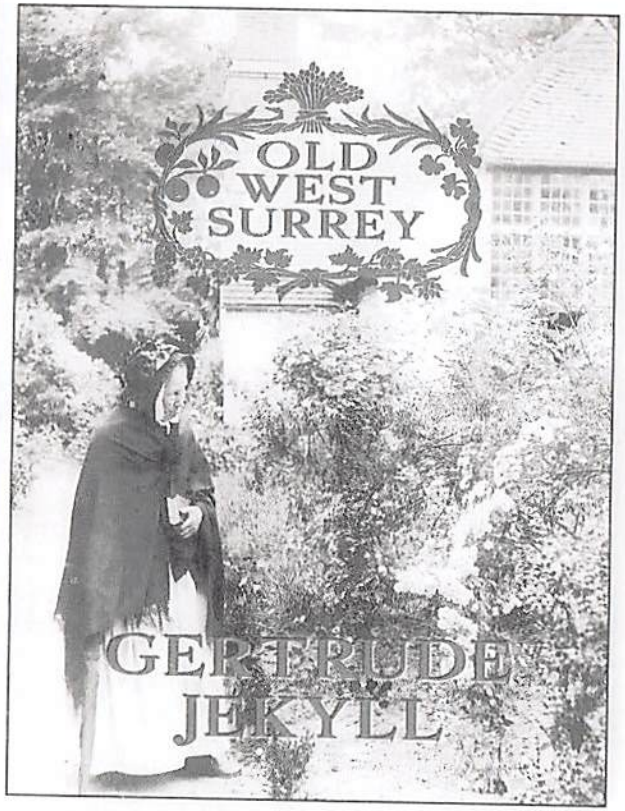
SURREY HISTORY

Seventeenth-Century Wireworks in Surrey & the Case of Thomas Steere
The House on the Tymber Yarde – Shalford House
Norden's 1607 Map of Guildford Park
Surbiton – The Queen of the Suburbs
Surrey History Service – new material, new facilities
Preserving a Century of Surrey on Film

VOLUME VI NUMBER 1



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Seventeenth-Century Wireworks in Surrey and the Case of Thomas Steere *Glenys Crocker* 2

The House on the Tymber Yarde – Shalford House *Judie English* 17

Norden's 1607 Map of Guildford Park *Alan Crocker* 26

Surbiton – The Queen of the Suburbs *P. H. Grevatt* 40

Gertrude Jekyll: *Old West Surrey* *A review by the editor* 51

Surrey History Service – new material, new facilities *David Robinson and Michael Page* 52

Preserving a Century of Surrey on Film *Michael Page* 62

Cover illustration: Soldiers of the Roayal Fusiliers University and Public Schools Brigade on fatigue duty at their encampment at Woodcote Park, Epsom, *c.*1915.

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SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY WIREWORKS IN SURREY AND THE CASE OF THOMAS STEERE

Glenys Crocker
Surrey Industrial History Group

Introduction

Surrey holds an important place in the industrial history of Britain, particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries. It was an age of projects and projectors, as the entrepreneurs of the period were known.[1] New industries and new technology were encouraged by the granting of letters patent and by the recruitment of skilled craftsmen from the Continent. The Wealden iron industry, for example, owed its post-medieval advance to immigrants from north-east France who brought the blast furnace to Sussex in the 1490s.[2] In the 16th century non-ferrous metal working was promoted by the founding of two joint stock companies, the Mines Royal and the Mineral and Battery Works, both of which depended on German expertise. The Mines Royal, which was also financed substantially by German capital, was granted powers to work mines of the precious metals in the north and west counties of England and in Wales and the Mineral and Battery Works the privileges of working them elsewhere, of mining the zinc ore calamine and making the copper-zinc alloys latten and brass. Both companies received their charters of incorporation on 28 May 1568.[3]

The operations of the Mineral and Battery Works concern Surrey in two main locations: on the River Mole and its associated channel the River Ember in modern Elmbridge, and on the Tillingbourne, which rises on Leith Hill and joins the River Wey at Shalford, 2km south of Guildford. The history of the Elmbridge mills has been discussed by Greenwood[4] and brass and wire manufacture on the Tillingbourne by Brandon, who deals largely with works on the Evelyn estates at Wotton and Abinger.[5] Brandon mentions only briefly an earlier wireworks at Chilworth which was established by Thomas Steere in defiance of the monopoly held by the Mineral and Battery Works and was forced to close in 1606. The present article deals mainly with this case and also summarises the known published facts about other wire mills in Surrey in the 17th century. Their locations are shown in figure 1.

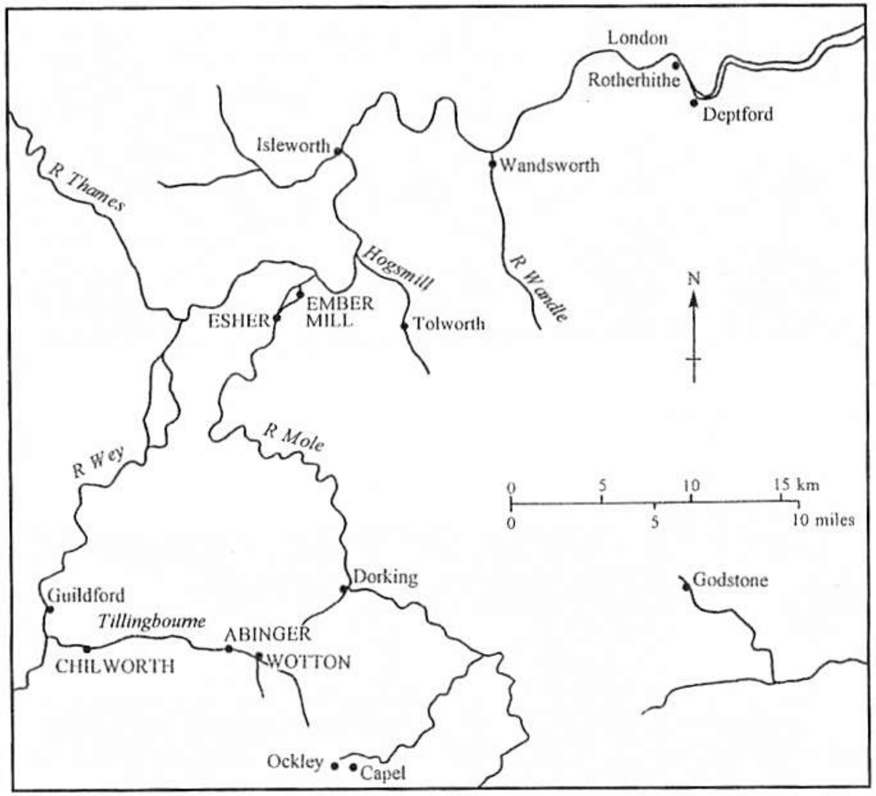

Fig. 1 Location map showing places in Surrey and adjacent areas mentioned in the text. The names of the principal sites discussed are printed in capital letters.

The Mineral and Battery Works

When it was incorporated, the Mineral and Battery Works took over privileges which had been granted in 1565 to William Humphrey, assay master of the mint in the Tower of London, and Christopher Shutz, an expert from Saxony whom he had engaged to work in England. Humphrey and Shutz were jointly granted privileges to mine calamine for making latten and also to make battery wares, cast work and wire of latten, iron and steel. The term 'battery' refers to the beating of sheet metal into shapes. The privileges extended also to the use of certain 'tools, instruments and engines', in particular those operated by water power, which were introduced by the patentees.

Humphrey had intended to erect brass works in Surrey at Wandsworth, but abandoned this plan when calamine ore was found in Somerset in 1566. The search began for a manufacturing site and the choice fell upon the valley of the Angevy or Angidy, a tributary of the River Wye at Tintern. Erection of a wireworks began in 1566 and was completed in 1567. In the following year it was taken over by the newly incorporated Mineral and Battery Works which held the lease until 1631.[6]

The technology

Wire drawing

Wire was made by forming metal into sheets, cutting these into strips, shaping the strips into rods, and drawing the rods through a series of holes of decreasing size in a drawplate. The metal was annealed by heating at several stages during the process and 'watered' by placing it in water for several weeks at a time. Early methods involved forming the metal plate under a mechanical hammer, cutting it into strips with hand-shears and converting the rods into wire by manual strength with equipment known as *brackes*.[7]

A manual method is described by John Evelyn in his letter of 1675 which is prefixed to Aubrey's *History of Surrey*.[8] Evelyn is here referring to the brass and copper works at Wotton which were set up by his father Richard Evelyn in the 1620s.

> First they drew the wire by men sitting harnessed in certain swings, taking hold of the brass thongs fitted to the holes, with pincers fastened to a girdle which went about them; and then with stretching forth their feet against a stump, they shot their bodies from it, closing with the plate again; but afterwards this was quite left off, and the effect performed by an *ingenio* brought out of Sweden; which I suppose they still continue.

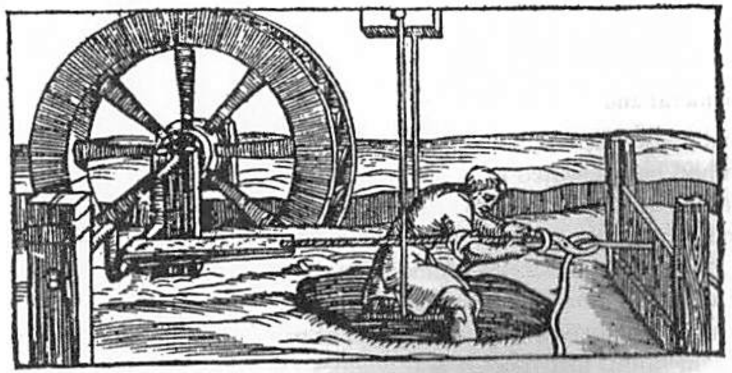

Fig. 2 Wiredrawing as illustrated in Biringuccio's *Pirotechnia* (Venice, 1540). The water wheel operates a crank to which the workman's pincers are attached. He grips the wire at the forward position and the movement of the waterwheel pulls it through the drawplate. At the end of the backward movement he opens the pincers to release the wire, then swings forward to take hold of it again.

The methods introduced by Humphrey and Shutz are described in a question put to witnesses in the case against Thomas Steere.[9]

> Did not Christopher Shutz and other strangers ... devise smaller hammers driven by water wheels and other engines to strain the bars of iron into smaller rods for big iron, and by water wheels and other engines to draw these rods to big wire and so to smaller and also a water wheel and other engines to draw all sorts of smaller wire.

An illustration in Biringuccio's *Pirotechnia* shows a workman opening and closing the pincers while the drawing action is powered by a water wheel operating a crank to which the pincers are attached (figure 2). This was probably the water-powered method in use in the early 17th century, while more complex machinery, in which the wire was attached to hooks on rotating drums, was developed later.[10]

Osmond iron

There were technical difficulties at Tintern with the production of brass and the works soon began to concentrate on the manufacture of iron wire. This too presented difficulties because ordinary bar iron, or 'merchant's iron', was not sufficiently ductile for wire drawing. Again German expertise was sought and in 1567 Humphrey and Shutz engaged a craftsman named Corslett from Westphalia to make the special product known as osmond iron.[11] The Mineral and Battery Works was granted patent rights over its manufacture and the woodlands in Monmouthshire were reserved for supplying charcoal as fuel for its production.[12]

The term 'osmond iron' has two meanings, one of which relates to a Swedish process of producing malleable iron from bog iron ore. Corslett's process involved a particular method not of smelting but of refining, which resulted in a high degree of de-carburisation. A specially designed hearth was used which produced a very strong oxidising blast. Molten drops of iron were collected on a staff which was quickly turned around so that they formed thin layers which were exposed to the blast. The mass was then forged with rapid strokes under a light mechanical hammer.[13]

The wire-manufacturing industry

By the late 16th century, the wireworks at Tintern were giving regular employment to about 120 regular workers and temporary employment to many more. Depositions made by witnesses in the Steere case provide some insight into social and working conditions. The Company paid a preacher and a schoolmaster, in what appears to be the earliest example in the country of a works' school,[14] and it made some welfare provision, including pensions and help for employees in times of sickness.[15]

The Tintern works experienced many difficulties before they came to face the competition from Chilworth. There were several moves—in 1581, 1593 and 1597—to obtain state protection for the wire industry by prohibiting imports of wire, which came particularly from Flanders, Rouen and Saxony, but in any case the wireworkers who made the product into consumer goods had difficulty in obtaining sufficient wire of the necessary quality. In 1570 the Company took a decision, against the wishes of Humphrey, to give up direct management of the works and lease them out to 'farmers'. There followed disputes about the rent—it was alleged that the farmers misled the Company about profits in order to have it reduced—and also about adequate supplies of osmond iron. The iron works, which were not always in the same hands as the wireworks, found it more profitable to manufacture merchant iron, for which there was a larger market, than the osmond iron which they had an obligation to supply. The quality of the wire deteriorated, resulting in a loss of sales and a corresponding increase in imports from the continent. Protracted legal proceedings ensued and eventually, in 1595, the Company resumed direct management of the works.[16]

The wire trade

Nationally, it was calculated that by the last decade of the 16th century some five or six thousand people were dependent on the wire trade for their livelihood. A wide range of consumer goods was made from wire, including pins, mousetraps, fish hooks, bird cages, lattice work for windows, buckles, small chains, pack needles, knitting needles, clasps for garments, curtain rings and woolcards, the hand-held wire-covered boards which were used to prepare short-stapled wool for spinning in the textile industry. The manufacture of articles was carried out in larger towns such as Bristol, Worcester, Coventry, York and London.[17]

Thomas Steere, who started the Chilworth works, was based in London and was described by the complainants in the case against him as a member of the Company of Wiremongers or retailers of wire.[18] The court sought to clarify the status of this company[19] and statements were made on the matter by a Tintern wire drawer named William Jones and by John Challenor of London esquire, who had been farmer of the works at Tintern between 1591 and 1595. Both explained that there were three kinds of tradesmen in London who dealt with wire: the wire drawers who bought it from Tintern and drew it into card wire; the wire workers who worked wire into various commodities; and the shop keepers to whom they sold these goods and who sold them on by retail. The witnesses also stated that 'none of them have skill in mollifying of iron apt to make make wire or in drawing iron into wire' and added that they did not think there were 'any tradesmen known by the name of wire monger within this realm'.

In his account of the City livery companies, Hazlitt notes that communities under the names of Wire-sellers, Wire-drawers and Wire-workers are mentioned at various periods but from an early date were merged in other organisations. The Wire Workers and Pinners were one body, and kept their accounts together, at least from the time of Edward IV. Both were united with the Girdlers Company by a charter of 10 Elizabeth. The Tin-plate Workers were also associated with the Girdlers. Later, as home manufacture of pins grew, the Pinmakers were again granted separate letters patent in 11 Charles I (20 August 1636).[20] Unfortunately there is a gap in the surviving records of the Pinmakers Company between 1510 and 1691.[21] Tantalisingly, there is also a gap in the minute books of the Mineral and Battery Works during the relevant period, from 1596 to 1620.[22] No more is known therefore of Thomas Steere's business career.

The case against Steere

Although the monopoly system had come under severe criticism for abuses, both the Mineral and Battery Works and the Mines Royal had their charters renewed following the accession of James I. The former, incorporated in 1604 as the Governors, Assistants and Society of the City of London of and for the Mineral and Battery Works, was therefore in a strong position to act against Thomas Steere. The case was heard in the Court of Exchequer in 1605-6.[23]

It was stated that at a time of scarcity, when the Mineral and Battery Works were in dispute with the farmers about the supply of osmond iron and there had been a stoppage in the regular supply of wire imported from Flanders, Steere and his associates had bought up wire from the farmers and substantially increased the price. The farmers then raised their prices and distributed their output equally among the retailers, whereupon Steere, who was 'but a young occupier, and of smaller trade than many others who were his ancients of that Company [of wiremongers], because he might not have such quantity of wire as he desired ... grew discontented, and occasioned his falling out; then he would make wire himself, seeing wire was sold at so good a rate ...'.[24]

The Mineral and Battery Works were concerned about the competition from Chilworth in view of the large amount of foreign wire which was coming into the country and because of the advantages Chilworth had, compared with Tintern, in terms of lower carriage costs to the London market. It was not in the Company's power, however, to prevent others from manufacturing wire as such. Indeed, when Steere again went to buy wire from Tintern, the complainants' farmers, 'using peremptory speeches', told him that if he made wire himself he might let others have their wire, as it was lawful for him to do, but not 'by or with water-wheels, nor any the devices used in these complainants said wire works at Tintern'. Steere did in fact attempt to use horse power but found this uneconomic and persuaded workmen to come from Tintern to set up water-powered machinery. This and the defendants' making osmond iron, for which the Company held rights of patent, were the other grounds for complaint.[25]

Besides Steere there were nine other defendants: Robert Hunt, John Whitson, William Fray, Isaak Meyres, Lewis Jones, Evan Jenkins, John Powell, Richard Howgate and James Hunt.

Of these, Robert Hunt claimed only to have sold iron and timber to Steere, but the Company stated that he had made osmond iron specifically for him and had bargained with Tintern workmen to go to Chilworth; Evan Jenkins, an apprentice of William Jones at Tintern, had gone to Chilworth on his own initiative; and John Powell, who claimed hard dealing from his employers at Tintern, had left them without consent, partly through enticement by Steere and others and partly through 'fear of coming into trouble for killing of a man' as well as for embezzling two and a half stones of fine wire and committing 'diverse other misdemeanours and offences'.[26] Richard Howgate and Robert Hunt protested that they had never worked at Tintern but were poor labouring men who had 'wrought at Chilworth ever since Michaelmas was twelve month, until about a fortnight after St James the last past [29 September 1603 to mid-August 1604], at which time they departed for fear of trouble and intend[ed] to work there no more'.[27]

On 16 January 1605, depositions were taken at Alvington, Gloucestershire, from 17 witnesses. Most of them were workers from Tintern, some of whom had worked for Steere.

William Jones, for example, the wire drawer of Chapel Hill, Monmouthshire, to whom the defendant Evan Jenkins had been apprenticed, said that the works had been erected at Chilworth about two years previously, which would be in 1603. An extract from his deposition is reproduced in facsimile in figure 3.

Two other wire drawers, Barnes Sower of Chapel Hill and Walter King of Tintern, gave a more precise date of about 20 July 1603 for the setting up of the works and said that Barnes Sower had given Robert Hunt and Thomas Steere 'a plot in writing' for their construction, for which Hunt had paid 20 shillings. Hunt, with the consent of Steere, had bargained with the two men to work at Chilworth 'according to a note in writing under his hand'. Christopher Sadler of Tidenham, Gloucestershire, said that Steere had written to him at Tintern asking him to come to Chilworth and to bring the osmond iron maker Corslett with him, saying that after the iron maker came he would be 'fit for three or four of this deponent's friends' from Tintern.

James Powell, a clerk of Lidbrook in Gloucestershire, also stated that a messenger had come to Corslett from Steere 'whereupon Corslett did steal away out of the said works … and as he confessed at his return was used by the said Steere there to make tools for drawing of wire'. Lanncelott Bromywich of Chapel Hill, a wire drawer aged 44, stated that Steere had asked him to bring hammermen—Joseph Bradford, William Bradford and Walter Byde—from Tintern to Chilworth and had offered him a place there himself.

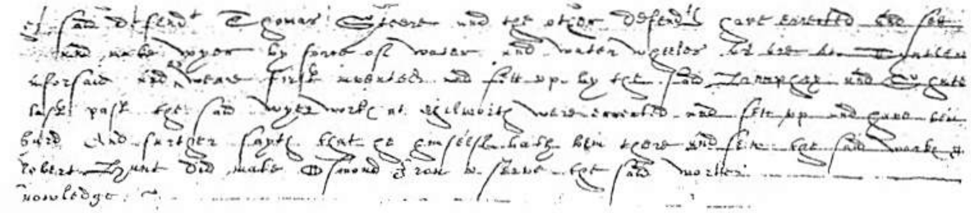

Fig. 3 Extract from the deposition of William Jones of Chappell Hill, Monmouthshire, wiredrawer aged 54. Only half the width of the document is reproduced and the words which appear in facsimile are printed bold in the following transcript. (Public Record Office: E134, 2 Jas I, Hil. 12).

10 To the xth he sayth that he doth well knowe that **the said defendant Thomas Steere and the other defendants have errected and sett** up at Chilworth aforesaid in the County of Surry a wyer worke to drawe **and make wyer by force of water and water wheeles as are at Tyntarne** and […] engins tooles and instruments as are used at Tyntarne **aforesaid and as weare first invented and sett up by the said Hummphry and Shutes** or th[eir] workmen and ffermers and sayth that about two yeres **last past the said wyer works at Chilworth were errected and sett up and have bene** used [by the] said Steere and other the defendants as this deponent **hurd And further sayth that he himself hath bein there and seene the said works** going and […] it was told to this deponent that the said defendant **Robert Hunt did make Osmond iron to serve the said workes.**

11 To the xith he cannott materiall depose of his owne **knowledge**

The last of the questions put to deponents concerned an allegation that Steere, 'being reproved for entertaining into his service some apprentice brought up in the said works at Tintern', was heard to 'affirm or say that he would hire or entertain forty of them if they would come to him'.[28]

On 3 July 1606 judgement was given in the Company's favour. The defendants were ordered to close the works; the Company was ordered to purchase within one month at a reasonable price all the iron and moveable equipment at Chilworth, and at Steere's own request and upon his assertion of his skill, to employ him as a workman. In regard to Steere's poverty, the court forbore to fine him.[29]

Thomas Steere's possible Surrey connections

Thomas Steere clearly had ambitious plans. It has been noted that he is an elusive presence among tradesmen in London and little is known of other details of his life and background. The Steeres were a numerous family in the Wotton and Capel district of Surrey, near Dorking (figure 1). Brandon notes that, of the Tudor and Stuart projectors who set up works in the Tillingbourne valley, only the Steeres were a local landed family, the others—the Hills of Abinger, the Morgans and Randalls of Chilworth, the Brays of Shere and the Evelyns of Wotton—being *arriviste* Tudor gentry.[30] The Steeres were, however, of modest origins, a yeoman family which rose into the ranks of the landed gentry. The earliest reference to the family in deeds is to Nicholas Steere of Capel who conveyed property to his son William in 1507. William was described as a husbandman but by 1591 John Stere of Ockley Court was a yeoman and in 1646 John Stere of Ockley is described for the first time as a gentleman.[31]

The name of Steere occurs in the 17th century in 35 Surrey parishes.[32] Several Steeres named Thomas are recorded but no evidence has been found to connect Thomas Steere the wiremonger with any branch of the family. Of those named Thomas Steer(e) who left wills in the 16th and 17th centuries, some were yeomen and some husbandmen.[33] A William Stere and his son Thomas sold the property named Youngs in Ockham to their kinsman John Stere in 1598 but the deed gives no information about Thomas except to refer to 'Marye his wife'.[34] Of those named Thomas who are recorded in parish registers, one had a son, also Thomas, baptised on 24 December 1598 and a Thomas Steer of Wotton was buried at Ockley on 20 March 1645.[35] On 2 March 1646, a Thomas Steere of Wotton, evidently a man of comfortable means, made a will leaving a number of properties to his nephews. He himself was described as a yeoman and there is no evidence to connect him to any trade. Two other Steers, one of them also named Thomas, are among his four named servants.[36]

Clearly Steere was not only a common name in the district but was held by families and individuals of greatly differing levels of wealth and social status. All that can be said is that, given Thomas's choice of site for his enterprise, a Surrey connection seems probable.

The site of Thomas Steere's wireworks

The Tillingbourne valley was a considerable industrial area from Tudor and Stuart times until the 20th century. Twenty-one watermill sites have been identified along its course, of which nine are known to have been worked before 1500 as corn mills or fulling mills for the woollen industry, while most of the rest were brought into use for other industries in the 16th and 17th centuries.[37] For example, the iron forge at Abinger Hammer, which operated until the 1780s, was established by 1557.[38] The most prominent projectors in the district were the Evelyn family, originally from Shropshire, who had set up gunpowder mills on the Hogsmill river at Tolworth probably in the 1560s and acquired the Wotton estate in the Tillingbourne valley in 1579. They and their associates established powder mills at Wotton and nearby Abinger, which they converted to brass and wire manufacture in the 1620s, and also in south-east Surrey at Godstone, on a tributary of the River Eden, where they continued to produce gunpowder until the 1630s.[39] The gunpowder industry was run as a Crown monopoly and this was held by the Evelyns. However the East India Company was granted a licence to manufacture powder solely for its own use and in 1626 established the mills at Chilworth which were to continue for nearly 300 years.[40] Other industries of long-term importance in the valley were paper making in the 18th and 19th centuries[41] and tanning, an old widespread industry which underwent modernisation at Gomshall and continued there until the 1970s.[42] Corn milling continued at Botting's Postford Mill at Albury until 1990.

The mill sites and watercourses in the manor of Chilworth, which have been associated mainly with the gunpowder and paper industries, are complex and their development in relation to the landscape is the subject of continuing research.[43] Records of the Steere case merely state that his wireworks, which preceded those industries, were at Chilworth. Their location can, however, be deduced with reasonable certainty from documentary sources. Several strands of documentary evidence indicate that the ancient mill site at Chilworth, which is recorded in the Domesday survey, was where the Tillingbourne is crossed by the modern Blacksmith Lane (NGR TQ 024 475), marked Paper Mills Lane in figure 4. When the East India Company established their powder mills they erected three mills at the pond on this site, replacing a disused corn mill and fulling mill and an associated dwelling house.[44] The fact that these buildings still stood in 1626 indicates that the wireworks, which would have been housed in a substantial structure, had not been built at the dam. After an explosion at the powder mills early in the period of its tenure, the East India Company rebuilt two of the mills at the pond but replaced the third with a mill on 'Steersland' nearby.[45] In 1677, when a survey of the powder mills was carried out for the Ordnance Board, there were still two mills at the dam and a further six on a millstream running down the south side of the valley from the pond. These eight process units constituted the Lower Works of the powder mills, which by then had expanded to include also the Middle and Upper Works farther upstream.[46] The Lower Works were converted to paper making in 1704 and by 1728 the leat below the mill pond served the Little Paper Mill, as shown in figure 4.[47] An area of 14 acres west of Blacksmith Lane and south of the river was known historically as Steersland or Berkeley Land.[48] It is concluded that Thomas Steere's wireworks were in this area, between the leat and the river, and that the leat was probably first constructed to serve them.

Brass and copper mills

When the Mineral and Battery Works turned from its early emphasis on brass to the manufacture of iron wire, it leased out the privilege of mining calamine, making brass, and erecting battery works. Brass works were thus established

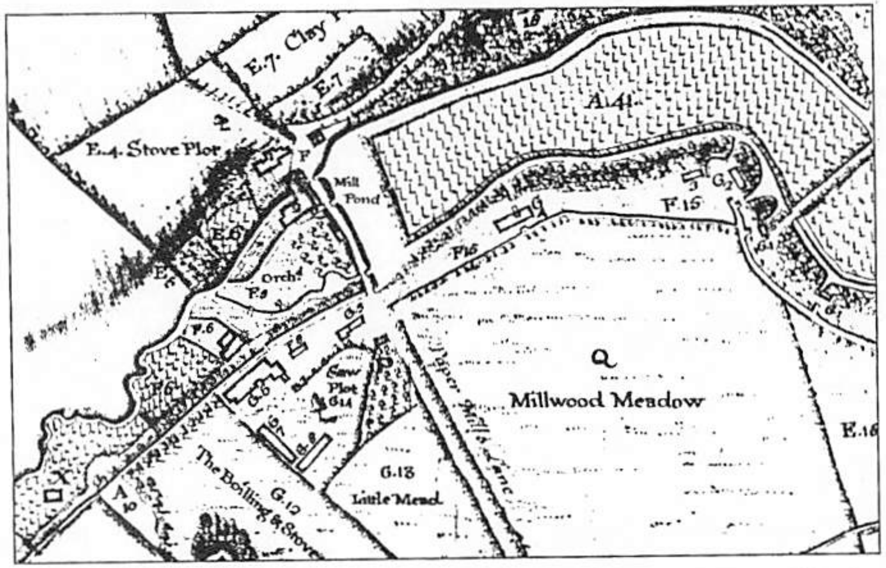

Fig. 4 Sketch map showing the early mill site at Chilworth as depicted on the *General Survey of Chillworth St Martha*, 1728. The modern Blacksmith Lane is shown as Paper Mills Lane. The Tillingbourne enters the mill pond from the east as two mill streams and four channels flow out of the pond. The two outflows from the north end of the pond serve the waterwheels of the Great Paper Mill directly. From the south end a by-pass channel returns to the river and a long leat is carried on down the valley, with two secondary channels to the Little Paper Mill. In the late seventeenth century several such parallel channels between the leat and the river had served a row of gunpowder mills. The leat was probably first constructed for Thomas Steere's wire mills of 1603–6. It is significant that the area west of Paper Mills Lane and south of the river was known historically as Steersland. The map also shows part of the gunpowder works which in 1728 occupied land east of the lane, along the southern mill stream, and the areas west of the lane named 'saw plot' and 'boiling and stove plot'.

in 1582 at Isleworth in Middlesex and in 1596 the Company set up new brass works at Rotherhithe in Surrey which it leased to Abraham Van Herwick, a Dutch merchant, and others.[49] Dutch craftsmen and entrepreneurs continued to play a major role in the industry.

It has been noted that the brass and wireworks on the Tillingbourne which John Evelyn described in his letter to Aubrey, quoted above, were set up by Richard Evelyn in the early 1620s to replace powder mills. Brandon identifies their sites as Pigeon House pond near Wotton House (TQ 120 469) and Elwix Mill, Abinger (TQ 110 470). He also identifies the principal lessee from 1628 onwards as Peter Brocklesby, following short-lived tenancies by Joseph Mulford and William Cowes.[50] Brocklesby is discussed by Greenwood in connection with the Elmbridge mills but his place of manufacture was not known at the time Greenwood was writing.[51]

The court minutes of the Mineral and Battery Works make no reference to works on the Tillingbourne in the 1620s, although they note other unlawful wireworks which it was planned to investigate, including works at Deptford in 1622, at Godstone, Surrey, and Tewkesbury in 1628, and at Bristol, Stapleton and Cheddar in 1629.[52] Disputes with Surrey manufacturers are, however, recorded in the 1630s. Greenwood states that in 1633 the Mineral and Battery Works leased the patent for manufacturing brass wire to Sir John Byron for 21 years. Byron surrendered it in 1638 and the Company then granted it to James Ledges, who operated at Ember Mill, Thames Ditton, and had an agreement to supply brass wire to the Pinmakers' Company. Meanwhile, Brocklesby had been granted a 10-year lease for handling calamine and manufacturing battery goods in 1634 but wanted to extend this to the production of brass wire and a triangular dispute was carried on between him, the Company and James Ledges.[53]

The Company was evidently in a weaker position than it had been when it suppressed the earlier wireworks at Chilworth. It had some success in 1631 against lessees in Somerset who were abusing their privileges[54] but it failed to restrain Brocklesby and to persuade Ledges to pay the rent he owed. During the Civil War both the Mineral and Battery Works and the Mines Royal were inactive and it was during this period, in about 1649, that mills for the manufacture of brass plate and wire were set up at Esher by Dutchmen named Jacob Mommer and Daniel Demetrius, who also took over Ledges' business at Ember Mill. They were later joined in partnership by Peter Hoote.[55]

During the Interregnum and after the Restoration in 1660 the Company attempted to regain its authority but by then the works were in difficulties because duty had been imposed on imported copper ore. Mommer, who used Swedish ore, appealed to Parliament in 1656 for a reduction of duty and in 1662 he and his partners petitioned for assistance, stating that 'their fires were going out'. They may, however, have continued at Ember Mill until 1670.[56] Mommer attempted to obtain copper ore from Derbyshire by taking a lease of mines in the Manifold Valley in 1665, but disappears from the Company's records after 1664.[57] Giuseppi comments that he and his partners seem to have suffered financially through the Esher venture[58] but Greenwood finds him living in comfortable circumstances in the district until his death in 1680.[59] On the Tillingbourne, Elwix Mill reverted to its original purpose of grinding corn by 1667[60] and the Evelyns at Wotton turned their attention from industry to country estate management and landscape gardening.[61]

In order to strengthen their position, the two chartered companies merged in 1668 to form the United Societies of the Mines Royal, the Mineral and Battery Works, with Prince Rupert as its governor. In 1670, however, Sir John Pettus, one of the deputy governors, stated that the latten and brass works around London and in Nottinghamshire, where the industry had also been established, had practically ceased operations and 'those arts almost gone with the artists'. The underlying problem was a shortage of copper. While the other constituent of brass, calamine ore, was being exported in large quantities to the Continent, copper production was held back because the ore occurs in association with the precious metals, which brought it within the privileges of the Mines Royal. It was freed from this restriction by the Mines Royal Act of 1689, which provided that no mine of copper, tin, lead or iron was in future to be considered the monopoly of the Crown.The ending of restrictions on the mining of copper coincided with advances in technology. The coal-fired reverbatory furnace for smelting was introduced in Bristol and the rolling mill was adopted for making sheet metal.[62] The way was open for the brass industry to develop under private enterprise in the 18th century.

Postscript

The new developments were centred on Bristol and the Forest of Dean but Surrey continued to play a part. William Dockwray, one of 10 London merchants who set up new copper works in the Forest of Dean, also started a partnership at Esher in 1691. The Esher works had a rolling mill and 24 draw benches for brass wire which was supplied to the pin-making industry.[63] Many Dutch workers were recruited and came to Esher with their families. In 1709 a merger was arranged with a Bristol company to form the Societies of Bristol and Esher for making Brass, Battery and Brass Wire. Joan Day comments that little is subsequently heard of Esher in the Bristol records but Greenwood notes that the works were thriving in 1720. The company took over the Upper Redbrook copper works in the Forest of Dean in the early 1730s and became The United Brass Battery, Wire and Copper Company of Bristol, Esher, Upper Redbrook and Barton Regis. This company began to break up in the 1740s and the Esher works turned to corn milling.[64]

At Ember Mill, where brass wire manufacture had ceased by 1670, a new iron mill was erected in 1693 or 1694 by John Stapleton and Christopher Trummer and is shown on Senex's map of Surrey of 1729 as an iron wire mill. It continued as an iron mill under a series of proprietors, of whom the last was Alexander Raby from 1795 to 1802, but it reverted to cornmilling when Raby moved his business to South Wales. Metal working continued into the early 19th century at several other mills in north Surrey.[65]

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Keith Fairclough for exchanging information with me on the history of the Chilworth site, Alan Crocker for collaborating on research on the industries of the Tillingbourne and Peter Edwards for commenting on an early draft of this paper.

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15. *ibid*, 615; PRO: E134, 2 Jas I, Hil.12, question 12. Several of the recipients named by Rees were granted pensions in the same year of their age as stated in their depositions in the Steere case, and may therefore have been receiving favourable treatment in return for their cooperation.
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THE HOUSE ON THE TYMBER YARDE

Shalford House, Shalford, Surrey—demolished 1968

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Surrey Archaeological Society

Shalford Rectory Manor and the Parsonage House

King John granted to John of Guildford, rector of Shalford, a yearly fair to be held in the church and churchyard on the vigil, the day and the morrow of the Assumption (Malden, 1902-12). By 1304/5 it is clear that Shalford Rectory had manorial rights and at that time these were granted by Edward I to the Hospital of St Mary Without Bishopgate. Although it is possible that a high status residential site existed close to the medieval church prior to this date, the early history of Shalford Church as mother church to the Bramley Estate complicates the picture (Blair, 1991). In 1305 a vicarage was built on a new site north of the church and from that date the original Parsonage House was rented out by firstly the ecclesiastical and later secular controllers of the manor. After the Dissolution the manor was granted by Elizabeth I to her secretary John Woolley who sold it in 1590 to his brother-in-law, George More, then of Baynards in Ewhurst and later of Losely. In 1592 he leased the Parsonage House, presumably the house now lost but shown on an undated estate map south of the timber yard glebe (fig. 1a), for 15 years to Richard Brickleton. This lease may explain the delay in rebuilding the house since George More sold the estate to the brothers George and John Austen in 1599. The estate remained in the hands of the Austen family until 1899.

The Austens and their house 1608/10–1899

The Austens who bought the Rectory Manor in 1599 were members of a Shropshire family who moved to Toddington in Hertfordshire. John of Toddington and Chiddingfold married Margaret Elyot and their son John had two sons, John and George. John junior was Mayor of Guildford in 1566, having previously represented that Borough in Parliament. George Austen, his brother, was also a member of that Corporation, and was Mayor in 1579, 1588 and 1600; afterwards MP for Haslemere and for Guildford; he was a contributor to the building of the Grammar School and of Abbot's Hospital (Ogilvy, 1914). Building on the new site started in 1608 and in 1609 Sir George

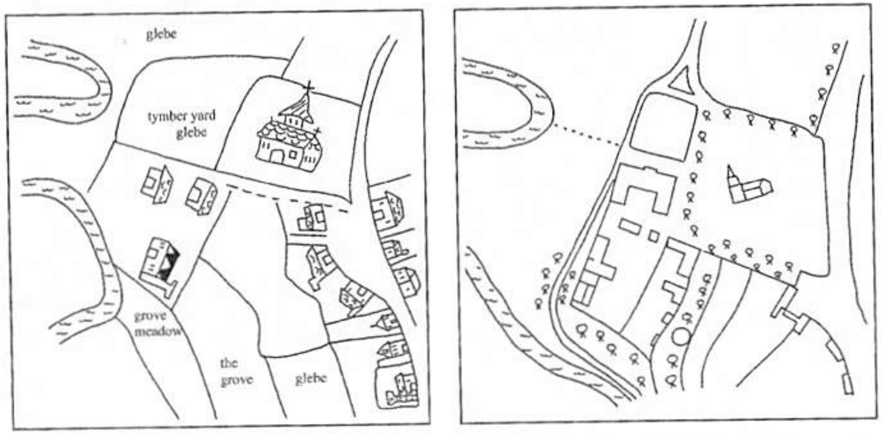

glebe
tymber yard
glebe
grove
meadow
the
grove
glebe

Fig. 1(a) The position of the pre-1608-10 Parsonage House as shown on an undated map of the Austen estates. **(b)** Plan of the 1608-10 Parsonage House and associated buildings from an estate map of 1788 (SHC G 111/3/6). Copyright of Surrey History Service.

More conveyed the Manor of Unstead to John Austen at his tenement 'now in building upon a parcel of land called the Tymber Yarde parcel of the parsonage of Shulforde' (Close, 7 Jas. I, no. 1981) and the position is shown on an estate map of 1788 (SHC G 111/3/6) (fig. 1b). It is this house, called The Parsonage House until 1816 when the name Shalford House was transferred from the house now called Whitnorth, which forms the subject of this paper. The building accounts (SHC G 1514/2) describe a house of brick and stone and contain great detail about the source of materials, building a kiln on site to make the bricks and the men involved in the building—mainly local tenants and villagers. These documents would repay close study but are beyond the scope of this paper.

In 1797 the house came into the possession of Henry Edmund Austen who gave the old house a new main front in classical style with an elegant porch. It seems, however, that soon the house was no longer occupied by the Austen family—in 1829 Henry Austen leased it to Mrs Sivewright for three years at £300 per annum and the lease notes that the drawing room was being altered at that time (SHC G 111/26). In 1840 the property was again let, this time for seven years at £350 per annum to William Oliver (SHC G 111/77). Further alterations took place in 1875 when the dining room was added.

A note pasted in the back of the building accounts already mentioned (SHC G 1514/2) lists the rooms in the 1608-10 house and the *VCH* (Malden, 1902-12) states that the alterations of 1797 left the internal arrangements of the main house intact. A plan drawn by E. Mercer prior to demolition and held by the National Monuments Record (NMR) contains various notes of

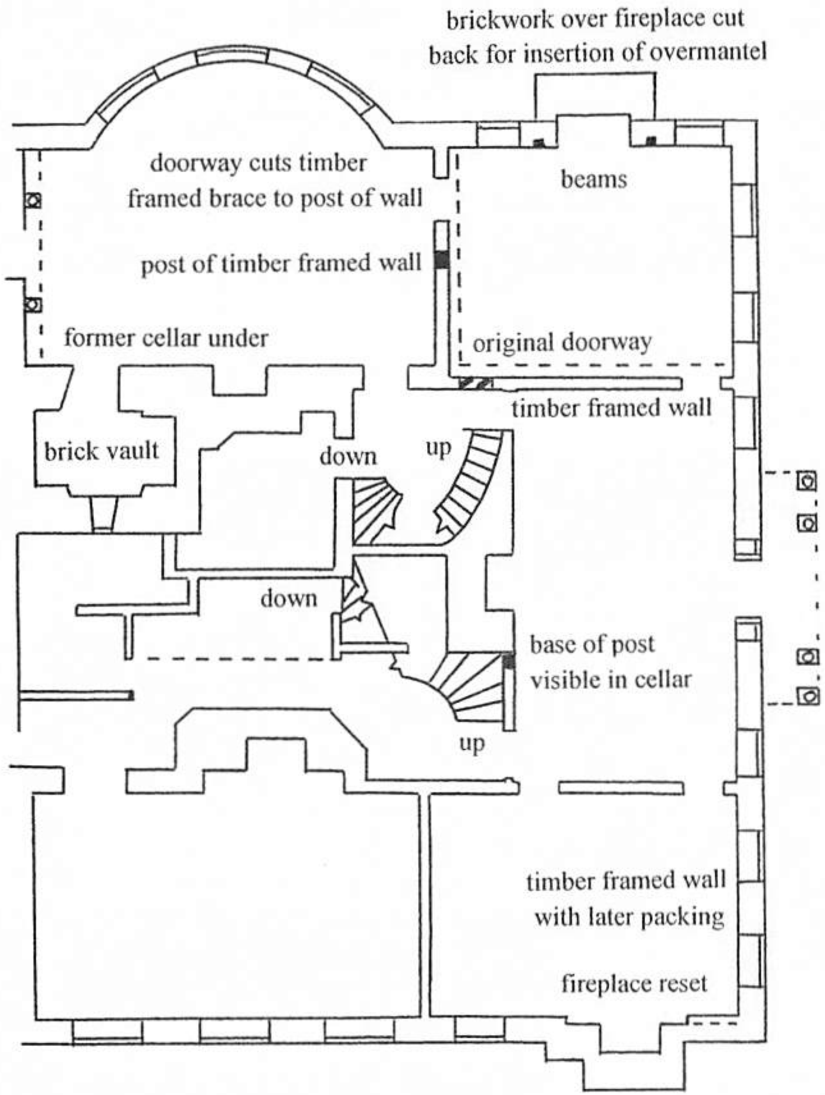

brickwork over fireplace cut
back for insertion of overmantel
doorway cuts timber
framed brace to post of wall
beams
post of timber framed wall
former cellar under
original doorway
timber framed wall
brick vault
down
up
down
base of post
visible in cellar
up
timber framed wall
with later packing
fireplace reset

Fig. 2 Plan of Shalford House in 1969 redrawn from a survey by E. Mercer held by the NMR.

timber framing which appear to confirm survival of the original structure (fig. 2). The rooms listed are:

Great Parlour
Chamber over the Great Parlour
Hall
Chamber over the Hall
Little Parlour
Chamber over the Little Parlour
Great Stears
Little Stears
Chamber over the Buttery
Mr Night's to chambers
The Studdy
Mr John Austen's Chamber
His Studdy and Chamber
The Studdy by the Great Parlour
Two clossats by the chichins
The Lardry
The Chamber over the Bakehouse
The Outer Studdy

This plan shows that the 17th-century house was a single pile with a central hall, a major room on either side and wings to the rear. Although relatively large the hall was by this date primarily an entrance room providing access to other rooms on the ground floor and with stairs on either side of the fireplace to the upper storey. This change in status of the hall from main living room to grand entrance reflects the change from public to private living conditions for men of stature. The wings each contain one room on the ground floor but whilst that on the north could be entered from the hall, access to the one to the south appears to have been from the rear courtyard, but extensive Victorian and later alterations in this area render the original situation uncertain. Access to the rooms in the wings from those in the main range was not originally intended—the door between these two rooms north of the hall is noted to cut the timber framing.

In addition to the staircases to the upper floors there were two stairs to cellars. How large these cellars were is not indicated but they clearly extended under the hall and the room in the north wing.

Some sketches of the house made by E. Duncombe between 1837 and 1847 (SHC G 111/9/29) indicate rooms still essentially of the 17th century although the windows are all of the 1797 alterations. To the right of the front door was the Tudor (or Oak) Room with panelling and ceiling of the later 17th century and a contemporary mantelpiece bearing the motto *Heyme incalesco, aestate refrigero* with a Dutch tiled hearth. A note on Mercer's plan indicates that the brickwork over the fireplace had been cut back to allow for the overmantel to be fitted. The drawing shown (fig. 3) is not in the album of sketches by E. Duncombe but is accessioned with it and appears to be in the same style. The room is presumably the Great Chamber of the 1608-10 list and the room in the adjacent wing would originally have been a study.

The location and date of the room known as the library are the subject of conflicting information. A sketch by E. Duncombe shows a room with a fireplace and overmantel which appear to date to the 17th century and a

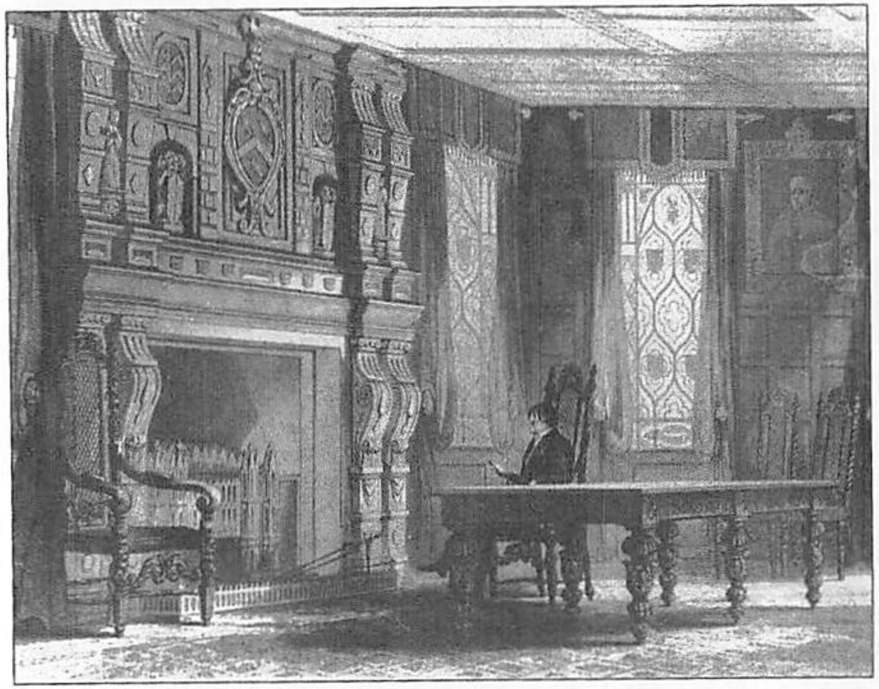


Fig. 3 Sketch of the Tudor (or Oak) Room at Shalford House probably drawn by E. Duncombe between 1837 and 1847 (SHC G 111/9/29). Copyright of Surrey History Service.

panelled ceiling. This room would have been within the old house but the relative layout of windows and fireplace cannot be matched on the ground floor on Mercer's plan unless it is the room to the left of the entrance with its 1631 fireplace, and one window to the right of the fireplace had been covered by the bookcases. A first-floor room in this position would also be a possible location. Malden, writing in 1902-12 (*VCH*), states that the original kitchen became the library and that the mantelpiece bore the date 1681 and an iron fireback had the arms of Charles II. This room was most likely in the southern wing, possibly the room which could only be entered from the courtyard, but no further descriptions have come to light. When the house was the subject of a 'Seeing Eye' article in 1967 the library was situated within the 1875 extension of the northern wing and had a carved chalk fireplace dated 1609 brought from Tyting Farm. However, Malden's placing of this fireplace in the new dining room indicates the original use of the room.

In 1797 the alterations by Sir Henry Edmund Austen totally transformed the exterior of the house. The result was a severely symmetrical house with a

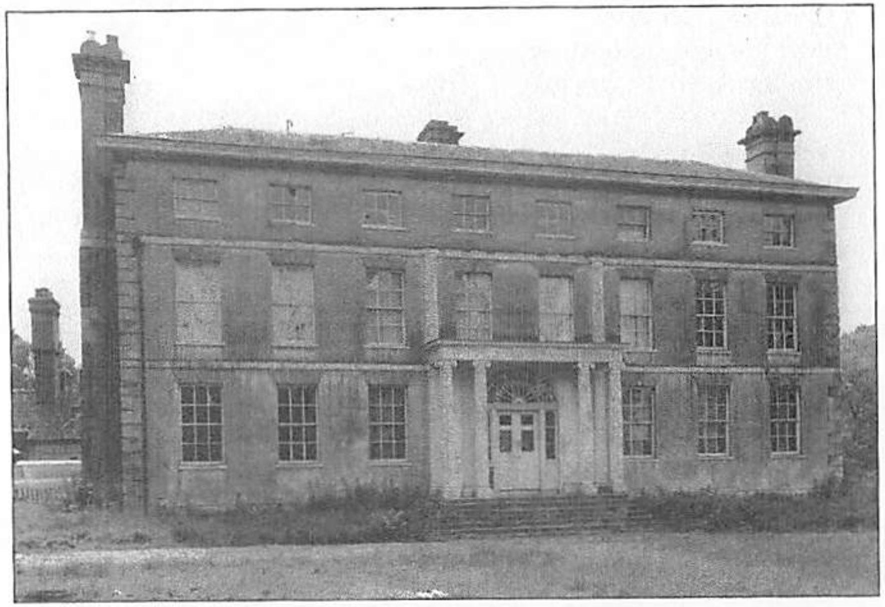
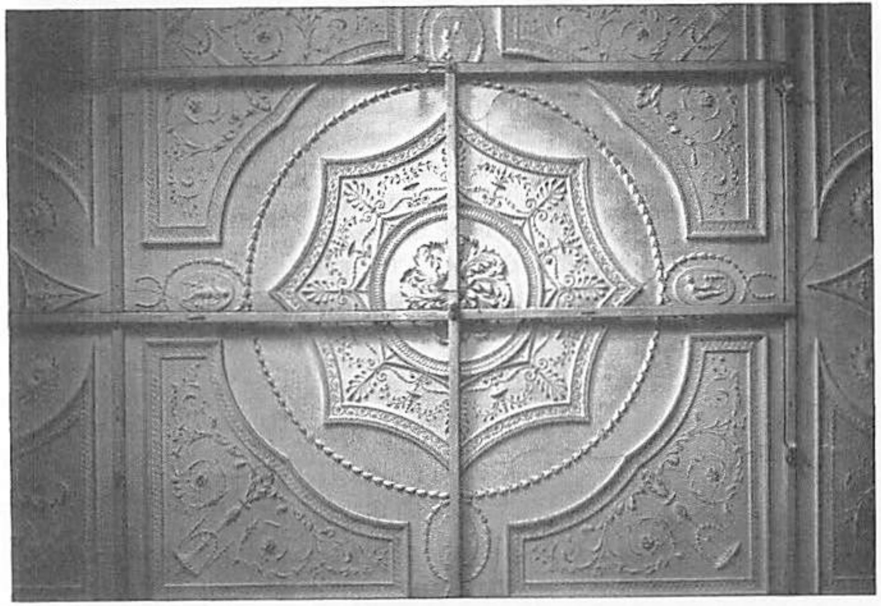


Fig. 4 Front elevation of Shalford House in 1967 from a photograph held by the NMR.

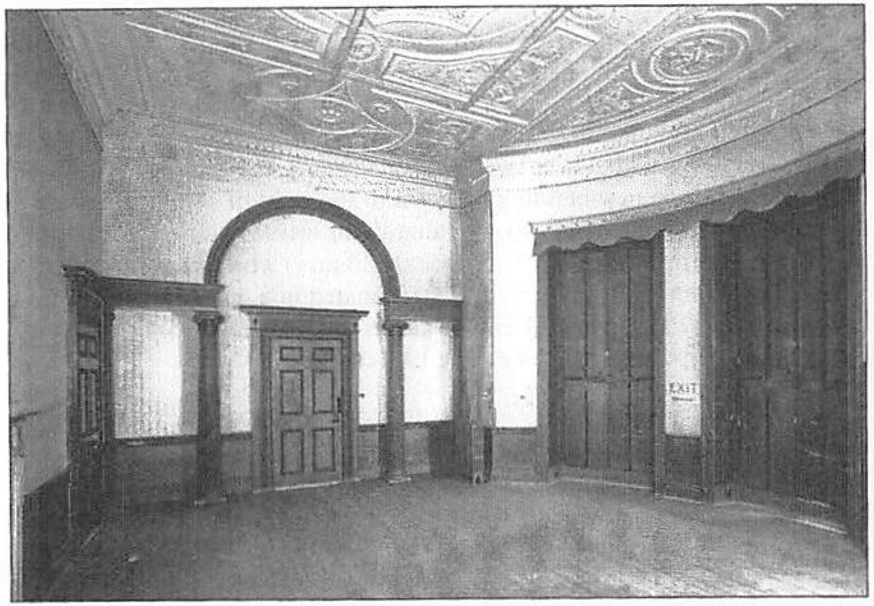
Fig. 5 Ceiling of the Drawing Room added to Shalford House in 1797 from a photograph held by the NMR.



classical portico and covered with white stucco (fig. 4). Malden (1902-12) states that a third storey was added but a drawing made in 1810 (SHC G 111/3/3, not shown) appears to show a parapet standing above the earlier eaves line—possibly the smaller second-storey windows simply opened into the original attic space. The list of 1608-10 names several offices which seem not to have been situated within the main building which survived until 1968 and these and various outbuildings may have been demolished either at this time or during the 1875 extensions.

At the same time the room in the northern wing was converted into an ornate drawing room which survived intact until the house was demolished. The room had a late Adamesque moulded ceiling of intricate design (fig. 5) and a two-coloured marble fireplace. In the western wall of the room two columns supported a semicircular architrave over a door which originally led to rooms demolished when the dining room of 1875 was built and later to that room (fig. 6). The bay window which was later a major feature of this room does not appear in the sketch of 1810 (SHC G 111/3/3, not shown) and is likely to date from the alterations to the drawing room recorded in 1829 (SHC G 111/26). A single storey, flat-roofed bay is clearly shown in the Duncombe sketch of *c*.1840. A second storey was added later to this bay (fig. 7) but the date of this alteration is uncertain. Ground plans of Shalford house make it

Fig. 6 The Drawing Room of 1797 from a photograph held by the NMR.



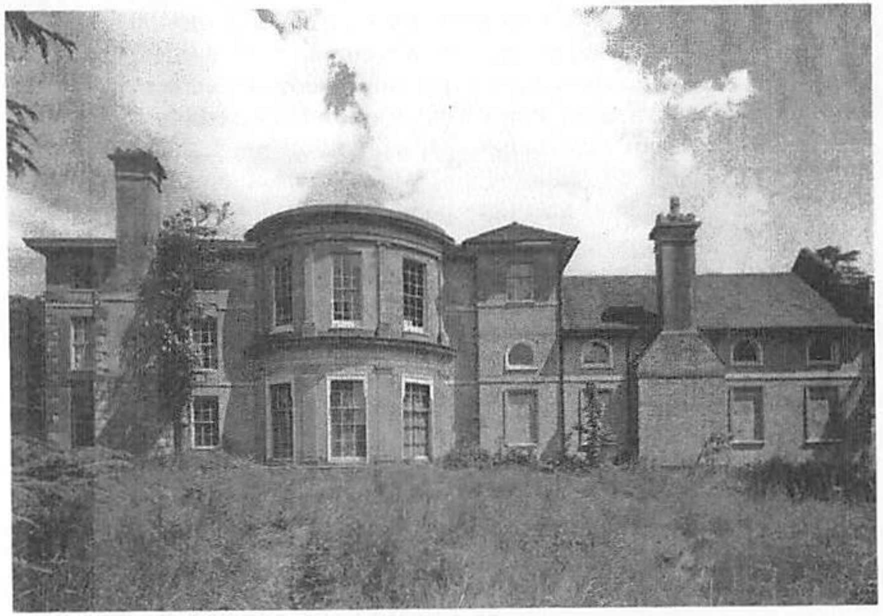


Fig. 7 The northern wing of Shalford House showing (from left to right) the original house of 1608-10 with exterior alterations of 1797, the bay window which was added as a single storey in 1829 and the extensive additions of 1875. From a photograph held by the NMR.

clear that further alterations took place between 1797 and 1875 but no details have come to light. There were also additions to the outbuildings which may show the development of a walled kitchen garden.

In 1875 major building works took place which resulted in the consolidation of the wings into a southern range and a considerable enlargement of the house. Some of the new building is shown to the right of the bay window in figure 7. One result of these Victorian alterations was the addition of a dining room in the north wing (later to become the library) which was entered from the drawing room. This northern wing terminated in a heavy shaped gable—there are several 17th-century shaped gables in this area of Surrey and the style became popular again during the 19th century.

Decline

The house was used as a hotel from 1910 until 1938 and then became the property of Guildford Borough Council. It was sold to Cornhill Insurance Company and resold in 1955 after which it was allowed to deteriorate by successive owners (Shalford Parish Council, 1995). In 1968 permission to demolish was given by Guildford Borough Council to make way for the 'River Wey Abstraction Scheme' building. The house which underwent such a sad decline during this century started life as the seat of minor gentry in the early 17th century and remained in the hands of the Austen family for nearly three hundred years. They enlarged and modernised it but after their departure it joined the considerable list of large houses in the area which failed to find a use in changing times.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Margaret Dierden for additional information on the early history of Shalford House and to John Gurney for helpful discussions. Figures 1(a), 1(b) and 3 are reproduced by kind permission of Surrey History Service.

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Abbreviations

SHC	Surrey History Centre
NMR	National Monuments Record
VCH	*Victoria County History*

Norden’s 1607 Map of Guildford Park

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Introduction

Guildford Park was enclosed by Henry II at the beginning of his reign in 1154. It was at the south-east corner of the Royal Forest of Windsor and grew to occupy 1,620 acres of land north of the Hog’s Back and mainly west of the River Wey.[1] It was a hunting park and used by kings and queens when they stayed at Guildford. Henry may also have built a hunting lodge or a manor house in the Park but the earliest known specific reference to a building, then known as ‘the lodge’, occurs in 1318. However, not until 1369 is there mention of a building suitable for royal use. The king’s chamber was then said to be fitted with a fireplace. Loads of stone were taken from the ruins of the castle to repair the manor house in 1514 and in 1543 the windows of the separate bed chambers, privy chambers and dining chambers for the king and the queen were repaired.[2] Between 1567 and 1591, Queen Elizabeth stayed there five times but then the house and park went into decline. Eventually Charles II sold it in 1681.[3] During this last phase, in 1607, John Norden prepared a large-scale manuscript map of the Park which provides a wealth of historical information. It is the purpose of this article to analyse, interpret and discuss this map in detail and in particular to discuss its accuracy. First, however, some information is provided about Norden and other maps he produced.

John Norden and his maps

John Norden (1548-1625/6) was a lawyer and an innovative cartographer who, in about 1590, planned a series of county surveys in a form suitable for the traveller. For these he used the general title *Speculum Britanniae* or ‘Mirror of Britain’. At first he received support from William Cecil and the Privy Council but he was unable to obtain sufficient patronage and only two small volumes, Middlesex (1593) and Hertfordshire (1598), were published in his lifetime, and then at his own expense. Also, in 1595, he dedicated to Queen Elizabeth an illuminated manuscript, which contained maps and short descriptions of Middlesex, Essex, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Guernsey and Jersey, but the maps of Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex are now missing.

We are fortunate, however, that he did publish three larger county maps of Surrey (1594), Sussex (1595) and Hampshire (about 1595). The Surrey map, engraved by Charles Whitwell by the generosity of Robert Nicholson, was at a scale of approximately 2½ miles to one inch. It superseded Christopher Saxton’s map of Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Middlesex, published in 1575 at a scale of about 5 miles to one inch. The Norden map was the prototype for all Surrey maps for over 80 years, including John Speed’s more decorative map of 1611-12.[4]

A detail of Norden’s 1594 map, showing the area around Guildford, is reproduced as figure 1. It illustrates several of the conventional signs which Norden was the first English cartographer to use on printed maps.[5] For example, Guildford is represented by a circle with four arms, indicating that it was a market town, and with a flag on top showing that it had a castle. It also has a circle with eight spokes representing a mill. Worplesdon has a circle with two arms because it was a parish, Mayford a circle with one arm as it was a hamlet, St Martha a circle with half a cross as it was a chapel (full crosses were reserved for monasteries etc) and Stoke a circle because it was the house of a gentleman. Roads are shown, again for the first time, as double rows of dots and the boundaries of hundreds by single rows of dots. Finally parks are represented by their pales and five are shown in figure 1: Guildford, Henley, Sutton Place, Clandon and Loseley. Guildford Park is labelled ‘Guldeforde manor’ and has a lake on a short tributary entering the River Wey at Stoke. Not shown on the detail of figure 1 is the grid reference system, again introduced by Norden, which divides the map into one-mile squares. This is based on an origin at the north-west corner of the map and numbers are used for one-mile increments east and letters for two-mile increments south. Using this system Guildford Park, for example, is located in the northern half of the rectangle k11.

In 1607 Norden produced two copies of a magnificent set of manuscript maps entitled *A Description of the Honor of Windesor Namelie of the Castle, Foreste, Walkes, Parkes, Rayles, Lodges, Townes, Parishes, Hamletts, Howses of Note, Woodes, Rivers, Rills, Brookes, Bridges, Hills, Highwaies. And all other thinges, memorable, within or belonging unto the saide Honor And the Liberties of the same, Liyinge within And extending into the Counties of Barke, Surrey and Buckingham. Taken and performed by the perambulation view and deliniation of John Norden. In Anno 1607*. One copy, dedicated to King James, is in the British Library and the other, dedicated to Henry Prince of Wales, is in the Royal Library at Windsor.[6] They contain 17 maps as follows: 1. Windsor Castle; 2. Windsor Forest with several walks; 3. Little Park; 4. Great Park; 5. Moat Park; 6. Sunninghill Park; 7. Folly John Park; 8. Easthamsted Park; 9. Swinley Rayles; 10. Bagshott and Crambourne Rayles; 11. Guildford Park; 12. Henley

Park; 13. Woking Park; 14. Byfleet Park; 15. Bagshott Park; 16. Langley Park; 17. Ditton Park. Map 11 of Guildford Park will now be discussed in detail.

John Norden's Map of Guldeforde Parke

Norden's Description of the Map

The manuscript map of Guildford Park in the British Library version of John Norden's *Honor of Windesor* is reproduced as figure 2 (the centre-spread of this volume). It has the following description: 'This table comprehendeth Guldeforde Parke lying in Surreye Sir Thomas Gorge is the keper therof Carter under-keper. This parke hath 600 Fallow Deere about 80 of antler, and not above 30 Buckes. The circuite of this parke is 6¼ Mile. It paleth 7½ Mile Meanlie timbred, not suffitient to mayntaine the Pale. It contayneth in quantitie 1620 acres, the moste reasonable good grounde.'

Thomas Gorges became Keeper of the Guildford Park in 1592. He had married the widow of William Parr, Marquis of Northampton (1513-71), who was the brother of Catherine Parr, queen of Henry VIII. Parr had himself been Keeper of the Park in 1551 and held it when Guildford Grammar School was refounded in January 1553.[7] He was Lord Chamberlain and said to greatly favour Guildford and was much resident at the King's manor house within the Park. However he was convicted on 18 August 1553 for the plot to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne after Edward VI's death and was stripped of his possessions. Under Elizabeth he was reinstated and after his second wife died in 1565 he married Helena Snachenberg, who had come to England from Sweden at the age of 15 and was a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth. When Parr died Helena married Gorges and the Queen later granted them the treasure from a wrecked galleon of the Spanish Armada. They built and lived at Longford Castle in Wiltshire which was completed in 1591, to an unusual triangular plan with three corner towers, based on the castle of Uranienberg in Denmark.[8] Gorges took part in the Somerset House Conference in 1604 at which Spanish and Flemish noblemen came to England for formal peace negotiations. It seems unlikely that he was ever resident at Guildford Park. In October 1607 he sold the Keepership for £250 to John Murray, a groom of the royal bedchamber. Gorges died in 1610 at the age of 74 and his tomb in Salisbury Cathedral, which was erected in 1635, when his wife died, has stone-carved decorations including a dodecahedron, three icosahedra and two cuboctahedra, all skeletal in the style of Leonardo da Vinci.[9] Francis Carter, the Under-Keeper of Guildford Park at the time of Norden's survey, continued in this role under Murray, and obtained a grant of Guildford Castle in 1611.[10]

The fallow deer which Norden states were in Guildford Park are not native to Britain. They stand about three feet tall at the shoulder, have a reddish-brown (fallow) summer coat dappled with numerous white spots, and a uniform greyish-brown winter coat without spots. Only the males have antlers and these increase in size and complexity in successive years. These antlers are dropped in May but are fully grown again in August.[11] The fact that only about 80 of the 600 deer in the Park had antlers suggests that many of the male deer had been killed for meat. Also males have a higher winter mortality rate and some would have been without antlers because they were immature. The 'not above thirty bucks' probably refers to the sexually active males with harems of hinds. If each harem had on average a dozen sexually active hinds, the total of 360 would be reasonably consistent with the overall total of 600 deer. The perimeter of the Park is said by Norden to be 6¼ miles which is the same as the corresponding circuit on modern maps. The length of the pale is 1¼ miles greater than this because of the presence of an internal boundary and this is again accurate. The Park is said to be 'meanly timbered' and this is consistent with the pictorial representation of trees on the map, there being only two woods and these are small. The total area of the Park is stated to be 1,620 acres, which on average is 2.7 acres for each of the 600 deer. This is consistent with modern practice when some supplementary winter feeding is used. No direct information is available about this but it is interesting that in 1621 there were several deer barns in the Park used for storing hay for winter feed.[12] However deer enjoy nibbling bark and would probably have preferred the Park to have had more trees. The fact that the ground was considered to be 'most reasonably good' probably refers to a large area of ploughed land at the south.

General Description of the Map

The map itself, which is reproduced as figure 2, was drawn on a sheet of paper and, as it forms part of a bound volume, is folded down the centre. It measures approximately 19½ by 15 inches (50cm x 38cm) within its border, is at a scale of eight inches to the mile (1:7920) and is beautifully drawn and coloured. A fawn wash has been used for the background and this has been toned with a darker hue to emphasise land formations. Field boundaries are brown, watercourses and ponds blue, and roofs of buildings either red or brown. In general lettering is in red ink for place names and black for descriptions. The scale and north-point are partly fawn and partly blue. A blackish-brown ink has been used for details including representations of buildings and the pale around the Park. The north-point on Norden's map is within one or two degrees of true north, although at the beginning of the 17th century magnetic north was about 10 degrees east of north. Clearly therefore Norden had corrected for magnetic declination, which was possible as the secular variation of declination and dip of suspended magnetised needles was recorded from 1540.[13] However the sides of the map are about five degrees east of north. This means that the northern edge of the Park, which is approximately straight, is horizontal along the top edge of the map. The scale is given in perches of 16½ feet, the whole length of four inches corresponding to half a mile. This seems to have been selected so that the most southerly point of the Park, at the south-west corner, is just within the border. However, the paper was wider than necessary to accommodate the whole of the Park and features outside the pale have been included at the west and east. This appears to have been done symmetrically so that the additional material is on average about two inches or one-third of a mile wide on each side.

The Land Outside the Pale

On the west side, all of the land is described as 'Part of Purbright Walke Hobson keeper'. A walk was a division of a forest regularly perambulated by a forester, ranger or keeper. The part of Pirbright Walk shown has 'Strawbery grove', which still exists, at its centre and 'Parte of Worplesdon wood' at the north-west corner of the map. In practice all of this land lies in Worplesdon parish and the nearest part of Pirbright parish is about three miles north-west of Strawberry Grove. However, Pirbright Walk appears to have been part of Pirbright Manor, also within the Royal Forest of Windsor. From 1553 until his death in 1592, the manor was held, together with Guildford Park, by Sir Anthony Brown, 1st Viscount Montague. Then, unlike the Park, it passed to Montague's grandson and heir, also Anthony. However the Keeper named on the map seems to have been Thomas Hobson, or his descendant Christopher Hobson, who in 1607 held Bridley or Crastock Manor, which was in the parish of Woking but subordinate to the Lord of Pirbright.[14]

Of greater significance perhaps is the area outside the Park at the eastern side of the map as this shows the first known plan of an important part of the town of Guildford. This can be compared with Harris's South-West Prospect of Guildford dated 1738, Richardson's Ichnography or Ground Plan of Guildford dated 1739, and indeed later maps and existing roads and buildings, in order to assess the accuracy of Norden's presentation. It is striking, for example that the roads shown correspond well with the present-day High Street running roughly east-west, Quarry Street running south and the dog-leg formed by Friary Street, part of North Street and Woodbridge Road running north. Also, recognisable buildings are located accurately. However, they are not portrayed authentically. For example, St Mary's church is shown incorrectly with a spire and with its nave at the east. In fact it does not appear to be like any church in Surrey.[15] Again, the building on the site of St Nicholas does not appear to be a church. Also, the town mill and its mill-stream and mill-pond should be on the map but are omitted. This is surprising as Norden included these features in his county map shown as figure 1. The town bridge, probably built before 1200, crosses the River Wey at the bottom of the High Street and is shown schematically with two arches and perhaps a flood-arch on the east bank. In reality it had five arches and a flood arch. Woodbridge, at the north-east corner of the Park, is said to have been built in Stephen's reign (1135-54) and is also shown with three arches.[16] These appear to be of stone but in reality it remained a timber bridge until 1848 when it was rebuilt in brick.[17] Therefore it seems that Norden's representations of the appearance of buildings and structures, at least outside the area of the Park, cannot be relied upon.

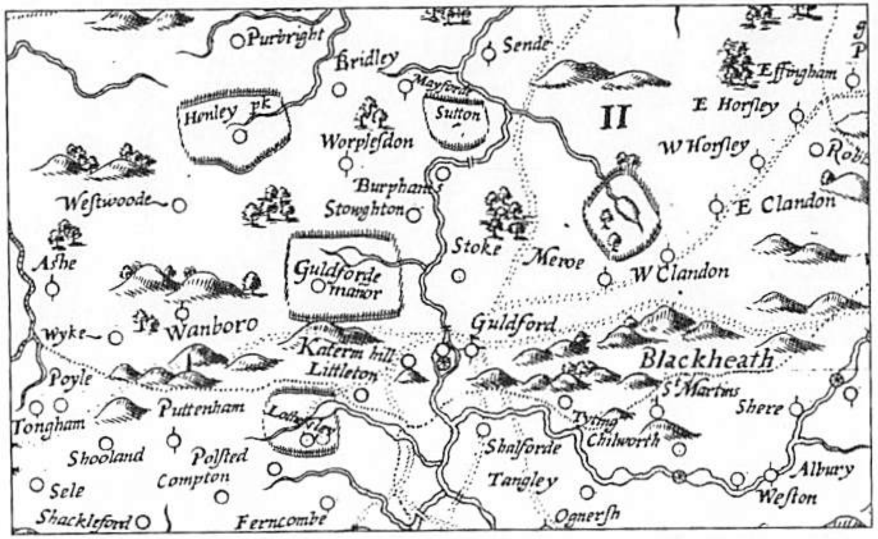

Fig. 1 Detail of John Norden's 1594 printed map of Surrey, at a scale of approximately 2½ miles to one inch, showing the region around Guildford, including Guildford Park. (Courtesy Surrey Archaeological Society)

The Boundary of the Park and the Gates

Norden has represented the boundary of Guildford Park very accurately and much of the route can still be followed today. Starting at Guildford Bridge one climbs The Mount and follows the Hog's Back (Gulde Downe on the map) westwards, until it is joined by the A31. The boundary then follows a hedgerow going north and passes through a wood, with Manor Copse ('The Parocke' meaning an enclosure) on the east and Strawberry Grove on the west. It reaches a pond at the south-west corner of The University of Surrey Research Park (Finches Corner) and then follows a path along the west edge of the Research Park which leads to a bridge underneath the railway line. The western edge of Park Barn housing estate is then followed north-eastwards to Broad Street. The northern boundary of the Park then follows Broad Street,

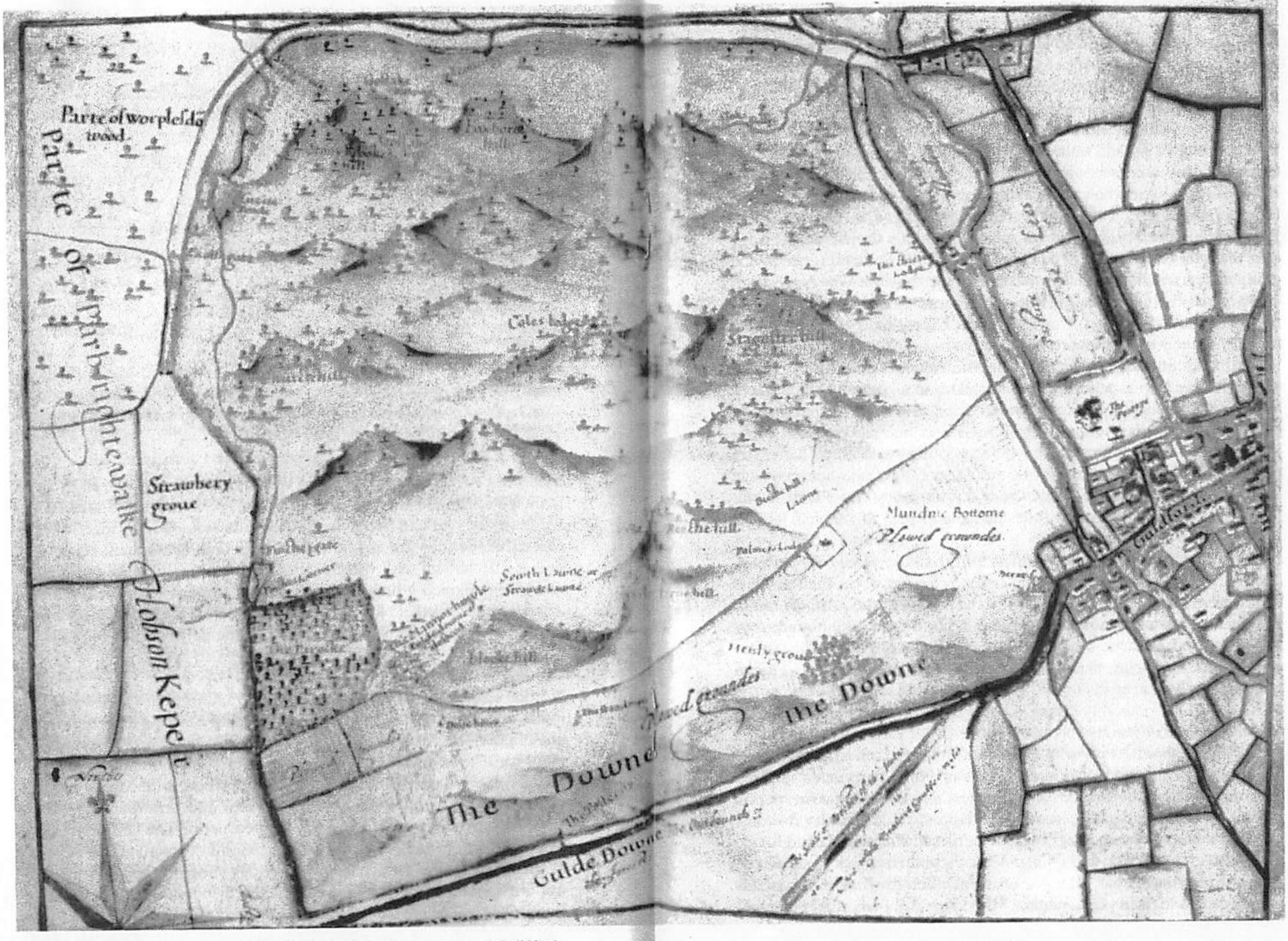
Parte of worplesdo wood.
Parte of Parbrightewalke
Strawbery groue
Tolson Kepe
Coles lodge
Stagcliffe hill
Lees
The Parke
The Frierye
Guildford
Mundne Bottome
Plowed growndes
South Lawne or Strowde Lawne
Blacke hill
Henly groue
the Downe
Plowed growndes
The Downe
Gulde Downe
The Scale of perches

Fig. 2 The King James version of John Norden's 1607 manuscript map of Guildford Park. The original is 19½ inches wide. (Courtesy British Library)

Aldershot Road and Woodbridge Hill back to the River at Woodbridge. The original boundary of the Park then followed Woodbridge Meadows and Walnut Tree Close, along the west side of the Wey, back to Guildford Bridge. However in 1538, following the dissolution of the monasteries, Guildford Friary (The Priorye) together with its lands on both sides of the river (The Lees), was surrendered to the king and linked to the Park. Norden, therefore, shows a second and outer eastern boundary returning to Guildford Bridge along Woodbridge Road. The whole of the boundary, apart from the wall around the Friary precinct, is indicated on the map as being a timber pale.

Between Guildford Bridge and Woodbridge, Norden shows a third bridge crossing the river. This served 'The Chief Lodge', the main entrance to the Park, and appears to have been demolished by the time the Wey Navigation was constructed in 1653.[18] Seven further entrances to the Park are named: 'Deereleap Stile' near the town, 'The Posterne' at the south, 'Finches gate' and 'Exolls gate' at the west, 'Stonybrooke style' at the north-west, 'Jennet's' gate at the north and 'Stoke gate' at the north-east. The name Deer Leap stile is intriguing. A deer leap is defined as a lower place in a hedge or fence where deer may leap but clearly it was not intended that deer should escape from the Park over the stile. Perhaps a particularly agile deer had succeeded in doing this on one occasion and the achievement was commemorated by the name. In addition to the above entrances, there must have been another gate near Guildford Bridge as a road is shown from this corner of the Park, on the inside of the pale, leading to the Chief Lodge and then Stoke gate. This is likely to have been the entrance known as Mill gate, named after a mill near St Nicholas's church and/or three short-lived mills built by Henry III between Guildford and the king's park.[19] No other roads are shown in the Park but some must have existed to provide access to the buildings. Surprisingly, apart from Mill gate, only a stile near Guildford and, on the southern boundary, a postern, which was a rear or secondary entrance, led on to the chalk. As the rest of the Park is on clay, it must have been difficult for vehicles to make progress, especially in winter.

Natural Features inside the Park

Within the Park, about 30 per cent of the land along the southern edge, is called 'The Downe' in two places and marked as 'Plowed groundes' in three places. This area lies entirely on chalk and its northern boundary corresponds very accurately to the interface between the Upper Chalk and the Reading Beds clay shown on modern geology maps. This roughly follows Madrid Road, Old Palace Road, Hedgeway and Orchard Road and then passes just south of Manor Farm. Henley Grove, near the centre of the ploughed grounds still exists and is again located very accurately. The Reading Beds clay is an east-west band occupying about 10 per cent of the Park and the remaining 60% is London clay. The whole of the clay area is shown correctly, but in a rather exaggerated way, as being hilly with scattered trees. Eight of the hills are named. Starting from the south these are Hooke hill, Ferne hill, Beeche hill, Stagester hill, Church hill, Stoney hill, Goslake hill and Foxboro hill. Several of these names are reflected in field-names on the tithe maps of Artington (1841), Stoke (1842) and Worplesdon (1839) which cover the Park. Examples are Birch [Beech?] lane 18 acres, Stags field, Church field and Fox Burrows. Church hill is tantalising as there is no record of a church having existed on this site. On either side of Beeche hill, 'Sowth Lawne or Strawde Lawne' and 'Beech hill Lawne' are named. A lawn at the beginning of the 17th century was an open space between woods and was associated with the favourite feeding places of animals in parks and forests. The use of the word 'lawn' to mean a part of a garden covered with grass does not appear to be known before the 18th century. Near the north-west and south-east corners 'Goslake Bottome' and 'Mundine Bottome' are named. Here bottom refers to low-lying land, valley or dell, which is appropriate for these two locations. A stream, 'Stony Brooke', flows northwards near the west boundary of the Park and had been dammed to create three ponds, the middle and largest one being called 'Greate Ponde'. These are thought to have been fish ponds serving the Manor House. The stream eventually flows into the River Wey at Pyrford some 6½ miles north-east of the Great Pond. Another watercourse, 'Stoke gullye', flows out of the Park at its north-east corner and enters the Wey directly.

Buildings Within the Park

On Norden's map four named buildings are shown in the Park: 'The Mannorhowse Puldedowne and defaced' at the south-west, 'Palmers Lodge' between this and the town, 'Coles Lodge' near the centre and 'The Chief Lodge' at the east. There is also a 'Dove hows' on the chalk near the manor house, a small but tall structure called 'The Standinge' about a quarter of a mile east of this and a small enclosure containing two buildings at the south-east corner. These features will now be discussed in turn.

The manor house site is represented on the map by a partially erased building with beams of wood, in a different colour ink, scattered on the adjacent land. It appears that it had been pulled down after Norden had completed his perambulation and drawn the map. He therefore decided to modify the representation. The drawing of the manor house may be interpreted as portraying buildings with gabled roofs on three sides of a courtyard with a gatehouse at the remaining southern end. Apart from St Mary's Church, it is the only building for which an attempt has been made to indicate its character. The site of the manor house is still well defined and Norden has located it accurately, just north of the ploughed grounds. It is shown as being by far the largest building on the map, about 55 yards across, which must be about twice its actual size. This is known because the house was built on a moated island which is about 30 yards across. Indeed, Norden's drawing seems to indicate a moat, at least on the western side of the house. An excavation of part of the site in 1972-75 was not inconsistent with this interpretation of the building. It revealed some of the foundations and several garderobe pits.[20] These emptied directly into the moat which drained from the north-east corner into Stoke Gully. It appears therefore that foul water was kept away from the upstream or southern end of the moat and separate from the fish ponds on Stoney Brook. Indeed it seems likely that one of the reasons why the house was located at this position, on the Reading Beds clay, was that two separate streams had their sources in nearby springs. The animal remains excavated included deer antlers and boar jaws and the quality of some of the pottery, decorated tiles, glass and metal objects discovered was consistent with the building being used by kings and queens. After the manor house was demolished the dwelling house known as Manor Farm was built immediately to the west of the moat and still survives.

Palmer's Lodge is shown as a small building on the chalk adjacent to its boundary with the clay and immediately south of Beech hill lawn, which suggests that it was closely associated with hunting deer. Its location is roughly at the junction of the present-day Old Palace Road, The Chase and Madrid Road. Nothing is known about its history and no remains are known at the site. Possibly Norden located it incorrectly but this seems unlikely as the boundary of the ploughed grounds is represented so accurately.

Coles Lodge is again shown as a small building, placed pictorially on top of a hill just north of the centre of Norden's map. It is referred to in a declaration of the bounds of Worpleson Manor in 1562.[21] The boundary approached the Park from Rydes Hill to the north and 'yt goeth in Guldeford parke unto a lodge there called Colles Lodge and levythe Colles lodge on the northe parte and so goeth from Colles lodge directlye south west warde unto Strawbery grove gate …'. The description indicates that Coles Lodge was located just south of the triple-point between the parishes of Worplesdon, Stoke and Artington. However Norden's map places it nearly a quarter of a mile south of this point. There is no indication of Coles Lodge on later Surrey maps but on the tithe map of Artington (1841) there are two fields called Colts Lodge Hills and also a Colts Lodge Coppice. These cover both the triple-point and the location on Norden's map. Clearly by this time Coles Lodge had been corrupted into Colts Lodge but the building had gone and the name only survived in descriptions of land. Today the name only survives as Coachlad's Copse, corrupted a second time.[22] This lies between Southway, Roundhill Way, and Woodside Road and consists almost entirely of oak.

The Chief Lodge on the eastern side of Norden's map comprises three small buildings. As noted above, there was a bridge across the river at this spot by 1303 and a lodge must have existed from the early days of the Park. However, it is usually difficult to deduce which building in the Park is being referred to in early documents. Certainly major repairs to 'the Lodge called the Le', assumed to be this lodge as it is adjacent to the area called the Lees, were carried out in 1514 and involved many tiles but no bricks.[23] On Rocque's map of 1768 'Lodge Farm' is written linking this site to buildings on the east side of Stag Hill. It is suggested that the original farm was on the site of the Chief Lodge but a new larger farmhouse called Park Farm was later built 300m to the west and when the railway was built in 1845, the old site was abandoned, the name Lodge Farm discontinued and the farm became known as Guildford Park Farm. However Yorkie's Bridge which linked the two sites across the railway is still in use.

The 'Dove hows' is located conveniently near the Manor House. It no longer exists but its location is recalled on the Artington tithe map by Pigeon House Field. Finally 'The Standinge' fits the definition of a hunter's station or stand from which to shoot game. However, it is strange that it is built on land described as ploughed grounds. This suggests that arable farming in the Park was a fairly recent innovation at the time of Norden's survey and had engulfed a pre-existing standing. The small enclosure at the south-east corner could be associated with the proposed gate at this position. However, in addition to the two buildings there is a third area adjacent to the words 'Deereleap Stile'. This could indicate that the leap was between the enclosure and the ploughed grounds, suggesting that at least one of the buildings was associated with management of the deer.[24]

Comparison of the King James and Prince Henry Versions

The discussion of Norden's map of Guildford Park presented above has been based on the version dedicated to King James and deposited in the British Library. The version dedicated to Prince Henry in the Royal Library at Windsor is very similar but there are differences. First the Windsor map is slightly larger, measuring about 20½ by 15¾ inches within the border. However the Park is the same size, the small amount of extra space being used for land outside. Then the north-sign has been combined with the scale and placed right-of-centre at the bottom. Unfortunately some fields were in the way so their boundaries have been distorted. In fact most of the fields outside the Park have rather different shapes on the two versions. However the detail inside the Park is everywhere the same. The labelling is also exactly the same everywhere although the lettering is different. Also the spelling is sometimes a little different, examples being 'Strawbery grove' and 'The Parocke' becoming 'Strawberrie grove' and 'The Parrock'. The most significant difference between the two maps however is that the Windsor version has no representation of the Manor House, although it still claims that it had been pulled down and defaced. Presumably therefore it was drawn later than the British Library version.

Later Developments in Guildford Park

As explained above, John Murray succeeded Thomas Gorges as Keeper of Guildford Park in October 1607. He became Viscount Annandale in 1622, Earl Annandale in 1624 and Charles I regranted the Park to him as freehold with the right to dispark in 1630. He died in 1641 and was followed by a series of Keepers until it was acquired by the Onslow family of West Clandon in 1709. It continued to be used as a hunting ground but several farms were established. In particular Manor Farm was built near the former Manor House. It survives and some of its land is still farmed. The early Lodge Farm buildings near the Chief Lodge have been replaced by industrial buildings. The locations of the other farms do not correspond to buildings on Norden's map. Thus Wilderness Farm which still stands on the clay just over half a mile east of Manor Farm is not on the site of an earlier building, the location being near Fern Hill. This is surprising as it contains early timbers and other early features. Bannister's Farm was some 300 yards south of Coles Lodge, near Tesco's roundabout, and has disappeared, Deer Barn Farm, on the opposite side of the railway from the former Dennis's factory, is now under a University of Surrey car park, and the site of Guildford Park Farm, just east of Guildford Cathedral, has been redeveloped for housing. Similarly Park Barn Farm in the north-west corner of the map is covered by a large housing development and Mount Farm in the south-east corner has been lost to further housing.

The above paragraph indicates that developments which have occurred in Guildford Park include railways, roads, housing, a supermarket, industry, Guildford Cathedral and the University of Surrey. Others include schools, churches, public houses, hospitals, a research park, a sports ground, commercial premises, offices and a major hotel. These are all recorded on modern Ordnance Survey maps, and Norden would surely have been fascinated by the sophisticated surveying techniques available today. Equally well one cannot but be impressed with what he was able to achieve with much simpler equipment at the beginning of the 17th century. It is concluded that his map of Guildford Park is a remarkably accurate representation and a wonderful record of a fascinating part of our heritage.

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SURBITON – THE QUEEN OF THE SUBURBS

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Surbiton Historical Society

To the casual visitor it might seem difficult to comprehend how the residential area known as Surbiton can present very much of interest to the local historian. Long since merged with the vast London conurbation and for administrative purposes, at least, with its ancient neighbour Kingston upon Thames, it is hard to imagine how the place ever possessed a separate and vigorous existence of its own or had any sort of story worth the telling.

It is an inescapable fact that Surbiton's story has little of antiquity, but belongs essentially to Victoria's long reign. Its inception and growth were undoubtedly influenced by great national trends of that era—rising population, improved communications, the unprecedented growth of cities and suburbs, and had Surbiton's existence been dependent on these alone, its story might have been adjudged mundane and dull indeed. But vitally important as these have been in Surbiton's development, they are so commingled with elements have been in Surbiton's development, they are so commingled with and enhanced by local events and trends, all combining to produce a town which in its heyday achieved an almost legendary character, that the resulting story is not, it is felt, without some interest or indeed fascination.

Let us look at the town as it was at the beginning of this 'heyday'—in the early 1860s when clearly it had arrived as a place of some individuality and size. A map of this period shows a fairly compact town of about a square mile in area. Set on the right bank of the river Thames it spreads southwards over the river plain to cover much of the high ground, still known as Surbiton Hill. The outer edge of the remorselessly expanding London is still miles away, and on all sides, except where interrupted by Kingston, the town is surrounded by pleasant open village-dotted countryside—a feature to remain for many decades to come. A closer look at the map shows that a very high proportion of the buildings are substantial villas or terraces which would clearly be occupied by individuals or families of some substance. Areas of humbler dwellings are there too, and shops, hotels, schools and places of worship, but of industry or 'manufacturies' of any description—other perhaps than a brickfield or two still lingering on the periphery—there are few signs.

Now let us examine a map of the district as it was a little more than 20 years earlier—in the late 1830s. The contrast is startling. Here is hardly a sign

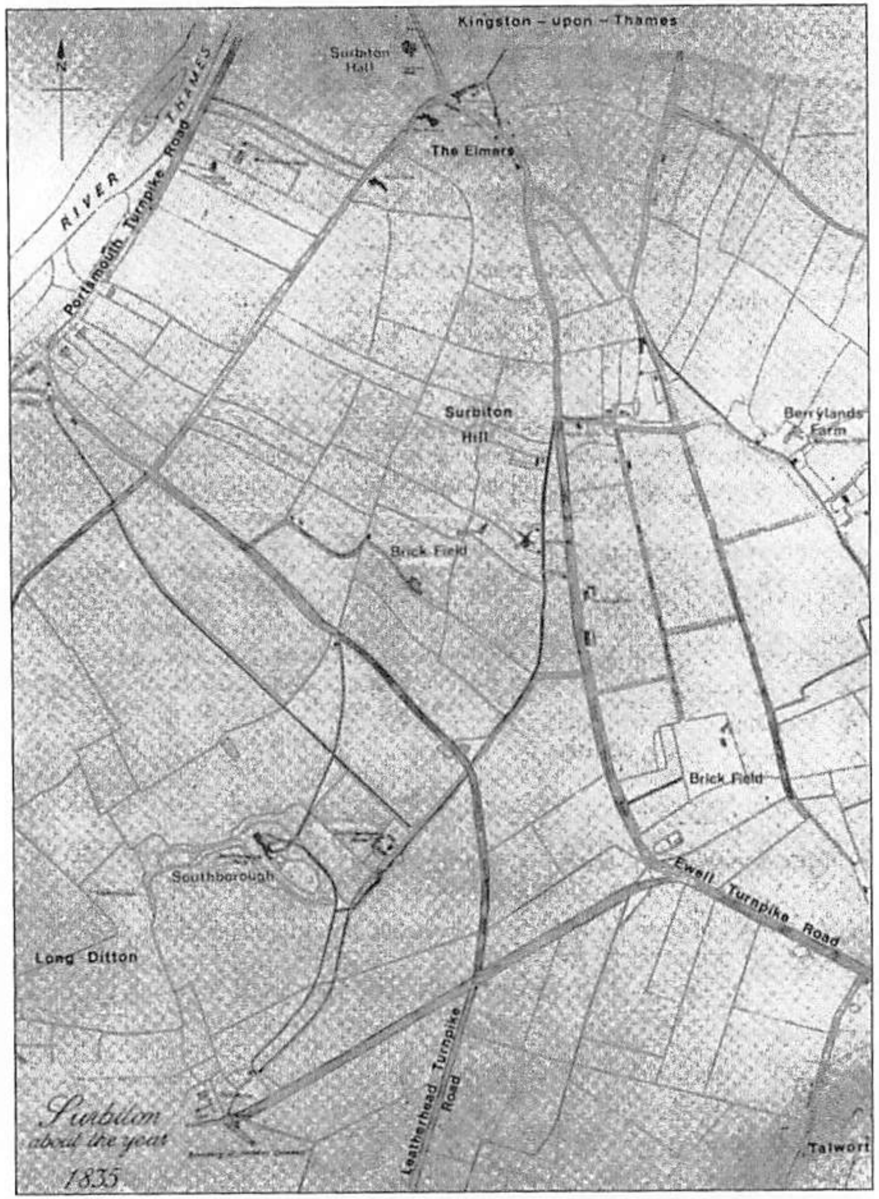

Fig. 1 Map of about 1835.

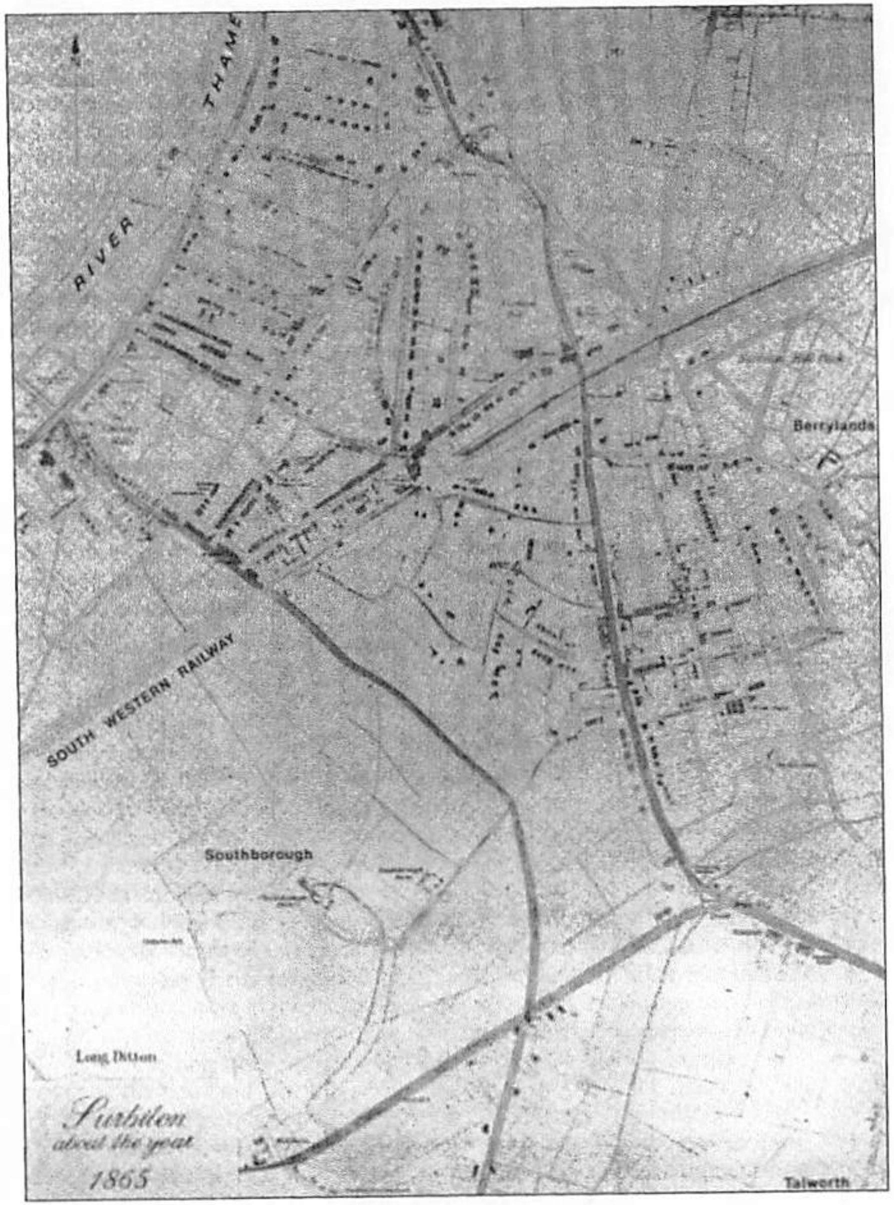

Fig. 2 Map of about 1865.

of so much as a hamlet in the accepted sense. Farmland dominates the area between The Hill and the river. The Hill itself, only recently enclosed from the former Surbiton Common, is still for the most part rough, furze-covered ground bordered to the east by the farmsteads of Berrylands and to the west by the farm and parkland of the Southborough Estate—the latter dominated by a fine mansion designed by Nash. At the foot of the Hill near the Borough boundary lie two other 18th-century mansions, Surbiton Hall and 'The Elmers', each in its own extensive grounds. Brickfields and a windmill add to the country scene, and it will be noted that the area is traversed by a network of highways, bordered by the occasional inn and toll cottage. These are the turnpike roads which lead from Portsmouth and from Leatherhead and Ewell to Kingston and eventually to London. These roads are to be of some significance to our story. Apart from two or three residences that have been erected on The Hill following the enclosure of the Common, there is little to interrupt the rural atmosphere or to foreshadow the considerable change which the later map has indicated was about to take place.

Before going further, however, at least a brief mention must be made of the earlier history of the area, scant though it is. Kenneth Cameron[1] gives the meaning of the place-name derived from its Anglo-Saxon elements as 'south barley farm'. With Norbiton or 'north barley farm' a mile or so away, this would indicate that the farm was one of the two principal providers of food for Kingston. The area to which the name applies is rather a nebulous one, situated along the southern boundary of the Borough, and later almost entirely occupied by the grounds of Surbiton Hall. Brief mention is made of the district in the annals of the Borough and of Merton Priory whose successors, Merton College, Oxford, are still landowners in the district. Little else can be said save that Surbiton Hill was in July 1648 the scene of one of the last battles of the second Civil War (an episode well covered by R.J. Milward).[2]

Returning to the 1830s it would be in vain, at this stage, to look for the cause of impending transformation in a mere extension of London suburbia. As mentioned, in the 1860s and for long after, London still lay some miles away and many of the towns which were much later to form the great 'sprawl' were little more than villages. What then gave rise to the creation of this rather splendid new town so much in advance of its suburban neighbours? Another glance at the map of 1865 reminds us that the turnpike road network of the earlier map forms the main pattern—and still does—but there is, apart from the new roads and buildings, a single prominent feature which is absent from the earlier map. This is the thin line which divides the entire district and which, of course, represents the railway. In this lies at least part of the explanation.

During the 1830s the great railway building era was getting well into its stride and was beginning profoundly to affect the social and economic life of the nation. It soon became apparent that a rail link between London and the port of Southampton would present considerable advantages. The decision in

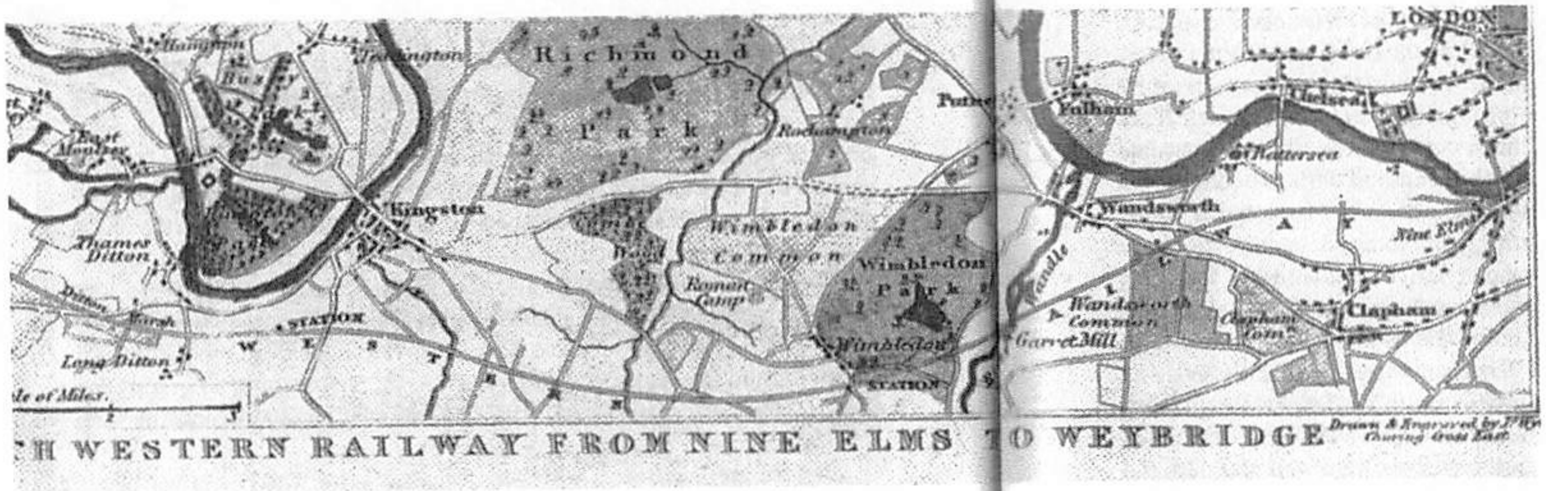
Richmond
Park
Kingston
Thames Ditton
Long Ditton
Wimbledon Common
Wimbledon Park
Wimbledon
Roman Camp
Roehampton
Putney
Fulham
Battersea
Wandsworth
Wandsworth Common
Garret Mill
Clapham Common
Clapham
Nine Elms
LONDON
STATION
H WESTERN RAILWAY FROM NINE ELMS TO WEYBRIDGE

Fig. 3 Map of eastern end of railway.

favour of this was made by 1830 and the necessary Act of Parliament passed in 1834. The design and execution of this line would doubtless provide a saga in itself, but this will have to be told elsewhere. Suffice it to say that the troubles which beset these early promoters were not due to physical difficulties alone. Opposition from various sources frequently plagued their enterprises and the London & Southampton did not escape. The convergence of a number of turnpike roads onto Kingston has been noted and indeed the resultant coaching trade was of prime importance to that town. It needs little imagination to appreciate the effect which the conception of this new-fangled mode of transport had on the minds of its citizens.

The railway promoters would clearly have preferred to pass the line through the town, partly to absorb the potential traffic and partly to keep to the easy low-lying ground near the river. Kingston, it appears, was almost to a man in violent opposition to the project and, in the words of a near-contemporary writer, 'fought against it with the obstinacy of old conservatism'. However, they could not baulk the enterprise entirely, but they did succeed in forcing an amendment to the route which directed the line away from the town a mile or so to the south and through the high ground of Surbiton Hill. In the long deep expensive cutting which was necessitated and near the Ewell turnpike road, the railway provided Kingston 'station'. This was a tiny cottage-like structure, reached only by a steep, winding footpath the very meagreness of which surely reflected the relationship between railway and town. However, for the present Kingston was apparently satisfied. The sacred precincts remained inviolate and presumably the trading interests preserved. The town, of course, soon had reason to regret its 'old conservatism' when inevitably and quite quickly the coach trade faded away, and it was more than a generation before the (by then much desired) railway reached the town itself.

Notwithstanding Kingston and all the other troubles, the line was completed and opened (initially between Nine Elms and Woking) in May 1838

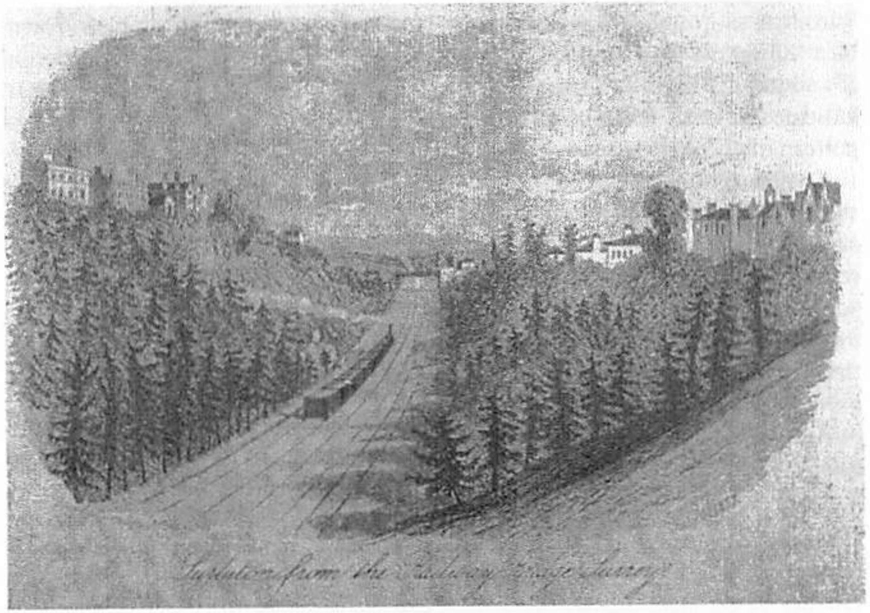

Fig. 4 Railway cutting of Surbiton Hill.

and extended to Southampton a year or so later. It proved an immediate success. The appearance of the engines and the comfort of the carriages differed vastly from the later development better known to us, but the service was quite commendable. Five journeys a day were provided and the time taken from 'Kingston' to Nine Elms was only 31 minutes—quite favourably comparable with today's standards and a revolution when compared with the coach.

The advent of the railway, profound as the general influence was to be, need not at first have affected the immediate locality to any degree, particularly in view of Kingston's indifference and the then relative remoteness of London. However, it so happened that in 1839, a year after the railway had opened, the owner of the farmland which lay between the railway and the river died, and his property was put up for auction. A Kingston speculative builder—one Thomas Pooley—with perhaps more vision than his fellow townsmen, purchased some of this land and proceeded to embark on the development of a high-class residential estate. His roads and crescents were well planned and his terraces and villas spacious and elegant. He must have been a man of some resource since almost immediately he persuaded the Railway Company to abandon Kingston Station and to construct a few furlongs down the line and nearer to his estate a far more substantial affair, in conjunction with which a commodious hotel (*The Southampton*) was erected.

Pooley's little estate—as may be guessed—marks the true beginning of Surbiton, although it was not at first so called. It was known as New Town, New Kingston and—quite awfully—Kingston upon Railway! The eventual abandonment of the 'Kingston' element of the name in favour of Surbiton indicated an early sense of independence. The estate roads still form the road pattern of the central area nearest the station, and many of Pooley's terraces and villas remain as attractive examples of very early Victorian domestic architecture, and at a discrete distance from the main estate a little working-class colony was established, consisting of two rows of neat semi-detached cottages, each with its own little garden, and these too remain usefully occupied. Although all seemed set fair, trouble lay immediately ahead. Pooley had been over-ambitious, and well before his plans reached fruition he met with disaster, that occupational hazard of the speculative builder—bankruptcy. Work on his estate ceased abruptly with much of the building left unfinished. It was said that within a few months the area acquired the appearance of a ruined town. It would seem that the new-born Surbiton was not to survive infancy. But survive it did—this the first of the series of threats and setbacks of its colourful existence.

The unfortunate Pooley disappeared. Fortuitously, his chief financial 'backers' had been the great London banking house of Coutts, and eventually the 'estate' fell into their hands. For some good reasons (perhaps not entirely

financial) the Coutts family developed a considerable personal interest in their newly acquired property, and fell to the task of rescue with considerable vigour. Not only did they complete in an exemplary manner the estate and successfully sell it to willing purchasers, but they saw to it that the less material aspects of the new community were provided for. Largely due to the Coutts family's generosity, the first church (St Mark's) was erected as early as 1845, following which a separate ecclesiastical parish was established. Soon after from the same generosity, augmented by public subscription, a church school was provided for the children of poorer families. Those early actions not only reflected the Coutts' generosity, but also the incipient sense of corporate responsibility of the early residents.

Encouraged by the actual and potential amenities, development beyond the Coutts' estate took place. Building increased on the Hill and along the river frontage some really fine villas were erected. Development was steady but not spectacular—even by the mid-1850s the population had not risen beyond 1,000, which was just as well since serious difficulties were beginning to manifest themselves. As mentioned, the new Surbiton lay beyond the Kingston boundaries, and although the Borough looked upon the development as a 'useful adjunct to the old Town' they did almost nothing to superintend the development or assist the inhabitants in any way. The civil parish of Kingston, within whose area Surbiton did lie, had few responsibilities. Even their powers in relation to highways were, in spite of frequent appeals, hardly utilised. This meant that not only the control of building operations, but also such vitally important amenities as road repairs (other than on the 'turnpikes'), lighting, drainage and sanitation generally were neglected. It says much for the integrity and imagination of the private developer of the day that the building was of such a high standard and the layout of estates attractive, but it was of little consolation to the new residents to leave their fine dwellings and step into badly maintained befouled roads or to be surrounded by distasteful signs of poor sanitation. Even the water supply of the district failed on more than one occasion, and it is quite startling to the modern mind how far the state of affairs could reach in urban development in the absence of safeguarding legislation, mow long since taken for granted.

In 1854, at a point when a crisis was obviously approaching, there was a move by Kingston which served indirectly to resolve the whole matter. The Borough, appreciating the high potential of the area financially and otherwise, sought Parliamentary powers to extend its boundary to effect the enclosure of Surbiton. By now, however, Surbiton had developed a strong independent communal spirit. It felt most strongly that as a responsible middle-class community it wanted no dealings with the 'traders' of Kingston. The vigour of opposition to Kingston's move must have taken the Royal Borough much

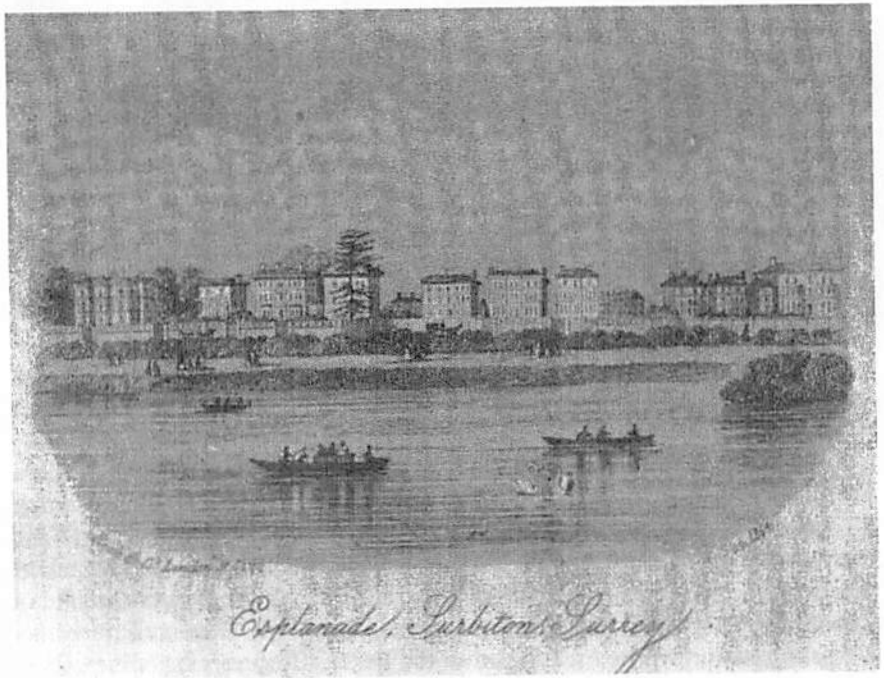

Fig. 5 Villas along the river frontage.

by surprise. Public meetings, even when attended by the Mayor, ended in uproar and Surbiton made it abundantly clear that it 'failed to see the advantages' of the proposal. In the event Kingston's Bill was defeated in Parliament and immediately a crisis-formed 'Surbiton Association' promoted its own bill for the creation of a separate local government organisation. The bill was enacted with remarkable speed (Surbiton's large professional classes easily provided the lawyers, parliamentary agents and the necessary influence) and in May 1855 it became the Surbiton Improvements Act. This provided for the election of 15 'Commissioners' with powers to levy rates, make bylaws, appoint officers and carry out the basic functions of local government. The Commissioners, selected from the town's leading personalities, set to work with a will and within a few years effected most of the much needed improvements to highways, drainage and to public health and safety. More fortuitously the desperate water supply situation was saved by the advent of the Lambeth and Chelsea Water Companies who, around 1850, had moved upstream and established themselves in the western end of Surbiton's river frontage. Now, with the physical necessities of communal life assured and with its many amenities well managed, Surbiton was about to enter a golden era which was to last fully to the end of the century.

But who were these people that, in the town's early years, took up residence in Surbiton? The national census of 1851 tells us that a number of youngish or middle-ages and their families—surveyors, lawyers, barristers, civil servants—settled there, most of whom doubtless had their employment in London and to whom the railway was the *sine qua non* of residence in Surbiton. Then there were those in quite considerable numbers who were clearly well-to-do, but who laboured not at all. These were some of the more fortunate beneficiaries of the growing prosperity of the country and the Empire. Such terms as 'annuitant', 'fundholder' and of course 'landed proprietor' appear frequently in the 'Professional' column of the census and numerous 'gentry' are listed in the early directories. For these the railway to a lesser extent could be an attraction—ease of access to the Capital for occasional business, shopping and social affairs—but clearly this concentration of wealth argues other amenities, particularly the generally attractive 'aura' of the new town.

Furthermore such wealth would give an economic stability accruing to the benefit of the less fortunate. Not only the servants but the other dependent working classes could be given a security of employment higher than a dependence on trade or an industry could provide, and although there were some undoubted signs of poverty, the town's poor seemed to have escaped the worst of the misery and degredation which affected most urban areas—and indeed the countryside. A few of the 1851 inhabitants were more or less indigenous, originating from Kingston and the surrounding areas. Others had clearly moved out from London but for the remaining majority, particularly the servants, the catchment area was nation-wide. Families in all classes were large—five, six or more children being quite the order of the day. The middle classes usually had two or perhaps three servants, but manifestations of extreme wealth in the form of butleers, footmen or even coachmen were rare.

There is evidence that the concentration of relative wealth which continued to mark the town's development for some decades, gave rise to an atmosphere of autocracy, but there is equal evidence of social conscience and concern for the less fortunate. Certainly the spiritual aspect of life was exceptionally well provided for all—even by Victorian standards. By the 1880s and before the population had reached five figures, no less than ten substantial places of worship, covering most denominations, had been erected and three quite commodious 'free' schools provided. Nor were the temporal activities neglected—clubs and societies for most of the usual sporting and social activities were not lacking, and the River Thames provided a great asset in this respect. By 1885 the precursor of the internationally known Surbiton Lawn Tennis Club was founded at Berrylands.

The health of the community was, in spite of the high proportion of elderly retired, exceptionally good. Statistics carefully detailed by Rowley W.C.

Richardson (one of the original Commissioners) in his excellent treatise[3] on the town of those days shows that the population escaped almost entirely the ravages of diseases which afflicted many of the less salubrious areas of the country and that the death rate was well below the national average; all in all, the acclaimed title the 'Queen of Suburbs' was justly deserved.

In 1894, with the population well into five figures and following a further threat from the direction of Kingston, advantage was taken of recent public health legislation. Urban District status was sought and obtained. The Commissioners as such, having carried out their task for 39 vital years, dissappeared from the scene. But the changes were to be far more profound than this. Throughout society, the lower middle and more prosperous working classes were emerging in increasing numbers, gradually diffusing the more rigid class structure. This was reflected in Surbiton by the appearance, towards the end of the century as the town grew, of a far higher proportion of the relatively modest dwellings designed for these newer classes. This trend was to continue from now on and the change was accelerated bu the now rapid and remorseless growth of London. Within a decade or two after the turn of the century the great conurbation was threatening the very boundaries of Surbiton.

Soon after the 1914-18 war the threat became a reality and Surbiton—itself expanding well into the surrounding countryside—was overtaken by the great 'sprawl'. Threats to the town's character came from yet further directions. The commuter (now of both sexes and of wider variety) was still prominent amongst the inhabitants, but of increasing importance was light industry and similar internal activities. The whole ethos of the town was changing. An attempt to return to its original identity was valiantly made in 1936 when incorporation to Borough status was achieved; but this latter-day honour was not enjoyed for long. In 1965 the town was merged, officially and irrevocably, not only with Greater London but finally, and after over a century's resistance, with Kingston!

Surbiton 'went quietly' into this melting pot, which doubtless brought some advantages. Some physical remnants certainly, and perhaps some of the imponderable charm of the old days remain, but the most loyal resident would have to admit that the 'Queen' has long since abdicated!

References

1. Kenneth Cameron, *English Place Names*, 1961, p.144.
2. R.J. Milward, *History Today*, October 1970, pp.716-23.
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GERTRUDE JEKYLL: *OLD WEST SURREY*,

PHILLIMORE & CO. LTD., 1999

A Review by the editor

OLD
WEST
SURREY
GERTRUDE
JEKYLL

Old West Surrey was originally published in 1904 when Gertrude Jekyll was at the height of her gardening fame. It is not a gardening book, however, but a book of reminiscences. There are chapters on cottages, the ways of old country folk, gardens, woods, churchyards, Godalming and smugglers, though the majority of chapters are concerned with the contents of those cottages. It is here that the book comes into its own as far as I am concerned because of the profuse illustrations. There are pictures of furniture, clocks, kitchen equipment, candlesticks, ornaments and crockery, etc. My own favourites are the mousetraps, the constable's bludgeon and the beautiful 17th-century baby's cradle. These pictures (330 of them) were taken by Gertrude Jekyll and used in the original edition. Recently reunited with the text at the Jekyll archive at Surrey History Centre, the pictures in this new edition have been computer enhanced for clarity. In just three cases the original could not be traced and has had to be lifted from the first edition. The poor quality of these three pictures shows what a wonderful job Phillimore's have done with the others. They really are stunning and not too dark, which I have found to be a common fault in some recent local history publications by other publishers. If rural cottages are not your thing, then this book still has plenty to offer. The pictures of cottages and the people who lived in them are wonderful examples for the historian of architecture and costume and all the scenes are fully identified in extra captions by Jane Brown who also introduces the book. At £25.00, this book is more expensive than most local history but at over 250 pages and with all those illustrations I feel it is definitely worth it. Whether you are after solid local history or a pretty picture book, then this is the book for you as it fills both categories admirably.

SURREY HISTORY SERVICE
NEW MATERIAL, NEW FACILITIES

David Robinson and Michael Page

Last year our annual review of new material for Surrey historians was replaced by an article on the new Surrey History Centre. This year we catch up with two years' accessions, for 1997 and 1998, and describe the activities of Surrey History Service in the year since last year's article was written in July 1998.

New material: 1997 and 1998

Health

In recent years historians of public health and the treatment of disease have been particularly well served by the influx of records from many Surrey hospitals, in particular the Epsom Cluster of hospitals, originally established by the London County Council for the treatment of mental disorders. Although the flow of hospital records has abated somewhat some important accessions have been taken in. These include case books from the first Surrey county lunatic asylum at Springfield in Wandsworth which was established in 1841 by the Surrey Quarter Session to provide for the care of the county's 'pauper and criminal lunatics' (ref 6367/-). The asylum was transferred to Middlesex County in 1889 and many of the records have been transferred to the London Metropolitan Archives but all surviving case books for the 'Surrey period' of Springfield's history are now with us and are a splendid and poignant source of information about the patients, their social background and family circumstances and about the way the authorities deemed mental disorders should be treated.

Of institutions in Surrey which provided care for the mentally disabled the most celebrated was the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, established by the philanthropist Andrew Read, which opened in Redhill in 1855. The Asylum's early fame is chiefly attributable to Dr John Langdon Down, the brilliant and innovatory medical superintendent between 1858 and 1868, who transformed the hospital's regime and standards of care and treatment. Langdon Down was very interested in the potential of photography as a diagnostic tool and we have recently taken in a set of his glass plate negatives of patients at Earlswood (ref 4645) which contributed to his identification of the condition we now know as Down's Syndrome.

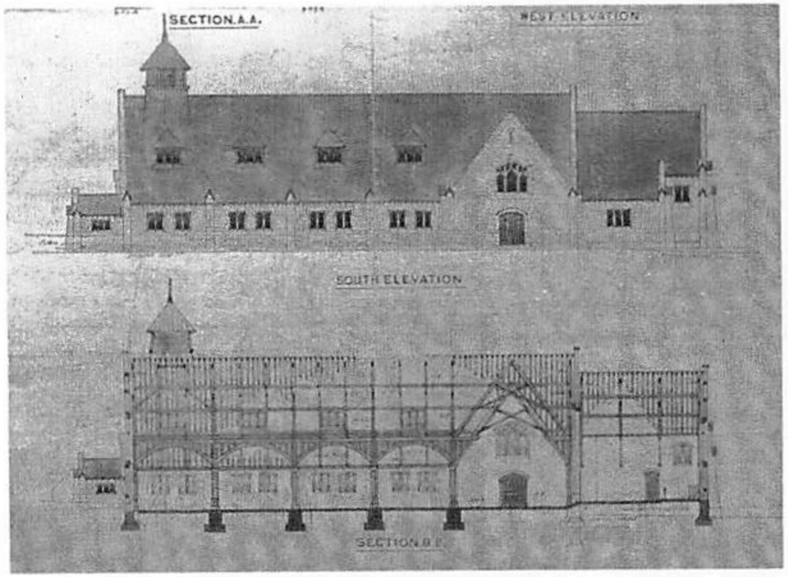


Fig. 1 Elevation of the Chapel, West Park Hospital, Epsom. Part of a collection of early 20th-century architectural drawings relating to the Epsom Cluster Hospitals, rescued prior to redevelopment of the site in 1998. 6423/-

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the associated acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) first hit the headlines in the 1980s and an extensive publicity campaign was launched to alert people to the dangers. In Surrey Guildford AIDSline was established in 1986 to provide information and emotional support via a telephone helpline and other forms of publicity and from 1989 a 'buddy' system was set up which provided practical assistance and daily care. The need which the AIDSline met is reflected in its change of name in 1990 to Surrey and East Hants AIDSlink and the vital service it provided is documented in the extensive series of records which have been deposited with us (ref 4669/-). Although much of the archive is currently closed it is an important addition to our holdings which will be of great significance to those investigating the impact of AIDS within the county and the countermeasures taken.

Estate

The quantity of estate and family records which remains squirrelled away in deed boxes and attics throughout Surrey and elsewhere can only be guessed at but it is certainly a matter of great delight to archivists and historians when such material suddenly emerges into the light of day.

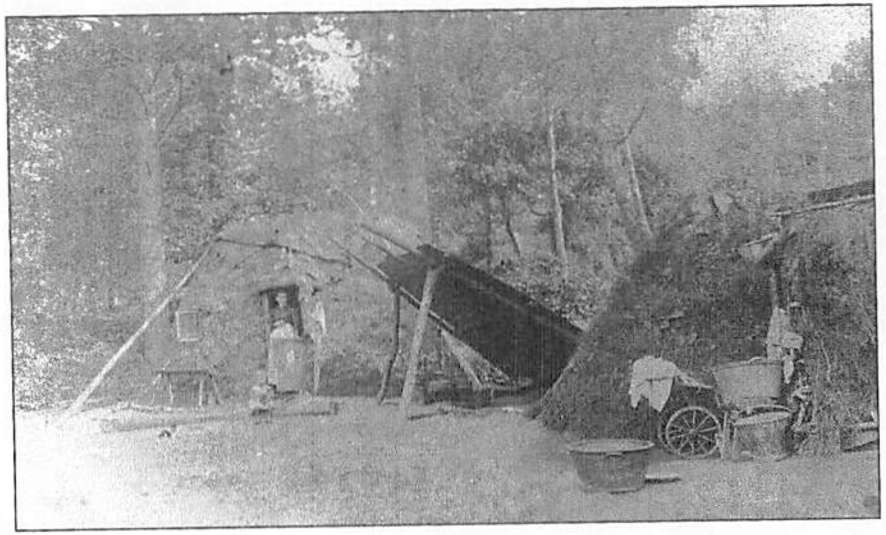


Fig. 2 Charcoal burners at Hurtwood, Surrey. From the album of Roland Edmund Lomax Vaughan Williams, n.d. (*c.* late 19th century). 6356/-

One such hitherto undiscovered gem is the archive, formerly held at Tanhurst, a large Queen Anne farmhouse on the slopes of Leith Hill, of the Vaughan Williams family and their predecessors, the Lomaxes of Childwickbury, Herts, and the O'Callaghans of Co Clare, Ireland. The recently deposited records (ref 6536) occupied 22 deed boxes and other containers and are still in the process of sorting and cataloguing. Our initial forays have already uncovered legal papers relating to a bitter dispute in the late 1740s over the right of Caleb Lomax (1728-1786), who by the age of 18 had already had to prove his legitimacy to inherit the family estate to his aunts (who were also his legal guardians), to present clergy to the living of St Stephen's, near St Albans, Herts. Some of the correspondence addressed to Caleb by his flamboyant attorney Moses Sierra provides very entertaining reading!

Other subjects include Lord Justice Roland Bowdler Vaughan Williams' increasingly frustrated attempts to end a tenant's rent strike on the family estates at Magherabaune, Killo Kennedy, Bohereddan and Gortrassa in Co Clare, Ireland, at the turn of this century; and photographs and maps relating to the travels of his son Roland Edmund Lomax Vaughan Williams in the Balkans and pre-revolutionary Russia at about the same time.

Another magnificent archive which has been deposited in our custody is that of the Wintershall Manor Estate (ref 5410/-). This is rich in medieval records, including a superb series of manorial court rolls dating back to 1332, 15th-century accounts of farming expenses and livestock, a detailed inventory of books, vestments and plate in Witley church dated 1447, and rare evidence of the operation of the hundred courts of Blackheath and Wotton in the form of two lists of persons fined for debt or trespass dated 1430. An extensive series of deeds relating to land in Witley, Godalming and neighbouring parishes provides evidence of the landholding of the Barrett family in the Witley area from the 15th century onwards. George Barrett purchased Wintershall manor in 1734, and the house and estate were not sold until 1923, after the deaths in their eighties of the last members of the family, who were another George Barrett, said to be 'a great country character', and two Barrett sisters. The archive, its earliest document dating back to 1289, was then discovered in a tin box in the middle attic during renovations to the house. The depositors have recently agreed to allow the History Centre to hold the material on indefinite loan, which has enabled us to produce a more detailed catalogue in searchable form.

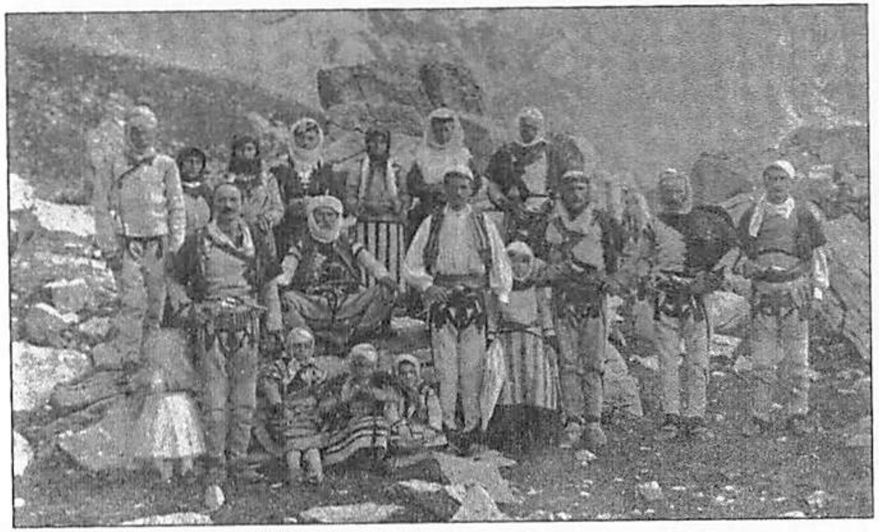


Fig. 3 Albanians. Photograph taken during the Oxford Expedition to the Balkans in 1893. From the album of Roland Edmund Lomax Vaughan Williams. 6356/-

We have held the extensive archive of the Frederick family of Burwood Park for many years but this has recently been supplemented by some papers relating to Sir John Frederick, 4th baronet (1708-1783), including the detailed journals he kept on his grand tour through Europe in 1737-8 and a series of letters to him from his relative Sir Henry Vansittart who was a Governor of Fort William, Bengal, and a director of the East India Company (ref 4647/-). The journals are packed with Frederick's observations on the architectural and artistic glories of Italy, the governmental institutions of the city states, and his rather caustic asides on religious practices and the honesty of the Genoese.

An estate of a completely different order of magnitude was that leased by Thomas Tomlins (1736-1815) in Chaldon to provide a country retreat, comprising a house called Braziers and a few acres of land. Tomlins was solicitor and clerk to the Painters-Stainers' Company in London and after he left that position leased more land and began to farm it. He kept a careful record of his activities in a notebook (ref 4517/1) in which, as his grandson later noted, 'his farming operations are detailed with some minuteness - but I doubt whether beyond the pleasurable excitement and occupation of the mind any material advantage was derived'. Tomlins' notebook is a fascinating document; the farming entries interspersed with observations on bread making, grain prices, the weather and the sporadic appearances of the Bourne river of which he notes 'vulgar tradition is that it forebodes scarcity and a bad harvest'.

Surrey in Wartime

Our knowledge of the impact of the two world wars on Surrey and its inhabitants is further enriched by a number of small accessions, particularly two scrapbooks found amongst the material transferred from the Surrey Local Studies Library. The first (ref 6520/-), compiled by Miss Hester Godfrey, Quartermaster at the Oaklands Red Cross Hospital, Cranleigh, 1914-1917, includes drawings, photographs and autographs of staff and patients, and letters sent from men at army camps in England and the Western Front. The hospital received soldiers transferred by the County of London War Hospital, Epsom, and Guildford War Hospital from Jan 1916 to Oct 1918.

The second (ref 6529/-) is an album of photographs, doggerel verse and cuttings compiled by a member of the Royal Fusiliers University and Public Schools Brigade while they were encamped at Woodcote Park, Epsom, Nov 1914 - May 1915. It includes photographs of officers and men, the camp buildings, and the daily round of fatigue duty, training exercises and parades, including an inspection by Lord Kitchener on 22 Jan 1915. The cheery captions and jokey verses inevitably prompt speculation as to the fate of many of the men portrayed.

Hilda Andrews of Epsom served as superintendent of a First Aid Post in Alexandra Road, Epsom, during World War II. The log she kept in 1940 (ref 6409/-)provides a fascinating record of some of the darkest days of the war as she and her nurses experienced them. She refers to Churchill's speeches, raids on London and preparations for possible attacks on Epsom.

Architects

The activities of three architects, one a national figure, the other two of more local significance, are represented in three recent accessions. The national figure is John Loughborough Pearson (1817-1897), one of the most original architects of the Gothic revival of the 19th century, who rebuilt St John's church in Redhill, and whose beautiful original designs of 1888 were deposited by the church (ref P49/100/-).

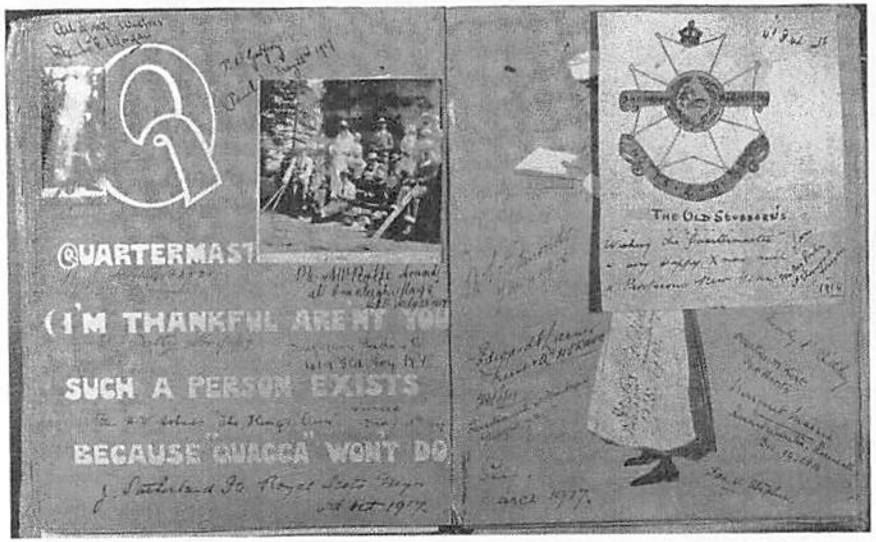
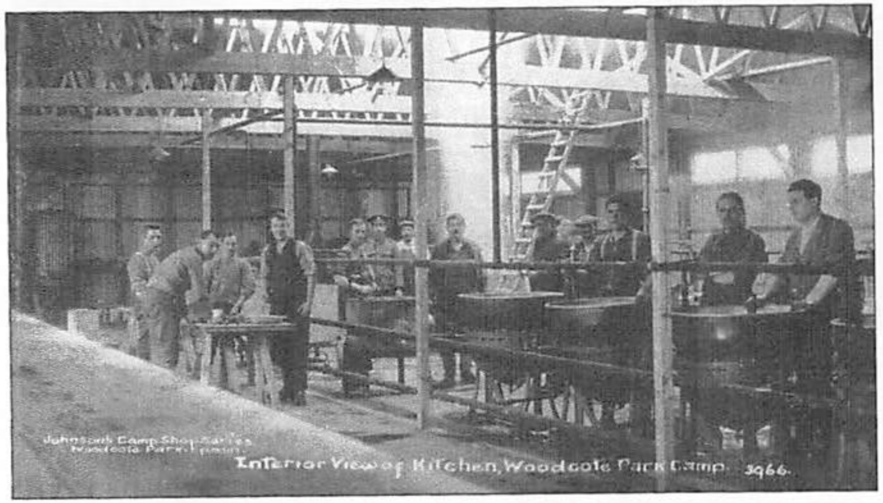

QUARTERMAST
(I'M THANKFUL AREN'T YOU
SUCH A PERSON EXISTS
BECAUSE QUACCA WONT DO
THE OLD STUDENTS

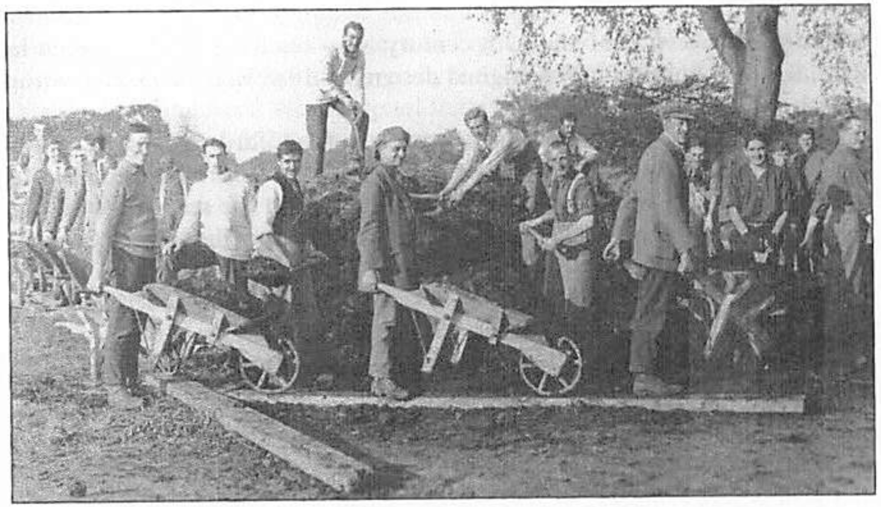
Fig. 4 Page from ABC scrapbook from Oaklands Red Cross Hospital, Cranleigh, 1917-1918. The scrapbook was begun by the quartermaster, Hester Godfrey. 6520/1

Henry Peak (1832-1914) was surveyor to Guildford Borough Council between 1864 and 1892. Among projects he undertook during this time were the laying out of Guildford Castle pleasure grounds, the restoration of the Castle buildings, the erecting of the public baths, and the construction of Onslow Bridge. He also served as a Liberal councillor and was elected mayor in 1899. He chronicled his career in 16 notebooks (ref 6517/-) which provide a splendid picture of his activities and of the social and political scene in Guildford. These, which were previously held in Surrey Local Studies Library, are important and unique materials, deserving the highest standard of archival care.

Finally, the seamier side of archival work was represented by the salvage of plans and papers of the architect Arthur Cecil Geen from a building in Epsom which was on the point of being demolished. The records were covered in black dust and many were torn but they included some fine plans of houses in London and Surrey which Geen worked on between 1909 and 1935, including West Hill House, Epsom, Mogador Point, Lower Kingswood, and Edwardes Square, Kensington (ref 6412/-). Little has so far been discovered about Geen and much work remains to be done before his career can be pieced together.


Johnsons Camp Shop Series
Woodcote Park Epsom
Interior View of Kitchen, Woodcote Park Camp. 3966.

Figs. 5 & 6 Soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers University and Public Schools Brigade on fatigue duty and in the kitchen at their encampment at Woodcote Park, Epsom, *c.*1915. From an album of photographs, cuttings and doggerel verses compiled by a member of the Brigade, 1914-1915. 6529/4



Surrey History Centre

On the morning of Saturday 31 October, we thought that we were well prepared for the first members of the public to enter our doors. We had moved our collections in July and August and by the first week of September all of us were ensconced in the Centre. Two months followed during which we familiarised ourselves with the materials previously held in the 'other places' and the finding aids and miscellaneous stores of information associated with them, and with our colleagues who knew all about them. Duplicate Ordnance Survey maps were identified and offered to local history forums and other appropriate locations around the county. Light was thrown on a number of 'black holes'. We planned the public service we would offer in our reading room, which we christened the 'Surrey Room', so much larger than our three previous reading rooms put together, and trained new staff. We invited groups of interested researchers to view our new facilities and act as 'guinea pigs', especially for our computerised systems.

None of this prepared us for our opening day. Until a few days previously, it seemed as if no-one except our long-established friends had heard of our opening, but whether it was the press, radio and television publicity of the last few days or the natural interest of Woking people in the new building in their midst, there was a long queue waiting to enter when we opened the door. In all 859 people came, including old friends and local residents. They were able to

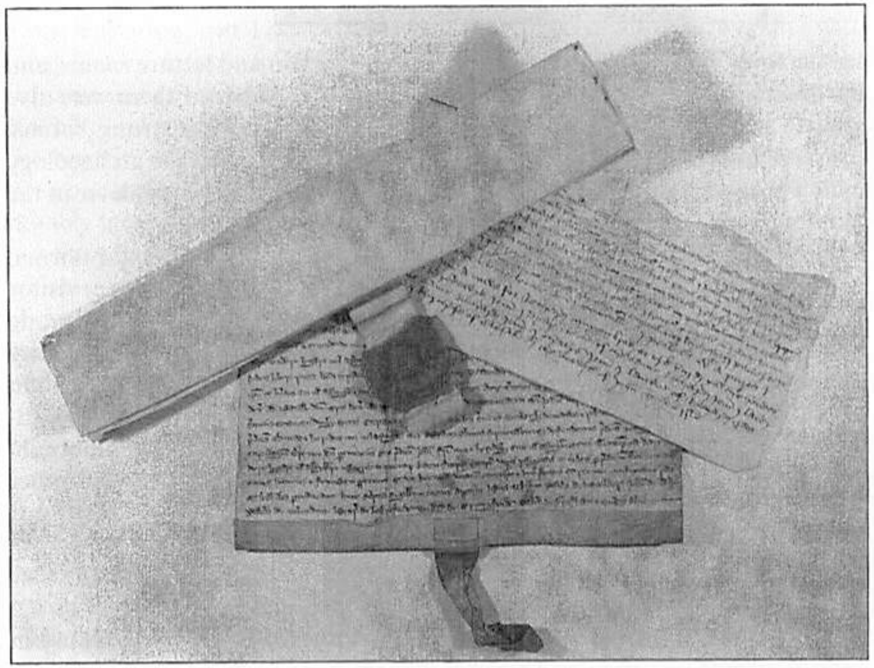


Fig.7 Some medieval and early modern deeds and documents recently received by Surrey History Centre. Shown are a deed of gift of a messuage in Wonersh ('Wugners'), late 13th century (6569/1), an inventory of the goods of Witley church, 1447 (5410/D27) and a grant of a felon's goods by the King's almoner, 1545, with his seal attached (6330/154s).

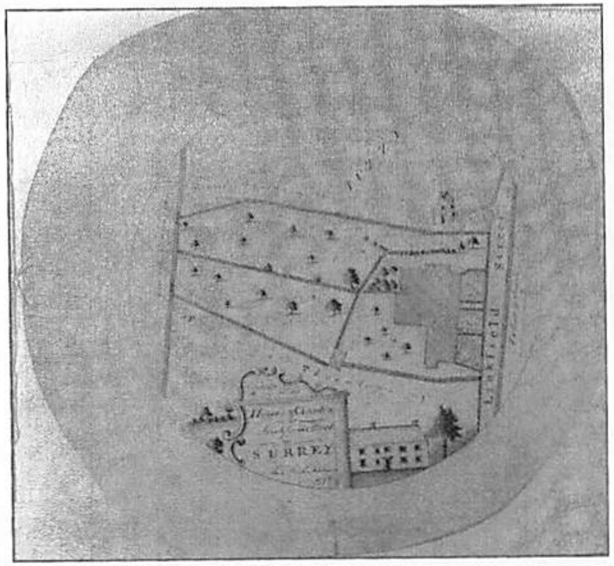


Fig. 8 Plan of a house and garden at Linkfield Street, Reigate, belonging to Richard Titchiner, 1776. 4662/2

see the foyer with its tapestry and glass, the exhibition and lecture rooms, and the Surrey Room with a display of our finest items. Many of them were also able to go on guided tours behind the scenes, including strong rooms, conservation room, archivists' and librarians' work area and the archaeology unit. Those who were disappointed were able to sign up for tours later in the autumn.

The following Tuesday, 3 November, we opened to the public for normal service, and received a more manageable number of readers. Since then, visitor numbers have remained high, numbers of items produced from the strong rooms have greatly increased and public response to our facilities and service has been very favourable. We have hosted group visits from local history and special interest groups and librarians and curators from Surrey and the south-east while archivists from many English record offices and from Edinburgh, Cork and Denmark have visited us, sometimes with architectural and other colleagues, to find out more about the building and its operation and our Heritage Lottery Fund experience.

Education and Exhibitions

Janet Nixon, our education officer, has put our lecture room to good use in setting up courses and seminars in conjunction with Surrey University Department of Continuing Education and Surrey Archaeological Society. A twenty-week course, an Introduction to Researching Local History: Health in conjunction with the WEA is planned for next academic year. She has established links with teachers and is developing a project on religious history with the Education department and Surrey Advisory Committee for Religious Education. She has also developed a lively and helpful world wide web site punctuated by the figure of a man in a pillory being hit by a tomato.

Jenni Waugh and Julian Pooley, with a battery of helpers, produced our first major exhibition, on Gertrude Jekyll, which ran from our official opening until 10 July. A day seminar on garden history, a lecture 'From Farm Sale to Boot Sale' were held in association with the exhibition and Jane Brown's new edition of Miss Jekyll's *Old West Surrey*, using the original photographs from our collection, was launched. We are planning to hold one major exhibition of our own a year with smaller ones, including our symposium display, at other times. Our programme for the coming year also includes a slot for the county archaeological unit and a county council display for the heritage theme of 'Surrey Authors', and we will be happy to discuss the scope for including in our programme appropriate exhibitions by county and local organisations.

Local Access

Sally Jenkinson, our Local Access Officer, has been active in working with local history forums to develop their resources and services. A number of valuable initiatives have taken place in east Surrey—planned publications at Redhill, oral history at Horley, photo scanning at North Tandridge. One of the benefits of bringing the archive and local studies services together has been our ability to identify and find a good home for some duplicate material, notably large-scale Ordnance Survey maps.

Sally has also taken a leading role in developing our world wide web site, which now includes over 22,000 entries on the archive index database and about 50% of our detailed catalogues electronically searchable. Our site also has links with local museums, societies and other organisations within Surrey and relevant national and international sites. We are developing a number of databases, including sale particulars, which we will add to our web site in due course.

A Long Year

1998 was unique in the experience of all of us. Our aim in 1999 has been to establish a programme of activity which we can support in the long term. We have a clearer knowledge of the implications in time and money of our various initiatives and can establish priorities. We are also working towards the launch of Surrey History Trust. This will be a support organisation for Surrey History Service on the lines of the very successful Hampshire Archives Trust. It is not intended to be a competitor with other county and local history societies but will aim to work in co-operation for the good of Surrey's history.

PRESERVING A CENTURY OF SURREY ON FILM

Michael Page
Head of Acquisitions, Surrey History Centre

In December 1896, only a few months after the first public screenings of moving pictures in England, Guildford had the opportunity of appraising the new technology at a show at the Working Men's Institute. Made in the same year Robert Paul's flickering, spotted film of horses and jockeys running the Derby, seen through a dense crowd, provides us with the first recognisable moving images of Surrey.

The county also produced one of the great pioneers of cinema in the silent era. Cecil Hepworth (1874-1953), who began as a magic lanternist, moved on to making films in 1899 and his studios in Walton on Thames continued in production until 1922. He explored the potential of the new medium, experimenting with editing and special effects, and moved on from simple images of public events or everyday activities, through 'phantom rides' taken by cameras mounted on the front of trains and on to elaborate fictional works such as 'Rescued by Rover' (1905), in which the family dog starred, and adaptations of classics such as 'Alice in Wonderland' (1903), 'David Copperfield' and 'Hamlet' (both 1913).

Surrey is also the home of Shepperton Studios which opened in 1931 under the name of 'Sound City' and which have played a part in the making of many cinema classics such as Olivier's 'Richard III', John Huston's 'The African Queen', Stanley Kubrick's 'Dr Strangelove', Ridley Scott's 'Alien' and David Lean's 'A Passage to India'.

Thus the commercial film industry has played a major role in the county's history this century. However it is the less polished products of other canny entrepreneurs and interested amateurs which are, perhaps, of more immediate interest to local historians. From the very earliest days of film, local people began to record their communities on film with increasing frequency and it is the fragmentary survivals of their efforts which illuminate early 20th-century Surrey with an immediacy that perhaps no other source can match. Thus the presentation of an ambulance to the Red Cross by the town of Godalming in 1917 was recorded in a film by W.D. Fudger, owner of the Picture Palace; and the town of Leatherhead sought to make a permanent record of its labours in support of the national effort during the Second World War. The work of Clifford Spain stands out in this respect. Spain was appointed the manager of the Capitol Cinema in Walton, 'the last word in cinema production', in 1927, just as talking pictures were arriving. He had no doubts about the commercial potential of film and the cinema's central position in a community. Something of a showman, he envisaged a vast 'Palace of Pleasure' rising in the middle of Walton, equipped with a landing platform for aircraft on the roof, a catapult to send them on their way again, a vast cinema rising above an ice rink and automatic cocktail vending machines built into the seats (see his article in *Walton upon Thames: Past, Present and Future*). He also acted as the chronicler of Walton and Weybridge, filming local festivities and other events such as the opening of the new Weybridge hospital in 1928 by Princess Beatrice, the celebrations of the jubilee of 1935 and the coronation of 1937, the Walton river festival and the annual fire brigade competition in the recreation ground.

Film-makers such as Spain were using film as a means to foster a sense of community. Their work would be regularly shown in the cinemas which were appearing in almost every town of any size and were often buildings of some grandeur and splendour. One must imagine these screenings as being accompanied by squeals of recognition and laughter at those caught by the camera. Now the identity of many of the people who populate the films is lost but the images still have a unique power to move and a remarkable capacity to bridge the years. When other, more traditional sources—newspapers, minute books, still photographs—are combined with surviving film our knowledge, understanding and sense of connection with the past are all greatly enhanced.

However, unlike many of these more traditional sources, film is a fragile and vulnerable medium which has seldom been treated seriously by historians, and indeed archivists. Many local films were made to capture the moment and were considered by their makers to have lost their relevance once that moment had receded. Thus they lay neglected in damp or overheated rooms, often unlabelled and with no supporting documentation. Unfortunately film cannot survive poor storage conditions for any length of time without deteriorating. Early nitrate-based film is particularly fragile, can decompose into brown dust and even has the potential to spontaneously combust; however, all film will degenerate over time and ultimately the precious images will be beyond salvage. The solution is to clean and restore the original print, make a new master and produce video copies for normal viewing; however such work is expensive in labour and technical costs and requires specialist equipment.

It would also be true to say that there has been no obvious home for much locally made film for most of the century. The National Film and Television Archive obviously has a wider remit and has to be selective in what it chooses to preserve and a network of regional film archives has been slow to develop and even now coverage across the country is not complete. Before 1992 Surrey's film heritage was almost entirely neglected: the record office and local museums often had films among their collections but did not have the funds or the expertise to make proper provision for them, indeed generally could not even view them, and few active efforts were made to locate and take in film.

It was in September 1992 that the South East Film and Video Archive was established as a collaborative partnership, which now comprises the County Councils of Surrey, Kent and East and West Sussex, through their respective record offices, Brighton and Hove Council, the University of Brighton, and the University of Kent at Canterbury. The regional arts board, South East Arts, has been a major contributor since the inauguration of SEFVA. Thus what no individual authority could afford has been provided through the pooling of resources. Specialist equipment for viewing and copying film has been acquired and a dedicated repository established at West Sussex Record Office at Chichester which is climatically controlled and provides a stable environment for the films in the archive.

A search has also been initiated throughout the four counties to locate and preserve film and the results have been impressive: SEFVA's collection currently comprises over 1,500 items, many of which have emerged into the light of day following radio broadcasts or lectures by the curator. The range of the collection is vast as is its potential for research. The Sussex coast is particularly well represented, because of its string of resorts and a thriving film industry in the early decades of the 20th century. The Surrey collection is growing more slowly but includes some wonderful material embracing local newsreels, such as those mentioned above, promotional film for local firms and 'home movies' shot by individuals and schools. The slow work of making usable video copies is progressing and grants are being sought for conservation work.

The potential of the collection is also being explored through work with schools and colleges. In old people's homes films are used to act as triggers for reminiscences and much useful information about the local communities portrayed emerge through these sessions. From October Surrey History Centre will be the base for a part time education project officer whose brief will be to develop a 'study centre' where video copies of SEFVA's Surrey films can be viewed, to fully catalogue and contextualise this collection through investigation of other sources, to work with the Centre's education officer and with local schools to develop the use of the collection and its application to the national curriculum, and to stage a number of public events to publicise the work of the archive and, hopefully, rescue more precious reels lurking in lumber rooms and garden sheds.

The 20th century is the century of film. Its history and the lives of ordinary people are brought before us in a startling, immediate and moving way through film as demonstrated by the BBC's series 'The People's Century'. We have finally woken up to the splendour and fragility of our film heritage and the work of the South East Film and Video Archive should ensure its preservation into the next millennium.

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

The Churches of Surrey
by Mervyn Blatch
1997 £30.00 (hardback)

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.