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Cover Illustration: Mitcham Volunteer Fire Brigade and *Caesar*, The Merryweather 'No. 1 Volunteer' Steamer, bought in 1884.

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JOHN BIRD AND HIS ACCOUNT BOOK

David Robinson
County Archivist

When Andrew Cranston on 4th. November 1708 drew up the deed settling his library on the first body of trustees, among the names of the local peers and gentry such as Lord Somers and Viscount Windsor, the M.Ps. Sir John Parsons and James Cocks and other residents such as Stephen Dungate, Ralph Arnold, George and John Heath and William Woodman who formed the trustees appears the name 'John Bird, clerk'. Five days after Cranston died on 11th. December the same John Bird succeeded him as vicar of Reigate. Bird remained as vicar for just over 19 years until his own death in 1728.

Bird was a Cambridge man, born there in 1674, the son of another John Bird who was himself Cambridge-born. John the father was born in 1649 or 1650, educated at the Perse School, Cambridge, and then at Christ's College. He became curate of Carlton with Willingham and then rector of Knapwell, ten miles north-west of Cambridge. He was also master of Knapwell school. John the son was sent to Wisbech School, where Francis Fern was Head Master. Fern was in his late 30s and early 40s and, at about the time the fifteen-year-old Bird left his school, became rector of Downham near Ely and prebendary of Ely cathedral. It was a normal pattern for a clergyman to teach, whether as a university don or as teacher of a grammar school or taking in private pupils, and Bird was to follow in the pattern of his father and his headmaster. Fern was a graduate of St. John's College and this may have influenced Bird in going to St. John's, rather than his father's college, Christ's. He was a sizar and would have been expected to perform servants' duties around the college in return for his board and tuition.

Bird graduated in 1694 and was ordained deacon by the bishop of Ely in the same year. Drury Bird, his younger brother, went to their father's college and then himself became a clergyman. We can probably deduce that the family was one of moderate means but some educational ability for which the church and teaching were obvious professions but whose members lacked the gentry background or contacts to slip easily into family benefices - we shall see later how Bird tried to solve this problem - or the exceptional ability to win through to the highest offices - bishoprics or cathedral dignities - on ability alone.

Bird disappears from view for the next eight years but in 1702 he was in Reigate and on 18th. September of that year, aged 28, he took out an archbishop's licence to marry Grace Arnold, widow of John Arnold and proprietor of the Bottle House, an inn at Santon in the south-west of the parish. Arnold had died leaving lands in Reigate and Betchworth to his wife for life and then to his children but his personal estate was £ 1,150 short of his debts and there is evidence in the Reigate court rolls of land being mortgaged. On 27th. May 1703 John Bird and Grace Arnold were married in Reigate parish church. In 1707, thirteen years after being ordained deacon, Bird was ordained priest by the Bishop of Winchester, Jonathan Trelawney.

Who would succeed Cranston? The answer depended on the patron of the living who owned the advowson, the right to present any qualified person to the bishop for institution. The requirements of the parish need not be taken into consideration and the bishop had no right to reject the clergyman presented, provided that he was in holy orders, held no other living, was educationally qualified and of sound morals. The patronage of Reigate was in the hands of the James family, and Edward and Richard Thurland, presumably as trustees for the under-age Roger James, selected John Bird. There was later to be a further link between the families when Catherine James, Roger's sister, married Edward Bird, John Bird's nephew.

Although Reigate was a substantial town and an extensive parish, the vicarage was not a 'plum' benefice. Vicarages rarely were. Whereas a rector would have received all the tithes and farmed the whole ancient glebe of a benefice, at Reigate the rectorial income had been taken over by Southwark Priory in the Middle Ages. They appointed a vicar who received only a proportion of the benefice income. At the Reformation the rectorial tithes and other income, like the other assets of religious houses, were acquired by laymen and at Reigate they descended with the advowson, the right of patronage, to the James family. Cranston in 1705 returned the value of the vicarage as £ 70 plus perquisites. A survey of December 1708, the date of Bird's appointment, gave it as £ 45. A return of 1740 gave it as £ 80 per annum. These were probably under-estimates of the full value; such returns can usually be regarded as representing approximately the amount which the vicar might expect to receive if he put the whole business of collecting the tithes out to an agent who would need to cover his own costs and make a profit. On the other hand the income of the benefice did not drop readily into the hands of the vicar. He had to work, and sometimes fight, to get it.

Immediately on his appointment Bird made his mark as a person of organisation and order. From 25th. December 1708 the professions of fathers of children baptised begin to be regularly given in the parish registers. For burials the profession of the deceased is often given, sometimes the cause of death and regularly the affidavit for the deceased having been buried in woollen, a requirement intended to help the cloth manufacturers, dating from Acts of 1666 and 1678. Bird's enthusiasm for giving professions seems to have faded by 1714. The information on causes of death continues on and off, with smallpox and consumption frequently mentioned. This enthusiasm for maintaining an organised record in excess of what was required by law, even if it later faded away, may suggest the kind of organised man Bird's account book shows him to have been.

John Bird's account book, the real subject of this article, was deposited in Surrey Record Office with other Reigate parish records in 1967. It had been used by Hooper in his history of Reigate mainly for its references to Reigate Grammar School but does not seem to have been studied for its more general social and local-history interest. It is a thick book, initially of about 532 paper pages, with a parchment cover. 106 of the pages were never used. Unfortunately it suffered badly from dampness. In the course of repair the unused pages were removed and it now has a sturdy board covering. It is made up now of 16 gatherings, of various numbers of pages. The pages are long and narrow, as we would expect of an account book: 15½ in. x 6¼ in. (400 mm. x 160 mm.) with slight variations between pages.

The main divisions of the book, as listed on one of the front pages, are:

An account of tithes due at St. Michaelmas 1710, to page 150
An account of tithes received from St. Michaelmas 1710, to page 300
An account of money due from St. Michaelmas 1710, to page 350
An account of money received from St. Michaelmas 1710, to page 400
Account of money paid from St. Michaelmas 1710, to the end.

In fact these sections were not completely filled and there are resulting gaps and also additional minor accounts inserted.

It is therefore clear that, about two years into his tenure of the vicarage, Bird decided that it was desirable or even essential to keep a regular set of accounts. Although we need not look for any particular reason for this - it was obviously sensible to keep some form of record of payments due and received - it is clear that he was finding it difficult to collect the tithes. However loyally Anglican the farmers of Reigate might be and however well-disposed to their vicar, they would naturally be inclined to seek to minimise their outgoings. If they were Dissenters - and Reigate had a Presbyterian meeting house - or did not get on with their vicar they would be especially inclined to keep their tithes as low as possible. If they were Quakers - and Reigate also had a Quaker meeting house - they would refuse to pay tithes as a matter of principle. There is indeed evidence that some of the local people came to an agreement not to pay. On p.299 appears the entry: 'Subscribers to the Confederacy as Acknowledged to me by themselves, Richard Savage, John Heath, Richard Sanders'. This is followed by a note in another hand 'The above confederated with several others to withhold their tithes from Mr. Bird, the then Vicar'.

The first section, of tithes and other payments due, is arranged by debtor, and gives us a good indication of the Reigate property-owners of the day. It begins with William Allingham senior on p. 1 and ends with John Wood and Mr. Woodman of Buckland on p. 101. The names are often deleted and replaced by the name of a widow or heir. The tithes themselves are mostly small sums: 2s. 6d. from Allingham, £ 2 from Edward Brown, £ 1 10s. from Charles Dungate of Flanchford Farm, 5s. from Thomas Foster for The Budgens, 10s. from Mr. Lysney of Ricebridge, 'wood, hops and turnips excepted'. Sir John Parsons paid £ 6 a year and the Countess of Plymouth £ 1 15s.

Tithes were paid long after they were due and often at a discount. Edward Thurland, one of the two trustees who had presented Bird as vicar, owed £ 4 6s. for four years in 1712, and this added up to £ 9 16s. 6d. (probably) by 1716 with another £ 3 due in 1718 for the ensuing two years. In 1716 Bird received five guineas and in 1721 another five guineas but overall he does not seem to have received the full amount due.

Some debtors paid in kind. Richard Savage, one of the 'confederates', who in 1716 owed £ 19 19s. 6d., paid 37 lb. of hops and £ 5 18s. 9d. In 1713 Bird agreed with George Wattle at 14s. per annum, 'he paying a bushell of apples each year', and the receipt of the apples and the 14s. is entered. George Heath paid in apples at various times between 19th. September and 14th. October 1713: 3 gallons on 19th. September, 1/2 bushel on 22nd. and other amounts on 13 different days, a total of 9 bushels and 3 gallons of apples, evidently in respect of 5 years' tithes worth £ 10. When Bird bought apples in 1718 a bushel cost him only 2s. 6d., so that he seems to have lost on the deal. Thomas Foster gave a sack of wheat and 3 guineas in 1718. Mr. Hubbard gave a load of hay and two bushels of wheat and two of pease for his windmill at various times in

1713 and 1714. Payments in kind seem to have been made as a matter of mutual convenience and probably not to maintain the vicar's right to receive tithes in kind.

On occasion an agreement with an overdue tithepayer, signed by the debtor and witnessed, was entered into the book: 'Memorandum July 17, 1716. I promise to pay to Mr Bird or order the Sum of seven pounds at or near the first day of September next ensuing being so much due to him for tithes to St Michs last past. Witness my hand'. It is signed by John Allingham and witnessed by Edward Johnson. Payment seems to have been received on 2nd. October in fact, a month late.

In this first section, payments due were marked with a cross when they were received, although there seem to have been occasional oversights. On p. 113 there is the note: 'Memo: Wheeler is not X crossed, any more than Heaver or Killick, but it is not clear from thence that they did not pay the demand, because I perceive several others (Edward Thurland Esqr for example) who cannot be supposed to be defaulters, without that discharging mark.' Presumably Bird was not always in a position to cross through an entry when he received payment and he may thereafter have forgotten to bring the book up to date.

Wood, hops and turnips were often excepted from the main tithe payment. It is clear that there was significant planting of hops and Joseph Dungate actually paid in hops on at least one occasion. On p. 113 there is a list of mills and millers, based on the previous pages: 'From the preceding Account it appears that the Mills in this Parish have paid tithes, as follows': the payments due seem to be for Sydley (Sidlow) Mill (John Baxter, then John Dudney, then John Heaver) 'the windmills' (John Dudney, John Killick and John Heaver) and William Stevens' mill.

Although this first section is described as covering tithes, it in fact includes other payments: wedding and burial fees, for example, and mortuaries. Mortuaries were paid in respect of the right of the vicar to the second-best beast of the deceased and were by now compounded for a money payment. The right to receive a mortuary was beginning to lapse by the eighteenth century but was evidently still operative in Reigate. 10s. was a common sum. James Lee paid a 10s. mortuary for his sister. Mr. Peckham paid 1s. for a burial, 10s. for a pall, 10s. for a sermon, the standard fee, and 10s. mortuary.

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The first section is a ledger. The second section, from p. 151 to p. 213, is the day book: John Bird's daily record of receipts from Michaelmas 1710 to July 1719. It is described as 'An Account of Tithes received' but like the first section it also covers other forms of income and it shows the extent to which the early years were difficult ones for getting in the income due to Bird. Initially relatively little came from tithes. In October 1710 Bird's receipts were £ 2 2s. 8d., of which Francis Neass' wife's burial accounted for 7s. 8d. (1s. as the burial fee and 6s. 8d. for the black cloth), 10s. each was paid for two marriages and 6d. for churching Richard Rhodes' wife. November brought in £ 4 15s. 6d., including £ 2 9s. for tithes. December brought in £ 5 12s 0d. The burial of Mr. Keesley brought in 25s., 1s. burial fee, 10s. for the pall, 10s. for the mortuary, and 4s. for 2 years' tithes due: presumably the threat of refusing to bury, or of giving an

inadequate burial, persuaded the next of kin to pay up. In the Middle Ages testators often left payments to their rector or vicar 'for tithes forgotten', presumably to ensure a shorter stay in purgatory thanks to the virtue acquired by the bequest and the prayers which it may have inspired. This motive may not have survived the Reformation but next of kin and executors with a body on their hands presumably found a rector or vicar's demands difficult to resist.

By January 1711, income had risen to £ 20 7s. 6d., as Bird began to get in his tithes, often for the preceding two years. March brought in £ 8 18s. 0d. - most of it on 10th. March from the Earl of Shaftesbury - £ 5 7s. 6d. 'for baptising's son and churching's Lady'. Shaftesbury had taken a house in Church Street on his marriage in August 1709, apparently because the smoke of London made his asthma intolerable. The rest of the year was fairly meagre, despite £ 2 3s. from the Earl of Shaftesbury (for which no reason is given) on 29th. June. Bird's total income for 1710-11 as recorded in the account book was £ 63 19s. 8d. As the years progressed, this seemed, for a time, to be an average figure. 1711-12 brought in £ 53 19s. 9d.; 1712-13, £ 72 10s. 5d.

By 1712 and 1713 Bird seems to have begun to enjoy greater success in collecting his tithes. In December 1712 he received £ 12 from Sir John Parsons for 2 years' tithes due at Lady Day last. By this time a considerable number of parishioners were settling for four or five years' back-payments. In December 1713 Bird received £ 43 7s. 11d., and in January 1714 £ 54 7s. 4d., receiving in those two months more than his previous annual receipts. From Michaelmas 1713 to Michaelmas 1714 he received £ 176 9s. 11d., almost as much as he had received in the three preceding years. The following year he received almost £ 100. Nevertheless, by his own reckoning at least, Bird's parishioners were heavily in debt to him. There is a memorandum: 'Cast up this book October 31st., 1715, and the sum total unpaid amounts to £ 376 8s. 0d.'. By 1718 he had received a total of £ 748 3s. 9d. in eight years, an average of over £ 90 a year. He reckoned, however, that he was due another £ 520 1s. 8d. for tithes, as well as £ 63 4s. 6d. for the school and £ 83 5s. 0d. for rent, a total of £ 666 11s. 2d. There is no evidence in the account book of Bird taking legal action to secure his tithes although research in court records might reveal such action. It does not appear that he pursued Quakers: no 'sufferings' are quoted for Bird's incumbency in *Quakers in Reigate*. The only evidence of Bird using an agent is in payments being received 'by John Wix' in 1716.

The accounts include a variety of other forms of ecclesiastical income. Bird noted, 'Memo Began to supply for Mr. Ingram at Midsummer 1715 at £ 20 p.a.' John Ingram had been vicar of Chipstead since 1679, and cannot have been less than 60 years old by 1715, perhaps much more. There are entries in Bird's accounts for a regular half-year's ten pounds until 1717: Ingram died in 1718, and may therefore have been in poor health during these last three years of his life. In January 1724 Bird received £ 20 for serving Merstham on behalf of James Samborne for the year until Michaelmas past. Samborne died in the same February, aged 80. These deputisings should therefore be seen, not as a pluralist vicar replacing absentees who were neglecting their cures, but as means by which, long before there were pensions, an aged or ailing clergyman could ensure that his cure was served while keeping some income to live on.

Bird also took on the additional duty of curate of Capel. Humphrey Parsons of Reigate Priory was patron. Capel had a population of about 500 with, as Bird reported to Bishop Willis in 1725, 'very few births or burials, and scarce a

marriage, in years'. He added that 'There have been for some time an Anabaptist and presbyterian meeting; and now a Quakers meeting house just finished: their numbers are but too many': the lack of a resident minister may have been one reason for this. Capel probably had only one service a day, but Reigate presumably had two, and we must assume that Bird made the journey there and back each Sunday. Cranston had been vicar of Newdigate as well as Reigate; the journey south was not unknown to the vicars of Reigate. One curious ecclesiastical duty performed by Bird is reflected in the entry in July 1713 of a payment of 10s. for a wedding, to which he added the note 'In the Mint'. The Mint was the Suffolk Place estate, just east of Borough High Street in Southwark. It was within the Rules of the King's Bench Prison and was one of the more famous, or notorious, liberties in which clandestine marriages might be celebrated. Bird was in London at the time: the reason for his celebrating this marriage is unknown.

Bird tabulated and accounted for rent from his privately-owned land separately. The amounts come to between £ 73 and £ 107 a year, and this was obviously a stable source of income roughly equal to the tithes and easiest to collect. These accounts were continued after his death, the last entries being in 1746. Bird's gross income from the school seems to have been similar, although this would not be clear profit. He therefore seems to have enjoyed an income of about £ 260 a year: £ 90 tithes and other perquisites attached to his benefice and his ministerial functions, £ 80-90 rent, and say £ 80 from the school. This was a gentleman's income; not at the level of a squire but above the normal level for a professional man such as a country attorney.

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What did John Bird spend his money on? His payments, as totalled in the expenditure pages, range from about £ 200 a year to nearly £ 400 but are usually around £ 300. This deficit hardly seems plausible and the totals are misleading because they include, for example, repayments of loans on behalf of members of Bird's family, for example £ 15 in 1710 'to Mr. Hillman in part of £ 30 on Ralph Arnold's account', and in February the rest of that account. He also includes expenditure on 'Molly', perhaps a relative on whose account he was given £ 150 by 'my brother Sanders' and for whose schooling and other needs he made regular payments. We cannot produce a balance sheet without much closer analysis; probably we cannot do so at all. Nevertheless, the expenditure entries give clues to Bird's manner of life and standard of living.

The entries vary in detail. Some are specific: 2nd. Jan. 1711 'to Thomas Michell for 7 lb. of turnip seed 2s. 4d.'. Some give the recipient but not the reason: 1st. Dec. 1711 'To old Smith in Earlswood 1s.'. Others give the reason but not the supplier: 22nd. Dec. 1711 'powder and a horn 9d.'. For many other days there is a mere 'at home' then a sum of money and in other cases 'at the White Hart' or 'at Rusper'. We do not always know whether expenditure was for Bird or for a member of his family or a servant; it may be reasonable to assume that 3lb. of tobacco costing 5s. was primarily for himself or that six-and-a-half yards of silk for a petticoat costing 12s. 6d. was for his wife - he had no daughters and it seems unlikely that his maidservants wore silk - but when he purchases shoes or stockings, for whom is he buying them? When he buys an anchor of brandy is this for resale at the Bottle House or for private use? When

he buys ½ gross of quart bottles for 15s. 3d. and ½ gross of pint bottles for 10s. 9d. or a gross of corks for 6d., is this for the Bottle House or for domestic brewing?

The starting-point for Bird's expenditure should perhaps be his farming expenditure. 1711 gives us a reasonable picture of the farming year. On 2nd. January 1711 he paid Thomas Michell 2s. 4d. for 7lb. of turnip seed. On 26th. January he paid William Woodman £ 1 12s. for ploughing and carrying of dung at the Bottle House and on 29th. January paid Haybeetle 2s. 6d. in part for six days' work. March saw ploughing: paid Isemonger 10s. for ploughing on 11th. and then paid Isemonger more on 15th for ploughing and carriage of wood and shaw (coppice wood). By June he was paying Saxby 1s. for two days' weeding, in July paying for haymaking: 3s. 6d. for making 14 acres of hay. On 9th. August he paid the molecatcher 1s. At the end of the year he was paying William Kent 1s. a day for hedging, ditching and cutting wood. 1s. a day seems to have been a reasonably standard payment for the eighteenth-century agricultural labourer. We find Bird paying this rate regularly. Sixpence a day was paid, though, for Saxby's two days' weeding and for Jacob Knowles' boy's work for four days. Picking stones was also worth 6d. On the other hand, Goodman Matthews was paid 5s. 7d. for 4½ days at 15d. a day and 18s. 8d. for fourteen days' hoeing the turnips at 16d. a day.

Cows might cost £ 4 1s., which Bird paid John Skinner of Outwood for one in 1712, or £ 3 15s., which he paid George Moorer in 1717. He paid Moorer £ 1 10s. for two pigs at the same time, and at other times bought pigs at 7s., 9s., 13s., 14s., 18s. and 19s. each, from one Micklethwait, from Cuddington of Charlwood and from unidentified sellers. He paid Mr. Aynscomb £ 3 for a hog. Twenty-five sheep cost him £ 10 and 20 ewes £ 7 2s. 6d.: 7-8s. each.

Presumably some of his own animals landed up on the vicarage table, together with the milk from the cow. Despite his purchases of sheep, he occasionally needed to buy lamb (2s. 6d. a quarter) or mutton (1s. for a neck, 1s. 1d. for a shoulder, 1s. 6d. for a six-pound neck and, on another occasion, 1s. 6d. for a six-pound leg). Other purchases of meat included six stone of beef for 11s., a loin of veal for 4s. 4d., three chickens from the widow Coall for 3s. and two from the widow Snelling for 2s: keeping chickens was presumably a good way for a widow to make some money. Two rabbits cost 1s. 6d.

Despite having a cow, John Bird bought butter and cheese at various times. Thirty pounds of butter cost him 16s. Cheeses (size unspecified) could cost 4s. 10½d., 5s. 9d., 6s., 6s. 2d, 6s. 9d., 7s., 8s. at various times. Honey cost £ 1 5s. for 86 lb. and £ 1 9s. 4d. for 94lb., which suggests a price of about 3½d. a lb. A hundredweight of sugar cost £ 2 15s.

What did clothing cost? On 6th. Feb. 1711 Bird bought a pair of breeches from Edward Yates for 13s. In 1720 he paid Mr. New 7s. for making a coat. Gloves could cost 8d. or, a pair bought in Ewell, 2s. 6d. A neckcloth cost 2s 3d. Stockings bought in London could cost 10s. or 14s. John Wix, otherwise called 'old John Wix', made and repaired his shoes in the early years: 4s. 6d. for making, 1s. 6d. for mending. Two hats bought in London cost 16s. 6d. His most expensive item of expenditure on his appearance seems to have been his wig. On 7th. June he paid Edward Hobbs £ 1 as the last instalment on a wig costing £ 4. Hobbs was his regular barber, whom he paid 5s. each quarter for trimming. At other times he paid 3 gns or £ 3 10s.: these were for wigs purchased in London. In 1716 he paid 4s. 6d. for a wig block and 15s. for 'altering a wig'. As a

comparison, Thomas Turner, the village shopkeeper of East Hoathly in Sussex, who kept a diary and accounts, paid £ 1 15s. for a new wig.

Bird's visits to London seem to have been occasions for buying special items for himself and his family. One of his more substantial stays in London was on 21st. to 24th. February 1711, when he spent 14s. 3d. on a pair of boots, spurs, etc., paid Mrs. Marshall 1s. for washing of gloves, paid 12s. 6d. for 6½ yards of silk for a petticoat, 8s. for 2 fans and 2 handkerchiefs, 1s. 6d. for two necklaces, 2s. for an inkhorn, 8d. for a leathern girdle, 7s. to Mr. Greenfield in full for stockings, Mrs. Gibbons £ 1 7s. 'in full of a bill', 6d. for an Oxford Almanack, 3s. for 'my horse', 2s. 6d. for 'myself', £ 1 8s. to Mrs. Humphreys for a bed quilt and 6s. 6d. for matting for the parlour. There is no evidence whether he took his wife with him or executed the purchases of silk, fans and necklaces himself. In June 1719 he spent 2s. 6d. in London on 'spatterdashes for Jacky'. These were gaiters to prevent riders' breeches being spattered with mud: the origin of spats. Jacky may have been Bird's son John, at that time about 10 years old. Bird seems to have purchased his ecclesiastical attire in Reigate. On 31st. January 1713, when he was 'at home' he paid Mrs. Hesketh £ 5 10s. for a gown and cassock and in 1717 he paid Mr. Alexander by Mrs. Hobbs £ 6 18s.

Transport, then as now, was a major item of expenditure. A horse bought from Mr. Rawlinson cost £ 7 10s. 6d., and a mare 'from my brother Sanders' cost £ 11. Expenditure on Bird's horse in November 1710 included 2s. 6d. for curry comb and stirrup leathers and 1s. for a circingle (a girth). In 1712 Bird paid £ 3 for 'a sidesaddle etc.', presumably for his wife. In 1720 a bridle and saddle cost £ 1 2s. Horseshoeing cost 6d. in 1713.

There are many references to purchase of drink, although some of these may have been for the 'Bottle House' and not for domestic consumption. Beer was no doubt a staple and, whether brewed at home - many vicarages, like farmhouses, had a brewhouse - or bought in from the Bottle House or another inn - does not appear separately in the accounts. On one occasion Bird paid £ 2 15s. for cider. A flask of wine appears in 1712: 2s. Brandy is the most frequent purchase: in September 1713 five pints of brandy for 4s. 4½d; in August 1715 £ 2 10s. for an anchor (ten old wine gallons or over 8 Imperial gallons). There is also at least one purchase of rum. Tea makes its appearance in 1714: 5s for Bohea tea at London, and a year later purchases of tea costing 4s. and 9s. (quantities unspecified). In 1718 Bird paid Mr. Broughton £ 1 3s. for coffee, tea and sugar.

Turning to relaxations and luxuries, in November 1714 Bird made a payment of 2s. 'at the clubb'. Other similar payments follow: 2s. in the following January; 5s. 6d. in June 'at the Clubb with forfeitures', and in July 1s. 8d. 'at the Clubb'. There are similar payments in later years, sometimes referring to forfeitures, more often not. Bird made these payments when he was 'at home'; the club therefore appears to have been in Reigate. Bird evidently enjoyed smoking: 6d. for tobacco is common and, as mentioned above, 3lb. cost 5s. In 1716 he paid 6s. at London for a pipe. In December 1715 he paid 5s. 3d. for 'anchovies and pot', which would seem to count as a luxury. In 1716 he paid 8s. for maps and pictures and in the same year paid 8s. 'for my watch'. In June 1719, on a visit to London, Bird visited Foxhall [Vauxhall Gardens] and spent 6s. 3d. On the same visit, on 24 June, he bought the only book (other than schoolbooks for his pupils) identified in the accounts. This was 'Crusoe's History' for 4s. 6d. Defoe had published *The Life and Strange Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* only in April

of that year, so that this was a case of Bird's acquiring a bestseller hot from the press. In October of the same year, again in London, he bought lottery ticket no. 121M445 for £ 2 17s. 6d. and half of ticket 446 for £ 1 8s. 9d. It would appear that by this time, ten or eleven years since becoming vicar, Bird was more able to afford luxuries, and it may be significant that in 1720 he ceases much, although not all, of his recording of income and ceases recording his expenditure. Perhaps he had less need of a careful financial record.

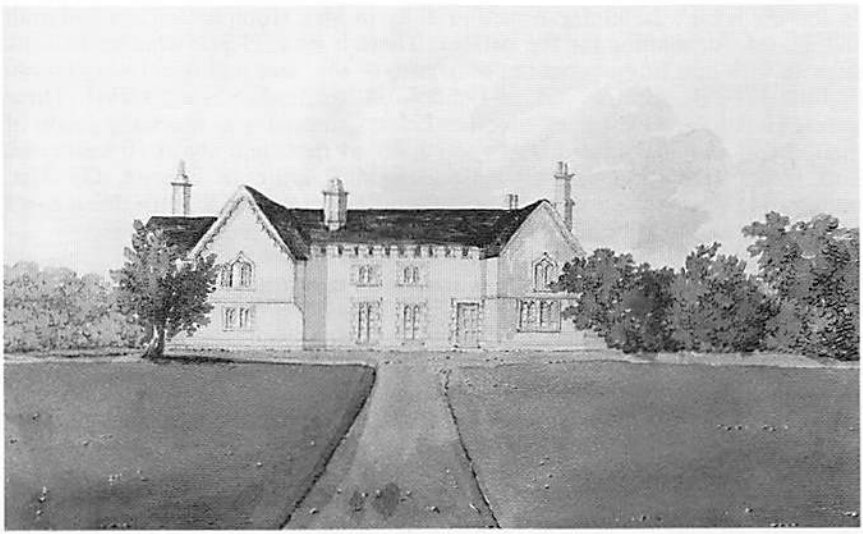


Fig. 1. Reigate Vicarage by John Hassell (1824). The detail of the facade is Gothicised in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, but the house itself would have been that known to John Bird and appears to have been a medieval hall with two cross-wings, a cross-passage to the right and an inserted chimney.

In these later years also, Bird made repairs and improvements to the vicarage, perhaps further signs of his wealth increasing. As was common in those days of poor roads, transport was more expensive than materials. On 15th. May 1717 he bought fifteen loads of chalk at 18d. the load: £ 1 2s. 6d. Transport cost 2s. 6d. a load: Christopher Lambert carried 3 loads for 7s. 6d.; John Wood 8 loads for £ 1 and John Dabner four loads for 10s. This carriage of chalk seems to have been in payment of debts due to Bird. On 8th. June Mr. Parker supplied three loads of quarry stone for £ 1 16s. In addition, in 1719 Bird paid 10s. for 1,000 holly plants (presumably for hedges) and 3s. for 12 whitebeam trees. Perhaps the holly represented a move up-market from the quicksets bought for 2s. in 1714. In November of that year he paid £ 1 14s for '50 trees dwarfs' and in 1720 4s. 9d. for trees, presumably for the vicarage grounds. In 1720 also he paid Thomas Knowls £ 1 1s. 2d. for mending the vicarage windows.

There are references scattered through the accounts to payments to named people who may be servants. Towards the end of the book there is a page in which Bird seems to be listing the comings and goings of his servants: Mary Arthur came hither; William Thornton came £ 4 *pa.*; John Russell for his hire

7s. and agreed with him for a year at £ 4; February 1713 Mary Lysney came at 35s. *pa.*; 2nd. Sept John Pepper came at £ 5; 1st. May 1720 James Collins came at £ 5. It seems that £ 4 or £ 5 with board secured a man; 35s. or so a woman.

* * * * *

The book gives a good impression of the extent to which Bird resided in Reigate and carried out his duties. For a few days in May 1713 he recorded his ecclesiastical activities: 'May 1, 2, read prayers [Friday and Saturday: Friday, May Day, was St. Philip and James' Day]; May 3 [Easter IV] Read prayers twice, preached twice, administered the Sacrament; May 6 [Wednesday, St. John *ante Portam Latinam*] read prayers, baptised a child; May 10 Mr. Griffith of Betchworth supplyed for me in the morning and baptised a child; no service in the afternoon, myself ill; and May 11, Mr. Marchant baptised two children.' We know from a list of receipts and payments of Sacrament money that the Sacrament was celebrated on the first Sunday of each month as well as at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun. This would be normal in a town whereas country villages might have the Sacrament only four times a year. The collections, which were, as the Book of Common Prayer instructed, given to the poor, amounted to an average of 15s. at each of the three festivals and 5 to 10s. at the other celebrations, a total of about £ 6 a year. This, together with the expenditure, was presumably entered by Bird in his account book for convenience. He kept it separate from his own accounts. The payments include 'a pair of shoes for the widow Hall 3s.', and, most interestingly, 'Widow Muckle when her daughter went to London to be touched' 10s. on 14th. March 1714. This must have been the last occasion on which the ceremony of touching for the King's evil (*scrofula*) took place, because Queen Anne, who died that year, was the last monarch to touch for it: Dr Johnson, who was similarly afflicted and treated, long remembered the queen as 'a lady in diamonds, and a long black hood'.

As regards the extent of Bird's residence in Reigate, 'at home' is a regular entry, and there are many other entries for places near at hand which were presumably visited within a day: Betchworth, Lingfield, Nutfield and so on. Bird visited other parts of Surrey. Ecclesiastical visitations were frequently held at Epsom, when he paid his procurations and synodals - ancient fixed payments to bishop and archdeacon. In January 1715 he visited Guildford and Godalming, returning by way of Dorking. On Boxing Day 1717 he again visited Guildford and on June 1718 he was on Guildford Downs: was this for horse racing, which certainly took place there? He made occasional visits to Kingston and on 5th. August 1718 he visited Hampton Court, spending 6s. 2d. that day.

Most of his journeys further afield were either south into Sussex or north to London. In June 1711 he went through Nuthurst (14th.) Horsham and Chillingley (? Chiddingly or Hellingley) to Brighthelmstone (or Brighton) (on the 15th.), on the 16th. to Shoreham then back to Brighton on 17th. On 18th. he went along the coast to Newhaven and Seaford, then on to Bourne (probably Eastbourne) on 19th. and back through Wartling on 20th., Framfield on the 21st. and Butlers Green (near Cuckfield) and Horsham on 22nd. He paid another short visit to the south coast in September: 21st. at Wartling (1s.) and Herstmonceux (6d.), 22nd. at Brighthelmstone (9s. 6d.), 24th. at Chailey (2s.). Clearly if Brighton was not within reach of a day trip, it was worth visiting for a

couple of days. In this context it is worth remembering that the growth of Brighton mainly dates from Dr. Russell's *Dissertation concerning the Use of Sea Water in Diseases of the Glands* published in 1750 (Latin) and 1753 (English). Bird's visits are some forty years earlier than this. His brother Drury Bird was ordained in Chichester diocese (deacon 1705, priest 1708) and may have been serving in the area. Drury became vicar of Bolney, near Cuckfield, in 1714. In May 1714 Bird visited Bolney, and in February 1715 he visited Bolney and went on to Chichester, staying a couple of days there, and then returning by way of Findon (north of Worthing) and Shermanbury - or maybe staying at Bolney and visiting these places. He made several other trips into Sussex that year. In November 1715 he had a short trip east: 9th. at Westerham, Aylesford and Bearsted, 10th. at Canterbury, 11th. at Lyminge, 12th. at Canterbury and Aylesford and 13th. at Westerham, then home. He visited Bolney at least five times in 1716. There seems to have been some personal or family property at West Chiltington, near Pulborough: he paid John Sendall £ 4 for work there and Thomas Greenfield £ 1 5s. for thatching. To judge from the accounts he only visited the cathedral city of his own diocese, Winchester, once.

Almost at the end of the accounts, Bird revisited his native Cambridge. On 28th. September 1720 he was at Stortford and Epping, on 29th. at Cambridge and Littlebury (near Saffron Walden), from 30th. and to 4th. October at Cambridge again, on 4th. visiting Knapwell, where his father had been rector, then on 6th., 7th. and 8th. back by Stortford and Epping, London, Croydon and Smitham Bottom. Was he re-establishing contact with his college? His will, in which two of the fellows were executors, was dated 1722 but perhaps by 1720 he was planning what to do with the advowson he had purchased five years earlier.

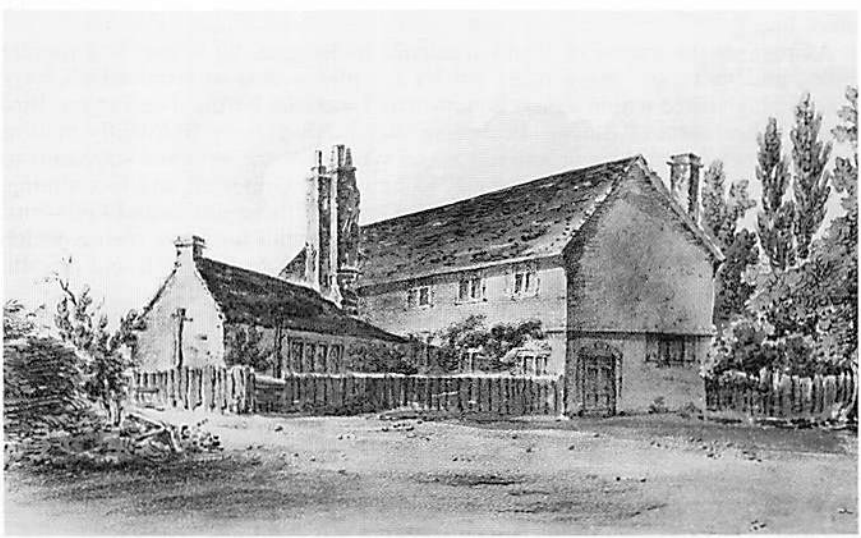


Fig. 2. Reigate Free School, by J. Hassell (1822). The school house was erected *c.* 1680.

Bird's visits to London were frequent, often lasted two or three days, and seem often to be associated with legal business. One of the recipients of payments, Mr. Harris, was a proctor (an ecclesiastical lawyer) who resided at Doctors' Commons (the equivalent of the Inns of Court for civil and canon lawyers). Another identifiable lawyer was Sir Constantine Phipps, paid 2 guineas as a retaining fee in 1718 and 1 guinea in February and June 1719. This is interesting because Sir Constantine Phipps was not only a noted lawyer but a politically committed Jacobite, who had made himself unpopular in Queen Anne's reign as Lord Chancellor of Ireland and was removed by George I. Do we therefore have to alter the mental picture we may have of Bird as a solid Georgian vicar, Cambridge-educated and therefore presumably a Whig and favourably disposed to the Hanoverian settlement? It seems provisionally more plausible to assume that this was purely a payment for legal services, perhaps in connexion with his nephew's trial. Bird had friends and relatives in London. On at least one visit he paid 5s. 'to my sister' and there were frequent payments to or for Molly, who seems to have been at school there. He travelled to London by either Mitcham or Croydon. He frequently stayed on the south bank, at Battersea, Lambeth, Camberwell and Peckham, and we have occasional expenditure on 'waterman 6d.' or '2s', a reminder that the only bridge across the Thames in London was London Bridge itself.

* * * * *

There are separate sections in the book for Bird's income from his school. He followed Cranston as master of the school which became Reigate Grammar School and was the last person to combine being vicar with the post of master. In one section of the book Bird lists boys entering, including 'two boys for the Foreign' (James Baker and William Watson) and 'two boys for the Town' (John and James Knowles) on Mr. Bishop's account (an endowment by Robert Bishop in 1700) and other boys 'on my own account'. As was normal, the master who taught the boys who were on the endowment also taught private pupils. Tuition seems to have often amounted to £ 1 10s. a year. Boarders seem to have paid £ 16 or £ 18: John and Robert Bateman were boarded for £ 30 the pair. There was at least one Sommers in the school in 1718 and a son of 'Mrs. Heath (Camberwell)', perhaps evidence of the school's reputation. At least one boy stayed at the school from 1713 to 1718 and most seem to have stayed two, three or four years.

Some of the accounts list the schoolbooks bought for the boys. Sydney Stafford Smith in 1711 was bought Accidence books, 6d. and 8d.; Grammar and Construing 1s. 3d.; Ovid's *Metamorphoses* 1s. 8d., Erasmus' *Colloquies*, 2s. 6d., Coles' *Dictionary* 7s. 6d., and a number of other books. There were also domestic requirements. The bill for Mr. Steer's son included 'Mrs. Kay for a pair of stockings 1s. 9d.'; 'widow Ellis for two pair of stockings 3s. 6d.'; and 'cutting his hair 4d.'. There are lists of payments of 1s. a boy for 'fireing' (supply of wood for the fires).

Bird seems to have employed at least one assistant master or usher at a time to assist him. On 3rd. March 1711 'Mr. Hodson came to Reygate £ 15 *pa.* and board'. This was Robert Hodson who signed quarterly receipts for his salary. 'Mr. Floyd came 3rd. July at £ 15 and board'. 'Mr. Vaughan came October 24th. at £ 17[?] and board'. In January 1716 Edward Vaughan signed a receipt

for £ 3 15s. for a quarter's salary, and he did the same in April. In May 1716 a Mr. Robinson was hired, also at £ 15. This is reasonably comparable with the accepted income for a schoolmaster in the early eighteenth century. Pupils were numerous - there seem to have been 24 or 25 at a time around 1715 and 1717 but we cannot easily calculate the profitability of the school. Much of the expenditure on food, for example, must be buried in Bird's domestic accounting.

* * * * *

The accounts of course conceal a great deal about Bird's life. One moment of drama in Bird's life followed the death of Catherine Bird in the 1714 smallpox epidemic. Catherine died on 11th. July 1714 aged 27, and is buried in the south side of the chancel with a charming epitaph. Her husband, John Bird's nephew Lieutenant Edward Bird, seems to have sunk into dissolute habits and, having run through a waiter with his sword in Westminster in 1718, was hanged. Frantic efforts were made to win his reprieve but were unsuccessful. He died 23rd. Feb. 1719, aged 26, and was buried on 25th. There is no evidence of either event in the book, although visits to London earlier in February, and Bird's dealings with Sir Constantine Phipps, may have been related to the sad events. Bird spent the 23rd. itself at home.

John Bird made a major investment in 1715. His son John had been born in October 1708 (baptised 22nd. October). He was educated by his father, presumably with the pupils at the school, and was, like his father and grandfather, destined for the church. Therefore in 1715, when John Bird junior was only six years old, his father purchased the advowson of Reigate from Roger James for £ 230. In 1722, aged 13, John was admitted pensioner at St. John's College, Cambridge, his father's college, and in the same year his father made his will. He devised the next presentation after his death in trust to William Edmondson and Robert Lambert, doctors of divinity and fellows of St. John's College, for the benefit of John his son, and to make provision out of the profits of the Vicarage for his support and maintenance in the said College 'til he should arive at the age of twenty-four years; and then to deliver up the full possession thereof to his said son, to whom also he gave the perpetual Advowson thereof for ever. But in case his said Son should die under age, and without lawful issue, then he gave the succeeding Presentation to his own brother Drury Bird [the vicar of Bolney in Sussex] and, after his decease, to his nephew John, son of the said Drury, for the term of his life; and afterwards bequeathed the Advowson to the sole use and benefit of the said College of St. John for ever'. John Bird and his father had not been able to rely on ecclesiastical patronage within their own family. John was now making arrangements so that a clerical dynasty of Birds in Reigate became a possibility, or failing that a succession of clergy from St. John's College, Cambridge. In fact neither of these eventually took place. The impropriation - the rectorial income - was not included in the transaction. No doubt it would have been expensive to purchase, and was a less economic investment. Bird also took his M.A. in 1722, presumably on a visit to Cambridge to settle his son in and make these arrangements.

On 29th. February 1728 John Bird died, aged 53. He was buried on 7th. March. His memorial stone in the vestry reads 'Here lyeth the body of the Reverend Mr. John Bird, A.M. (i.e. *Artium Magister*, Master of Arts), Vicar and Patron of this Church. He was a good husband, father and friend; highly useful

in his Ministerial capacity, and truly exemplary in a full command of his passions.'

Bird's death left his arrangements for his son - his only child - to succeed him in a state of disarray. His son was only 20 years old, and therefore too young to succeed him - the canonical age was 24. The executors therefore presented John Rigden, no doubt prepared to resign when Bird reached canonical age. In 1731, aged only 23 and therefore still too young to succeed to the benefice, John Bird the younger died. He is buried above his father's coffin and is commemorated, 'the fond hopes of indulgent Parents', on his father's memorial. He was old enough to make his will, and bequeathed the right of presentation to Grace, his mother. She herself married, as her third husband, Richard Filewood, whose family held the benefice until 1786, when the then vicar, Geoffrey Snelson, who had married one of Filewood's daughters, acquired the advowson. He in turn was succeeded by his son as vicar. Even if Bird himself was not able to found a clerical dynasty of vicars of Reigate, he was responsible for an indirect element of family succession.

So, to conclude, what have we learnt from this study of John Bird and his account book? We examine the lives of some people in history because of their achievements. Others are worthy of study because, although they themselves are not exceptional they have left behind them material from which we can trace the ordinary life of their period, John Bird comes into the latter category. His account book is part of the very rich documentation which survives for eighteenth-century Reigate. This includes an excellent run of manor court rolls and the title deeds to the burgage properties in the town centre, from which many of Bird's parishioners might be identified and their trades, property and relationships worked out. The account book itself would repay more detailed analysis; the present article has only skimmed the surface.

Bird himself shows us one type of eighteenth-century clergyman, normally resident and apparently diligent in taking the services, teaching, pursuing his rights and the rights of his church, seeking to continue a clerical dynasty. He is described in Rawlinson's edition of Aubrey's *History of Surrey* as 'a sensible well-bred gentleman' and one 'who has been a worthy Benefactor to the Church, and has much augmented this Vicarage [by this he presumably means the value of the benefice, not simply the vicarage house] by his Industry and Care'. This seems a reasonable assessment of Bird, taken together with his monumental inscription, and the evidence suggests that he passed on to his successors as vicars a well-preserved inheritance.

NOTE:

This article is based on the Cranston Lecture delivered in Reigate Parish Church in 1991. John Bird's account book bears the Surrey Record Office reference P49/2/1. I am grateful to Michael Wilks, Ron Cox and Gerry Moss who read this article and commented on it. Dr. Moss has drawn my attention to references in K.G. Farries and M.T. Mason, *The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London*, (London, 1966), pp. 181, 183, which link John Dewdney (Dudney in Bird's spelling) with a mill on Cockshot Hill and John Heaver with Blackborough mill. Reference has also been made to B. Williams, *Quakers in Reigate 1655-1955*, (Reigate, 1980).

THE STORY OF MITCHAM'S FIRE BRIGADE

by Eric N. Montague

To compare the Mitcham we know today with the village of a century ago, then a somewhat 'down-market' backwater of rural Surrey, is a fascinating study in suburban evolution. It also provides illuminating glimpses of a community in which there existed a degree of 'grass-roots' involvement in local affairs contrasting sharply with the modern readiness to abdicate responsibility for the provision of essential services to members and salaried officers of what can often be a remote and impersonal elected authority or appointed quango.

The changes that have come about in public attitudes and in community involvement over the last 100 years in Mitcham as, indeed, most townships in the country, are nowhere better illustrated than in the development of the fire service, at one time amateur, parochial and often ludicrously ineffective, and now highly professional and organised with superb efficiency on a London-wide basis.

The Mitcham 'fire brigade' of the 1870s and '80s is now well beyond the memory of even the oldest inhabitants. Its exploits have, however, passed into local folklore, largely thanks to a series of articles on old Mitcham, edited by Lt.-Colonel Harold Bidder and published 70 years ago.[1] The parish's first appliance, a manually-operated pump of unrecorded vintage, was replaced in 1884 by a steam-operated fire engine but the old appliance, known affectionately, if irreverently, as 'the village squirt', a museum piece sadly without the protection of a museum, survived the inter-war years only to suffer the fate of being thoughtlessly discarded as useless rubbish in a fit of municipal spring-cleaning.

In its prime, this 'very important, if ancient, appurtenance of our local government', as it was once described by Sir Cato Worsfold, Mitcham's first member of Parliament, in his *Memories of Mitcham*,[2] was stored in the 'engine house' adjoining the village lock-up on Lower Green West. Both buildings dated from the mid 18th. century, and a quaintly worded minute of the Vestry in 1776 records the decision to erect a 'proper house for the Engine at the back-side of the Watchhouse'. Sanction to take a small portion of the village green for this purpose was, quite properly, obtained from the lord of the manor - a nicety which it was no longer necessary to observe when, in 1927, a far larger plot on the green was permanently lost as public open space when the Urban District Council of Mitcham decided to erect the present fire station.

Displayed on the doors of the old engine house were written instructions for obtaining the keys, and the scale of pay for those assisting at a fire. The pump was not, of course, to be used by any unauthorised person, and this vital item of parish property was in the official custody of the beadle. The last holder of this illustrious office, William Hill, lived at Vine House, overlooking Lower Green West, on a site now occupied by police housing. The actual muscle for working

the pump was frequently supplied by senior boys released from the National Schools, conveniently located near the engine house, and although their youthful energy was invaluable in dragging the pump to the fire, it is said that more often than not the flames had been extinguished or the fire had burned itself out by the time they arrived on the scene.

Once at the scene of the fire, assuming there was still work to do, difficulties were far from over, for it was no easy matter to persuade the appliance to work. Sir Cato Worsfold, recalling the last days of the pump before it was retired, wrote:

> 'There certainly was no undignified haste when our fire engine went into action, chiefly due to its being worn out; and at last debility in its internal organs led to its inability to send out water alone for extinguishing fires. Blended with a sufficiency of mud, however, a stream could be sent some little distance on to a conflagration, and fortunately this proved very efficacious when the Heywood oil-cloth works caught fire. Water alone would have extended the flames of blazing oil, and so the peculiarity of our fire engine proved invaluable. With the end of a hose planted firmly in a ditch of particularly juicy mud, streams of a rich consistency were poured on to the burning floors of the factory, and the flaming oil subsided'.[2]

According to Sir Cato, this was the last important performance in public of the manual pump, although it was regularly brought out of retirement to be given a place of honour in village fetes and processions.

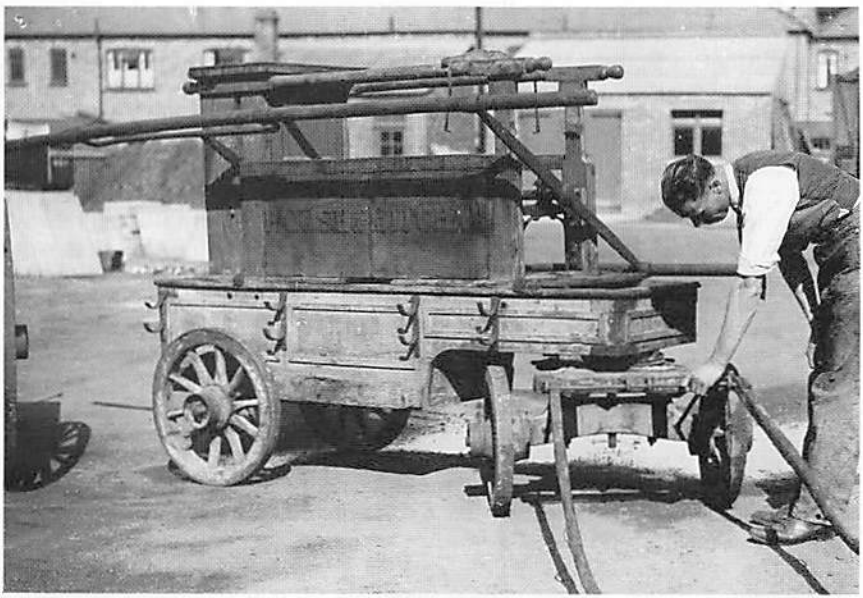


Fig. 1. The Manual Fire Engine.

To our sophisticated minds the village fire brigade may be reminiscent of an old-time movie, but to the residents of Mitcham in the late nineteenth century, and in particular those with property at risk, it was no laughing matter. The general feeling of insecurity engendered amongst the more wealthy inhabitants was such that a circular letter was dispatched in November 1883 over the names of Caesar Czarnikow of Mitcham Court and W. S. Reading, 'late Fireman, Sutton Fire Brigade'. It declared that:

> 'In consequence of the very disastrous Fire at Messrs, Creases' Factory last Tuesday, at which the utterly unprotected state of property in our Village was exemplified, it has been thought necessary to take measures for the better security from Fire for the future.
> With this view, it is proposed to convene a Meeting of the owners of property, and others, at the Committee Room, 'Cricketer's' Inn, at 8.30 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the 21st. instant, to consider the advisability of forming a Volunteer Fire Brigade etc. etc., at which your attendance is requested'.

The acquisition of a modern pump was at the heart of their proposals and, as we shall see, the urgency of the appeal was matched by the enthusiasm of the response, unquenched by the efforts of those who, like a correspondent of the *Sutton Advertiser*, sounded a note of caution against over-reaction:

> 'That Mitcham ought to have a good fire engine there can be no manner of doubt, but I do not think the inhabitants would be wise if they rushed headlong into the expense of a steamer. That luxury should be reserved for larger places, where fires are more numerous. During the past three years and a half there have been only six outbreaks in the parish, and most of these were so insignificant as scarcely to merit the name of a fire. In June, 1880, there was one at a cowshed at Cedar-cottage. In November of the same year there was a slight fire at the Chemical Works, and a little bit of a blaze at Messrs. Hayward's factory, which was extinguished with a few buckets of water. In August, 1882, a conflagration broke out at Messrs. Rolls and Round's varnish factory, when a good deal of damage was done. In September, 1882, there was a fire at Singlegate,' [Colliers Wood] 'when a cowshed and some hay and straw were burnt. Lastly, we have the recent fire at the varnish factory.
>
> I think most of your Mitcham readers will agree with me that it is not necessary to employ a steamer to put out fires in cowsheds. What is really wanted is an engine that will extinguish a small conflagration and keep a large one under until effective assistance arrives from parishes that can afford to be better equipped. Something besides the first cost has to be considered before the purchase of a steamer is decided upon. It is a heavier machine to horse, and it requires skilled labour to work it. It cannot be locked up in a shed and left alone in its glory until occasion arises for its services. The village certainly needs some sort of provision, but it might stop short of a steamer.'

Mitcham was not a place where hundreds of pounds were likely to be subscribed readily. The recent fires had, however, convinced the inhabitants that

some better safeguard was needed than the old parish engine, and by the liberality of some of the residents, prominent amongst whom was Caesar Czarnikov, a sufficient sum was subscribed to make possible the purchase of a steam fire engine. By January 1884 the sum of £278 in donations and subscriptions had been guaranted. The money was raised by donations and subscriptions (the list reads like a local *Who's Who*), and the unpaid volunteer firemen, not to be outdone, bought their own uniforms and personal equipment. Within less than two months of the meeting, Mitcham found itself the proud possessor of a gleaming Merryweather 'No. 1 Volunteer' steam engine purchased, nearly new, for £325. According to the press account, the cost of the appliance was a considerable reduction upon the £400 a new engine would have cost, since this one had been used three or four times. Of about one ton in weight, it was of the horizontal type, of 25 horse power, and was calculated to raise 100 lbs. of steam from cold water in ten minutes and to be able to deliver 260 gallons of water per minute. It was also supplied with suction hose, stand pipe, delivery hose - indeed, everything necessary for its purpose.

The procurement of such a splendid engine was certainly an event deserving celebration, for a mere seven weeks had elapsed since the scheme was taken in hand, and on a cold day in January 1884 the brigade paraded their new engine through the village, receiving public acclaim normally reserved for visiting royalty. Mitcham had acquired more than a spendid modern fire appliance; it possessed an important status symbol and had taken a significant step on the upward path of civic pride.

Today, the arrival of a new fire appliance at Mitcham would pass unnoticed by the general public and would certainly not be considered worth reporting in the local press. A century ago it was an event that few of Mitcham's 9,000 or so inhabitants wished to miss, and the occasion was turned into a public holiday, with the whole village *en fete*. A delightful report on the day's ceremonies appeared in the *Sutton Advertiser* of January 1884, from which the following evocative account is culled:

> 'January is not a month which in the northern hemisphere would be selected as the most suitable for processions through the streets and for displays of bunting, but as the engine had been bought and had arrived in the village it was considered desirable that the ceremony of induction should be performed as speedily as possible without regard to the season. Even the walls had been made to speak a welcome to the newcomer, placards wishing 'Success to the Mitcham Fire Engine' having been liberally beplastered everywhere.
>
> Wednesday was the day fixed for the grand and gorgeous ceremony, and visitors to what was usually a quiet neighbourhood must have been a good deal astonished to find many of the principal shops tastefully decorated, and the streets as gay with flags as the fog permitted'.

It had been arranged that the procession should be formed at the Swan Inn, in north Mitcham, and then parade the parish. Accordingly, a little before two o'clock visiting detachments from neighbouring localities made their way to the place of meeting, the first to arrive being one of the Wimbledon brigade's two steam pumps, drawn by four horses. Others followed, and soon after the appointed hour the cortege started on its way, headed by Mr. Czarnikov on

horseback, attired in a uniform befitting the captain of the newly formed Mitcham brigade. Then came the band of the Holborn Industrial Schools, the great orphanage which stood on the site of Monarch Parade, Upper Mitcham, and next the new volunteer brigade upon their handsome steamer, drawn by a pair of omnibus horses from the stables at the back of the White Hart. The steam pump of the Sutton Local Board (purchased in 1875) followed, then the Carshalton contingent. Next came members of the Sutton Volunteer Brigade, which had been formed in 1875, followed by the Wimbledon men on their machine, and lastly the old parish manual pump of Mitcham, drawn by two dirty white ponies, unkempt and ungroomed. The local press commented that it was rather hard to treat this venerable little machine so contemptuously, for in its day it probably received as much admiration as was shown that Wednesday towards the more imposing Merryweather steamer. Matters were not improved by the ponies being of contrasting sizes and apparently of different dispositions, as they did not seem to agree upon the direction they wished to go, and being driven in tandem, each had a good opportunity to try to have his own way. The progress of the vehicle was accompanied by ironical cheering from the children whom, the reported observed, Mitcham seemed to produce in abundance. The schools had been let loose in honour of the occasion, and boys and girls of various sizes and in various stages of cleanliness were swarming everywhere.

After traversing the principal streets of the parish, and giving the inhabitants time to admire the decorations put up by the shopkeepers and other tradesmen, the procession proceeded to the Lower Green, and halted in front of Mr. Czarnikov's residence, Mitcham Court. Here the crowning ceremony of the day was to be performed. The whole population of Mitcham seemed to have mustered at this spot, one old resident recalling the impression that more people were about than on Derby Day, normally the great gala day for the village. The new engine was driven at a gallop around the Green, returning to its station with a dense cloud of smoke issuing from the chimney, and in a short time steam was raised. A bottle of champagne was placed on the engine, and Miss Czarnikov, breaking the bottle (most appropriately) with a fireman's axe, offered it up as a sacrifice to the success of the machine. The ceremony was gracefully performed, and 'Caesar', the name by which she baptised the engine, acknowledged the compliment by immediately sending a jet of water upon the Green. Its power was then tested at some length, and the result appeared to be satisfactory to the experts around. With a sufficient supply of water (an important consideration in a village not yet fully 'on the mains'), it was felt there need be no fear that any room of any dwelling in Mitcham would be above the reach of the stream of water the engine could raise. After working it up to a pressure of 100 lbs. the trial was brought to a close. The completion of the baptismal ceremony was followed by cheers for the lady by whom it had been performed, and for others concerned. The members of the Mitcham brigade and the visiting detachments were afterwards entertained by Mr. Czarnikov in Mitcham Court.

The new brigade was composed of many whose family names are still familiar in Mitcham. Others, less well known to the present generation, but 'leading lights' in their own times, occur regularly in the annals of the village. Julius Caesar Czarnikov, the captain, was a wealthy sugar broker in the City and had come to live in Mitcham in 1869; Robert Masters Chart, the brigade superintendent, was surveyor to the Croydon Rural Sanitary Authority and after long service in local government was destined to become the first mayor of

Mitcham in 1934, when in his eighties. W. S. Reading was the engineer, and his assistant, W. Jenner, an ironmonger with premises in Upper Mitcham. Frederick Samson F.R.C.V.S., the village veterinary surgeon, and honorary vet, to the brigade, was a driver and, as might have been expected, was skilled in the handling of horses. His brother, Walter, who also acted as driver, was the proprietor, after their father's death in 1890, of Mitcham's horse buses and provided the animals to draw the engine. The brigade's honorary medical officer was local G.P., Dr. Henry Love. The rest of the brigade comprised Messrs. T. P. Harvey; R. Ellis of Elm Lodge, Lower Green East; A. R. Harwood (later secretary of the local Conservative Association); C. Hallard of Lower Green; W. Baxter, a grocer; W. Southerton, landlord of The Cricketers, Lower Green West; A. Clarke; W. Turner, the 'call boy', whose father Samuel was a boot maker and repairer, and W. L. Waters.[3]

In January 1885, on the first anniversary of the formation of the Mitcham Volunteer Brigade, a meeting was held in the Church Rooms on Lower Green West. Mr. Czarnikov was in the chair. Primarily called for the presentation and reception of the annual balance sheet, prepared by R. M. Chart, the honorary treasurer, the proceedings were enlivened by a concert of songs and violin and piano solos. Both programme and balance sheet survive, the list of donors and subscribers on the back of the latter reading like a village Debrett, from which one can deduce the social status to which each benefactor aspired by the extent of his or her generosity. Of satisfaction to all, the accounts showed that the purchase price of the engine had been met in full. It has to be said that the readiness of so many worthy citizens to assist in safeguarding the financial viability of the enterprise does not seem to have been matched by the Samson brothers, who in the first year had charged £ 31 10s. 0d. for the hire of their horses.

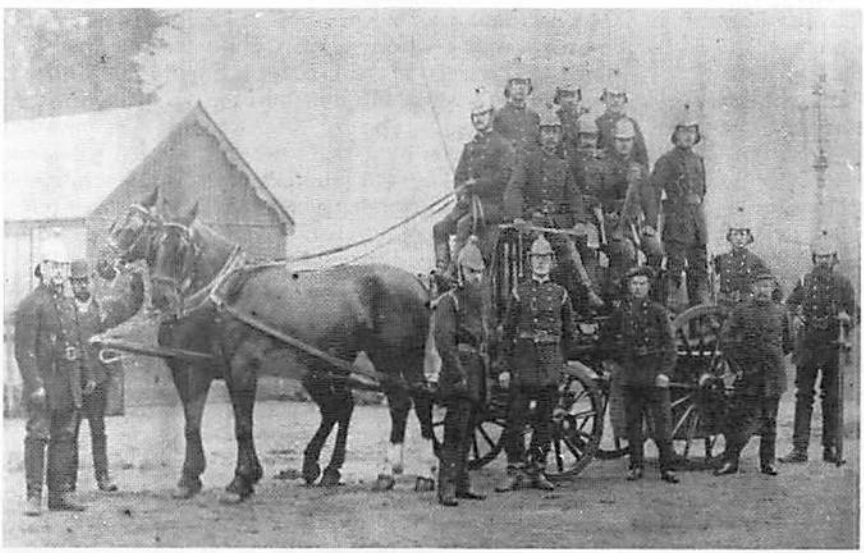


Fig. 2. Mitcham Volunteer Fire Brigade, August 1896.

Around 1886 the old engine house was demolished and the site used, with additional land, for the erection of the Vestry Hall, which was opened the following year. Chart, the architect, made provision for housing the fire engine within the new building, double half-glazed doors being hung in the wider arched opening which still survives, and is now the main public entrance to the Hall. Within the clock tower was the alarm bell used to call the volunteers to man the engine when an emergency arose.

Fig. 3. The Grove Mill (Lyxhayr Ltd.) after the fire in 1907.

The Merryweather steamer served Mitcham for 27 years before being sold to Guyatt, a sand merchant who then occupied premises in Church Road. These were later to become the Corporation Highways Depot, and are now covered by the Morland Close housing estate erected in the 1980s. Once more the Mitcham fire service took a significant step forward, this time into the era of the internal combustion engine. Their new appliance, also by Merryweather, was powered by a 55 h.p. Daimler engine and driven by a chain drive. It carried a 30-foot extending ladder and a rear-mounted Hatfield pump capable of delivering 400 gallons per minute. The vehicle itself had wooden wheels with solid rubber tyres. There was no windscreen, and a somewhat unreliable electric lamp powered by a battery was supplemented by oil lamps. Despite its weight, it was only fitted with rear wheel brakes, and was a 'brute' to drive. Nevertheless, the advance over the old horse-drawn steamer was tremendous.

For many years the Mitcham Volunteer Brigade continued to receive the loyal and enthusiastic support of the village. The men and their machines (for the parish manual pump was not forgotten) were an essential element in the processions organised to celebrate the royal jubilees and coronations, which were such a feature of village life in the days before the 1914/18 war, and their success in annual contests with other brigades won general acclaim. In 1919 the newly-formed Urban District Council took the decision to appoint Mitcham's first salaried fire officer, and in January 1920 Superintendent Albert G. Wells commenced duties. At this time the brigade consisted of 20 volunteer officers and men on a 'retained basis', with a second, manual, pump based at the

Colliers Wood sub-station. Within a few years of Wells' appointment the Colliers Wood manual was replaced with a Dennis motor firetender equipped with a 250-gallon Hatfield pump and a 50-foot fire escape.

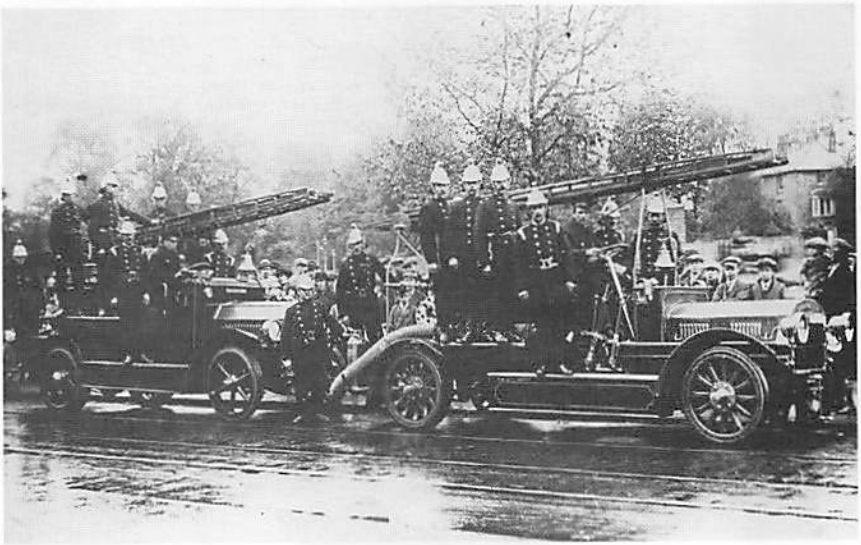


Fig. 4. Mitcham Fire Brigade on the Cricket Green, *c.*1922. The engine at the back and the crew on the front engine were from the 'No.2 Station', the site of which is now Colliers Wood Underground Station.

Wells and his colleagues formed the nucleus of what ultimately became a wholly professional force, but the men on whom the district was to continue to rely for many years were the volunteers, whose pride in their efficiency knew no bounds, and to each of whom an outbreak of fire seems to have presented a personal challenge as much as a call to duty. By the 1920s the men were summoned by a siren on the top of the Vestry Hall during the day, but by house calls at night.[3] In 1927 the new fire station erected by the Urban District Council on the Lower Green was opened, and the 360-gallon Hatfield motor pump, which until then had been housed in the Vestry Hall, was moved together with the fire officers, to greatly improved accommodation.

With the phenomenal growth of Mitcham as a London suburb in the 1920s, and the development of several large factory estates, there emerged the need for a fully professional fire service and the nature of the brigade changed, auxiliary firemen trained in Mitcham being transferred to the permanent staff in increasing numbers as they qualified. By the time Mitcham achieved Borough status in 1934 the town could justifiably be proud of its fire brigade and the service rendered by Chief Officer Wells, who after 26 years in fire-fighting (14 of them in Mitcham), held the position of chairman both of the Surrey County Fire Brigade and the Surrey District Fire Brigades' Association.[4]

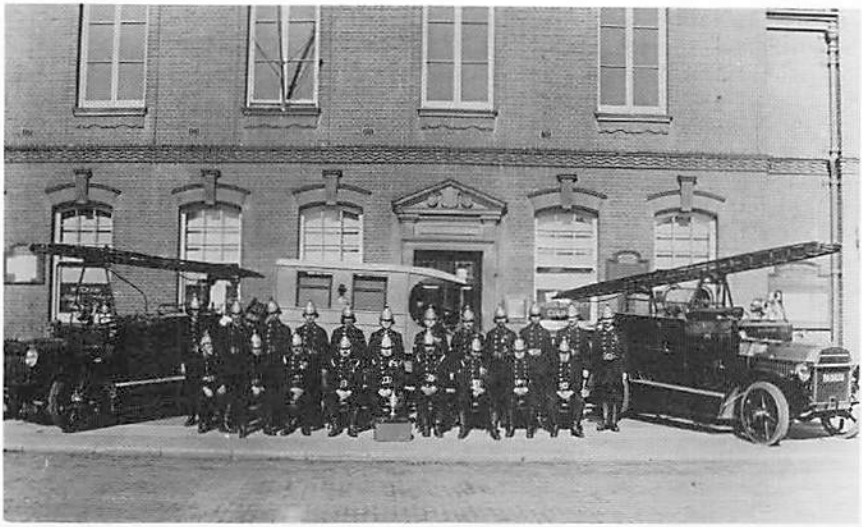


Fig. 5. Mitcham Volunteer Fire Brigade outside the Urban District Council Offices on Lower Green *c.* 1932.

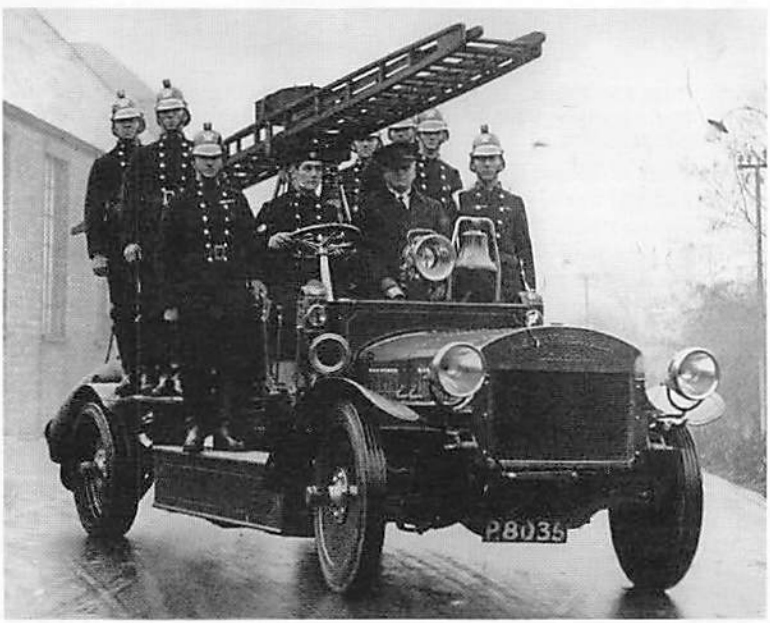


Fig. 6. The engine and crew maintained by James Pascall Ltd., Sweet Factory, Streatham Road, Mitcham in *c.* 1935.

During the 1939/45 War, when it was augmented by the Auxiliary Fire Service, the Mitcham Brigade acquitted itself with honour. In *Under Fire: The Blitz Remembered*, a booklet produced by the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority in memory of the many hundreds of men and women in the London Fire Service who lost their lives during the War, six men from Mitcham - Leading Fireman A. H. Spiller and Firemen Cecil A. Eliman, George H. Holloway, Harold C. Parker, Edward E. G. Pepper and Ernest R. Robinson - are listed amongst those from the Greater London Area who lost their lives in the 'Blitz' proper between 7th. September, 1940 and 31st. May, 1941.

Fig. 7. Fire at a Tyre Dump at Willow Lane, Mitcham in June 1947.

From 1941 the Mitcham Fire Brigade was part of the National Fire Service, but further reorganisation followed shortly after the cessation of hostilities, responsibility for the fire service being transferred to Surrey County Council on April 1st., 1948 since Mitcham was not then a London Borough. Within the area administered by the London County Council cover continued to be provided by the London Fire Brigade, which had come into being in 1866 when the Metropolitan Board of Works was made responsible for fire-fighting in the capital. In 1965, when the London County Council was abolished and the Greater London Council came into being under the provisions of the London Government Act of 1969, Surrey transferred the Mitcham unit to the London Fire Brigade, whose duties had now been extended to embrace the whole of Greater London. The Fire Service is now under the control of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, which took over responsibility from the Greater London Council with effect from April 1st., 1986.

In September 1972 it was announced in the local press that at a cost of £ 75,000 the Greater London Council proposed re-locating Mitcham fire station from its 'cramped and out-dated' accommodation behind the Vestry Hall on Lower Green West to Goat Road, Beddington Corner, in the London Borough

of Sutton. The Mitcham station had no drill yard and nowhere to wash the engine, and the facilities for the men were not good. Negotiations were in progress with Wates Ltd. for the site of Golden Terrace, a row of late Victorian cottages already scheduled by Sutton Council for demolition, and provided all went well, it was intended the new station would be functional by 1973. Although concern was being expressed at the future of the tenants of the cottages, many of whom had lived there for most of their lives, the proposals were generally welcomed, the firemen in particular, it was said, being 'delighted'. In the event the scheme was dropped. Golden Terrace was demolished, and the site cleared, but Mitcham's fire station still stands on the Lower Green, providing a rather pleasant memento of the those days 70 years ago when, for many who then remembered Mitcham as a Surrey village, the building marked a significant stage in the progress of the emerging township towards full municipal status.

Notes and References

1. Drewett, J. D., 'Memories of Mitcham' in Bidder, H. P. (ed.), *Old Mitcham*, Vol. II, (1926), p. 6.
2. Worsfold, T. Cato, *Memories of Our Village*, (2nd. edition) (1932), pp. 4-5.
3. Information given to the writer by the late E. B. Hedger (former manager of the Mitcham Hair and Fibre Mills), who was a volunteer member of the Mitcham fire brigade from 1923 until the outbreak of war in 1939, and thereafter until 1945 of the Auxiliary Fire Service.
4. 'The Fire Brigade' in *Mitcham News and Mercury Charter Day Souvenir*, 21st. September 1934, p. 8.

Two informative and well-illustrated articles on the 'Development of the Fire Brigade', based on information given by Mr. Burt and Mr. H. S. Shepard (of Cricket Green and late of the Mitcham Brigade), were published in the *Tooting and Mitcham Gazette* in October 1971.

Fig. 8. The Fire Station built on Lower Green West in 1927 by Mitcham Urban District Council and still in use today. (Photograph *c.* 1970)

WAS KINGSTON ONCE 'MOREFORD' ?

Shaan Butters

Because the place name 'Kingston' (cyninges or cynges tun) is considered to be of a late type, it is possible that the place was known earlier in Saxon times by a different name. There is a tradition that the earlier name was 'Moreford': the idea first appeared in seventeenth-century editions of William Camden's survey of Britain, the *Britannia*, and local historians of Kingston in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries repeated it.

However, the identification of Kingston with Moreford lacks supporting evidence. Camden himself does not mention Moreford in the first edition (1586) of his *Britannia*. The reference to Moreford was added by a later editor of the *Britannia*, Philemon Holland, in the enlarged second edition of 1610. He was the first person to say that Kingston was 'called in times past Moreford, as some will have it. . . .' On what basis Holland made this addition is unclear. In Edmund Gibson's popular 1695 edition of the *Britannia*, a marginal note appears beside the Moreford statement, apparently referring it back to Matthew Paris, a thirteenth-century chronicler. But Holland did not mention Matthew Paris as his source, and I can find no reference by Matthew Paris to Moreford, either in his *Chronica Majora*, ed. H. R. Luard (RS 1872), or in his *Flores Historiarum*, ed. Luard (RS 1890). It seems likely that the marginal note in Gibson's edition was supposed to refer, not specifically to Moreford, but in general to Kingston, and to mean only that Matthew Paris refers in his chronicles to Kingston, which he does. seventeenth-century marginal references are not as accurate as modern scholarly notes !

Holland's original reference to Moreford contradicts Camden's own statement in the 1586 *Britannia* that Kingston 'had beginning from a little towne more ancient than it of the same name, standing upon a flat ground and subject to the inundation of Tamis' (an account similar to Leland's, which Camden knew). From Holland's wording ('. . . Moreford, as some will have it), it sounds as if he is merely relating late sixteenth- or early seventeenth-century hearsay, and an alternative, rather than the standard, version of Kingston's origins. While this may have some basis in truth, maybe incorporating local memory that such a name, which means 'marshy ford', was once used to describe the Kingston river crossing, it is unlikely that we have here accurate knowledge of a possible pre-ninth-century place name.

Recently (1993-4), Michael Wood suggested that Kingston might be identified with Clofesho, where eighth-century ecclesiastical councils were held, and John Blair wondered whether it might have been Freoricburna, which was a royal vill in Surrey where charters were issued. But John Blair then discovered charters from Freoricburna issued later than 838, when 'Kingston' (cyninges tun) was first mentioned in the document recording the ecclesiastical council held there in that year. This throws doubt on the Freoricburna identification, and there is no evidence that Clofesho was in Surrey. If Kingston was called anything other than

'cyninges tun' before 838, we do not yet know what. But there is no good evidence that it was Moreford.

Note: This was originally to have been one of the appendices to my *Book of Kingston*, but it had to be omitted due to lack of space. I am grateful to Michael Wood and John Blair for discussing their ideas with me during the course of my research.

A VERTICALLY SLIDING PARTITION - A SEQUEL

A Note by the Editor

In last year's issue of *Surrey History*, John Day wrote an article on the sliding partition at Dorking Friends' Meeting House in which he mentioned the possible existence of another one in the north somewhere. Part of his article was reproduced by way of a review of *Surrey History* in *Local History Magazine*. This stimulated one of their readers into action and thanks to *Local History Magazine's* editor, Robert Howard, I can now reveal that the Meeting House in question is at Darlington. Built in 1768 at Skinnergate in Darlington, this Meeting House was enlarged in 1793 when the partition was probably put in. The plan comprises of two parallel meeting houses with the stand or ministers' gallery across both parts, which can be divided by the partition when required. When not needed it is winched up into the roof just like the one at Dorking. Unfortunately, upper rooms have been inserted into the building and a suspended ceiling added, so it is very difficult now to imagine how it might have been. A similar partition also apparently existed at Chelmsford Friends' Meeting House in 1826 but has now long gone.

A plan of Darlington Meeting House, as altered in 1850, is given as Fig. 29 in Hubert Lidbetter, *The Friends Meeting House*, William Sessions, York, 1961.

WANDERING AND BEGGING - EXAMINATIONS OF IRISH PEOPLE IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SURREY

by John Royds

Introduction

Included in the Surrey Quarter Sessions Papers are seventeen examinations of Irishborn men and women and Irishmen's wives dating back to the eighteenth century. These are listed in Table I.

Table I: Eighteenth-Century Surrey Quarter-Sessions Papers [QS 2/6] Examinations Concerning Irish People

Sessions	No.	Name	Apprehended	Pass
Easter 1720:	92	Peter Castle	Putney	-
Easter 1729:	50	William Jones	Ockley	-
Easter 1732:	42	Sarah Jones	[Not Recorded]	-
Mich. 1746:	14	Henry Davis	Camberwell	P
Mich. 1746:	25,32	Mary Paul	Putney	P
Mich. 1752:	52	Samuel Finney	Rotherhithe	P
Mich. 1752:	53	Peter King	Rotherhithe	P
Easter 1753:	50	Mary Whitney	Croydon	P
Easter 1756:	10	Andrew Scullen	West Horsley	-
Epiph. 1759:	41	Andrew Scholly	Epsom	P
Epiph. 1761:	41-42	Andrew Sculley	Croydon	P
Easter 1764:	35	John White	Croydon	-
Epiph. 1781:	55-56	Thomas Shields	Croydon	-
Mich. 1791:	44	Ann Nash	Richmond	-
Epiph. 1792:	89	William Lyons	Southwark	-
Easter 1792:	29	John Brown	Camberwell	-
Mich. 1792:	63-64	James Mackloughlin	St. Mary, Lambeth	P

Abbreviations:

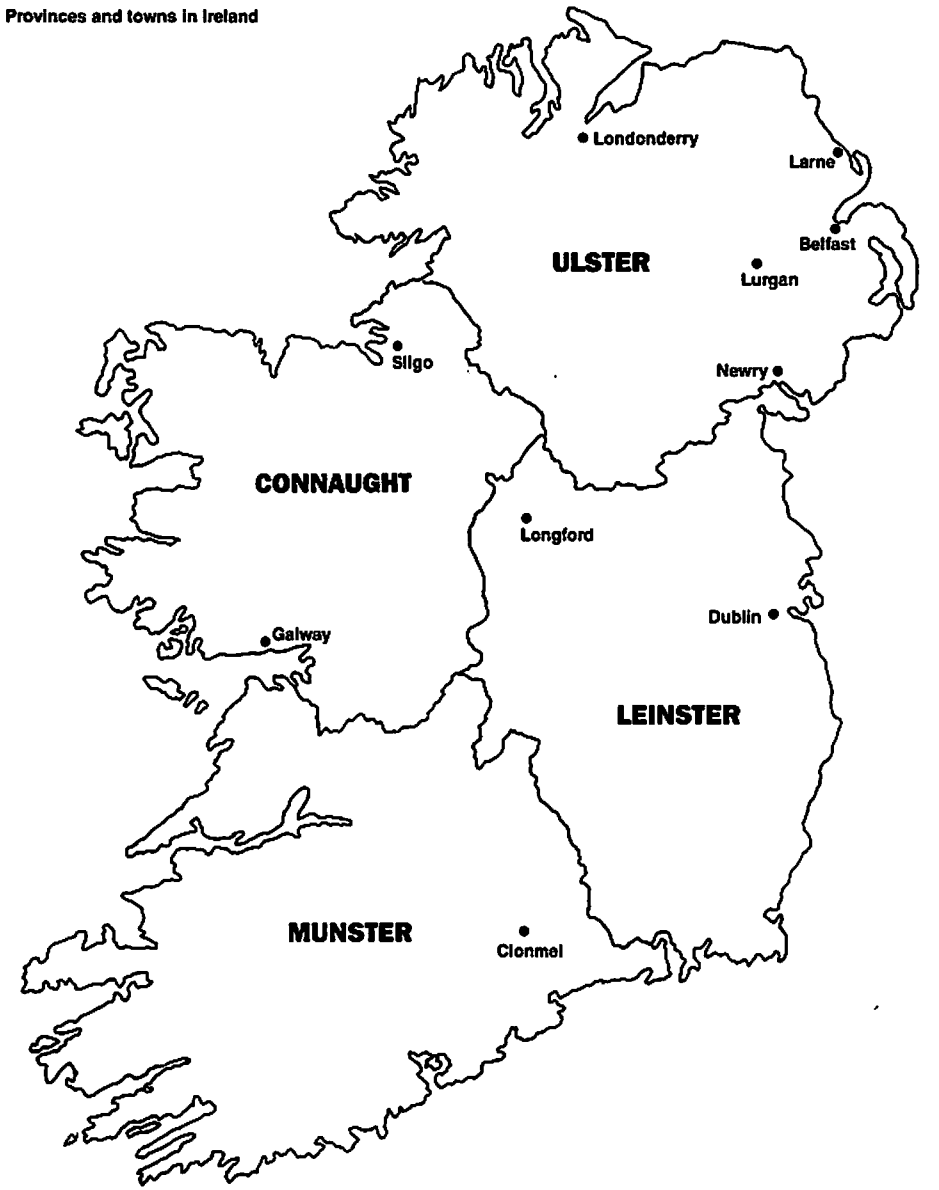
Mich.	Michaelmas
Epiph.	Epiphany
P	Pass accompanies examination

The examinants were charged with being vagabonds under the terms of vagrancy statutes passed between 1714 and 1744.[1] The main purpose of an

Map 1

Irish Background of Surrey Examinants

Provinces and towns in Ireland



examination was to determine the location of the examinant's settlement. The 1662 Act of Settlement defined the place of settlement as 'such parish where he or they were last legally settled, either as a native, householder, sojourner, apprentice or servant for the space of forty days at the least'.[2] Legislation in 1691 stipulated that a person seeking to gain a settlement had to notify parish officials in writing at the start of the forty-day period. Under the 1691 Act it was also possible for someone to gain a settlement without notifying parish officials in advance by: paying rates, serving an apprenticeship for a year, or working as a hired servant for a year.[3] Wives and children had derivative settlements. Wives usually had the same place of settlement as their husbands, and children usually had the same place of settlement as their fathers.

Once the location of a person's settlement had been determined, a magistrate could authorise his or her removal to that place of settlement. Most of the Irish vagrants examined in Surrey failed to gain settlements in England. Seven passes, authorising the removal of vagrants from Surrey to Ireland, survive.

Many examinations are brief, but some contain detailed biographical information. The examinations of John White, in 1764, and Thomas Shields, in 1780, are the most detailed. Both men came from Ulster, had worked for a time as sailors, and were apprehended in Croydon. Their stories will be revealed later in this paper. The examination of Mary Whitney, also apprehended in Croydon and removed with her month-old son to Dublin in 1753, illustrates how the vagrancy laws could affect the widows of Irish men living in Britain.

Irish Background of Surrey Examinants [Map 1]

Three of the examinants whose birthplace in Ireland was recorded came from the province of Ulster. John White was born in Belfast, and Thomas Shields was born in Rough Ryland, near Newry, County Down. Ann Nash, examined in 1791, told the magistrate that she was born 'at the Town of Lorgan [Lurgan] in the County of Armagh'.[4] Two more examinants, whose birthplace was not recorded, stated that they had gained settlements in Ulster by working for over a year as hired servants. Henry Davis, examined in 1746, stated that he "lived a yearly hired servant with Mr. Thos. Gwin in Bishop Street in the parish of Desertoyne in the City of Londonderry in the Kingdom of Ireland and never gained any subsequent settlement anywhere".[5] Samuel Finney, examined in 1752, said that "the place of his last legal settlement is in the parish of Learn [Larne, County Antrim] in the Kingdom of Ireland by living as a hired servant upwards of one year with the Reverend Mr. William Thompson, a dissenting minister".[6]

Three of the examinants were born in the province of Leinster. Peter Castle, examined in 1720, and William Lyons, examined in 1791, were both born in Dublin City. Andrew Sculley, examined three times between 1756 and 1760, came from County Longford. Only two examinants came from Connaught. Peter King, examined in 1752, was born in Galway Town, and James Mackloughlin, examined in 1792, was born in County Sligo. Just one examinant appears to have come from Munster. The examination of William Jones in 1729 records his birthplace as 'Clemell' [probably Clonmel in County Tipperary].[7]

This evidence seems to be at odds with evidence from the first half of the nineteenth century which suggests that most Irish people in Surrey came from

Munster. For example, an analysis of the settlement examinations of Irish harvesters removed from St. George the Martyr, Southwark in 1831, shows that more than half of the examinants were born in County Cork.[8]

Where Apprehended in Surrey [Map 2]

Four out of 17 examinants were apprehended in Croydon. It may be chance that the eighteenth-century Croydon examinations have survived while those originating from other places in Surrey have not. Surrey probably had a small Irishborn population in the eighteenth century. Scanty information on the county is recorded in the Papist Returns of 1767. Ten of the twelve Catholics in Mitcham were Irish, and they had lived there for just nine months. The only parishes in Surrey with a Catholic population of over one hundred were St. John's, Southwark (with 105 Catholics) and the adjacent parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey (with 199 Catholics).[9] In 1773, a new Catholic mission was established south of the Thames from Southwark to Rotherhithe. The title deed for this mission stated that the priest appointed should be 'skilled in both the English and Irish tongue'.[10] The Irishborn population of Surrey grew during the early nineteenth century, but remained concentrated in a small area of north-east Surrey. In 1841, before the Great Irish Famine of 1845-50, Southwark Borough had an Irishborn population of 5,800, and Brixton Hundred an Irishborn population of 7,300. No other census districts in Surrey had an Irishborn population over 205.[11]

Irish Men Examined

An analysis of the examinations indicates that there were a wide range of reasons why Irish men fell foul of the vagrancy laws. The examinations also contain occasional insights into the reasons men left Ireland, and the work they did after they had left.

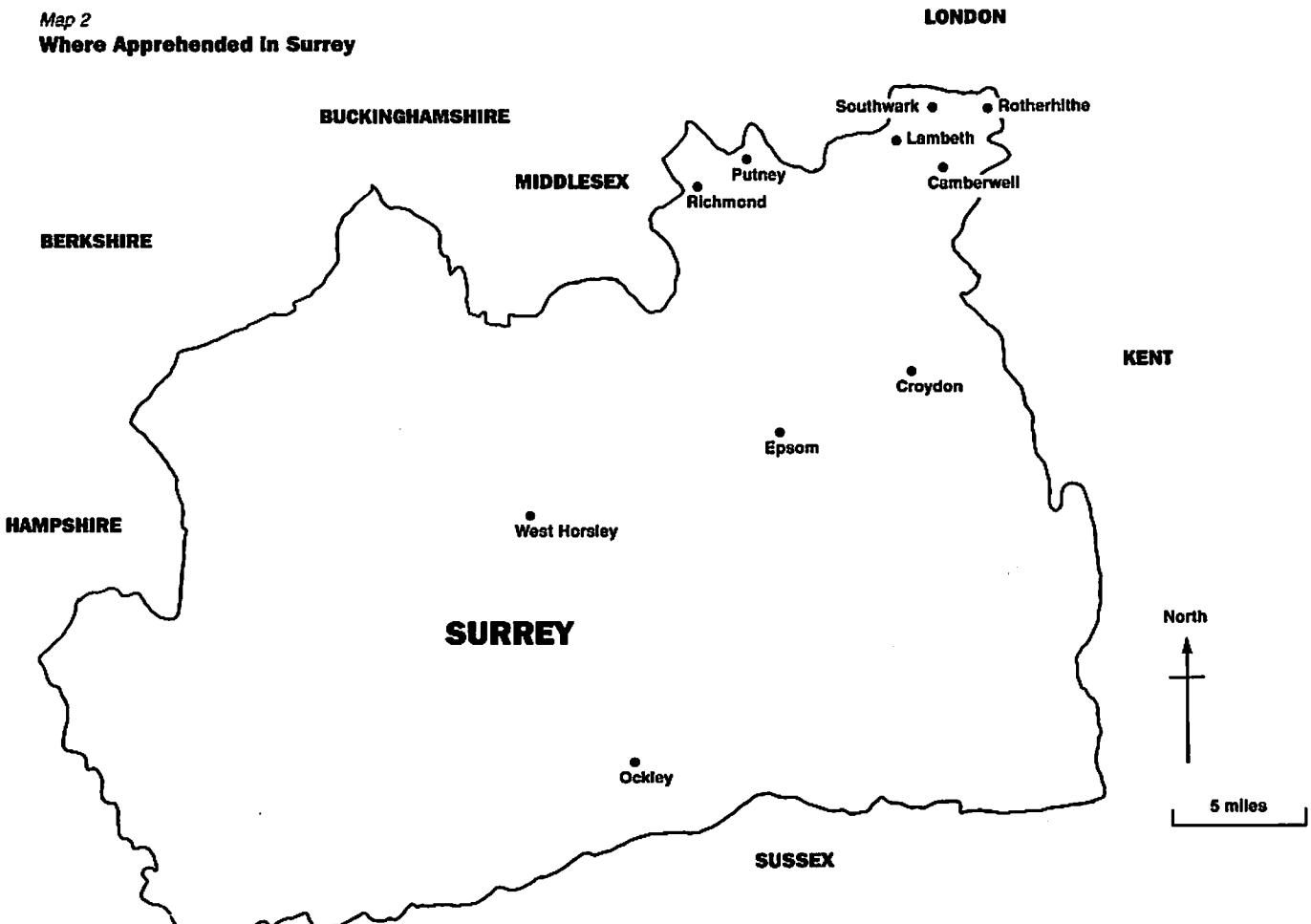
The inability to find a steady job after he had been discharged from the army seems to have been the reason Dubliner Peter Castle took to begging. He 'went along with his father, who was a soldier, and entered himself into the service of Queen Anne as a foot soldier. And when the peace was concluded ... [he] was discharged from the service, and afterwards followed labouring, sometimes begging ....' In April 1720, he was taken into custody for 'wandering and begging in a disorderly manner in the parish of Putney'.[12]

In 1729, William Jones was apprehended in Ockley and charged with 'wandering and begging'. His examination provides no explanation as to why he had left Ireland, but records that he had served an apprenticeship to Edward Fyanie, a tanner in the parish of Kingston near Portsmouth, and gained a settlement in that parish. By 1729 he was no longer in the tanning trade: his examination states that 'it is about five years since he has been out of his line'.[13]

Very few biographical details are recorded in the examination of Ulsterman Henry Davis, apprehended in Camberwell in 1746. Samuel Finney, also from Ulster, and Connaughtman Peter King, who were apprehended in Rotherhithe in 1752, had both spent some time in prison immediately before they were examined.

Map 2

Where Apprehended In Surrey



Andrew Sculley, examined three times by Surrey magistrates, had a propensity for wandering. In 1760, he told John Heathfield, a Surrey magistrate, that 'since his birth he hath not lived one full hired year with any person whatsoever, but hath travelled about the country ever since he was three years of age'.[14] His examinations give some indication of where he travelled. He was apprehended in West Horsley in 1756, in Epsom 1758, and in Croydon in 1760. Andrew had eleven children. The birthplaces of three are recorded: Giles was born at Aylesford in Kent, John at Lys [?] in Surrey, and Thomas at Westerham in Kent. By 1760 Andrew's wife and nine of his children were dead. One child, John, was still with him. The other, James, was a soldier.

John White, examined on 14th. March 1764 in Croydon, was born in Belfast. His father died when he was seven years old, and his mother took him to Newcastle-upon-Tyne where he was apprenticed to a leather dresser for four years. He was then employed as a sailor on a coal-ship for nine months, and subsequently moved to London were he again worked as a leather dresser. He obtained false papers from a man in a public house near Westminster Bridge. The papers stated that he was John Lee, a sailor whose ship had burnt at sea. White walked to Croydon were he went from house to house begging for money. He applied to a churchwarden for charity, producing the false papers, and was arrested by Croydon constables shortly afterwards.

Thomas Shields's physical disability seems to have been a factor which led to him resorting to begging. He was born in County Down in 1717, and went to sea when he was 16 years old. When he was 45, both his legs were amputated following an injury sustained whilst serving on board a Dutch ship. He came to England, and made a living by 'begging, and selling matches, books, and ballads'.[15] Thomas Shields married Elizabeth at St. Giles in the Fields, Middlesex, in 1764. A daughter, Jane, was born two years later. In 1771, the family started living in a room rented from John Capel, a blacksmith in Newtoners Lane, off Drury Lane. Thomas was taken into custody for begging in Croydon market in October 1780. His wife was able to demonstrate to the magistrate that Thomas had gained a settlement in London by producing land tax receipts for their room.

Neither William Lyons, examined in 1791, or John Brown, examined in 1792, had gained settlements in England. Both men were involved in court cases. William Oxley, a Southwark shoemaker, claimed that he had been tricked out of 12 shillings by William Lyons. James Mackloughlin, born in Sligo and apprehended in Lambeth, was convicted of the offence of being a rogue and vagabond and 'committed to the House of Correction for the terms of seven days pursuant to the directions of the statute'.[16]

It is difficult to detect a pattern in these examinations of Irish men. Some were probably rogues. Discharge from the army and disability led others to take up begging. The reasons they left Ireland are also difficult to establish. Family circumstances seem to have been a factor in some cases. The death of John White's father led to his family leaving. Peter Castle followed his father into the army. After they left Ireland, two Irish men had served as sailors, and two had worked in the leather trade.

Irishmen's widows were charged with vagrancy by Surrey magistrates. In 1731 an examination recorded that: 'Sarah Jones, widow, a vagrant person aged about thirty years upon her oath saith her husband William Jones died three weeks ago at Croydon [and] that he was born at Cork in Ireland'.[17] This appears to be the same William Jones who was apprehended in Ockley in 1729 and charged with 'wandering and begging'.

Mary Whitney's husband James had gained a settlement in the parish of St. James, Dublin, by serving a seven-year apprenticeship to a silk weaver, and 'had not since the time of his apprenticeship gained any subsequent settlement'. It is not clear why he left Ireland, but his death in Wateringbury, Kent, in January 1753 may have been one reason his widow, Mary, took to begging in April that year. Mary Whitney and her one-month-old son were apprehended in Croydon and charged under section 2 of the 1744 Vagrant Act with being 'rogues and vagabonds, wandering, and laying in barns, outhouses and the open air'.[18] The death of her husband together with the recent birth of her son may have made it difficult for Mary to pay for accommodation. Homelessness was probably her only 'offence'.

Two women with husbands in the armed forces were charged with vagrancy. Mary married Irishman Moses Paul, a soldier in Colonel Richbell's Regiment, at the Fleet in London in 1744. Edward Richbell was Colonel of the 39th. Regiment of Foot (The Dorsetshire Regiment) from June 1743 to March 1752. His regiment was originally stationed in Ireland, and transferred to quarters in Surrey and Hampshire in 1744. In 1746, Richbell's Regiment was fighting the French at L'Orient near Brest.[19] In the same year, Mary Paul was 'apprehended as a vagabond' in Putney. She told the magistrates that she did not know the location of her husband's last legal settlement in Ireland, so they issued a pass authorising her removal to her birthplace in Ripley, Surrey.[20]

In 1791, Ann Nash (born in County Armagh) was on her way from her lodgings in St. Giles, London to Spithead to see her husband. James Nash was a common seaman on the *Lion*, a man-of-war.[21] He is described as a 'mulatto' (a person of mixed race) who was born in Calcutta. Ann was arrested in Richmond, and charged with being a 'rogue and vagabond'.[22]

Details of Removal to Ireland [Map 3]

Analysis of the six surviving passes indicates that more attention was being given to the details of how Irish people were to be removed as the century progressed. No special provisions for the transportation of vagrants to Ireland are given in the three earliest passes, issued to Henry Davies in 1746, and to Samuel Finney and Peter King in 1752. Exactly the same legal terms occur in the pass of Henry Davis removed from Camberwell to Londonderry in 1746, and the pass of Mary Paul, removed from Putney to Ripley, Surrey, in the same year.

Mary Whitney's pass, issued in 1753, is the first to include specific information on how a vagrant was to be transported to Ireland. Mary and her one-month-old son were to be removed from Croydon to St. Magnus in the City of London, and then across England from one county to another until they reached the last maritime county on the direct route from Croydon to their

place of settlement in Dublin. The pass stipulated that an application should then be sent to a magistrate for a warrant requiring the master of a ship to take them to Ireland. Mary and her son would almost certainly have travelled from Chester to Dublin. In the eighteenth century, the long journey from Croydon would have been extremely arduous for a woman with a baby.

Pre-printed passes, headed 'no. 16 Ireland', authorised the removal of Andrew Sculley from Surrey to Longford in 1758 and again in 1760. Sculley's name, the names of his dependants, the place where they were apprehended, and other particulars have been written in. The 'County of Chester' [Cheshire] is specified as the last county in England which they will pass through on their way to Ireland. The use of special pre-printed forms suggests that increasing numbers of vagrants were being removed to Ireland.

Regardless of where they came from, vagrants removed from Surrey appear to have returned to Ireland *via* the ports of Chester or Liverpool until 1786, when it was recommended that magistrates 'pass such Irish vagrants as may be brought before them to the Port of Bristol if it shall appear to them that such port is nearer than Chester or Liverpool'.[23] Probably more vagrants born in Munster were being removed from Surrey by this time. In the early nineteenth century the vast majority of Irish paupers removed form Surrey travelled *via* Bristol to Cork.

Comparison with Non-Irish Vagrants

The earliest surviving records submitted to Surrey magistrates by the contractor for passing vagrants in the county date back to 1760. Between 1st. February 1760 and 16th. April 1760, the vagrant contractor conveyed a total of 70 vagrants from Surrey. Only two of these had settlements in Ireland.[24] By looking at later contractors' accounts it would be possible to calculate how many vagrants were removed from Surrey, and what proportion of those vagrants came from Ireland. House of Commons Parliamentary Papers contain statistics relating to the removal of Irish people in the early nineteenth century. More research would need to be done in order to establish whether or not eighteenth-century Irish vagrants shared any features which distinguished them from other vagrants examined in Surrey at the same time. In another article, I compared Irish and non-Irish women prisoners in the Borough Compter in South London and establised a significant difference between the two groups.[25] It would be more difficult to make a similar comparison between Irish and non-Irish vagrants in Surrey, but a greater background knowledge of eighteenth-century Surrey would make it possible to place the evidence in its proper context. Evidence from neighbouring counties may also be relevant. Over 40 examinations and passes for vagrants apprehended in Kent and removed to Ireland in 1817 survive. A preliminary analysis of the women examinants indicates that, like the women in Surrey, a high proportion had Irish husbands who had served in the armed forces.[26]

Map 3
Removal to Ireland

Conclusion

Every English person was entitled to claim poor relief in the parish of his or her settlement. In an account of life and work in eighteenth-century England, Dorothy George wrote: 'In sickness and old age, as well as when he had a number of young children, poor relief was the accepted, inevitable, and unresented lot of the labouring man. His settlement he regarded as his birthright or his freehold'.[27] In the same work George claims that: 'Cobbett, the son of an agricultural labourer, probably voiced his inarticulate ancestors when he said, "The poor man in England is as secure from beggary as the King upon his throne, because when he makes known his distress to the parish officers, they bestow upon him, not alms but his legal dues" '.[28]

The 'settlements' in Ireland conferred on Irish 'vagrants' by magistrates in eighteenth-century Surrey would have been of no value to them when they returned to Ireland. Ireland had no Poor Law in the eighteenth century, and they would not be entitled to claim relief there. Irish people living in England who became destitute had to convince local officials that, by some means or another, they had gained a settlement in England.

The minute book of the Justices of the Copthorne and Effingham Hundreds, in Surrey, contains many settlement examinations. Margery Bayhant's is particularly interesting:

"Surrey

The Examination of Margery Bayhant now residing in the Parish of Ewell in the said County taken on Oath this third Day of April 1786 before us two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting in and for the said County touching the Place of her last legal settlement.

Who saith that about forty years ago she was married in Ireland to Thomas Bayhant and that she was born in Ireland and about thirty years ago she went with her said husband, who is since dead, into the parish of Ewell aforesaid and she hath been in Ewell aforesaid ever since, that her said Husband told her that He had paid towards the Relief of the Poor of the Parish of Ewell aforesaid to one Mr. Sanders who was one of the Overseers of the said Parish of Ewell.

Taken and sworn the day and year first above written By Us

Geo. Glyn
J. R. Tilowood.

X The mark of Margery Bayhant".[29]

The minute book does not record whether or not Margery Bayhant gained a settlement in Ewell, but it is evident that, despite having lived there for thirty years, she had no automatic entitlement to poor relief.

There was no safety net for Irish people living in England. If circumstances beyond their control, for example the death of a husband, meant that they were unable to support themselves, and they failed to establish a settlement in England, a local magistrate could authorise their removal to Ireland as vagrants.

References

Abbreviation:
QS 2/6 = Eighteenth-Century Surrey Quarter-Sessions Papers, Surrey Record Office, Kingston upon Thames

1. Nicholls, George, *A History of the English Poor Law, Vol. 2, 1714-1853*, P. S. King & Son, London, (1898), p. 34.
2. 13 and 14 Charles II (1662) *c.* 12, section 1. [Pickering's *Statutes*, Vol. 8, p. 95].
3. 3 and 4 William and Mary (1691) *c.* 11, sections 6-8. [Pickering's *Statutes*, Vol. 9, p. 144].
4. QS 2/6 Michaelmas 1791, No. 44.
5. QS 2/6 Michaelmas 1746, No. 14.
6. QS 2/6 Michaelmas 1752, No. 52.
7. QS 2/6 Easter 1729, No. 50.
8. Royds, J., 'Irish passes from Southwark', *Catholic Ancestor*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (Sept. 1993), p. 140-143.
9. Worrall, E.S. (ed.), *Returns of Papists 1767*, Catholic Record Society, London, Vol. 1 (1989), p. 149-153.
10. Bourdelot L. F., *The Story of the Catholic Church in Bermondsey*, Burns, Oates and Washbourne, London (1923), p. 28-9.
11. House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, 1843, Vol. 22, p. 313.
12. QS 2/6 Easter 1720, No. 92.
13. QS 2/6 Easter 1729, No. 50.
14. QS 2/6 Epiphany 1761, No. 41-42.
15. QS 2/6 Epiphany 1781, No. 55-56.
16. QS 2/6 Michaelmas 1792, No. 63-64.
17. QS 2/6 Easter 1732, No. 42.
18. 15 George II (1744) *c.* 5 section 2. [Pickering's *Statutes*, Vol. 18, p. 14].
19. Atkinson C. T., *The Dorsetshire Regiment*, Oxford University Press (1947), Vol. 1, p. 296, p. 46, p. 52.
20. QS 2/6 Michaelmas 1746, Nos. 23 and 32.
21. The *Universal British Directory* of 1793 confirms that the *Lion* was at Spithead, and indicates that it was a 64-gunner under the command of the Hon. S. Finch.
22. QS 2/6 Michaelmas 1791, No. 44.
23. QS 2/6 Epiphany 1786, No. 32.
24. QS 2/6 Easter 1760, Nos. 1-4.
25. Royds J., 'Irish Women in Early Nineteenth-Century Southwark', *Catholic Ancestor*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (Feb. 1995), p. 162-167.
26. Kent Quarter Sessions Papers, Vagrants Passes 1817, QRSP 3/3. Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone.
27. George, Dorothy, *England in Transition*, Penguin, Harmondsworth (1953), p. 23.
28. *Ibid*, p. 137
29. Minute Book of Justices of Copthorne and Effingham Hundreds 1784-1793 PS 2/1/1 p. 67. Surrey Record Office, Kingston upon Thames.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF SURREY COLLECTED BY ROBERT BARCLAY OF BURY HILL, DORKING

By Julian Pooley,
Surrey Record Office

In March 1995 Surrey Record Office purchased six portfolios of views of Surrey which had been compiled by Robert Barclay of Bury Hill, Dorking, early in the nineteenth century. Barclay's intention seems to have been to extra-illustrate his copy of O. Manning and W. Bray, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* which was published in three volumes between 1804 and 1814. Although a few illustrations were included in each volume as it was published, earnest print collectors with an interest in the topography of Surrey sought to embellish their own copies of the county history with illustrations of Surrey people and places collected from a variety of sources. Such collected material would considerably increase the size of the original three volumes - Richard Percival's enormous collection of Surrey views bound into his own copy of Manning and Bray, now held at the British Library, runs to thirty volumes and, had it been bound, Robert Barclay's copy would have been of a similar size.

That it was Barclay's intention to bind the illustrations he had collected into Manning and Bray is shown by the arrangement of the illustrations within the portfolios, the indexes he compiled to enable specific items to be found, and the pencil annotation which he added to the majority of them. Each folio opening of the portfolios is numbered and the illustrations are arranged within them by parish within their respective hundreds. Thus, for example, volume two includes the Hundreds of Tandridge, Reigate and Copthorne and illustrations relating to the parish of Epsom will be found at folio 83 which is in the Copthorne section of the volume. Many of these illustrations have been annotated by Barclay with the numbers '2.83' and 'II 609', showing that they are currently stored in portfolio two, opening 83, but when bound, should be placed under the parish of Epsom in Manning and Bray which is in volume two of that work, page 609.

The illustrations collected by Barclay range from views of Surrey buildings and the gardens designed for them to general topographical views of the county, street scenes and portraits of Surrey inhabitants or people who were associated with the county in some way. A great many of the topographical views are watercolour drawings by John Hassell (1767-1825). In the five portfolios so far listed 537 of the 1860 items are by Hassell and testify to the extent of his achievement in recording many of the churches, houses, schools, courthouses, almshouses, bridges and market places which he found during his travels in the county in the early 1820s. It will be interesting to compare the list of those Hassells which were collected (or commissioned ?) by Barclay with The Hassell Index compiled by James C. Batley and Gerard P. Moss in 'A Catalogue of

Pictures of Surrey and Elsewhere by John Hassell and his son Edward' in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, vol. 75 (1984).

Fig. 1. 'Near Godalming Surry' by Henry De Cort. Undated pencil and brown colourwash drawing (S.R.O. 4348/3/42/2).

John Hassell is not, however, the only artist represented in the Barclay collection. The portfolios also include original works by other artists, notably Henry Francis De Cort (1742-1810), a Dutch landscape painter, who is represented by some thirteen colourwash drawings of Reigate, Godalming (Fig. 1), Guildford, Farnham and Lambeth; John Carter (1784-1817), draughtsman to the Society of Antiquaries, whose original ink and watercolour drawings of Winchester Palace, Southwark, are included in volume six (Fig. 2) and an anonymous, but talented, artist whose monochrome studies of houses around Dorking and Wotton will be found in volume three (Fig. 3).

By far the largest number of items within the collection are the engravings and portraits of Surrey places and people which Barclay acquired from printed topographical works and printsellers. Among those works which have so far been identified are C. T. Cracklow's *Views of all the Churches and Chapels in the County of Surrey* (London, 1823) which Cracklow himself intended as 'an *ornamental* accompaniement to "Manning and Bray's History" ' together with E. W. Brayley's *History of Surrey* and *Lambeth Palace Illustrated*, Dr. Hughson's *Description of London*, the *Gentleman's Magazine* and the *European Magazine*. It is also likely that Barclay used the forty-seven views of churches and other buildings drawn by Hill and engraved by Peake which appeared in *The Ecclesiastical Topography of Surrey* in 1819 and, like Cracklow's views, was also intended to supplement the paucity of illustrative material published in Manning and Bray. That he purchased large numbers of views and portraits from printsellers is shown by the pencil pricing which

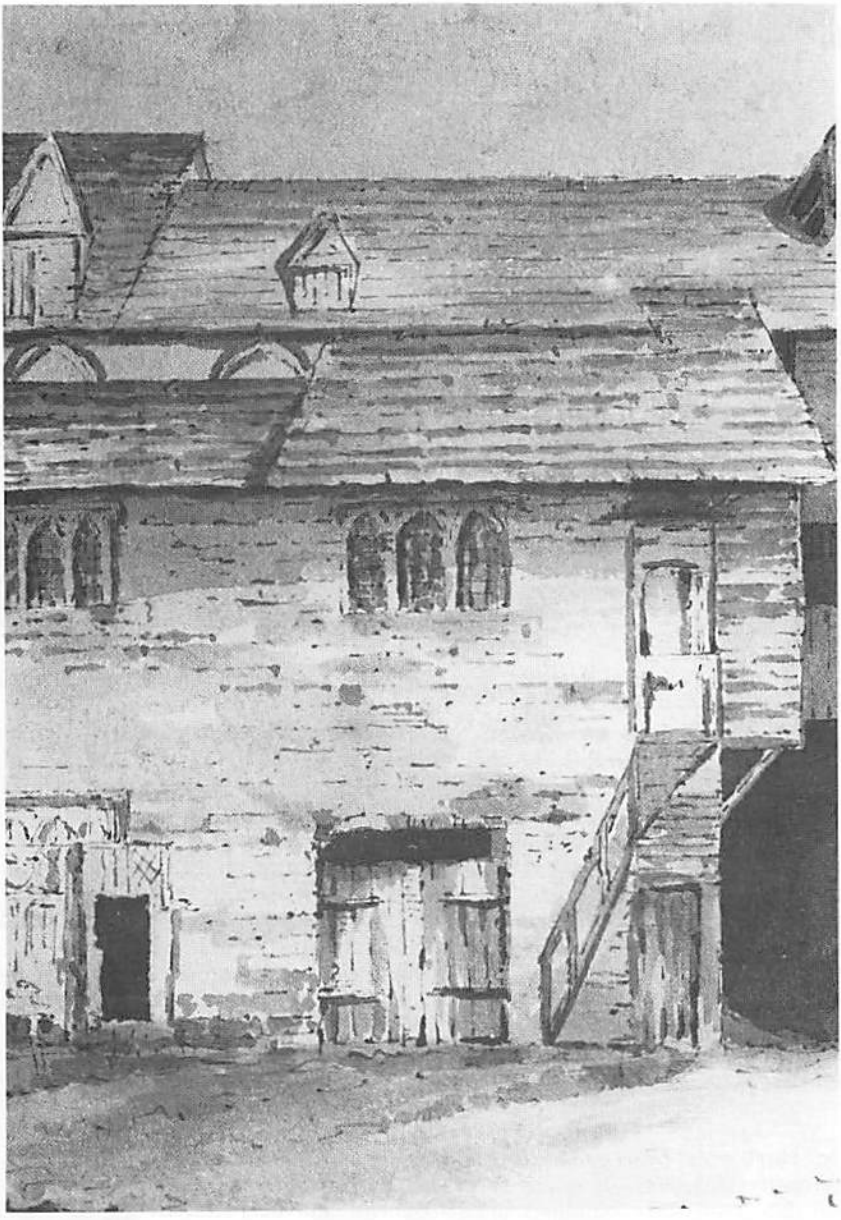


Fig. 2. 'View of the remains of the Bishop of Winchester's Palace near St. Mary Overie's church Southwark, in the court yard' by John Carter. According to Bernard Adams, *London Illustrated, 1604-1851* (London, 1983), Carter made this sketch in 1785. It was later engraved and published in volume five of his *Specimens of Gothic Architecture and Ancient Buildings in England* (London, 1791 and 1824).

Fig. 3. Camilla Lacey, Mickleham. A black-and-white watercolour by an unidentified artist who drew several houses in the Dorking and Wotton area. The house was built *c.*1800 by Madame D'Arblay (S.R.O. 4348/3/6/7).

remains on many of them. The majority of the engravings were picked up for a few pence or a shilling, but Barclay seems willingly to have paid more for rarer and more curious items, (Fig. 9). Much work remains to be done with regard to the ways in which Barclay pursued his hobby and acquired his collection. Batley and Moss suggest that the private print collector would have provided a ready market for an artist like John Hassell and the presence of so many Hassell watercolours within Barclay's collections raises the possibility that the artist was responding to a commission from this keen collector. It is interesting to note that the private account books of the lithographer, James Duffield Harding (1798-1863), now held at the library of the Courtauld Institute in London, include references to his having visited Barclay at Bury Hill in the 1830s in order to take a number of views and provide tuition to Miss Barclay in the relatively new art of drawing on stone. Several copies of an anonymous and undated lithograph of Bury Hill are included in volume three (Fig. 4). Comparison between them and the photographs of Harding's sketches of Bury Hill, also held by Surrey Record Office, suggests that they are not the work of Harding.[1]

The variety of engravings collected by Barclay is impressive and provides the student of a particular Surrey parish and the people associated with it with an important source of illustrations. Along with familiar engravings of churches and gentlemen's seats the searcher will find architectural drawings and plans of important houses, such as Roehampton House (Fig. 5), bird's eye perspectives of estates, like that of Esher Place (Fig. 6), and unusual views of Surrey landscapes such as Harriott Gouldsmith's view of The Concert Cottage in Claremont Park (Fig. 7). Portraits of Surrey people are generally found at the end of each parish

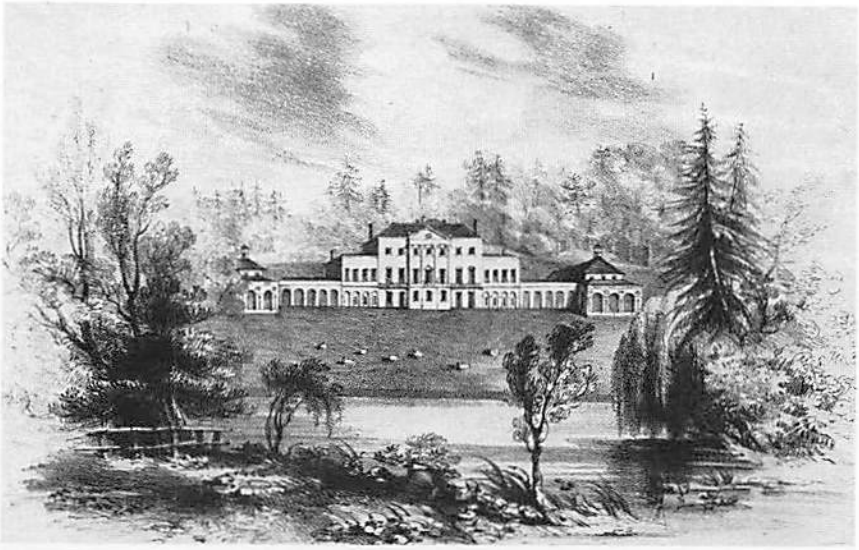


Fig. 4. 'Bury Hill. The Residence of Robert Barclay Esqre'. Undated lithograph by an unidentified artist (S.R.O. 4348/3/3/4).

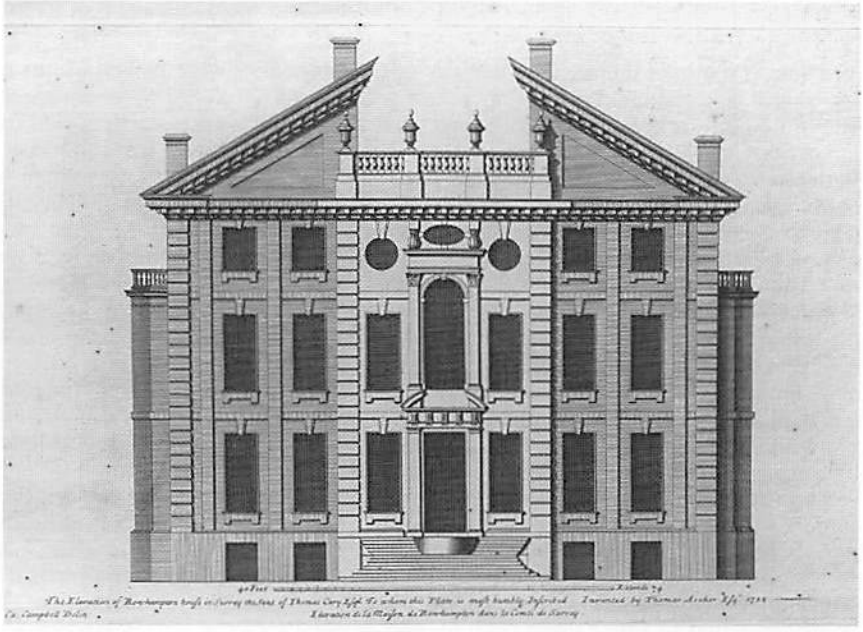


Fig. 5. 'The Elevation of Roehampton house in Surrey the Seat of Thomas Cary Esqr. Invented by Thomas Archer Esqr. 1712'. Plate 81 from Colin Campbell, *Vitruvius Britannicus*, Vol. 1, 1715 (S.R.O. 4348/1/37/1).

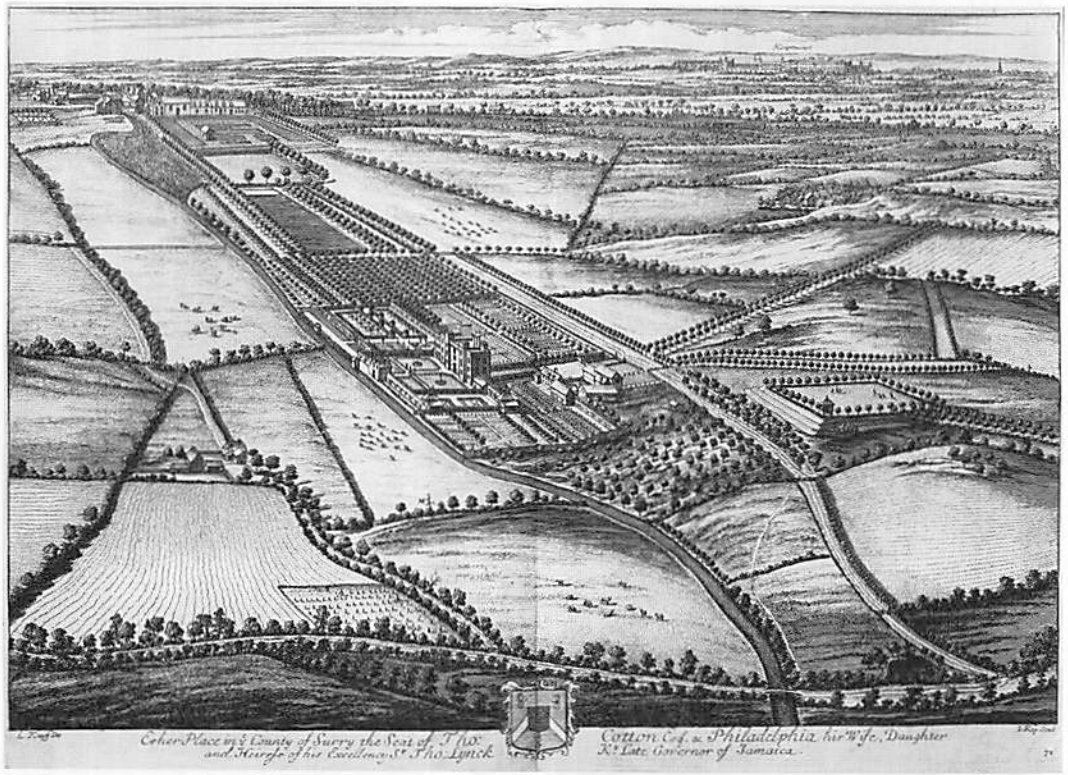


Fig. 6. Bird's-eye perspective view of Esher Place, seat of Thomas Cotton and Philadelphia his wife, daughter of Thomas Lynck, Governor of Jamaica. Drawn by Leonard Knyff (1650-1721), and engraved by Johannes Kip (1653-1722) (S.R.O. 4348/4/41/4).

section. They include clergy, politicians and members of prominent Surrey families (Fig. 8), as well as less well known figures, such as John Woolderidge, 'The famous Poet of East Clandon' (Fig. 9).

Fig. 7. 'The Concert Cottage in Claremont Park. Painted from Nature & Etched by Harriott Gouldsmith'. Published by Harriott Gouldsmith of 43 Alpha Road, London, on 10th. June 1819 (S.R.O. 4348/4/38/2).

The Barclay collection is being listed directly onto a Windows-based indexing package called Microsoft ACCESS. Fields have been constructed to record the names of artists and engravers, the title of each item, the publisher and printer, the publication in which it appeared, its date, format, the parish to which it relates, the name of the person represented or identified as the owner of the property shown, the picture's subject and any manuscript annotation which survives upon it. Indexes have been built for each of the principal fields and searches can be made in the printed results of these indexes, which are on open access in our Kingston searchroom. It is hoped to provide on-line access to the collection at a future stage in the project. The first stage, currently nearing completion, has been to enter data from each item to the database. Further work in order to identify the more obscure artists or sources of certain illustrations will follow, along with the scanning of items onto optical disk and the proper packaging of each illustration in archive-quality materials.

Reference

1. Photographs of sketches of the Bury Hill estate made by James Duffield Harding between 1837 and 1838 and sold by Sotheby's of London in May 1992 are held by Surrey Record Office as Zs215/1-4.

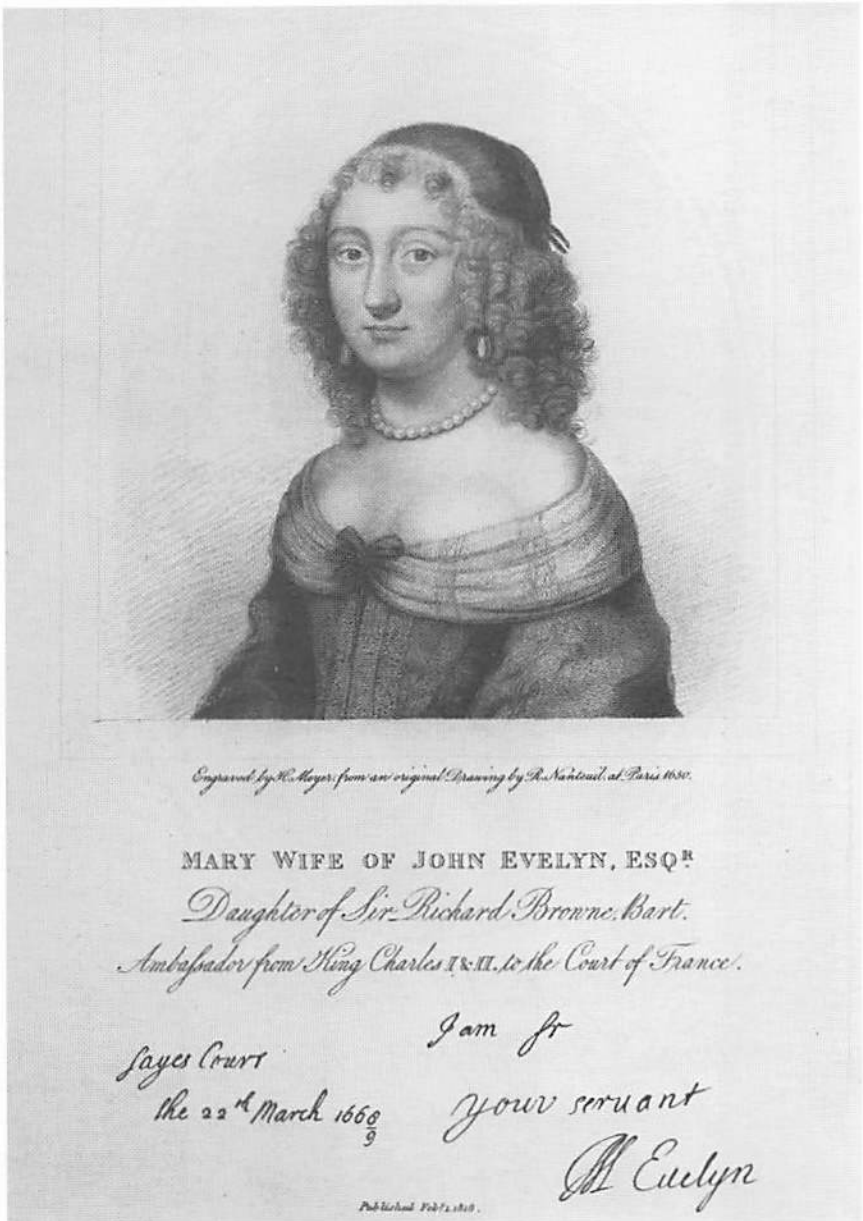


Fig. 8. Mary, wife of John Evelyn, engraved by H. Meyer from an original drawing by R. Anteuil, Paris, 1650 (S.R.O. 4348/3/22/21).

Fig. 9. John Woolderidge, the 'Famous Poet' of East Clandon, drawn by J. Russell and published by F. Faden of Charing Cross, 10th. March 1778. Pencil annotation on the reverse suggests that Barclay paid five shillings for this item (S.R.O. 4348/3/77/8).

THE ENDURING PRESENCE OF NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR AT OCKHAM PARK

Joy Grant

Stand in the churchyard of All Saints', Ockham, and face west, and in the middle distance you will see a spectacular, puzzling, brick structure, crowning what appears to be a house of some grandeur (Fig. 1). A remarkable history lies behind the house and its ornamental topping. Ockham, 3½ miles south-west of Cobham and a mile from the Portsmouth Road, has escaped so-called development. It has kept its rural character, and the geography of its lanes remains much as it was in 1710, the year that the manor - 1056 acres, manor house and all - was bought for the sum of £ 18,326 by Sir Peter King, M.P., an up-and-coming lawyer from London.[1]

King would have gone into the family grocery business but for the kind offices of a cousin, the philosopher John Locke, no less, who persuaded his father to send him to university.[2] Being clever and hardworking - *labor ipse voluptas*, 'work is a pleasure in itself' was the motto he chose when he rose to heraldic honours - he rapidly climbed the legal ladder, and by 1710 - fortyish, and the

Fig. 1. Ockham Park after its restoration.

father of a growing family - was very properly in the market for a landed estate. Ockham, convenient for the capital, was a sensible choice, and possibly a prudent one too, since the unfortunate vendor was under pressure to sell.[3] King was a shrewd man of business, as Locke's correspondence shows.

King was fond of his house at Ockham, slipping down to it from town (he had a house in Norfolk Street, Strand) whenever his duties allowed, but as he rose in his profession - and in 1714 he was made a senior judge - he may well have begun to feel a trifle ashamed of it. Everywhere men of his kind, successful Whigs, were putting up grand mansions in the modern style. Along the road at Esher, his friend the Duke of Newcastle had commissioned from Sir John Vanbrugh a fine new house, Claremont, and Lord Onslow, another nobleman of his acquaintance, was planning a grandiose stone mansion at West Clandon, his architect being an Italian, Leoni. While King had no wish to set up in competition with men of their rank, it would be pleasant to entertain them, and others like them, in conmodious, modern surroundings.

So, after due consideration, he invited an architect of excellent reputation, Nicholas Hawksmoor, to come to his aid. As one of the commissioners for the new churches planned for London's ever-growing suburbs, King was personally acquainted with Hawksmoor and knew the quality of his work. Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661-1736) was an architect of genius, whose fate, in death as in life, was to be overshadowed by his contemporaries, Wren and Vanbrugh. Master of many styles, he bequeathed to Oxford the classical Old Clarendon Building (the original home of the Clarendon Press), the baroque front of the Queen's College, and the 'Gothick' towers of All Souls', while the sombre, classical mausoleum at Chatsworth is rated by some as his finest achievement. In London, he built St. Mary Woolnoth, Christ Church, Spitalfields and four other remarkable churches, and - in a last, typically self-effacing gesture - completed the west towers of Westminster Abbey: an image of worldwide fame, yet how many could name the architect?

At Blenheim Palace, Hawksmoor provided the technical expertise that enabled Sir John Vanbrugh, the gifted amateur, to realise his grand designs. A letter of Hawksmoor's to King, dated 14th. August 1723, finds him dancing attendance on the Duchess of Marlborough, the mistress of Blenheim. It also indicates that building work was well under way at Ockham.

> My lord, I have your Lordship's kind Letter, and am Sorry I cannot wait upon your Lordship to Ockham tomorrow, for I did intend to come this weeke if your Lordship had not writ to invite me. But yesterday the Duchess of Marlborough engaged me to goe with her to Blenhiem and we set out tomorrow, so that I must beseech your Lordship to forgive me and accept of my attendance on my return.
>
> Hinton [Hawksmoor's assistant] was downe not long Since and he told me every thing was right, however we shall goe again, with fresh instructions. I will measure the Worke my Self because I would See how the quantities of Materials are expended.[4]

According to Professor Kerry Downes, the leading authority on Hawksmoor,[5] the work referred to probably included the stable block, a plain brick building (still extant) set at right angles to the house, with an arched passageway through the centre, and lead rainwater-heads dated 1724. Downes thinks it probable that

Hawksmoor's new work included also the construction or reconstruction of the kitchen block, intended as 'offices' in the eighteenth-century sense, with kitchen, servants' hall, housekeeper's room, servants' bedrooms, laundry, etc. Professor Nikolaus Pevsner is of the same opinion, regarding one feature, 'a tiny Venetian window with the three parts split up and treated as separate units' as 'an unmistakable Hawksmorean touch.' To the present writer it seems likely that the window in question was the sole survivor, after centuries of alteration and adaptation, of a set of miniature Venetian windows, consciously to be echoed in the large Venetian windows that are a feature of Hawksmoor's design for the enlargement of the mansion itself (Fig. 2).[7]

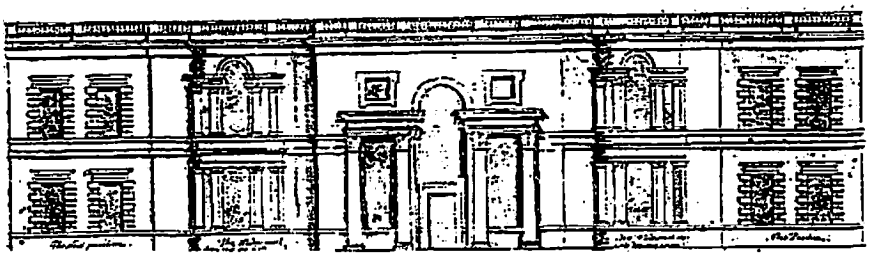


Fig. 2. A House fit for a learned judge to live in: Hawksmoor's design for the garden front.

In Downes's view, the central roof turret on the kitchen block (removed in the nineteenth century) 'can reasonably be attributed to Hawksmoor'. It consisted of an ogee lantern with four chimney-stacks joined to it by arches set diagonally at the corners - that is to say, the chimney-stacks were an essential ingredient of a three-dimensional design. Hawksmoor was certainly not averse to contriving sculptural effects with massed chimneys - he had done so at Blenheim, on a scale altogether grander than here.

There is no doubt that it was Hawksmoor who was called in when the kitchen block chimneys were found to smoke, for a sketch of his proposed solution to the problem survives (Fig. 3). Dated 15th. April 1726, and endorsed 'Mr. Hawkesmore to prevent the Smoking of the New Chimneys', it was duly despached by him to the Rev. Dr. Hoadley, who was the parson of Ockham, and perhaps in charge of the improvements in King's absence. Hawksmoor suggested raising the chimney-pots by three feet, either on a single 'Pedistall' or on '3 funills in a Diagonall form'. He seems to have done the trick, for a Victorian engraving [8] shows a tall stack still in place.

In January 1727, nine months after rectifying those chimneys, Hawksmoor drew up grandiose plans for the mansion itself. The existing house was of Jacobean date, multi-gabled and H-shaped. Hawksmoor proposed filling up one half of the H with a fashionable, Italian-style saloon, rising through two storeys, and the other, with a giant, columned portico. Twin 'pavilions' were to be tacked on to each of the side elevations, probably as guest suites - that is, bedrooms with *en-suite* withdrawing-rooms, standard features of great houses of the day.

In the event, the plan never left the drawing-board. Possibly the expense was too great, or King may simply have lost heart for the enterprise. Sadly, his elevation in 1725 to the Lord Chancellorship of England and the peerage - with the style of Baron King of Ockham in Surrey - served only to hasten his decline;

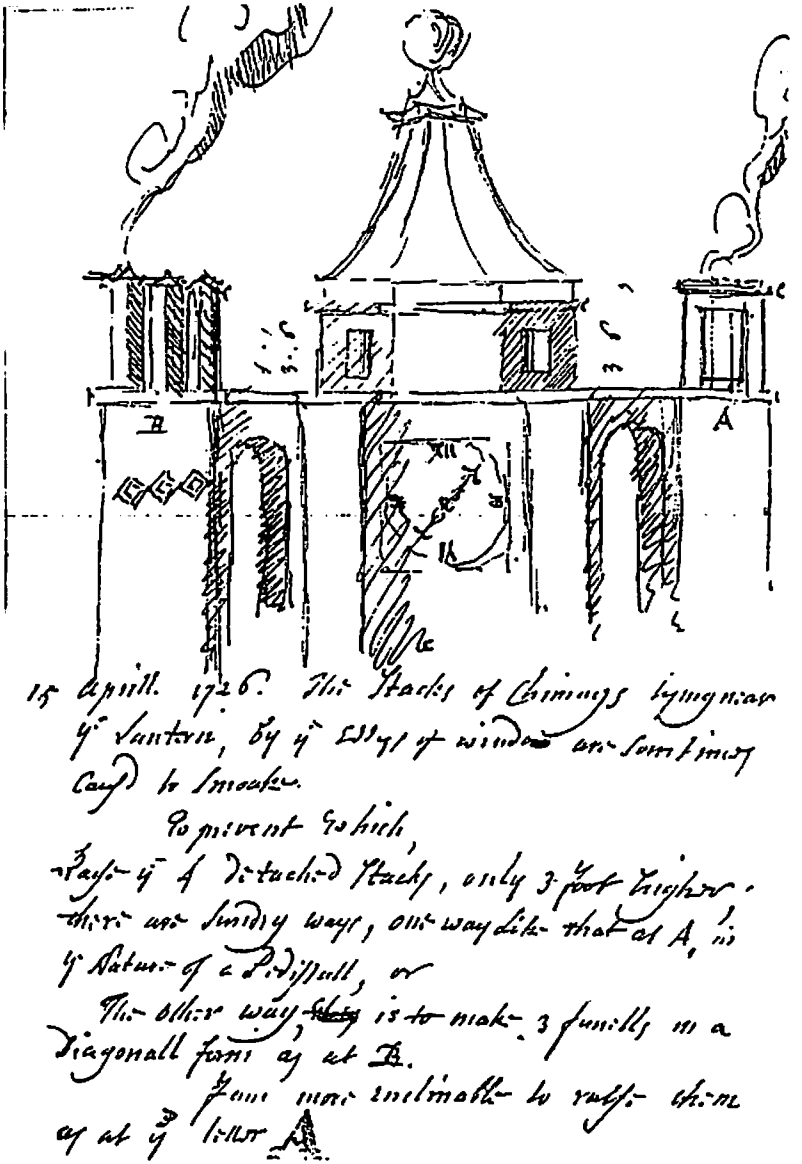


Fig. 3. Hawksmoor's sketch of the chimney turret. The inscription reads:
15. Aprill, 1726. The stacks of chimneys lying near ye lantern, by ye eddys of wind are sometimes causd to smoake.
To prevent which, raise ye 4 detached stacks, only 3 foot higher, there are sundry ways, one way like that at A, in ye Nature of a Pedistall, or
The other way is to make 3 funnells in a Diagonall form as at B.
I am more inclinath to raise them as at ye letter A.

the burden of office proved too much for him, and he suffered a series of strokes. Yet in February 1729 Hawksmoor put forward a more modest scheme of improvement - merely to remodel the entrance hall and reface the front of the existing house - which was in fact put into effect. Poor Lord King was not, however, to enjoy its benefits for long. He died in 1734, 'sinking into a Paralytic Disease ... under the Labour and Fatigues of [his] weighty Place', as the inscription on his grand marble monument puts it. For as a token of her grief his widow commissioned a mausoleum, of which her Lord was to be the first incumbent. Opening out of the north wall of All Saints' Church, it consisted of a chapel with a vault beneath, and the architect was again possibly Hawksmoor: Downes urges the probability of this, while Pevsner thinks it unlikely. Neither, however, doubts that the most fashionable scuptor of the day, J.M. Rysbrack, was responsible for the marble monument depicting the melancholy couple: 'the female figure a little stylised', Pevsner writes, 'Lord King himself a fine portrait, with his soberly modelled face contrasted with the rich dress and the tumbled symbols of office'.

As the eighteenth century rolled away, Lord King's four sons succeeded to the title in turn, and in due course were laid to rest in the family vault. None of them added lustre to the family name, nor made significant alterations to the family seat, though at a date unknown the kitchen block was linked to the house by a corridor. It was the seventh Lord King, in the 1820s, who coated the entire brick edifice in fashionable stucco, and his son, the eighth Lord (later Earl of Lovelace), a passionate builder, who thoroughly Italianised the property, removing in the process Hawksmoor's central roof turret, and replacing it with a campanile, preposterously crowned with serried ranks of chimney-pots (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4. Ockham Park Italianised, from Brayley, *Topographical History of Surrey*, 1844.

But the first Earl of Lovelace never much liked the house, and renounced it as a residence for himself, moving to East Horsley, where he had prepared for his delectation a gothic extravaganza, Horsley Towers. Ockham Park was let for many years, then stood empty until such time as the second Earl inherited, when one visitor described it as 'a dreadful, tumbledown, ugly house'.[9] Indeed, after years of clumsy adaptation, it can hardly have been of much merit architecturally. The second Earl and his lady both took a keen interest in the visual arts, and seriously considered pulling the whole place down and replacing it with something more aesthetic and convenient. Their friend C.A. Voysey, considered at the time a distinctly *avant garde* architect, drew up plans, which can be inspected at the R.I.B.A's library in Portman Square, for a long, low house of disarming simplicity. In the event the scheme was dropped, but Voysey was retained over the years as a kind of jobbing designer, working indoors and out. The present owner has restored his cloister, and the simple mausoleum that he built in the grounds to house the Earl's ashes.

On Lady Lovelace's death in 1941, Ockham Park passed to her late husband's niece, Lady Wentworth, and was promptly commandeered for use by the Canadian Army, whereupon the contents (including Hawksmoor's lantern, which had found a home in the stables) were locked away until the Canadians left at D-Day. With the peace came the housing crisis, and the house was duly requisitioned by Guildford Rural District Council for conversion into flats for married ex-servicemen. Work on the project was well advanced when disaster struck: in the early hours of 3rd. October 1948 fire gutted the mansion, and it was subsequently demolished.

The kitchen block and stables, which had escaped the blaze, were left to go to rack and ruin and, when the fourth Earl of Lytton (Lady Wentworth's son) inherited in 1960, he was faced with the choice of selling, or embarking on a costly restoration. With a family to bring up, and already the owner of a country house in Somerset, he decided to put the manor of Ockham on the market. The purchaser, Major Edmund Howard, set about breaking it up. Most tenants accepted his offer of freeholds, while the kitchen block and stables, together with about forty acres of land and some cottages, were bought by a wealthy property developer, Felix Fenston. Undaunted by the state of the place - the gamekeeper had to cut a path through nettles for him and his wife to reach the house, where chickens were roosting - Fenston determined to convert the surviving buildings into a country residence for his own use, and to restore the shoot.

In charge of the conversion, and responsible for drawing Fenston's attention to the property in the first place, was Felix Harbord, who styled himself an architect-designer. Born in 1906, Harbord was largely self-taught. A stint at the Slade School of Art was followed by a job in the office of the architect Sir Albert Richardson. Later he turned his hand to portraits, stage design and interior decoration. After the Second World War some valuable interior design commissions came his way: Farley Hall, Berkshire, for his brother-in-law, Alan Palmer of Huntley and Palmer Ltd., the biscuit company; the Park House at Wilton for the Hon. David Herbert; Oving, Buckinghamshire, for Michael Berry, proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*, and Luttrellstown Castle, Co. Dublin for a Guinness heiress, the Hon. Mrs. Brinsley Plunkett. Harbord acquired along the way a scholarly understanding of historical styles, enabling him, for instance, to remodel the Hon. Mrs. Plunkett's reception rooms in Georgian taste of

successive periods - a species of expertise that was to stand him in good stead in the work that lay ahead of him in Surrey. The whole tenor of Harbord's career suggests that he relished a challenge, and he was certainly confronted with one at Ockham Park, where his brief, in effect, was to create a residence of some dignity and grandeur out of the dilapidated remains of a former house's kitchen block. He rose to it well: Ockham Park has been claimed on good authority as his most successful country house.[10]

Taking Hawksmoor's sketch of the central chimney turret, backed up by later engravings, as his guidelines, Harbord prepared a scheme of restoration, and submitted it (Fig. 5) to Guildford Rural District Council in December 1961. The stucco was to be stripped (to reveal mellow eighteenth-century brickwork, in harmony with the stables). Order and regularity were to be restored to the windows, and thick barred sashes installed. The Victorian tower with its absurd chimney-pots was to be demolished, and replaced by a suitably imposing variation on Hawksmoor's original turret. Hawksmoor's diminutive Venetian windows on the top storey were to be restored, and his startlingly interrupted parapet-line retained (to balance the turret and vary the skyline). There were departures from Hawksmoor: on the east front, a formal entrance, approached by a flight of steps and rising from a grassed and gravelled forecourt, would be constructed, and plans were included for an octagonal saloon or drawingroom, 47-feet long, opening out of the house on the south front from a 'garden hall' or conservatory. Fitted and furnished in Harbord's favourite eighteenth-century taste, it would have provided a spectacular setting for entertaining.

The plans were approved and work proceeded, when in 1970 the enterprise came to an abrupt halt, on the death of Felix Fenston from heart failure. His widow, without the means to continue the work, nevertheless decided to make Ockham her home, moving with her young daughter into the stable block; by the mid-1980s she was in a position to go ahead, and work resumed, though under different direction, for Harbord had died in 1981. Regrettably, the idea of a saloon was scrapped, and the preliminary work on it demolished. But in 1989 the dignity of the house was enhanced by the installation in the forecourt of a handsome pair of early nineteenth-century wrought iron gates, brought there from the Ripley entrance to the park, where they had stood marooned and idle since the re-routing of the A3. They came originally from Halnaby, the Yorkshire home of Lord Byron's wife's family, the Milbankes. Ada, the only child of the disastrous Byron-Milbanke union, married the first Earl of Lovelace, and the gates were a gift from her mother. The decorative medallions, added at that time, show the King coat of arms, quartered with those of Fry and Troye (earlier alliances), with - curiously - no reference to the Byron alliance. The house still lacked a formal entrance, and in 1992 the architect Julian Bicknell designed a portico and balustraded flight of steps in Portland stone, rather less self-effacing than the entrance proposed by Harbord.

Surrey has very little to show of the work of England's three great baroque architects: Wren built nothing in the county, Vanbrugh's brick-built Claremont House was pulled down not long after it was put up - only some outbuildings and the amazing belvedere in the gardens, which plainly bears his signature, remind us that he was once there. As for Hawksmoor, the post-war fire at Ockham Park swept away any traces that remained of his work on the mansion, leaving only his kitchen block and stables, the former so altered over time that Hawksmoor would have disowned it on the spot.

Today, the picture is different, and Felix Harbord's work on the old kitchen block poses the question, who in fact is the architect of the new Ockham Park, Harbord or Nicholas Hawksmoor? The answer must be *both*, for without a doubt something of Hawksmoor's boldness, his capacity to surprise, is captured in Harbord's imaginative yet sympathetic conversion.

Notes and References

1. R.N. Bloxam, 'The "Big House" in Ockham Park', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. 62, 1965.
2. J. Campbell, *Lives of the Lord Chancellors*, 1845.
3. The 'big house' at Ockham Park was built for Henry Weston (no relation of the Westons of nearby Sutton Place) who purchased the manor in 1621; an Act of Parliament of 1710 empowered one John Weston to break the entail, in order to pay off his father's debts (see Bloxam, Ref. 1, above).
4. R.I.B.A., *Proceedings*, Vol. VI, 1890.
5. K. Downes, *Nicholas Hawksmoor*, 1979.
6. N. Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Surrey*, 1962.
7. Apart from the remarks in the letter referred to in Note 4, nothing was known of Hawksmoor's connection with Ockham Park, until the chance discovery in 1950 by the art historian Rupert Gunnis of a set of some 30 documents (letters, estimates and drawings) all clearly related to work undertaken by him for King in the 1720s. Many are quoted in K. Downes's *Hawksmoor*; see also L. Whistler, 'Ockham Park, Surrey', *Country Life*, 29th. December 1950.
8. In G.F. Prosser, *Illustrations of the County of Surrey*, 1828.
9. E.C.F. Collier (ed.), *M.J.C. Monkswell, A Victorian Diarist*, 1944.
10. J.M. Robinson, *The Latest Country Houses*, 1984.

Fig. 5. Harbord's design for the front of the house.

NEW MATERIAL FOR SURREY HISTORIANS

Accessions of Records in Surrey Record Office, 1995

David Robinson, Michael Page and Mary Mackay
Surrey History Service

Surrey History Centre

Last year I reported the decision by Surrey County Council to build a new Surrey History Centre in Woking, to replace Surrey Record Office at County Hall, Guildford Muniment Room, Surrey Local Studies Library and Ewell Grove Processing Centre. During 1995 design work proceeded on the core scheme funded within Surrey County Council's capital programme. At the same time, the full scheme to provide lecture and exhibition rooms and other enhancements was taken to design stage and submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund in August. Shortly before Christmas we heard that our lottery bid had been successful. We have spent the first half of 1996 producing the detailed design for the full scheme.

Fig. 1. Surrey History Centre. Photograph of a model. The central block comprises the repositories, with the eastern end (nearest the camera) occupied by the County Archaeological Unit. The northern end, facing Goldsworth Road, houses the public areas: entrance foyer (with canopy), search room and exhibition and lecture rooms. The southern block is two-storey and contains the staff working areas. The design has progressed since the model was constructed and is now significantly different in detail.

Surrey History Centre will provide first-class facilities for the preservation of the archives and unique or rare local studies materials. It will also provide first-class facilities for users with about 60 user spaces (30 for books and archives, 30 for microform), a large table for spreading out maps, and terminals for access to relevant information - Surrey and national - relevant to local studies in the broadest sense.

Bringing together Surrey Record Office and Surrey Local Studies Library will enable a wide range of sources for Surrey history to be consulted in one location. It will enable us to develop coherent collecting policies for ephemera, which at present sometimes slip through the net between our collecting policies.

Surrey Archaeological Unit will also be based in the new Centre, which should assist in bringing together historical and archaeological disciplines in the understanding of Surrey's past.

Our exhibition and lecture facilities will be available for cooperative ventures as well as for our own exhibition, lecture and educational programmes, and I hope that we will be seen as a countywide resource. The Centre will also serve as the base for our local access initiatives to make study materials available throughout the county. These are progressing, with a particularly successful local history forum launched in Horley on the initiative, and with the enthusiastic involvement, of the local history society.

The records of Abbot's Hospital, Guildford, 1329-1950

The records of the Hospital of the Blessed Trinity, known as Abbot's Hospital, comprise documents relating to the administration of the Hospital and deeds of the property belonging to the Hospital (S.R.O. 5305).

The records relating to the administration of the hospital include the minutes of the Governors' meetings from 1861-1978, and the Master's Journal from 1853-1949, detailing absences by the inmates (as the residents were called) from chapel, and hospital activities. A 'Manufactory Book', 1656-1763, lists recipients of the annual distribution of £ 100, 'the monyes of the manufacture'. A Day Book, 1769-1809, includes an inventory of the Hospital, 1778, a survey of the lands belonging to the Hospital, 1779, and a list of inmates and nurses at Abbot's Hospital from 1778 to 1802.

The earliest records in this deposit comprise deeds of land endowed to the Hospital. These include Hall Place or Merrow Farm, 1548-1844; Rumbeams Farm, Ewhurst and Cranleigh, 1427-1850, Highland Farm, Horsham, 12th. century-1842.

Records of the Onslow Family of Clandon Park: additional records, 1709-c.1945

This large additional deposit (S.R.O. 5337) from Lord Onslow, and from the National Trust on his behalf covers a wide spectrum of material relating to the family estates and to the public and private lives of the 4th. & 5th. Earls.

The collection contains a valuable accumulation of Surrey estate maps, including one of Woking Park, 1709, estate maps of land in Guildford, 1759, and plans of the Onslow estate in Clandon, Send and Merrow including Gosden Hill, Send and Clandon Park. There are also building plans for properties on

the estate. The collection includes material relating to the management of the large estate. In addition to financial records, there is some material on the estate employees including a list of workmen, detailing their trade and the amount to be given to each as a Christmas bonus in beef and Christmas puddings, 1907.

There is an account by Smallpeice, the family's solicitors, of an accident on the estate at Broadmead Bridge, Send, involving a traction engine and resulting in three fatalities, 1873.

The material also reflects the varied careers of the 4th. & 5th. Earls. Both men held numerous positions in government. William Hillier Onslow, the 4th. Earl, was Governor of New Zealand, 1888-1895, and a typescript of a lantern slide lecture on New Zealand was amongst the material deposited. His son Viscount Cranley also held posts in the Diplomatic Service and Foreign Office: his printed memorandum 'respecting the Polish Question in Prussia', July 1908, is included in this collection. Cranley was appointed Representative of the Director of Propaganda in Enemy Countries in 1918. He later was involved in the Ministry of Health, the Board of Education, the War Office, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and was appointed a Privy Councillor in 1926. The diverse collection reflects the careers of the Onslows and their involvement in many local and voluntary bodies.

The collection also contains material relating to the appointment and resignation of Reginald Lucas, commissioned to write a biography of the 5th. Earl to be published by Macmillan & Co. Following the death of Lucas, the 5th. Earl took over the task, incorporating the history of the family, completing the work in 1924. Documents accumulated or acquired by the 5th. Earl for the history are included in this collection.

Hospital Records

National Health Service restucturing and the closure of the great mental hospitals built in the 19th. century has meant we have been inundated with records from local health authorities. Among the major deposits we have taken in are the records of West Park Hospital (S.R.O. 6294), The Manor Hospital (S.R.O. 6282) and St. Ebba's Hospital (S.R.O. 6292), three of the institutions established by the London County Council to provide for the population of London. The medical records generated by these hospitals are an invaluable, if often harrowing, source for social, family and medical historians. The case books of the Manor Hospital include photographs of the patients, for which the glass plate negatives have survived and have also been deposited. The former Surrey County Asylum at Brookwood has also made an additional significant deposit of records (S.R.O. 6277) including contracts relating to the building and supply of this enormous establishment which opened in 1867 and minute books of the post-1948 Hospital Management Committee. It should be remembered that records relating to named patients are closed to public access for 100 years.

Gale and Power, Estate Agents of Egham

Gale and Power were a long established firm of estate agents, surveyors and land agents, whose origins could be traced back to 1835. The firm was recently

taken over by the Clarendon Partnership at which point we were called in to take over the surviving records (S.R.O. 6307). These, unfortunately, had survived in a far from complete state, very little remaining from the nineteenth century. However we have received on deposit a fine series of local sale particulars and auction catalogues, property surveys and valuations and plans of many local developments, and also records relating to the firm's involvement in the collection of tithes, in the administration of the Edmond Lee Charity in Egham and as bailiffs of Egham manor.

Collection of David Knight of Dorking

We purchased over the course of last year a significant proportion of the fine collection of local history materials (S.R.O. 4414), accumulated by David Knight who died recently. The collection includes nineteenth and twentieth century sale particulars and auction catalogues, invaluable for tracing the changing face of the landscape, accounts and posters relating to the administration of turnpike roads in the first half of the nineeenth century, and fascinating fragmentary survivals relating to nineteenth-century Dorking businesses including notices of money owed out of the estate and effects to the creditors of Thomas Piper and George Dewdney whose bank failed in 1826.

Richard Brettell, solicitor of Chertsey

To complement the enormous deposit of records by Paine and Brettell, the Chertsey firm of solicitors, which was reported in 1994, we have also taken in four deed boxes of the personal papers (S.R.O. 4393) of Richard Brettell (1846-1902). Brettell purchased a partnership in the Chertsey firm of solicitors, Grazebrook and Paine, in 1869 and remained very active in local affairs until his death. His papers include many estate records and title deeds relating to the family's estates in Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Surrey from 1581, but also include a large quantity of business and personal correpondence which throws much light on the multitudinous activities of this significant local figure whose firm played such an influential role in the life of Chertsey.

Eothen School, Caterham

Our holdings of records of private schools are small but have now been supplemented by the records of Eothen School, a girls school established on Harestone Hill, Caterham, in 1892 (S.R.O. 6302). The school closed in 1995, the girls transferring to Caterham School nearby, and members of our staff spent two days sorting through the surviving records. These include minute book, pupil records and much correspondence of the successive headmistresses and together give a full picture of the education provided by the school thoughout its 100-year history.

Fig. 2. Front page of an illuminated list of Justices of the Peace for Surrey presented to Sir Richard Henry Wyatt in 1889 (S.R.O. 4352/1).

Smaller Accessions

Among the more interesting smaller accessions to our holdings mention might be made of the following:

The account book of Thomas Miller, a Ewhurst miller, records his sales to named customers between 1758 and 1768 (S.R.O. 5333) and allows the fluctuating fortunes of a small trader to be traced. The final page of the volume includes a recipe for rheumatism involving salmonick, turpentine and hartshorn to be taken in the morning with half a pint of ale.

The minute book of the Guildford Branch of the United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers, 1916-1951 (S.R.O. 5299), records the union's struggles with Dennis Bros. Ltd., the 'nefarious system' of payment of workers resulting from the Munitions Act, and the 'dilution of labour' resulting from the employment of women in jobs previously done by skilled men during and after the First World War.

George Gwilt (1746-1807) served as Surrey County Surveyor for many years, building the County Gaol and Sessions House in Newington and bridges in Cobham, Leatherhead and Newington. We purchased the account book kept by his executors between 1807 and 1817 (S.R.O. 4332) which includes lists of his investments, real estate and personal property including his mathematical instruments and architectural textbooks.

Finally we received on deposit four diaries kept by Colonel Roger Morris of the 2nd. Foot Guards between 1796 and 1799 (S.R.O. 4430). Morris was the son of James Morris, sheriff of Surrey in 1764, who lived in Wandsworth. Three of his diaries narrate his travels around Britain (he observes of Worthing in Sussex that 'it is somewhat remarkable that one inn is kept by Mr. Hogsflesh, the other by Mr. Bacon'); the fourth provides a detailed narrative of the 1799 allied campaign against the French in Holland. The narrative ceases abruptly on 16th. September; three days later Morris was killed at Alkmaar.

Church Records

We have continued to take in deposits of records from parishes throughout the county under the Parochial Registers and Records Measure. Churches which have deposited include St. Martin Croydon Common, St. Martin Epsom, St. Matthew Wimbledon, St. John Kingston, St. James Croydon Common, Emmanuel Sidlow Bridge, St. Paul Hook, St. Peter Morden, Emmanuel South Croydon, St. Andrew Gatton, St. Matthew Croydon, St. Peter Hersham, St. Swithun Purley, St. Paul Dorking, St. Michael Yorktown, Holy Trinity Botleys and Lyne, St. John the Evangelist Hale, St. Anne Bagshot, St. Mary and All Saints Dunsfold, St. John the Evangelist Merrow, St. James Rowledge, St. Peter and St. Paul Godalming, St. Nicholas Compton, Holy Trinity Hawley and St. Peter Wrecclesham.

Records from Non-Conformist Churches have been received from Chertsey Congregational Church and Woking and Walton Methodist Circuit.

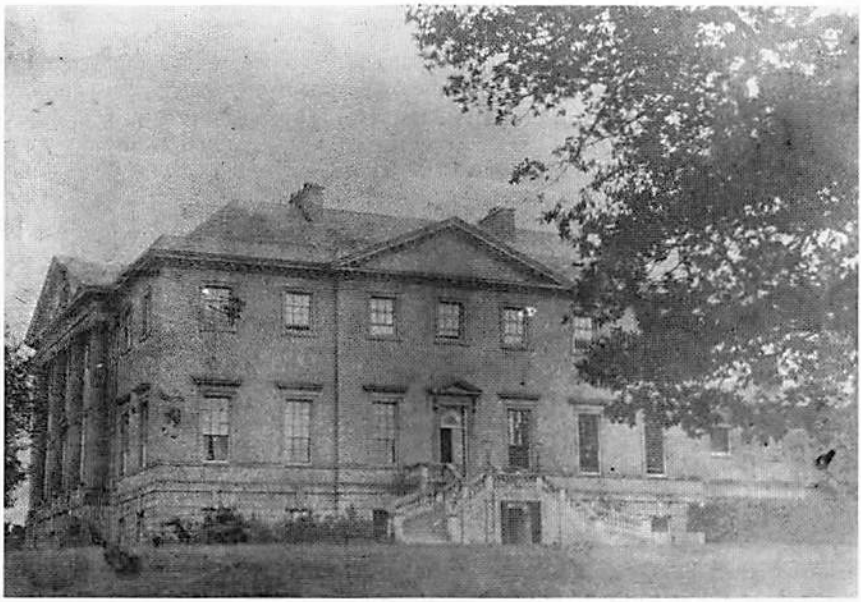


Fig. 3. Botley's Park, Chertsey, in September 1865, from the photograph album of a member of the Gosling family (S.R.O. 4400/p1).

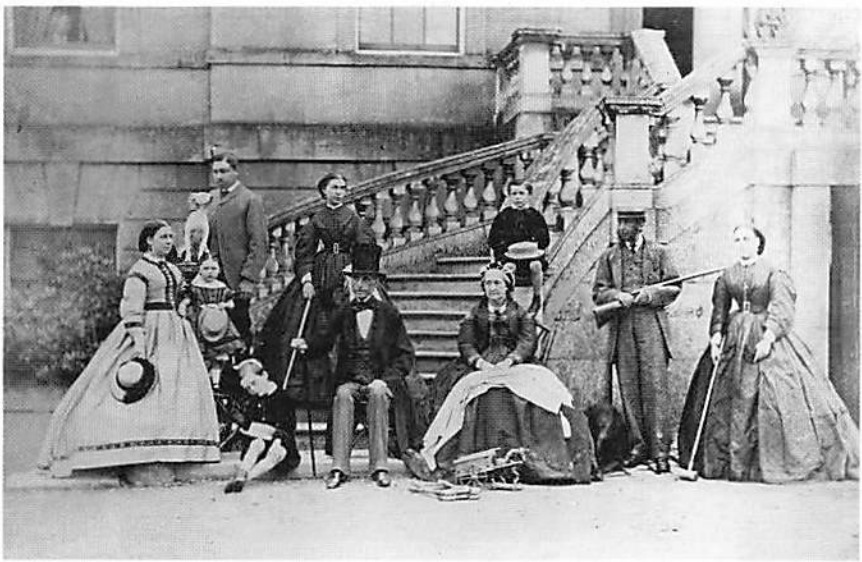


Fig. 4. A family group at Botleys, September, 1865, from the same photograph album (S.R.O. 4400/p7).

Computers and the History Service

Visitors to the search room at County Hall will have been aware that there are now two computer terminals in the public areas, one in the search room and one in the reception area. The search room terminal holds our topographical index. It can be searched for entries relating to particular places and/or subjects (e.g. schools in Weybridge) and print-outs can be provided. At present it covers only County Hall materials, and care must be used since no index can reveal all the relevant material potentially in the archives. It is nonetheless a welcome development.

The terminal in reception is connected via the Surrey Web to the Intemet. The web site provides information about the various aspects of the History Service, progress on the Surrey History Centre, major new accessions, and information on a variety of subjects. It also gives access to the topographical index, which can be searched, if you have a computer with Internet access, from the privacy of your own home. The web site also provides access to other sources of information now on the Internet, such as the National Register of Archives.

In the new History Centre we are planning to provide access to databases relevant to all aspects of Surrey's past, including the sites and monuments record, and £ 200,000 of our lottery grant is earmarked for developments in information technology, including converting lists and indexes into machine-readable form. This will permit searching of our finding-aids anywhere in the world. Documents will be ordered by computer, linked to a document location system. Technophobes, however, should not be frightened. We shall provide friendly and helpful assistance, and the typed lists and indexes will not be vanishing from the search room. Also, as the least computer-literate person in the Office, I shall ensure that the public-service terminals are so user-friendly that even I can use them !

Fig. 5. Morden Hall Farm, Morden, from a photograph taken before 1918, showing Jack Wickens, milkman (S.R.O. 4339/1).

Publications

The Surrey Local History Council has produced *Surrey History* for many years and the majority of the back numbers are still available. In addition the following extra publications are in print:

Pastors, Parishes and People in Surrey
by *David Robinson*
1989 £ 2.95

Views of Surrey Churches
by *C. T. Cracklow*
(reprint of 1826 views)
1979 £ 7.50 (hardback)

Kingston's Past Rediscovered
by *Joan Wakeford*
1990 £ 6.95
(published jointly with Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society)
[Nearly out-of-print - remaining stocks with Kingston Heritage Service]

Old Surrey Receipts and Food for Thought
compiled by *Daphne Grimm*
1991 £ 3.95

The Sheriffs of Surrey
by *David Burns*
1992 £ 4.95
(Published jointly with the Under Sheriff of Surrey)

Two Hundred Years of Aeronautics & Aviation in Surrey 1785-1985
by *Sir Peter Masefield*
1993 £ 3-95

These books are published for the Surrey Local History Council by Phillimore & Co., Ltd., of Chichester. They are available from many bookshops in the County. Members are invited to obtain their copies from the Hon. Secretary, c/o The Guildford Institute of the University of Surrey, Ward Street, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 4LH.

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