutton) and produced both transformers and cables. In 1923 the transformer side of the business moved to Hersham and became The Hackbridge Electric Construction Company, being separated from the Cable Company which remained at the original site.

The site at Hersham had been occupied originally by a large house named Hersham Lodge, standing in some seven acres of garden and parkland. During the First World War many small engineering firms were set up in the vicinity of Brooklands, making aircraft components, and one such firm had occupied this site for a while, and had constructed a large workshop in the grounds. However, by the early 1920s it had become vacant.

In 1924 the Hewittic Company, which made mercury vapour lamps and glass bulb rectifiers, moved into this site from York Road (now York Way) beside King's Cross Station in London, where they had been since formation in 1906. The two companies shared the site, but originally each had its own administration and manufacturing organisations and over the years both the offices and workshops were extended periodically. During these extensions, initially a 20-ton overhead crane was installed, and when later areas were developed, additional cranes with lifting capacities of 50, 125 and 200 tons were provided to cater for the increasing weights as transformers became so much larger. Eventually in the mid-1940s the two companies combined to become The Hackbridge and Hewittic Electric Company Limited.

Many large traction contracts were obtained, involving the supply of both transformers and rectifiers for railways in many parts of the world, those at home including a considerable amount for London Transport and the Southern Railway, and later British Rail, Southern Region. At the same time many large transformers were supplied for power stations, and over the years some 50 per cent of the total output of the works was exported.

In the 1950s the firm joined a group named Combined Electrical Manufacturers which included switchgear firms as well, so that complete package projects could be offered. During this period a further factory was established at Broadstairs for the production of smaller items, in order to provide more space at Hersham for the manufacture of the larger units.

In 1967 the Company merged with English Electric to consolidate the design and manufacture of items required in the large transformer market, and at the same time

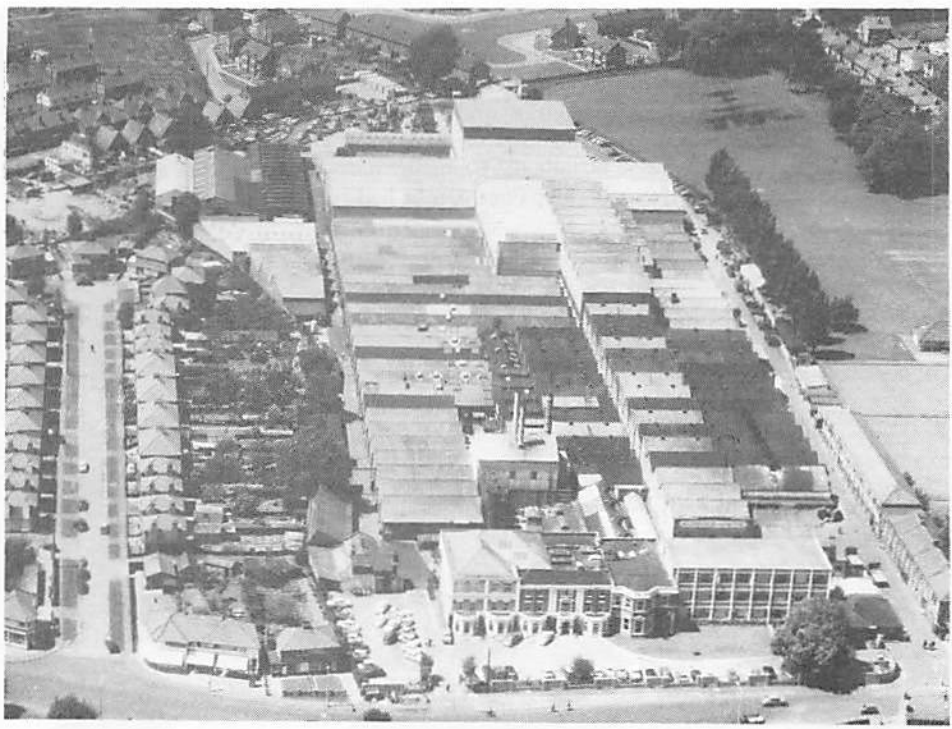


Fig. 4. Aerial view of the works at Hersham. (*Reproduced with the permission of Hunting Aerofilms of Boreham Wood.*)

English Electric Hewittic Rectifiers Ltd. was formed to deal with the rectifier side of the business.

After English Electric was acquired by The General Electric Company, the rectifier manufacturing was transferred to Stafford at the end of 1971, and this was followed by the transfer of transformer manufacture to Stafford and Broadstairs in 1972. This resulted in the complete closure of the works at Hersham. The buildings were demolished in 1978, and the site was acquired by Air Products Ltd. whose new office building now occupies the area. Fig. 4 is an aerial view of the site, looking north-west.

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NEW MATERIAL FOR SURREY HISTORIANS
Accessions of Records in Surrey Record Office, 1987

D. B. Robinson
County Archivist

Our new accessions, as always, cover a wide range of subjects: social, political, business, governmental and personal. Often a single accession will touch on various of these aspects of the history of Surrey.

Racing at Epsom

The records of the Epsom Grand Stand Association, which have been deposited by United Racecourses Ltd., trace the organisation of horse racing on Epsom and Walton Downs over the past century and a half. Horse racing began on the Downs in the 17th century but it was not until 1828 that Charles Bluck leased an acre of ground from the lord of the manor to build a grandstand. Bluck sold out to the gentlemen who set up the Epsom Grand Stand Association, which built the stand and soon took over the organisation of the races.

The records include the 15-page parchment deed of settlement of 1829, signed by 104 proprietors, which established the Association and set out its constitution and management. There are bundles of meeting papers from 1828 to 1844, when the minute books begin. These are the basic record of the running of the Association.

There are bundles of race accounts for the 1840s and 1850s. These show that, for example, at the Derby meeting of 1850, one police superintendent was charged to the Association at 13s. 6d. a day, inspectors at 9s. and 6s. 6d., sergeants at 3s. 6d. and constables at 3s. and the total police bill, including conveyance and lodgings, came to £180 12s.

An interesting group of papers relates to the use of the properties during the wars. The committee of Epsom War Hospital was granted the use of a building on the north side of the grandstand as a war hospital in 1915, part of Walton Downs was requisitioned in 1916 and there was a proposal to cultivate the golf course in 1917. during the Second World War there was an appeal against the level of compensation of requisitioning. The records include deeds relating to the Warren estate and other properties acquired by the Association. These records, I must stress, are records of the organisation and management of the race meetings. They are not records of the races themselves. We are not in a position to name the winner of the 1889 Derby ... let alone the 1989 Derby!

Georgian Walton-upon-Thames

We have also purchased a volume, probably bound at the end of last century or early this century consisting of two strays from the 18th-century Walton-upon-Thames parish archives. One is a booklet listing paupers in the parish workhouse with notes on vestrymen's visits. Most of the adult male paupers were old men, like Thomas Collier,

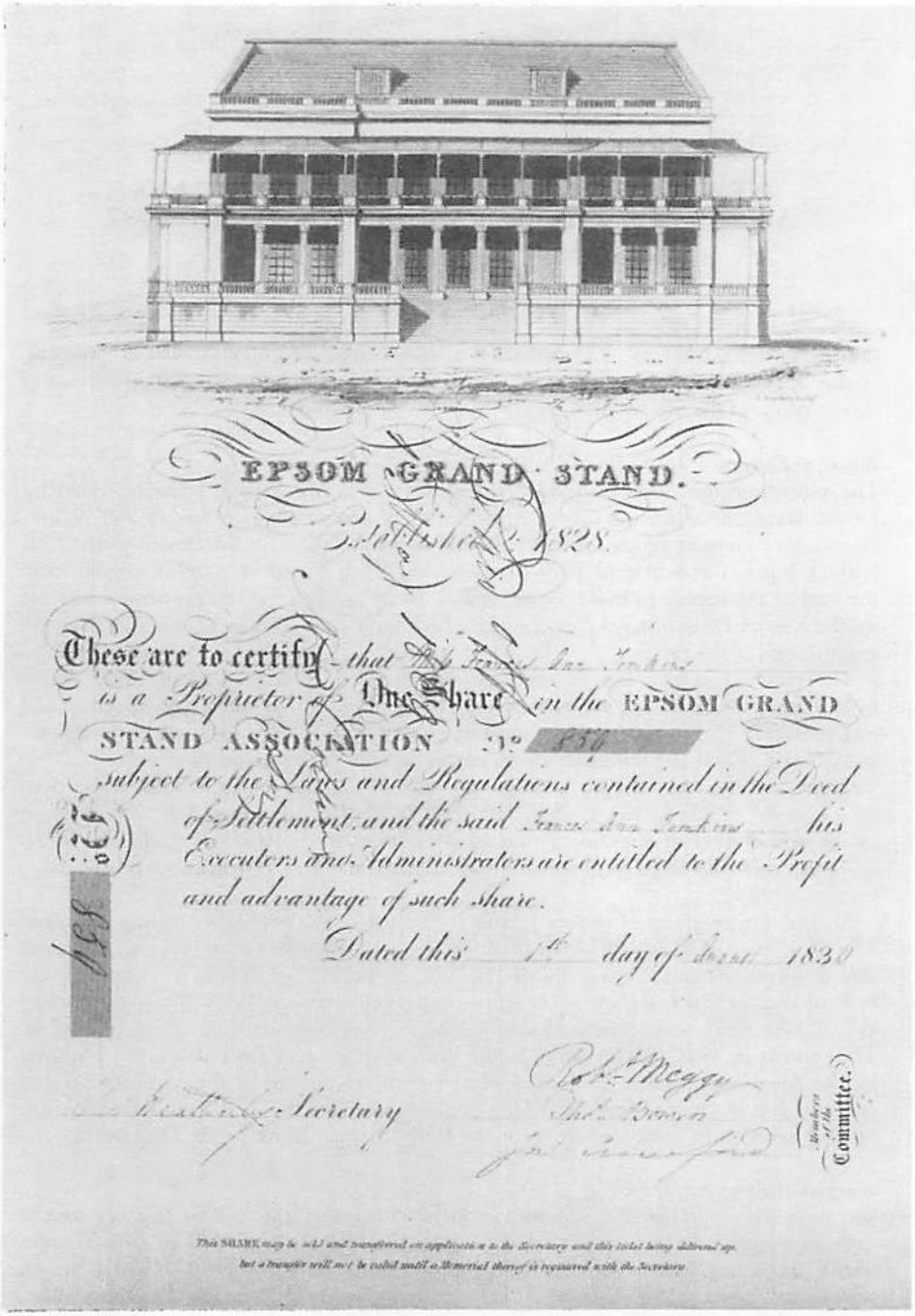

Fig. 1. Epsom Grand Stand share certificate, 1836 (*Surrey Record Office, 3434/5*).

85, suffering from rheumatism and being'past labour', 'he is now quite superannuated and is allowed 3d. per week for tobacco'; John Draper, 81 and blind, was described as 'indolent' and received no allowance, but Richard Chipping, also 81 and 'lame in the feet, not able to do a days work', managed the garden and was allowed 6d. a week. There were a number of women of similar age and also younger ones who 'could not get employment'. There were a number of children, mostly illegitimate. The two oldest, girls of 18 and 15, could not keep positions in service 'on account of bad behaviour' and were'taught to spin on the Billy and may maintain themselves by their own labour in any cotton factory and are willing to go': perhaps they valued their independence. Spinning was presumably regarded as a safe income: William Broad's two children (not in the workhouse) were 'to have their dinners for one week while they learn to spin'.

An interesting aspect of village life appears in the account of William Grantham's request for a marriage certificate in 1792. His marriage was not found in the register but Edmond Fowler 'a very old and respectible inhabitant of this parish' informed the vestry that he had been present and given Martha Bullen away in marriage, 27 January 1747,

> and that William Legg was Clerk of the Parish and present at the time, whose business it was to have entered it into the Regester, and that he was a man addicted to drinking too much, which the vestry supposed might be the reason of his not entering the said marriage into the Regester.

The Walton-upon-Thames parish registers have been deposited with us for several years, and on looking at them we see that they are generally well entered up at the period, although clearly in blocks, perhaps annually, but that the marriage entries for 1743-54 form a loose sheet, still quite tidily entered, in the front of the volume. Presumably this loose sheet had strayed at the time of entering the baptisms and burials. This is a good example of how our steady acquisition of records in different ways and from different sources builds up a body of information in which different records throw light on each other.

Another clerk, Mr. Giles, was in trouble in 1793, when he burst into a vestry meeting and told the members, 'I have as much right to sit here as any of you. But I despise you, you have injured me – you have said that I am a sower of sedition in the parish'. He accused Mr. Humphreys but left before Humphreys arrived. Humphreys denied the allegation and added 'But I saw Mr. Giles about an Hour ago and I thought him in liquor'. 'This', the minute continues, 'was the best excuse that could be made for Him. But he did not appear to the Vestry to be in that situation'. The clerk was outside their direct control, being an appointee of the vicar, but they declared that no gratuity would be given to him in the future and that his salary for the care of the clock and cleaning the church should cease.

Baptist Schoolmaster in Outwood

The account book of John Westcott of Outwood is a valuable record of a 19th-century private schoolmaster. He kept a school in Southwark from 1828 to 1829 and the accounts begin again with his school in Outwood in 1837 and continue to 1872. He took pupils mostly from the surrounding area – Lingfield, Blindley Heath, Crowhurst, Copthorne, Plaistow Street, Batners, Puttenden, Dormansland and East Grinstead – but also from

Caterham, Croydon, Chiddingstone (Kent) and a few from London. The parents included millers, shopkeepers and farmers, a butcher, a mealman, a gardener and a hoop shaver. The accounts also show that in 1837 Mr. Cockrell, a builder, of Plaistow Heath built him a house for £307. Westcott was connected with Outwood Baptist Chapel and some accounts survive for receipts and expenditure in connection with the chapel and sales of the *Gospel Herald*.

Guildford Charities

Records of three important Guildford charities have been received at the Muniment Room. Archbishop Abbott's School was established in 1856, using an educational endowment of Thomas Baker, 1579, and a charity endowed by the 17th-century Archbishop Abbott. The school was a charity school with some fee-paying places and provided education in 'modern' subjects (including book-keeping and land surveying as well as reading, writing, arithmetic and history). It closed in 1932, when the endowments were transferred for use for exhibitions for boys to attend university and other courses. The records include trustees' minute books, 1856-1931, account books of the school and the exhibition foundation, 1856-1980, correspondence and property records. They also include the Chancery decree by which in 1656 Archbishop Abbott's original endowment for a 'manufactory' to provide work for the 'imployment of those that are young' was converted into stock for 'honest poor tradesmen and housekeepers'. The reason for the change was 'that such as were imployed there to work would not work but for greater wages than others gave which they having grew more idle and did leave work and would work but a certain part of the day'.

Records of the succeeding charity distributions, 1676-1851, are given in four volumes deposited by the trustees of Guildford Muniment Charities. These list the recipients. The scheme itself degenerated into a series of doles; recipients considered themselves entitled to an annuity for life 'which had in some cases made them idle, and in other cases had induced them to get liquor at alehouses on a score which was to be discharged by the money received from the Archbishop's benefaction'.

From all corners of the county

Apart from these accessions, which tell interesting stories in themselves, we continue to receive large quantities of records – title deeds and rate books, for example – which only yield their secrets to the persistent researcher who studies them in relation to other records and gleans from them the story of the development of a town or village, or of a small estate. Each accession, whether a vanload or a single piece of paper, is a small part of the mosaic which is the history of Surrey. We are grateful for the co-operation of members of many local history societies and individuals in the county for letting us know of records at risk and in some cases saving records by emergency action. Records once destroyed can never be replaced.

Erratum: Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 148. The captions to Figs. 2 and 3 should be reversed.

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