



THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN

The Essex Society for Family History Magazine

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Police
Force
Little Dunmow
Squad**

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H.R.StA Davies
F.E. Burles
E.W.Letch
S.Cracknell

Sergeant served in France
Served in France Y.M.C.A
R. Tomlinson Served in R.H.A
W.Rolph Killed in Action
R.Dyer
S.B.Corder

Charles Green
nders and
Everitt

With all Good Wishes
for a
Happy Christmas
and a Bright
New Year.

www.esfh.org.uk

Essex Society for Family History

For full information about the Society, please visit our website - www.esfh.org.uk

All our meetings and workshops are a mixture of online only and online and in person events. Open to all members. You will be notified by email of all events and events are posted up on the Events section of our website.

We offer Research Services (see page 89). For one-to-one help with your “brick walls” to be held at our Research Centre at the Essex Record Office and booked in advance please contact Gill Peregrine on gpesfh@gmail.com.

Membership Rates

Annual membership of the Society runs from 1st April until 31st March. For rates see table below or our website. For membership payment details please see our website or page 89.

Membership Category	Fees Payable (Paper Magazine)	Fees Payable (Electronic Magazine)
Single Member living in UK	£16.00	£8.00
Institutional Member	£18.00	£8.00
Single Member living outside UK	£25.00	£8.00

Benefits of membership include:-

- A Research Centre at Essex Record Office open on a regular basis with volunteers on duty. Bookable one-to-one meetings to help with family history.
- Access to the Members only area of the website where members can find valuable genealogical records.
- Addition of DNA (GEDmatch) kit numbers to our database allowing members to find out if other members have a connecting match.
- Receipt on a regular basis of THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN - the Society family history magazine, with the capability to download the latest issue and access an archive of back copies. Receipt of ESFH Newsletters.
- Access to a number of publications from other family history societies.
- Member Surname Interests - All members are able to update and advertise their own Surnames Interests online.
- Concessionary Subscription Rates for www.findmypast.co.uk
- Essex Gazetteer - members have access to a database which includes place names in "old Essex".
- Access, anytime, to recorded presentations.
- Access to Essex Poor Law Indexes.

The Essex Family Historian

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The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Committee and Officers of the Society.

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For Your Information

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CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

Contributors are requested to limit their articles to 2000 words, other than by prior agreement with the Editor. Contributions should be sent in Microsoft Word format or plain text files (Microsoft Notepad) Graphics/photos preferably as separate JPEG files.

Alternatively written or typed articles with photographs can be sent directly to the Editor at the address above. Photographs will be returned.

Contributors should make every effort to trace and acknowledge ownership of all copyright material and secure permissions. The Editor needs to be aware of any problems with contributors acquiring copyright.

Contributors should include their ESFH membership number. The use of material is at the discretion of the Editorial team and may be used in any print and electronic media relevant to ESFH.

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The Geographical Area covered by ESFH

The area covered by ESFH is that of the old Essex county with the exception of 'London Boroughs' which are considered to be in the area of East of London FHS and Waltham Forest which is in the area of Waltham Forest FHS.

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Bolding of email addresses in this issue is to ensure that they are easy to read; they are not hyperlinked, whereas web addresses are bolded so that electronic readers may click on the link and be taken directly to that web address.

From the Editor

Welcome to the HISTORIAN for December 2023 with another Christmas fast approaching!

I hope you agree that this edition has an even greater diversification of articles than usual. I trust you will find them entertaining and thought provoking. Some of them highlight the challenges that researching family history brings and I am sure many of you will be familiar with such challenges.

On behalf of all members, I would like to thank both the regular and new contributors for taking the time to research and write articles. Preparing and writing an article is a very good way to consolidate your research. Here's what to look out for in the following pages.

For those of you with a bearing towards military history we have one story of a WW1 soldier who came home to die. Another story starts with the death of a very young ATC cadet during WW2 and has an honourable conclusion with a military Canadian attaché laying a wreath in Essex in May 2023.

Many readers will have ancestors who left the UK for distant lands including Australia but never returned to their homeland. We hear from two writers who live in Australia and have their roots in Essex.

There are several articles in this edition which tell the story of the history of businesses, one talking about a household cereal brand and the other about a Maldon butchery firm that has been on the same site for hundreds of years.

The book reviews include two new publications. One about the history of Saffron Walden police and the other about city dairies. A third book review describes an older book with incredible detail about Victorian London.

On page 36 we step into the world of early America with the life story of Hannah Lake who originated in Wickford and on page 61 we go even further back in time with the possible identification of a medieval lady called Lady de Ferrers, both women were forces to be reckoned with in their times.

Other articles delve into the history of buildings like Parndon Hall in Harlow or places, like Hatfield Forest with the Shell House, that you can go and visit.

Moving into the 20th century you can read about political intrigue around the Miners' Strike of 1984-85, that many members will remember.

On page 10 Jean-Marc Bazzoni introduces himself as ESFH's new Secretary.

So here I am signing off as Editor for the last time with a thank you to my dear husband who has put up with my endless cries of "will you listen to this" and helped with the proof reading of each edition for the last seven years.

Happy Researching!



COLLEEN DEVENISH

Notice Board

Please keep in touch with your Society by one or all of the following facilities:-

- Our website – where news is put up on the front page
- Follow ESFH on all our Social Media sites
- Send us an email using the 'Contact us' tab on our website
- Write to key members of the Executive Committee whose details are shown on the inside back cover

Any member is welcome to join our regular presentations via Zoom, the cloud based conferencing tool. Details of the forthcoming presentations are on page 7.

Press Release – The Eureka Partnership

The Eureka Partnership hope to publish the last book of the Harwich and Manningtree Wesleyan Methodist Circuit records in the New Year and at a later date the Chelmsford and Maldon Wesleyan Methodist Circuit records. Please keep an eye on their website www.eurekapartnership.com to see when they are available.

Essex Branch of the Historical Association

<https://essexbranchha.com>

Please see the above website for their presentations held in Chelmsford during 2024. The February 2024 event may be of particular interest to readers as it is about an Essex hospital and is being given by Dr Jane Pearson from Essex University. It is entitled '*Colchester's Victorian doctors: How was the local hospital regarded. To what extent did it influence medical practice?*'.

Researching Hearn/Marks/Barton or Wilson surnames

Sheila Moore (ESFH 30905) has 2 stray birth certificates from GRO she would like to pass on. Sarah Ann Hearn born 18.11.1856 Paddington, father William, mother Sarah formerly Marks and Stephen Barton born 12.6.1872 Montgomery (Wales) father John Barton, mother Elizabeth formerly Wilson. Email Mooremsf@me.com

Forthcoming Presentations

Our talks and workshops may be subject to change so **please always check our website under the ESFH Events tab for the latest information.**

Look out for regular emails sent by ESFH to your inbox advertising upcoming events.

Saturday 2nd Dec 2.30 pm GMT	Christmas Social at which Mark Ratcliff will show artifacts from Hatfield Heath Prisoner of War Camp following his talk earlier in the year.	At ARC Harlow CM17 0AJ
Saturday 2nd Dec 2.30 pm GMT	Flood '53 - The East Coast Floods. A film and talk by Chris Izod . There will be an opportunity to purchase a copy of the film and/or Chris' book 'My Southend Memories'.	In person at Westcliff SS0 7JX
Saturday 9th Dec 10:30 am GMT	Cribs, Cards and Christingles - The Origins of Christmas Traditions and Customs - A talk by Mark Lewis which explores how our colourful Christmas traditions and customs came into being and how they are celebrated.	Online
Saturday 9th Dec 2.30 pm GMT	Christmas Social and Quiz.	The Hythe Colchester CO1 2FG
	<u>PRESENTATIONS IN 2024</u>	
Saturday 6th Jan 2.30 pm GMT	"A Voyage Round My Grandfather" - a nod to John Mortimer Researching the WW1 Service of a Coldstream Guardsman. An explanation by Mark Ratcliff of his grandfather's military service during WW1 relying on his service records, family memorabilia and other records and research.	Online and ARC Harlow CM17 0AJ
Saturday 6th Jan 2.30 pm GMT	My Favourite Ancestors - Members	In person at Westcliff SS0 7JX
Monday 8th Jan 7.30 pm GMT	DNA Interest Group - DNA What are the Odds by Toni Neobard and Trevor Rix.	Online
Saturday 13th Jan 2.30 pm GMT	The First Ancestor I Researched - Members.	The Hythe Colchester CO1 2FG

Forthcoming Presentations

<p>Tuesday 16th Jan 7.30 pm GMT</p>	<p>Family History Brickwalls - A discussion lead by Elizabeth Cox.</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p>Monday 29th Jan 7.00 pm GMT</p>	<p>Scottish Indexes - For 20 years genealogists Graham and Emma Maxwell have been indexing historical records, and these indexes are available for free on their website www.scottishindexes.com. In this presentation, we will look at the records indexed and available in 'Scotland's Criminal Database', the 'Scottish Paternity Index' and 'Mental Health Records' as well as other records on scottishindexes.com.</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p>Saturday 3rd Feb 2.30 pm GMT</p>	<p>A Plague upon all your Houses: Epidemic Disease and our Ancestors - In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are acutely aware of our own responses to a virulent epidemic disease. What epidemics impacted on the lives of our ancestors? How did they attempt to prevent or cure these diseases and how effective were these measures? How did governments and local authorities respond to these threats? This presentation by Janet Few examines the symptoms, prognoses and treatments for a number of well-known and less well-known epidemic diseases from the Black Death to the influenza of 1918. It mentions some of the relevant records and considers how our ancestors might have reacted.</p>	<p>Online and the ARC Harlow CM17 0AJ</p>
<p>Wed 7th Feb 7.30 pm GMT</p>	<p>Special Interest Group - for people with ancestors or an interest in Tiptree, Tollesbury and Tolleshunt area lead by Mary Rix and Andrea Hewitt.</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p>Saturday 10th Feb 2.30 pm GMT</p>	<p>Don't Eat the Cabin Boy - A family story of detective work, bravery, shipwreck and service by Toni Neobard.</p>	<p>Online and The Hythe Colchester CO1 2FG</p>

Forthcoming Presentations

Wed 14th Feb 7.30 pm GMT	Virtual Open Day including Workshops on DNA and Free Websites - with a Team of Knowledgeable Volunteers.	Online
Tuesday 20th Feb 7.30 pm GMT	DNA Special interest Group - Descendancy Research by Toni Neobard and Trevor Rix .	Online
Saturday 2nd March 2.30 pm GMT	Facebook for Family Historians Like it or not, Facebook is Family History in the making, so don't miss out! The talk by Valmay Young will cover: How to set up a Facebook account securely for family history purposes. The difference between profiles, groups and pages. What to share and what not to share. Examples of how Facebook can help your research. Recommended Facebook Pages and groups to follow and join.	Online and the ARC Harlow CM17 0AJ
Saturday 9th March 2.30 pm GMT	TBA	The Hythe Colchester CO1 2FG
Thursday 14th March 7.30 pm BST	Ancestry and My Heritage Tools by Toni Neobard and Trevor Rix .	Online
Saturday 16th March 10.30 am BST	The Lighthouses and Lightvessels of the Essex Coast. This talk by Mark Lewis explores the history, people, events and human stories associated with the church lights, daymarks, the screwpile lighthouses at Gunfleet, Maplin Sands and Canvey Island, the lights of Harwich and the many light vessels that guarded the entrance to the River Thames. The important depots at Harwich and Trinity Buoy Wharf in Blackwall, London, where light vessels were maintained and lighthouse keepers were trained, are also discussed.	Online

Familiar Faces in the Society

by Colleen, Editor

On 21st October 2023 Jean-Marc Bazzoni, who joined ESFH in 1992, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Essex Society for Family History in the role of Secretary. I asked Jean-Marc to tell members a little about himself and this is what he wrote:-

I live outside Thorpe-le-Soken on the north Essex coast. We've lived here for the past 20 years, but I grew up in Romford. I was born in a French fishing town where my mother's family have lived since the 1880s and in the surrounding villages since the 1600s. I spent every Easter and summer holiday with my grandparents and, as they didn't speak English, I learnt French very quickly!

I am a retired detective sergeant, having worked for 30 years with both the Metropolitan and Essex police forces. I now work for the NHS.



I started researching my family history in the 1970s when my junior school teacher, Mr Welton, asked us to research and draw our family tree. I can still visualise the A3 family tree that I drew. All my grandparents were alive, as well as one of my great-grandfathers, and I added photographs. I can still remember 'interviewing' my great-grandfather and him telling me about driving armoured cars and using the machine gun at Gallipoli, and meeting King George V and Queen Mary when they visited the factory where he was a mechanic making the new WWI tanks. As a 10-year old I was fascinated with the stories he told me.

A couple of years later I went and found the tenement block where my family had lived for 70+ years. It was all boarded up and ready to be demolished. They lived in Broad Street Station Dwellings and the area is now the Broad Street complex next to Liverpool Street Station. In the mid-1980s I became the police beat officer for the same area. How strange is that?

When I retired in 2016 I studied and gained a Masters Diploma in Family and Local History with the University of Dundee. From this I subsequently joined the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) and the Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG) and started working as a professional genealogist. Being French speaking and having spent many years researching in French archives, I specialise in French research.

I am currently the editor and secretary for the Guild of One-Name Studies having been a member since 1983. I was general secretary of the East of London Family History Society during the mid-1990s and I was also the editor for the RQG Academic Journal from 2019 to 2021.

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On behalf of all our members I wish Jean-Marc every success in his new role at ESFH. Jean-Marc can be contacted at honsec@esfh.org.uk

HATFIELD FOREST.

Y^E VISITORE'S BOKE.

atte y^e

COTTAGE PONDE.

Begone y^e 20th Daye of y^e 9th Monethc MDGCCXCII.



DEBONNAIRE EN GUERRE

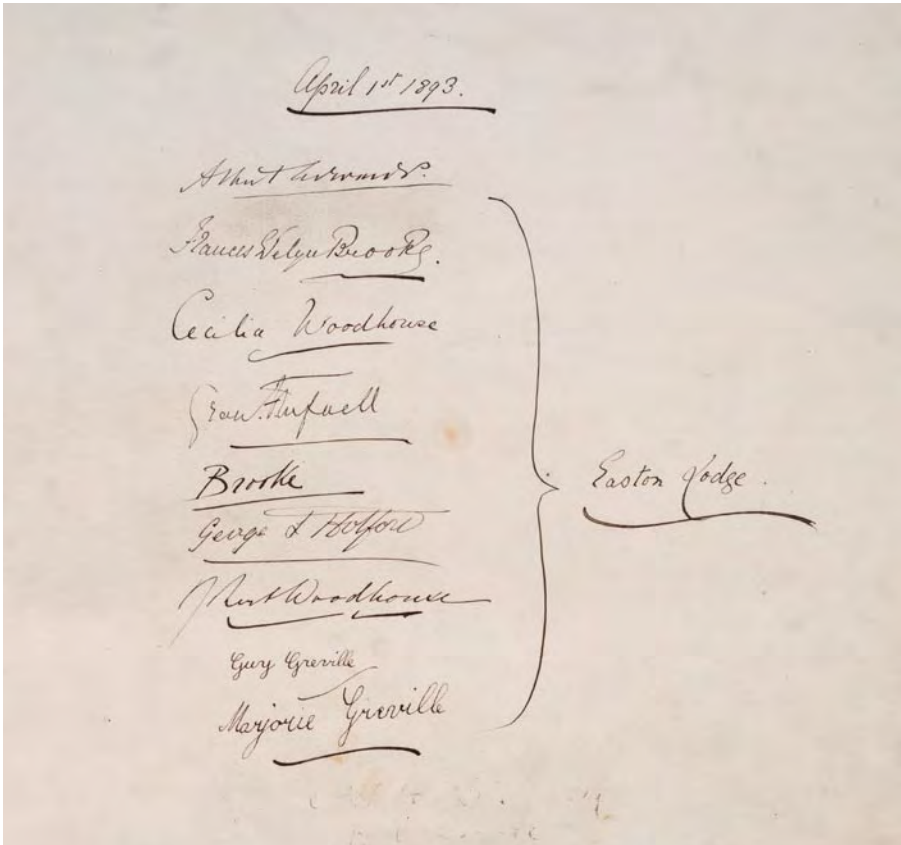
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The Hatfield Forest Visitors' Book 1892 – 1923

by David Simmonds (ESFH 33388)

Hatfield Forest National Nature Reserve, just to the east of Bishop's Stortford, has many delights. One of the more unexpected is the Shell House, built for the Houblon family as a picnic room in the 1750s. Kept within this House is the Visitors' Book started in 1892, probably after the Hallingbury Estate passed to George Archer Houblon and his move to Hallingbury Place from Welford Park in Berkshire. The Book is filled with the names of visitors over the period to 1923, shortly before the Forest was sold and given to the National Trust by Edward North Buxton. A couple of years ago, the Book was donated to the Trust by descendants of the Houblon family and has been conserved and photographed. The Book (or a copy) can generally be seen in the Shell House, which has recently undergone remedial work and is now in pristine condition. This means that the Shell House looks its best for 2024, when the Forest celebrates 100 years of National Trust ownership.



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The Book is large, measuring some 530 x 380 mm (or 21 x 15 inches) about the size of a broadsheet newspaper. There is no indication of which company manufactured the Book or, indeed, if it was made by the family themselves.

As a volunteer at Hatfield Forest, I have long been fascinated by the Book and the first COVID-19 lockdown gave me an opportunity to put the visitors' names into a spreadsheet using photographs that had already been taken. I was able to decipher 3,390 names, with a further 225 unreadable. This built on work previously carried out by other volunteers at the Forest.



SHELL HOUSE HATFIELD FOREST

Visitors came from all parts of society, from across the world

and from many different organisations, such as schools, cycling clubs, churches and nature study groups. The most illustrious was a group from nearby Easton Lodge on 1 April 1893. The party included Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (who became Edward VII in 1901), Frances Evelyn Brooke (better known as Daisy, Countess of Warwick) and her (long suffering!) husband (Lord) Brooke. By contrast, in 1898 there was a visit by 121 inmates of the Bishop's Stortford Workhouse. Many appreciative comments were left and the National Trust hopes that today's visitors enjoy the Forest just as much!

The bulk of the visitors came from Essex and Hertfordshire. Should you know of relations who might have visited the Forest between 1892 and 1923, then please get in touch and I will see if their names are in the Book. I would ideally need their full name and address or initial and address.

I am researching some of those who visited the Forest to find out more about why they visited, how they travelled and what they did during their time at the Forest. Would you like to know more or, perhaps, become involved in this research? If so please contact me at David.Simmons@nationaltrust.org.uk

To find out more about visiting the Forest see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest



DAVID ALFRED AYLEY: THE STORY OF A DECORATED ESSEX SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR

by John Sly (ESFH 10655)



THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVE HEADSTONE FOR PRIVATE DAVID ALFRED AYLEY

An enigmatic war grave in the Essex village of Matching commemorates David Alfred Ayley, 9th Battalion, Essex Regiment, who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and died of wounds in the UK on 10 June 1918. I came across his grave by chance on a country walk (a footpath passes through the churchyard in which Ayley is buried), but it immediately caught my attention because of the unusual headstone arrangement. This has now been changed, as will be explained later in the article.

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin is located at Matching, near Matching Hall, and in the churchyard is a fine and well-maintained war memorial. The first name on the alphabetical list for the Great War is that of D A Ayley, with no qualification. However, in the churchyard is the standard Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstone, named for

the said D A Ayley in the usual fashion: number, rank, name, unit, date of death. Just behind it, propped against a tree, there used to be a second, family, headstone with the following inscription:

'In Loving memory of/ David Alfred Ayley, DCM/ 9th Essex Reg/ the beloved son of/ Charles and Ann Ayley/ Fell in action June 10 1918/ Aged 28 Years./ He was one of the bravest of brave/ For Englands honour his life he gave/ His task fulfilled, his duty done/ All honour due to England's son'.

Obviously, when Ayley was buried in the churchyard it was many months, probably years before his CWGC headstone was put in position. When the CWGC erected its headstone the family stone was removed, but left close by the burial site. At the time of writing this article the family headstone has been removed from the churchyard, the tree has disappeared and the anomalous situation has been regularised.



THE FAMILY HEADSTONE FOR DAVID ALFRED AYLEY

The family headstone recorded 'fell in action', whereas Soldiers Died In The Great War (SDGW) records that David Ayley died of wounds at home. The CWGC record, as usual, does not specify how he lost his life, but records: '*12721 Private David Alfred Ayley DCM, 9/Essex Regiment, died 10 June 1918, son of Charles & Ann Ayley, husband of H E Packer (formerly Ayley) of Brewery Cottage, Doynton, Bristol. Born at Matching, Essex.*' Obviously, his parents knew how he died, and probably used the phrase 'fell in action' in a general sense.

The impressive citation [1] for his Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) was published in the London Gazette: '*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On the enemy raiding one of our front line posts, he, when acting as stretcher bearer, proceeded on his own initiative to the post, where he attended to the wounded. After assisting one of the wounded men back for 300 yards to the support line, he returned through the barrage, and, remaining at the post, dressed the wounds of ten others of the garrison, finally evacuating them successfully. His resource and devotion to duty cannot be too highly praised.*'

Class WO 391 at TNA records not only the DCM citations as they appear in the London Gazette, but also an indication of when and where the award was won. In Ayley's case[2] the annotation recorded that the location of the gallantry was 'S of Armentieres', and the date as '18/19 March 1918'. A search of the war diary for this date[3], however, revealed nothing dramatic: 'Fleurbaix Sector. 18/19 March. Quiet day. Usual shelling of support line & communication trenches'. There are a couple of points of correspondence between the war diary and the citation, and Fleurbaix is south-ish of Armentieres, but I would have expected at least a reference to David Ayley's courage. In contrast, the battalion Great War history written by John William Burrows records: 'The night of 18/19 March was a perfect whirlwind of raid and counter-raid', and although Burrows went on to mention three soldiers of 9/Essex by name, David Ayley was not one of them. It may be of some interest that the war diary for 17 March recorded: 'The enemy again raided F post. At the same time he raided the Bn on our right. We suffered 11 casualties all wounded. He again failed to obtain identification.'[4] This sounded more like the activity described by John Burrows.

So, who was this man? David Ayley (the name seems to be spelt Ayley or Aley, or even Ailey, inconsistently) was born 12 September 1889. His birth certificate records the family name as Aley, and the address where he was born as Matching Green, High Laver; although these are two distinct communities some three and a half kilometres apart, at that time High Laver was the civil parish which included Matching. Also at that time, of course, there were relatively few street names in villages, and house numbers were irrelevant. Even today these communities are relatively small and predominantly rural, but the mix of population now would be rather different from that of 1889. In 1891 the population of Essex was about 367,000;[5] the Matching Green and High Laver communities would have been largely populated by people who worked on the land (David Ayley's father, Charles, was recorded as a farm labourer on the birth certificate).

Unfortunately, no service record has survived for David Ayley, so I have had to rely on other sources to fill in details of his life and death. According to SDGW he was

born at Harlow, and it is quite possible that this is what he said when he enlisted, or what the recruiting officer/clerk wrote down. However, it does illustrate the difficulty for researchers who tend to rely on established sources for their information. SDGW is as near as possible a primary source, and where the data about birthplace and residence is supplied, we tend to accept it as true. It may, of course, be of little consequence to many researchers whether the birthplace of one of their subjects is recorded totally accurately or not; after all, in this case, Harlow (or what is now called Old Harlow to distinguish it from Harlow New Town) is only a couple of miles from Matching, and when Ayley enlisted it would not have been of huge consequence to the authorities what his birthplace was. It would only be important if the authorities needed an address to communicate with his family, and his enlistment form or service record would almost certainly not have been the source of information that would have been used by battalion or brigade headquarters somewhere in France or Flanders. However, accuracy in research is a desirable goal in itself.

Soon after David Ayley was born his family left this rural Essex village, and in the 1891 census the family was at 1 Sherborne Cottages in Edmonton, where Charles Ayley had a job as a gasworks labourer; David Ayley is recorded as having been born in High Laver. By 1901 the family had moved back to Matching Green, where Charles was an agricultural labourer (again). In 1911 both father and son were described as farm labourers, and the family of three was living at Bridge Cottage, on the estate of Down Hall, Matching. Down Hall is now an up-market hotel and management centre, but it has a long history, having been mentioned in the Domesday Book. The house that existed in 1911 was commissioned by Henry Selwin Ibbotson, Lord Rookwood (1826-1902), and owned by Major Horace Calverley. During the Great War it was used for convalescent soldiers^[6].

David Ayley married Hilda Evelyn Smith at St Michael's, the parish church of Bishop's Stortford (just over the Essex border in Hertfordshire) on 14 June 1916. On the marriage certificate he was described as Private, 9th Essex Regiment, and his address was recorded as Matching Green. His bride was living in Bishop's Stortford at the time of the wedding. SDGW records show his residence as Bishop's Stortford when he enlisted, indicating that he and Hilda had accommodation there. His Medal Index Card shows that he was entitled to a 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal (usually referred to as a 1914-15 Star Trio), having embarked with the 9th Battalion on 30 May 1915 (35 Brigade, 12 Eastern Division), landing at Boulogne 31 May. The battalion history mentioned above provides a large amount of circumstantial detail about the story of 9/Essex, but the subject of this article was not mentioned by name in it.

David Ayley died at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley in Hampshire. The cause of death was recorded as gas shell poisoning burns, cellulitis and broncho-pneumonia. His address was given as 44 Old Thorley Road, Bishop's Stortford, presumably the home he had set up with his wife, but the name of this road has since disappeared. (A local historian believes that this may be the road now known as Thorley Lane, but the houses here comprise much later development than would have existed during the Great War.) However, David Ayley is not commemorated on the war memorial in

Bishops Stortford; even though he apparently had an address there, the connection was probably not strong enough, particularly as his widow, the main connection with Bishops Stortford, had re-married in the December quarter of 1919, and moved to Bristol.

Given that David Ayley died of wounds at home it is more difficult to pinpoint the date of his wounding, but there are clues. His primary cause of death, on 10 June 1918, was gas shell poisoning, and John Burrows recorded: '*A platoon of "A" Company was badly affected by gas shells on May 18th...*', and later, on 27 May, after the battalion had been relieved, '*during the march back along the Auchonvillers-Maillet road the Battalion was shelled and a number of gas casualties occurred in "C" Company. Lt. C.T. McCarthy of the US Army, attached as medical Officer to the Battalion, displayed great pluck...*' "*This was the worst gas shell bombardment I have ever experienced*", wrote Captain Barltrop... "*How any of C Company survived is a mystery to me*".^[7] It seems, therefore, safe to assume, that David Ayley was one of the forty-four gas shell casualties of the month, and that he returned to the UK for treatment which was, in the end, unfortunately ineffective.



MATCHING WAR MEMORIAL

This history shows on the one hand how much military material is available for research if the subject has a relatively uncommon name, was awarded a gallantry medal, and died at home, where a full death certificate was available. On the other hand, it implies how relatively little there is if the circumstances were reversed. The fire in the building where the Army service records (and other important documentation) were stored has robbed researchers of a large amount of data that otherwise would have provided important personal information.

Notes

¹ London Gazette 26 June 1918 p 7556

² The National Archives [TNA] WO 391/6 f 362

³ WO 95/1851

⁴ The Essex Regiment, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th and 15th Battalions, John H Burrows & Sons Ltd [no date], p 91

⁵ <http://www.demographia.com/db-seuk1891.pdf>

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Hall

⁷ Burrows *ibid* p 103



CRACKBONES, ANSELL & SONS AND THE RAYMOND FAMILY

by Lynne Raymond (ESFH 33371)



Ansell & Sons Butchers, 5 High Street, Maldon is owned and run by the Raymond family, my husband Derek, me, and our son Paul.

My research started when I casually said to Derek 'I wonder how long the premises has been a butchers'. That one simple question led me on a journey of discovery, not only about the butchers' shop but also to some owners and occupiers of the property and our family history.

CRACKBONES 1377 – 1795

Crackbones, a medieval house, takes its name from John Crackbone, a prominent Maldon inhabitant who represented the town as a Member of Parliament six times between 1377 – 1401. In 1384 he was tax collector for Essex and in Maldon was three times a bailiff, twice a wardman and once a constable. In 1389 he was master of the guild of Holy Trinity in All Saints' church and was named in the 1403 charter from Robert Braybrooke, Bishop of London to the Burgesses of Maldon.

Dr Petchey in his book 'A Prospect of Maldon 1500-1689', describes Crackbones as '*one of the oldest houses at the western end of High Street*' which '*had at its nucleus a building of apparently the fourteenth century, wrapped around two sides of that was a fifteenth century extension with later additions*'.

The use of the name Crackbones led to the discovery of other documents relating to the site.

The next documentary evidence relating to the house is in the 1530s when John Rychemond and his wife Joanne purchased Crackbones from Robert Kyng, clergyman. In 1538 John Rychemond and his wife Joanne '*refused to complete a sale of*



a messuage and land in Maldon, the messuage being called Crackbones. The document describes the property as a 'capital house', which means it was a good, well to do house, larger than the average and with better amenities, not on the level of a mansion house but certainly of high status. John Rychemond was a Maldon bailiff in 1535 and 1536.

In 1614 Roger Bridge of Wickford, tailor, sold Crackbones to Thomas Lawe, gardener. In his will, made in 1642, Thomas Lawe bequeathed *'the house where I now dwell by the name of Crackboans'* to James Lawe and his wife Ann. In the 1670s James and Ann Lawe left the house to their daughter Hannah, wife of John Waters, Messing shoemaker. In August 1675 they conveyed for £80 *'a messuage called Craggbone in All Saints now or of late in the tenure of William Willowe and Thomas Sizer'* to Jasper Waters of Colchester, vintner.

In 1745 a conveyance for the adjoining property, 1-3 High Street, describes Crackbones as *'a messuage and dwelling house of Geo Miles'* and 50 years later, in 1795, Mrs Lawrence was recorded in the land tax accounts as owner and William Jeffries, watch and clockmaker, as occupier.

WILLIAM RAYMOND AND FAMILY AT CRACKBONES 1796 – 1826

By 1796 William Raymond became owner and occupier and opened a butcher's shop. In 1793 he had been living in London and on Wednesday 13th March married Sarah Smith of Maldon, at St. Botolph without Aldgate Church, the daughter of Thomas and Hannah Smith, who owned and lived at what is now 36 High Street, Maldon.

They had fourteen children, all baptised in All Saints' Church. Three of the sons who survived to adulthood, John Smith Raymond, Thomas Raymond and Joseph Henry Raymond went on to become butchers in Maldon.

In 1811 William Raymond became a Freeman of Maldon and died on 10 September the following year aged 47, his obituary in the Chelmsford Chronicle records, *'On Thursday the 10th instant, Mr William Raymond, butcher of Maldon, leaving a wife and eleven children to lament his loss'*.

He was buried in All Saints' Churchyard on 17th September 1812 in a brick grave, 6ft deep.



The Raymond Tomb is Grade 11 listed, it is a casket form with a headstone bearing an inscription, surmounted by willow and urn relief, with a serpent eating its own tail.

In *English Churchyard Memorials* by Frederick Burgess, it says *'it was customary in Essex and Hertfordshire to link head*

and footstones with a coffin shape, sometimes deliberately mimetic, as at Maldon (Essex), where the monument to William Raymond, 1812, is equipped with alternate paterae and handles.'

In his will made July 1812, and codicil added just ten days before he died, William Raymond alias Lingard, instructed that the butcher's business was to continue with the benefits to his wife and children and after Sarah's death the property was to be sold and the proceeds shared equally between the children.

Sarah continued with the business, bringing up the eleven remaining children, who when their father died were aged between 1 and 16, she died on 20th December 1826 and was buried in the Raymond tomb with William. The inscription on the grave reads:

'In memory of William Lingard Raymond who died September 10th 1812 aged 47 – Also Sarah wife of the above who died December 20th 1826 aged 57 years.'

The house, butcher's shop, slaughterhouse, outbuildings, and land were sold on behalf of the eight surviving children. The three sons who were butchers continued their trade in other shops in Maldon. The other son William was a wine merchant in London. In 1827 the eldest daughter Sarah, married Samuel Theobald. A few years later, the youngest girl, Caroline, married James Bennell and the two unmarried sisters, Mary, and Louisa, lived with Caroline's family.

BUTCHERS AT CRACKBONES 1796 - 1826

WILLIAM RAYMOND (1796-1812)

SARAH RAYMOND (1796-1826)

JOHN SMITH RAYMOND

THOMAS RAYMOND

JOSEPH HENRY RAYMOND

BUTCHERS AT CRACKBONES 1826 – 1927

After the sale, Crackbones continued as a butcher's shop.

BUTCHERS AT CRACKBONES 1826 - 1927

ROBERT JOSIAH CRANEIS (1826-1832)

RICHARD LAMB Snr (1832-1855)

RICHARD LAMB Jnr (1855-1858)

WILLIAM WRIGHT (1858-1889)

EORGE W HANDLEY (1889-1894)

NORRIS BLAXALL (1894-1898)

WILLIAM FIRMIN (1898-1920)

MALDON & HEYBRIDGE CO-OP (1920-1927)

The building was listed in the early 1920s by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, described as a two-storey brick and plastered timber framed building. By this time the property became known as 5 High Street.



LEONARD AND ALBERT ANSELL - BUTCHERS 5 HIGH STREET

LEONARD M ANSELL (1928-1951)

ALBERT ANSELL (1928-1965)

In 1928 Leonard Ansell and his son Albert leased the premises from William Firmin and purchased it in 1949. Leonard died in 1951 and Albert continued with the business. By the late 1950s the house and shop were in a dangerous condition, the timbers crumbling and beyond repair and permission was given to demolish the property. The butchers shop continued to trade throughout the rebuilding. Albert retired to live in Malta in the mid-1960s.

SIDNEY, DEREK, AND PAUL RAYMOND



In the early 1930s, Sidney Raymond, aged 13, began working for the Ansell family as a butcher's boy, his son Derek started full time as a butcher in 1963 and together purchased the shop and business from Albert Ansell after his retirement. Paul joined his father Derek and grandfather Sidney, firstly as a butcher's assistant whilst at college and then as a full-time butcher in 1993.

BUTCHERS 5 HIGH STREET

SIDNEY RAYMOND (1933-1993)

DEREK RAYMOND (SINCE 1963)

PAUL RAYMOND (SINCE 1993)

RAYMOND (RAYMENT) FAMILY CONNECTION

Information from parish registers and wills proved a direct male line from William, the founder of the butcher's shop to Sidney, Derek, his sons Paul and

James and their sons, making eight generations of the Raymond family in Maldon, five of the generations being butchers at Crackbones. Sidney's grandfather, Joseph, had been a mariner and his father, Henry, who died aged 40, a furnaceman.

But where had William Raymond been born? His gravestone reveals he had been born in 1764, documents show he was living in London in 1793, had been a butcher in Maldon from 1796 to 1812. His will and gravestone give him two surnames, Raymond and Lingard, perhaps he was illegitimate?

Research led to the wills of two butchers both named Nathaniel Raymond, one in Pleshey in 1680, the other in Roxwell in 1703. Parish registers revealed a direct family line of five generations, all with the name Nathaniel Raymond, in Pleshey from about 1640 to 1797 in Roxwell, they were all butchers.

The discovery of this baptism entry in the Roxwell parish register opened a new line of research.

14th October 1764 'William son of Nathaniel Raymond and Judith Lingard'

Right date, right names, right trade for father, but how to prove this was the William who became a butcher in Maldon?

Details in a family history group for the Rayment/Raymond surnames, showed that a member by the name of David Rayment had in his family tree the five Nathaniel's from Pleshey and Roxwell with proven documentation. The fifth Nathaniel Raymond and his wife Ann had had four daughters, sadly all died as infants. Was it possible that William was the illegitimate son of this Nathaniel Raymond and Judith Lingard, a young single woman from Roxwell, who died two years after William's birth?

Proof came in 2009 following DNA tests taken by Derek Raymond and David Rayment which revealed they were descended from the same ancestors. This being the case a combination of modern technology and documentary evidence had proved the family descent from Pleshey and Roxwell, through to the present-day Raymond family in Maldon. Ten of the twelve generations being butchers.

1. Nathaniel Raymond, Pleshey butcher d.1680
2. Nathaniel Raymond, Pleshey butcher 1656-1703
3. Nathaniel Raymond, Pleshey butcher d.1743
4. Nathaniel Raymond, Roxwell butcher d.1797
5. Nathaniel Raymond, Roxwell butcher 1735-1783
6. William Lingard Raymond, Maldon butcher 1764-1812
7. Joseph Henry Raymond, Maldon butcher 1804-1866
8. Joseph Henry Raymond, Maldon mariner 1856-1940
9. Henry James Raymond, Maldon furnaceman 1881-1921
10. Sidney Joseph Raymond, Maldon butcher 1918-1993
11. Derek Sidney Raymond, Maldon butcher b.1947
12. Paul Derek Raymond, Maldon butcher b.1977

Note

My father-in-law Sidney Raymond was orphaned aged eight and had lived a few doors away from Crackbones and by chance went to work with the Ansell family as a butcher. He knew very little about his family and sadly died before I carried out this research.

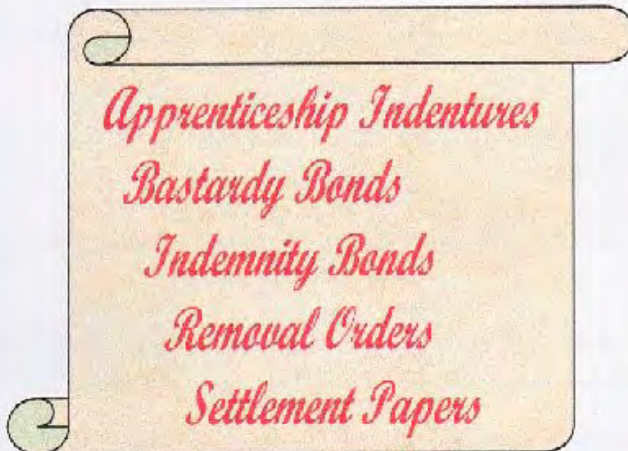
Although the old timber structure called 'Crackbones' has disappeared, it does not detract from the documentary and social history of the site. Our family feel very proud that Crackbones, Ansell Butchers and the Raymond's play a small part in Maldon's history.

☆ ☆ ☆

SEE IF YOUR ANCESTORS ARE LISTED

The Essex Poor Law Indexes are now available in the Members' Area of our website thanks to the hard work of transcribing by the former North West Essex Branch

ESSEX Poor Law Indexes



**All entries with Essex Record Office references
for your further investigation**

1574 - 1895

31,371 Records

Breakfast Time

by Ann Turner (ESFH 1365)

What did you have for breakfast today? Was it any of the Kellogg's brand of breakfast cereals and did you know there is an Essex connection?

William Keith Kellogg 1860-1951, was born in Battle Creek, Michigan. He started out selling brooms in Battle Creek but moved to Dallas, Texas to run the broom making factory there. Six years later he returned to Battle Creek to help his brother, Dr. John Kellogg run his sanatorium. It was a pioneering institute building on the health principles of the Seventh Day Adventist Church of which they were both members.

The church practised vegetarianism. Part of the treatment for patients at the sanatorium was hydrotherapy, phototherapy, thermotherapy, electrotherapy, mecanotherapy, dietary, physical culture, cold air cure, eugenics and health training.

The brothers experimented with various foods for their patients' diets and corn flakes were produced by accident. One day they were experimenting with a wheat dough but John was called away to perform an operation. When they returned next day, the dough had dried out and they decided to put it through a system of rollers. Individual flakes resulted which they baked and served to their patients. Former patients began requesting the popular flakes and they were distributed by mail order. The business expanded and they started to make the new flakes just from corn kernels later adding malt for flavour.

W. K. Kellogg wanted the process kept secret but his brother John allowed anyone in the sanatorium to see the process of making corn flakes. One sanatorium guest was C. W. Post who copied the process to start his own company that became Post Cereals and later the General Food Company. It made Post a millionaire which upset Kellogg and he left the sanatorium to set up his own company.

Will and his brother had already set up the Sanitas Food Company to promote the production of their whole grain cereals but they had another falling out over Will's wish to add sugar to their products and in 1906 he set up the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Company which later became the Kellogg Company.

There were a lot of cereal food companies being set up in Battle Creek and Kellogg had his signature on every one of his cereal packets to identify it and he included the words, "the original". His company was the first to put nutritional labels on the food packaging and also offered the first 'inside the box' prizes for children. In 1930 he established the W. K. Kellogg foundation donating \$66 million to it. He said, "I will invest my money in people".

In old age he lost his sight and had a guide dog that he called Rinson. He was the son of Rin Tin Tin a dog that had appeared in many early Hollywood films.

So what is the connection to Essex?

The first member of the family to emigrate to America was Joseph Kellogg born 1626 at Great Leighs, Essex. He died in 1707 in Connecticut. The family can be traced back to Nicholas Kellogg born in 1458 at Debden. He married Alice Phillippa Audley,

born 1458 in Wiltshire. Other members of the family can be traced to Braintree, Chelmsford, Bishops Stortford, Bocking and Black Notley.

William Keith Kellogg is my 16th cousin 6 times removed. Our common great grandparents are Ralph de Stafford 1301-1373 and Margaret de Audley 1303-1347

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Instagram: instagram.com/essexsocietyforfamilyhistory

X (Twitter): x.com/EssexSfh?s=20

Website: www.esfh.org.uk/

Marriage Records added to the Genealogy Database

Parish	Church	Period Covered	No. of Records
Abbess Roding	St Edmund	1790-1812	214
Abbess Roding	St Edmund	1852-1937	110
Aythorpe Roding	St Mary	1755-1937	306
Barnston	St Andrew	1754-1812	90
Beauchamp Roding	St Botolph	1754-1836	111
Berners Roding	All Saints	1756-1938	107
Bobbingworth	St Germain	1755-1936	323
Broxted	St Mary the Virgin	1755-1812	236
Broxted	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1938	320
Buckhurst Hill	St John the Baptist	1851-1939	1465
Chickney	St Mary the Virgin	1698-1812	74
Chickney	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1865	9
Chigwell Row	All Saints	1867-1938	297
Chigwell	St Mary the Virgin	1754-1812	398
Chigwell	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1935	701
Chingford	St Peter & St Paul	1813-1939	2642
Chipping Ongar	St Martin of Tours	1754-1935	575
Fyfield	St Nicholas	1733-1936	545
Good Easter	St Andrew	1754-1812	196
Good Easter	St Andrew	1852-1939	306
Great Canfield	St Mary	1657-1710	287
Great Canfield	St Mary	1852-1936	159
Great Hallingbury	St Giles	1689-1932	909
Greenstead juxta Ongar	St Andrew	1631-1812	142
Hatfield Broad Oak	St Mary the Virgin	1754-1935	1371
High Beach	Holy Innocents	1884-1934	188
High Beach	St Paul	1852-1877	42
High Laver	All Saints	1616-1837	415
High Ongar	St Mary the Virgin	1743-1921	976
Matching	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1932	289
Nazeing	All Saints	1838-1939	454
North Weald Basset	St Andrew	1737-1933	934
Theydon Garnon	All Saints	1754-1939	813
Theydon Bois	St Mary	1713-1836	158
Waltham Holy Cross	St Lawrence & Holy Cross	1713-1940	4538

Marriage Records added to the Genealogy Database

Parish	Church	Period Covered	No.of Records
Great Dunmow	St Mary the Virgin	1711-1812	1283
Great Dunmow	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1926	795
Great Easton	St John & St Giles	1699-1812	360
Great Easton	St John & St Giles	1854-1939	366
High Roding	All Saints	1754-1938	475
Kelvedon Hatch	St Nicholas	1755-1812	109
Kelvedon Hatch	St Nicholas	1854-1938	156
Lambourne	St Mary & All Saints	1710-1812	226
Lambourne	St Mary & All Saints	1838-1937	460
Leaden Roding	St Michael	1693-1811	109
Leaden Roding	St Michael	1852-1939	95
Little Canfield	All Saints	1729-1812	125
Little Canfield	All Saints	1852-1938	160
Little Dunmow	St Mary the Virgin	1754-1812	125
Little Dunmow	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1943	183
Little Easton	St Mary the Virgin	1754-1810	90
Little Easton	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1932	153
Little Laver	St Mary the Virgin	1541-1838	206
Loughton	St John the Baptist	1734-1812	260
Loughton	St John the Baptist	1852-1892	418
Loughton	St Mary the Virgin	1887-1909	250
Magdalen Laver	St Mary Magdalen	1632-1836	265
Margaret Roding	St Margaret	1754-1939	251
Mashbury	The Parish Church	1756-1804	44
Mashbury	The Parish Church	1852-1937	85
Moreton	St Mary the Virgin	1645-1812	386
Moreton	St Mary the Virgin	1837-1934	238
Navestock	St Thomas the Apostle	1741-1806	254
Navestock	St Thomas the Apostle	1852-1936	380
Norton Mandeville	All Saints	1779-1811	16
Norton Mandeville	All Saints	1852-1927	72
Pleshey	Holy Trinity	1754-1812	133
Pleshey	Holy Trinity	1852-1939	159
Shelley	St Peter	1720-1812	101
Shelley	St Peter	1853-1935	110
Shellow Bowells	St Peter & St Paul	1700-1926	133
Stanford Rivers	St Margaret	1754-1812	239
Stanford Rivers	St Margaret	1852-1938	416
Stapleford Abbots	St Mary the Virgin	1766-1812	107
Stapleford Tawney	St Mary the Virgin	1756-1812	100
Stapleford Tawney	St Mary the Virgin	1852-1939	110
Stondon Massey	St Peter & St Paul	1754-1812	103
Stondon Massey	St Peter & St Paul	1852-1938	124
Theydon Mount	St Michael	1755-1810	63
Theydon Mount	St Michael	1852-1937	81
White Roding	St Martin	1754-1840	238
Willingale Doe	St Christopher	1705-1938	518
Willingale Spain	St Andrew	1701-1926	223

The Blackest Streets – the Life and Death of a Victorian Slum

by Sara Wise

Book Review by Michael Furlong (ESFH 7506)

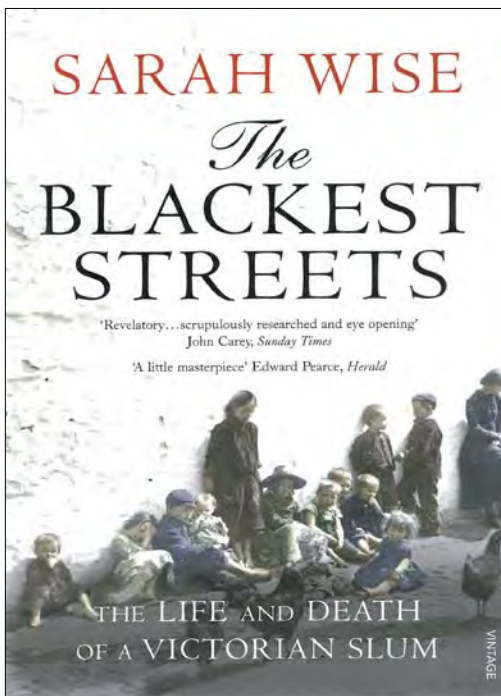
Although first published a number of years ago, I feel this book is such a valuable source of information for family historians, that I wanted to write a review to bring it to the attention of fellow members, especially those who had ancestors in London in the late 19th century.

The book uses the area of Old Nichol, a Victorian East End slum, as a framework for describing and exploring life in a London city district. Old Nicol was located in between High Street Shoreditch and Hackney Road in the north and Spitalfields in the south. Almost 6000 people were crammed into thirty or so streets of permanently soggy and rotten dwellings. Nicol stood at the western boundary of Bethnal Green, another poor East London parish. The annual mortality rate in the late 1880's was 40 per 1000 whilst that of Bethnal Green

was 22 or 23 per 1000. The area was inhabited by vermin “there were more rats than people”. In one instance Sarah Wise quotes the death of a 6-month-old baby who was killed when the ceiling fell down on him. In the 1880s the average number of Londoners dying each year of starvation was 45 and roughly 200 people were found dead in the street.

Although the area in question was being developed from the middle of the 17th century, by 1836 fifteen acres had been built upon or re-built, but over the next 50 years the back yards and open spaces were swallowed up in a shanty development of illegal courts, small houses and workshops. Additionally, many animals lived there often sharing the same room as the family, so stables, cowsheds, donkey stalls and ‘a vast pigeon loft’ appeared alongside peoples’ dwellings. A family of six bred terrier dogs to make a little money and they all shared a single room.

The author has spent much time researching and collating information from many sources in her quest to capture the essence of families struggling to exist in an



unforgiving society that was Great Britain, in a period when it was considered the most powerful and wealthy country on earth. Imagine “a world leached of colour” and “walking down a passage so narrow they had to turn sideways and move crabwise”.

Sarah Wise sets out to analyse and evaluate the reasons for slum existence in such a “rich” city before explaining in detail many of the social and political pressures that were brought to bear before anything was done about clearing and rebuilding the area. During this process she delves into old records and archives including oral history, whilst endeavouring to unravel what makes such a close-knit community function against all the odds.

At times the book is so crammed with information it becomes almost an academic study but what she has covered is important in understanding the cultural and historic forces existing at the time. She devotes much space to Charles Booth and his now famous Poverty Map. Indeed, it is he who pens the phrase “blackest streets” (Lowest Class-Vicious, Semi Criminal). She also goes into great detail about the anarchists’ activity, “do-gooders” and socialites, not all who actually achieved much in helping the poor of London.

One of the most interesting aspects of her research was the identification of the largest ‘slumlords’ (a slang term for a slum landlord) of Victorian London (or even Britain). These landlords included The Duke of Westminster and the Church of England. Owning slums was a very lucrative business, the returns on capital were eye watering as often no maintenance was carried out on the properties and families of ten living in one room was not unusual.

Both the establishment of the London County Council and the founding of the NSPCC are well covered.

At the end of this well written and researched book Sara provides the reader with extensive appendices and notes with more than 30 pages of additional data to digest. Excluding the bibliography, the tome comprises of 314 pages with several black and white illustrations and although first published in 2008, second hand copies are still available for as little as £2.99 plus postage.

☆ ☆ ☆

Note from Colleen, Editor.

I have another book to recommend by this author which sits on my book shelves called ‘The Italian Boy’ which is about Murder and Grave Robbery in 1830s London, which was Sara’s first book. Not only does it tell the story of body snatchers that were put on trial for supplying the anatomy schools of London with fresh bodies for dissection but she details the lives of ordinary lower-class Londoners.

Sara has an extensive website detailing much about old London and her dissertation entitled ‘Labyrinthine London’ is well worth a read. See www.sarahwise.co.uk

A Hue And Cry

by Toni Neobard (ESFH 32898)



I am sure that the scene that Herbert John Patten, carpenter, stumbled upon during the afternoon of Sunday 16th April 1893 was one that he never forgot until his dying day. Herbert had been coming from Hazeleigh Hall, near Maldon when he saw a quantity of blood close to Hazeleigh Wood. There in the ditch was the dead body of a male. It must have been a gruesome sight, for the head of the corpse was much beaten and his throat had been slashed from ear to ear. This was shocking in itself, but what elevated it above other similar happenings, was that this body was in uniform for it was that of local Police Sergeant, 37-year-old Adam John Eves.



SERGEANT EVES

Lying just a few yards away was the police helmet of Sergeant Eves. Nearby there were three sacks full of corn, and a trail of grain led to a further three bags concealed in an adjacent pond.

This heinous crime rocked the quiet Essex community and sent shockwaves through the country. Sergeant Eves, a devoted servant of the law was murdered whilst in the line of duty, leaving behind a trail of questions, suspicions and heartbreak.

Sergeant Eves was last seen alive at about ten o'clock in the nearby Royal Oak pub on the Saturday night, when he had been on night duty. He'd called in at the pub to speak to the landlord to ask him to post a reward

notice concerning the poisoning of rooks in the district. His wife, Elizabeth wasn't too worried when he failed to return from duty around midnight. When she awoke on Sunday morning, she thought perhaps he'd been involved with a fire in the area. But as the day went on, she got more bothered by his absence.

The alarm was raised by Herbert Pattern. As it happened Police Inspector Pryke from Maldon was already close at hand. He'd been making enquiries and interviewing farmer Edward Fitch about 13 bushels of corn that had been stolen from his farm (Hazeleigh Hall Farm) the night before. The farm was adjacent to the murder scene, and it didn't take long for the constabulary to put two and two together and establish that the wheat found near to the body was connected to the theft from the farm.

The Bell Inn at Purleigh became the Incident Room. The investigation concluded that Sergeant Eves had encountered at least three men carrying the sacks of corn and challenged them. The men then set upon him and rendered him insensible by beating him about the head. They realised that if they left him alive then he would identify them, so this sealed his fate. It was said that he must have been taken unawares for his truncheon was still in his pocket and hadn't been drawn.

One clue to the potential perpetrators was the wheel marks in the grass between the scene and some nearby cottages. Outside one of the houses was a hand cart which contained traces of blood. It was the home of Richard "Bricksey" Davis (30). Within a day four suspects had been rounded up and arrested. They were, Richard Davis, his brother John Davis (34), Charles Sale (47) and John Bateman (37). All local, these four men were described as "powerful" and were known petty criminals with convictions for theft and poaching. They'd also all recently been working at Hazeleigh Hall Farm threshing the corn. There was further damning evidence as blood was found on their clothes as well as on concealed bags of wheat.

A couple of days later a villager, Thomas Choat went to the police. He stated that another villager, James Ramsey (38) and his 15-year-old son, John, were also involved. Choat said that he heard James Ramsey make threats against Sergeant Eves in the past and, on the Monday after the murder, James had arrived at work with different clothes on. A search of the Ramsey home turned up a pair of blood-soaked trousers and wheat sacks concealed under a mattress. This led to the arrest of the father and son.

All were remanded in custody and held at Chelmsford Prison. However, the case against John Bateman and the 15-year-old John Ramsey was dropped as a result of insufficient evidence. The case went to trial on the 3rd August 1893 at the Assize Court in Chelmsford. All four prisoners pleaded "not guilty". The case against Sale was dismissed soon after the trial started. Then the jury spent an hour and twenty minutes deliberating. The jury found James Ramsey "not guilty", but both of the Davis brothers "guilty".

The judge donned his black cap and pronounced sentence of death. John Davis accepted his fate, but his brother Richard appealed, and was reprieved, although sentenced to life imprisonment. John was hanged at Chelmsford Gaol on August 16th 1893.

At a later trial in 1893 James Ramsey was charged with stealing the corn. Ramsey's evidence placed him at the scene of the crime. The jury found Ramsey guilty without leaving the box. His sentence was 14 years penal servitude.

The funeral for Sergeant Eves took place a week after the murder. It was attended by the Chief Constable and over 150 members of the Force. The route to Purleigh church was lined by villagers. His wife Elizabeth was given the maximum pension (£15 p.a.) and the public raised £400. There is a headstone for him in the churchyard, on which his fellow officers pay tribute to his bravery.

I was told that the family of the perpetrators continued to live in the village and their descendants do so to this day. I wonder how that must have been for the families concerned after the murder, not an easy thing to live with, I'm sure.

Information drawn from various newspaper reports as well as Police History Notebook Number 1. With thanks to Fred Feather, former Essex Police Museum curator.



☆ ☆ ☆

Essex Heritage in Danger

by Colleen, Editor

Are you aware of the organisation Save Britain's Heritage <https://www.savebritainsh heritage.org> ?

They are an independent voice in conservation that fights for threatened historic buildings and sustainable reuse. They stand apart from other organisations by bringing together architects, engineers, planners and investors to offer viable alternative proposals.

They produce an at-risk register on a regular basis and in the middle of this year they reported three Essex Grade II buildings that were in danger – one being Parndon Hall (see page 33). They highlighted two other buildings in the county which were a late 16th century house located in Bridge Street in Saffron Walden and Rood End House in Great Dunmow. Other properties on their at-risk list include 5, The Esplanade, Frinton-on-Sea, 7,8 and 13 Royal Terrace Southend-on-Sea, 17 and 18 East Street Colchester and others in Essex.

Any of these building could have been lived in by your ancestors so why not visit their website and find out how you can help this charity.

Essex Buildings at Risk

Parndon Hall Harlow

Grade II Listed, Entry Number: 1111714

by Pauline Hockley

Some of you who live in the Harlow area may be aware of Parndon Hall, which stands in the grounds of The Princess Alexandra Hospital, Hamstel Road, Harlow. It was left in the middle of Frederick Gibberd's New Town as part of his Master Plan hoping that new uses would be found for the old manor houses. Since 1953 it has been a school, offices and the training facilities and library for the hospital Trust.

Parndon Hall was built in 1867 as a family home for Loftus Wigram Arkwright, his wife Elizabeth and their son Loftus Joseph. Loftus Wigram was the great grandson of Sir Richard Arkwright the inventor of the first water powered mechanism for spinning cotton. Arkwright's factory system is considered a forerunner of the British Industrial Revolution. His great wealth and that of his son enabled their heirs to become owners of land across England, which included the Mark Hall estate in Essex. This estate and further acquisitions in the surrounding area resulted in the vicar of St Mary at Latton, Joseph Arkwright (1791-1864) becoming one of the largest landowners in Essex. These estates were left to Loftus Wigram Arkwright who retained the family's wealth, leaving his sisters in the family home at Mark Hall and thus needing to build a home for himself and his new family.



ELIZABETH ARKWRIGHT

Local historian, Hazel Lake wrote a wonderful book – ‘The Arkwrights in Harlow’, describing the rise and fall of a very wealthy family's fortunes. Now that the house is in a state of disrepair and has been mothballed, we are unable to see the remarkable feature of the house, which is the painted decorative schemes undertaken by Elizabeth Arkwright, née Reynolds (1829-1889). In the Entrance Hall are four panels depicting scantily draped nudes and on the high ceiling at the top of the staircase are another four panels of nudes who, thinly draped and garlanded depict the four seasons. Around the deep cove runs a Bacchanalia of all female nude figures at a banquet, together with dancers and musicians. Below is a frieze of figures – mostly children wearing 18th century costume, including hunters and dogs, apparently incorporating portraits of members of the Arkwright family. On the landing are further



The Arkwrights and Harlow

Hazel Lake



paintings where native species of British birds and animals are depicted in natural settings on the oak pillars. Whilst children and animals were the usual subject matter of female artists of the nineteenth century, it is unusual that the passive, relaxed nudes that Elizabeth painted were seen in a family home. She had formerly run the family equestrian business in Brompton, London and was a famous horsewoman in her time.

On the Ground Floor is the former Ballroom, the door of which has horses and ponies painted by Elizabeth. This room was lined with mirrors above the dado; the ceiling here has a painted decoration with a garland of closely painted flowers and a ring of putti around the central rose. On the ceiling of the window bay is an arabesque of three distinct nudes surrounded by dancing small nude children and putti set against vivid golden rays of a bright

sun. This painting has been covered over by rough boarding on a scaffold type structure.

A door leads to what was formerly Loftus's study, which has further paintings of children in costume on oak panels beneath the window. Panels on the door are painted with likenesses of family children in contemporary clothes at the seaside.



THE ESSEX HUNT AT PARNDON HALL CIRCA 1949

On Loftus and Elizabeth's deaths, Loftus Joseph moved out of Parndon Hall and rented the house out and went to live in the nearby farmhouse. Around this time the ceiling paintings were painted over. The wealth of the Arkwright family continued to grow and Loftus also rented out Mark Hall to an American family moving out his maiden aunts. Loftus junior married Julia Caldwell the daughter living in Mark Hall - his American heiress. They moved into Parndon Hall and had three sons, but the marriage ended in divorce, with Julia citing cruelty and Loftus's infidelity.

The last surviving member of the Arkwright dynasty was Loftus's estranged son Godfrey, who inherited Parndon Hall in 1950. But, with the coming of Harlow New Town, the house was compulsorily purchased and Godfrey had to move out, dying just a few years later.

Godfrey's son John visited his former home on a number of occasions and during his last visit was able to map out how the house had been used during his time living there. This plan is still clearly visible in the layout of the house with no major re-modelling having occurred since the house was built in 1867. The original plumbing is still visible. Electricity was installed in the early 1950s when the house was re-purposed as a school.

The unique house and its family history constitute an important part of the local heritage of Harlow. It would be terrible to think that it may fall into disrepair and be lost forever.



PARNDON HALL IN 2013

Hannah Lake – A Founding Mother of America

by Ken Porter (ESFH 167)

On 31st March 2023 the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Todhurst and party unveiled a blue plaque at Wickford Library in honour of Hannah Lake. A surprise awaited her and her party when one of the senior library assistants, Sarah Weeks-Jones informed those gathered that she was a descendant of Hannah Lake!

Here is Hannah's story: -

In the seventeenth century, the counties of Essex and Suffolk were a hotbed of Puritans, created because of poor economic conditions, social stresses, religious and political turmoil that was plaguing England at the time. These problems motivated almost 400,000 people to leave British shores for the colonies in America.

Most people would have heard of the story of Christopher Martin of Great Burstead and the ship "*Mayflower*" who sailed to America in 1620, landed in the area of Cape Cod and established a colony naming it Plymouth.



Then ten years later in 1630, following the dissolving of parliament by King Charles I, and with the worsening economic condition, many Puritan leaders decided to establish a godly colony in the "New World." This colony would provide the economic and social security the Puritans craved but could not attain in England.

Over the next ten years, over 20,000 English men, women and children sailed to the new Massachusetts Bay Colony in what became known as the "Great Migration". Many of the Puritans were men of authority and of considerable wealth, however, they did not intend to sever their connection with the existing Church of England but to reform the existing church by modelling communities in New England.

Fifteen-year-old Hannah Lake, with her mother Margaret (née Reade), sister Martha, brother Thomas, aunt Elizabeth Winthrop (née Reade) and uncle John Winthrop Jr. sailed in the ship "*Abigail*" to Massachusetts, arriving on 6 October 1635.

Hannah's grandfather was Edmund Reade (Colonel) who was baptised in Wickford on 23rd May 1563 and married Elizabeth (née Cooke) at Pebmarsh, Essex in 1594 following the death of his first wife Thomasin Wallenger, who died in Wickford in 1592. Edmund held a considerable amount of land in the Wickford and surrounding area and his ancestry can be traced back in the area to at least the 1400's. Although of minor gentry he was obviously a fairly wealthy man and this is borne out by his will of 1623; for example he gave twenty shillings to the poor of Wickford, five pounds to

his servant John Weald and two shillings to his other servants. Most of his land etc. went to his eldest son William but he made sure that the rest of his children were well catered for. He died on 1st December 1623 aged 60 and is buried in Wickford.

The land these settlers occupied in New England was the tribal homeland of native Indians. Where Hannah and her family landed was the homeland of the Wampanoag Indians. By 1637 the Massachusetts Bay Colony had conquered the various tribes in particular the Pequot Indians. John Winthrop Jr. was given substantial lands, when he later visited his lands, Margaret Lake joined him and assumingly her daughters went with them, believed to be the first women to set foot in the area that later became known as New England.

It is not really known the reason why Margaret left England, did she want to pursue her Puritan beliefs? had there been a family rift? but whatever the reason, she still tried to keep in touch with her husband John Lake. Her step-father, Rev. Hugh Peters, wrote from London to John Winthrop Jr. in 1654 to say "*John Lake is alive and lusty*" and again in 1657 saying "*John Lake lives still,*" though he died four years later.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH NORTH BENFLEET

Hannah was baptised at North Benfleet's All Saints' Church on 3 July 1621. The Lake family were yeoman farmers and had been for generations. Hannah's grandfather, John Lake Sr., served as juror for Barstable Hundred in the year of the Armada, 1588. John Lake Jr. owned lands in Nevendon and Basildon through his mother Elizabeth Sandel and later addition lands in Wickford and Rawreth, the dowry of his wife Margaret Reade, whom he married when she was eighteen and he twenty-six. John Lake Jr. had inherited Fanton Hall from his father, where Hannah would have spent much of her childhood.

The Lakes as landowners were reasonably wealthy so it was very brave of Margaret to leave a comfortable life in England with her daughters to journey basically to the unknown. Fortunately, they had the protection of her brother-in-law, John Wintrop Jr. who was to become Governor of Connecticut.



FANTON HALL

Hannah, her mother and sister were to live with the Winthrop's until Hannah and Martha married. Hannah was twenty-two when she married John Gallop in 1643 in John Winthrop's Jr. house in Boston. By marrying John Gallop, she became part of a famous frontier family whose contribution to the early colonisation of Boston was invaluable.

Hannah's father-in-law, John Gallop Sr. had arrived in the New World on the ship '*Mary & John*' in 1630, he soon became the owner of a house and a wharf, which later became known as Gallop's Point, Boston.

John Gallop fought in many of the frontier wars. Even today the citizens of the New England States consider him to have been a brave man. Following their marriage they moved from Boston to Taunton, part of the Plymouth colony, where the first of their ten children were born.

John Gallop in 1651, following his father's death inherited land granted by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to veterans of the Pequot Wars. Then in 1654 they moved with three of their children and settled on 300 acres of land given to them on the east bank of the Mystic River, preferring to make it their main dwelling place as it offered John a protected anchorage for his seafaring activities as well as good land for farming. This all sounds very idyllic, but frontier life was hard; Hannah would have had to be physically strong to survive childbearing and mentally strong to cope with isolation and uncertainty. When the menfolk were away it was up to the wives to manage the homestead and at times defend it and Hannah would have been left alone for long periods while her husband was away fighting wars, leading supply wagons on trading expeditions and we must not forget the wolves which were a real

danger.

However, they prospered and were awarded several more land grants. Hannah went on to produce seven more children. At the age of sixty John Jr. fought in the King Philip's War of 1675-76 which raged through the towns and villages of New England. He had taken command of the First Company of Connecticut regiment and during the Great Swamp Fight on 19 December 1676, he lost his life when storming Narragansett Fortress and was buried at nearby Wickford in a mass grave near the battlefield.



JOHN GALLUP MEMORIAL

Two of Hannah's sons, John and William, also fought in the King Philip's War, continuing a tradition that would see her grandsons, great-grandsons and great-great grandsons fight in the War of Independence and the American Civil War. Hannah's daughters also inherited their mother's

fortitude, helping to carve out the American nation as it is today.

Hannah is buried in White Hall Graveyard, Mystic, on Rhode Island. She died a respected and wealthy woman, whose descendants include: Calvin Coolidge, 30th U.S. President, 1st cousin 8 times removed, Robert Frost, Poet and Playwright, 1st cousin 8 times removed, Lucretia (Rudolph) Garfield, First Lady of President James Garfield, 4th great-granddaughter, Jane (Appleton) Pierce, First Lady of President Franklin Pierce, 1st cousin 5 times removed, Emily Dickinson, American Poet, 5th great-granddaughter, Carole Lombard, Movie Actress, 1st cousin 10 times removed, Ex-Presidents George H.W. Bush, 7th great-grandson and George W. Bush, 8th great-grandson.

Hannah, sister Martha, mother Margaret and aunt Elizabeth are just four of the Essex



women who had the courage to seek a new life in America and helped to open up its frontiers.

A Memorial Restored

by Fred Feather

I will admit to being intrigued when I received from Editor Colleen, a photograph taken in 2000 of a memorial in Little Dunmow church of Saint Mary the Virgin. She told me that it had since disappeared. A clue to the reason for this happening appeared to be that its condition had deteriorated (see below). The subject had been to honour the members of the parish who had served as Special Constabulary during the Great War.

Little Dunmow Church is currently under the guardianship of the Rector of Holy Trinity Church at nearby Felsted. I contacted the Reverend Colin Taylor, who had no knowledge of the memorial, and said that I would try to have a replacement obtained. I put this to the Essex Police Memorial Trust, of which I was then Treasurer, but found that such a replacement was not within its charitable conditions. Research helped with naming the members of the unit whose names had faded.

It was fortunate that I had recently met up with a computer artist, Chris Izod, who had been a fine colleague at the time, that, as Curator, I was establishing the Essex Police Museum. With his style and expertise, a creditable facsimile memorial was designed and presented to the Rector for transmission to Little Dunmow. Thank you, Colleen, for this opportunity and congratulations for starting the process which restored a memorial that had disappeared.



BEFORE



AFTER

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY

MILITARY DAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2023

by Karen J Dennis (ESFH 3661)

For those members who didn't attend the Society's Military Day at The Galleywood Heritage Centre on Saturday 16th September 2023, you missed a very interesting day. For the Committee members of the Society who had worked hard to organise the day it must have been a real disappointment to have had so few members support the Event.

The first speaker, Paul Nixon, gave a very interesting talk entitled '*Tommy this an Tommy That*', about the evolution of the British Army in the years leading up to The Great War and explained the intricacies of numbering the recruits. For those of us who research soldiers on a regular basis the work Paul has undertaken and shared with the public on his blog - armyservicenumbers.blogspot.com/p/research.html - has proved very useful in recent times, enabling the user to work out approximately when their soldier of interest enlisted in the British Army.

There was a break to enable attendees to visit some of the 'stands' and grab a bite to eat. There was also the opportunity to book a one-to-one slot with Paul to seek his help with your military research. I found this helpful, having recently discovered my 4x great-grandfather, John Bull, fought in the Coldstream Guards at The Battle of Waterloo. I have only a passing knowledge of the Napoleonic Wars and have never researched a soldier from that era. Paul located some very helpful information at subscription site www.findmypast.co.uk which confirmed that John had enlisted on 1st January 1812 and served as a Private in the Regiment until 30th April 1836, when he was discharged as no longer fit for service.

The speaker in the afternoon was Mike Brown, who gave an interesting talk entitled '*The Real Dad's Army*' on the Home Guard in the Second World War. He looked at what actually happened and asked how the stories portrayed in 'Dad's Army' compared. He'd also brought along a number of artefacts from his collection for us to look at after the talk and ask any questions.

In the adjacent Common Room at Galleywood Heritage Centre were the 'Military Experts' comprising of:-

- The 44th Regiment of Foot
- Archive Group from the Galleywood Heritage Centre
- Adam Culling - author of 'Essex's Military Heritage' who was selling and signing copies of his book
- Essex Airfields including RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group
- Essex Branch of The Western Front Association
- Essex Historic Military Vehicles Association

- The Malayan Emergency
- Book stall with second-hand military books for sale provided by the Society
- Fred and Heather Feather from the South East Essex Branch who were helping people with military research

There were so many things of interest to see and people to speak to that I ran out of time before I'd seen everything.

I'd like to thank the small band of ESFH Officers for all the hard work they'd put in to organising this Event and I hope the low turnout will not discourage them from organising another such day in the future.

See pages 44 to 45 for some pictures taken during the event.

D.

HIS MAJESTY'S

Colchester REGT. OF Guards

Whereof *Field Marshal H. H. H. The Duke of Cambridge* is Colonel.

No. *181* John Bull. Private

Born in the Parish of *Abby* in or near the Town of *St Alban* in the County of *Herts* by Trade a *Carriage maker*

ATTESTED for the *Colchester* Regiment of *Guards* at *London* in the County of *St Mary* on the *1st day of January 1836* at the Age of *seven* by *three* Years

1st. SERVICE. AFTER the Age of 18 Years, which he is entitled to reckon up to the *20 April 1836* is *24 Years four months and 24 days* the statement of which is as follows

Regiment.	Promotions, Reductions, &c.	Rank.	Period of Service in each Rank.		Amount of Service. Years. Days.
			From	To	
<i>Colchester</i>		<i>Private</i>	<i>25th Nov 1833</i>	<i>20 April 1836</i>	<i>22 118</i>

For Soldiers enlisted previous to the 15th March, 1818.

INDIES	East	West	From		To		Years.	Days.	Half-period
			From	To	From	To			
* WATERLOG									
Total of the foregoing Statement									<i>22 118</i>

Discharge: Total Service up to the

Years.	Days.

A Non-commissioned Officer, enlisted after the 14th November, 1829, must have served not less than Three Years, without interruption as such, immediately preceding his discharge. Vide Art. 6 of the Pensioners Regulations.

* Further Service from the *21 April* to the *10 May 1836* when finally discharged

Total Service allowed to reckon to the day of final discharge. *24 138*

* To be erased, when not required, by drawing the Pen through the Lines.

DISCHARGE PAPERS FOR PRIVATE JOHN BULL

The City Dairy - Social and Family History

by Dave Joy

Book review by Jessica Collie (ESFH 33446)

The City Dairy by Dave Joy, recently published, uses Dave's family history records to relate the story of a dairy in the city of Liverpool. His father had 'represented the fourth generation of Joys who had been farmers, cow-keepers, and then dairymen'. It was his father's passing that sparked his interest in researching and writing a book on this section of his family history. In saying this, although his family inspired the book, it is a more general look into city dairies and dairymen, rather than just his personal history.

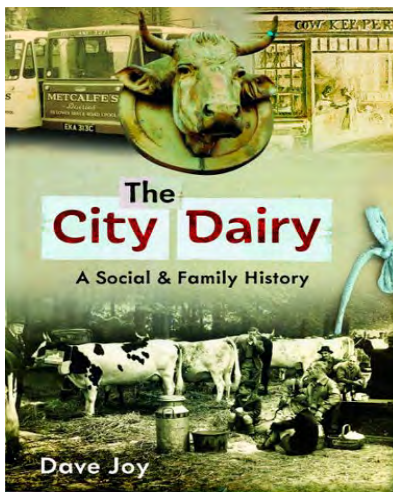
The book is split into two main parts, the first going into detail about the life and times of the average city dairy, starting in the early 1800s and spanning into the 1900s. This includes the origins and operations of the dairies in chapters 1 and 2, the migration from the countryside to the cities and the flow of people to work in them in chapter 3, and the rise and fall of them from cities and towns in chapter 4. The second half of the book is a research guide which gives details on how you can research your dairy ancestors such as through business accounts and census records.

One interesting distinction made in this book is the main differences between dairymen, with the cow keepers versus non cow keepers. There were advantages and disadvantages to both of these roles. The cow keepers made more profit as theirs was a shorter supply chain because the supply went from the cow keeper to the customer, cutting out the middle man. The dairy men that did not keep cows had a longer supply chain but they had many more free hours, as the cow keeping position was far more demanding - it was a way of life rather than an occupation.

In chapter 7, Dave Joy's literature review gives a list of 16 books he would recommend on the farming way of life and the specific occupation of city dairymen. Additionally, chapter 8 lists over 50 blogs and websites that are dedicated to or reference the history and genealogy of the city dairy men. This also includes Joy's own website, **www.davejoy-author.com** which focuses on the cow keepers of Liverpool and includes lists transcribed from census records, lists of prize winners at county shows, newspaper articles, and a number of family histories.

I would recommend this book to anyone who would like to do research on their ancestors who were involved in this section of the farming industry.

The City Dairy is 200 pages and available from **www.pen-and-sword.co.uk**



ESFH Military Day on

Photos courtesy of Susa



16th September 2023

an Wilson (ESFH 11031)



Preserving the Peace Saffron Walden Borough Police 1836-1857

by Martin Stallion

Saffron Walden was one of four Essex boroughs required in 1836 to form a police force, as the old parish constable system was considered ineffective to deal with rising crime and growing public disorder. The Council's new Watch Committee was put in charge of the force. This book uses original research from contemporary documents, mainly at the Essex Record Office, to show how they carried out that task until, in 1857, they finally agreed to a merger with Essex County Constabulary.

The six chapters cover all aspects of the force's short but eventful life.

1. *Be it enacted*: creating and managing the force
2. *A sufficient number of fit men*: putting boots on the ground
3. *Who's in charge here?*: the six chief constables
4. *I'm shot! I'm shot!*: the murder of the Chief Constable
5. *They also served*: the other constables of the borough
6. *Felons and miscreants*: the realities of policing the town

The appendices include a complete list of the borough's 65 known officers.

94 pages, with illustrations (maps, documents etc)

A4 paperback. ISBN 978-0957676022

Price £12.00 (including postage) Orders from overseas will be supplied as .pdf files.

Orders and enquiries to: 68 High Garrett, Braintree CM7 5NT

Tel: 01376 551819

Email: stallion@supanet.com

Preserving the peace Saffron Walden Borough Police 1836-1857

Martin Stallion



Note from Colleen, Editor

Other titles by Martin include: -

1. The British Police: forces and officers 1829 – 2021
2. "Just an ordinary copper": the life and death of James Doss 1820 – 1889
3. Our duty has been done: a record of Colchester Borough Police 1846 – 1947

George Turner - Convict

by Katrina Proust (ESFH 33436)

Who was George Turner?

In 1854 my ancestors George Turner and Anna Beckingham married in Muswellbrook, in the New South Wales (NSW) Hunter Valley.¹ They began an Australian family with connections to this day to the Hunter Valley. His wife came from Wiltshire and George came from Harlow Essex, but his origins and history were initially obscure.

He was probably born in 1803 and baptised at St Mary and St Hugh's Church in Old Harlow on 31 March 1804. His parents were John Turner (agricultural labourer) and Sarah Perry.² In 1824 George married Sophia Cordell in Magdalen Laver. He was convicted at the Essex Assizes in Chelmsford in March 1829 and sentenced to transportation to NSW for 14 years. In April he was transferred to the prison hulk *Leviathan* in Portsmouth, before leaving from London on the convict transport *Sarah* in August. The ship arrived in Sydney in December 1829.



GEORGE TURNER 1803 - 1882

George and Sophia had two children born before he was transported. A third child was born after the ship had sailed. Survival for young women like Sophia must have been extremely difficult. In 1834 she had another child with an unidentified man. She named this son George and described herself as a widow. Sadly, mother and baby died as paupers within days of each other in April 1834.³

The movement of convicts in the Australian colonies was well documented. We know that George's offence was "feloniously receiving stolen goods" related to deer poaching. He was convicted along with two accomplices. Records show that he could read (not write), had no prior offences, and was married with two children.

George, an agricultural labourer, worked as a ploughman, a reaper and dairyman. With this background he was assigned to farm work for a free settler in the Hunter District.⁴ Between 1836 and 1842 he was granted six Tickets of Leave, which allowed him limited freedom to move within the police districts of Scone, Muswellbrook and Liverpool Plain, and to work for private employers. This freedom indicates he was a law-abiding convict. In June 1843, having received his Certificate of Freedom, he remained in Muswellbrook for the rest of his life. In 1854 he married Anna Beckingham (1832-1923), and they raised eight children.

Much later we pick up the story of his death.⁵ He died in the summer of 1882 while

returning from the Liverpool Asylum where he had sought treatment of his eyesight. A boundary rider found his body on 1 March, near Branxton. The hospital's discharge certificate was the only means of identification. The coroner recorded death by natural causes and accepted medical evidence that he was 'about 60 years old'.

Research Challenges

While George's story may appear straightforward, establishing his identity was truly challenging. Minimal oral history existed and there was no hint that he was a convict. We knew only that Harlow was his birthplace, and 1854 was the year he married Anna. NSW sources had competing possible dates for his birth year, ranging from 1802 to 1824. Without an accurate year of birth, it was difficult to identify George from other George Turners in NSW at the time. Evidence available for calculating the year were birth certificates of his daughters (indicating 1812 and 1813), his patient admission record from the Liverpool Asylum (1802),⁶ medical testimony accepted by the coroner on his death (1822), and a memorial headstone erected by his family (inscribed 1824). Anna's year of birth (1832) gave weight to 1824 in the range of possibilities.

Essex records were inconclusive. For the period 1734-1814 there are archival references to two George Turners born in 1783(?) and 1804.⁷ Initially neither seemed a match with my George.

An additional problem concerned his arrival in the colony – the details (date, place, status) were absent.

George could have arrived in NSW before 1854:

- As an assisted immigrant: the most likely means for those born in the 1820s. He would have been in his early 20s and part of the wave of emigration from 1840 onwards. While no record was found of his arrival as a single person or with family, he could have come with his parents, and his name omitted from official records.
- Via another colonial port (Port Phillip 1839-51, Moreton Bay 1848-59).
- As a convict: before 1852, when transportation to NSW ceased. If born in 1824, he would have been a very young transportee (i.e., under 16 years). This was unlikely, because English law reform in the 1830s was making the treatment of children more humane. If born in 1812 he could have been transported, say, between 1830 and 1840, making him between 18 and 28 years of age. This was possible, but I could not prove it from archival resources available when my research began.

Was George a free settler or a convict? Free settlers before 1852 were unassisted, that is they paid their own way. As George was likely impecunious, I excluded him from this category. There is no evidence that he was among assisted immigrants who arrived between 1852 and 1854. Nor did he arrive through another Australian colony. By process of elimination the evidence pointed convincingly to him having been transported as a convict.

Records (unavailable when this research began) now confirm that George was a convict.⁸ The confusion about his year of birth was possibly designed to conceal his convict past and the 30-year age difference between him and Anna.

¹ NSW Marriages, 394/1854 V1854394 41B

² Essex Archives Online Catalogue: D/P 32/1/1 Register of baptisms, marriages and burials. This 1803 date aligned most closely with the Liverpool Asylum date (1802).

³ Thanks to ESFH for assistance.

⁴ The McIntyre Index, NSW State Records.

⁵ Singleton Argus, Saturday 4 March 1882.

⁶ Archives Liverpool Asylum 1864-1900 (3 volumes), ref: 7/5321-23. Admission records often had details of a patient's arrival in the colony, but these details were unavailable for George.

⁷ Church registers from St Mary and St Hugh disappeared in 1814.

⁸ NSW State Records – Convicts. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/node/1616/browse>

☆ ☆ ☆

The Essex Branch of the Western Front

Meeting dates for early 2024

Focussed on education and remembrance about the First World War, this organisation meets on the second Wednesday monthly, alternating between two venues, the Royal British Legion in Hornchurch and the Village Hall at Hatfield Peverel.

The dates for Hornchurch in 2024 are: 14th February, 10th April, and 12th June. On the February date the speaker will be the renown historian Peter Hart, who will tell the story of "HMS Warspite in the First World War". In April Simon Keable Elliott will tell the story of one of his relatives entitled "Robert Keable, utterly immoral WW1 chaplin?" This is a fascinating story of a man of the cloth before, during, and after the War. The June date is currently unfilled.

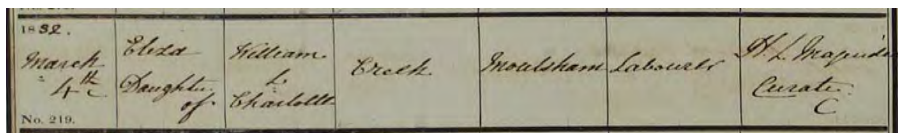
The dates for Hatfield Peverel are: 10th January, 13th March, and 8th May. Currently the only confirmed date is that of May when Dr. Vivien Newman will present her talk "Voices from three crises: World War One, COVID-19, and Ukraine". This will look at how literature and poetry become focussed during periods of stress and is not just limited to the First World War.

For further information please email essexwfa@gmail.com

If Not For Hope – Eliza Creek (1832 - 1918)

Writing as C J Eddington, based in Australia

Eliza Creek was one of eleven children born to William Creek and Charlotte Evers (Eaves) only 5 of whom survived to adulthood. Only one of these children, Martha, remained in Chelmsford where she was born with the other four girls including Eliza all migrating to Australia. Eliza was my great great grandmother



BAPTISM ENTRY FOR ELIZA CREEK. SOURCE ESSEX RECORD OFFICE D/P 94/1/14.

Apart from Creek's baptism of 1832 at St Mary the Virgin, St Peter and St Cedd parish church in Chelmsford she is in the 1841 census aged nine living in High St, Moulsham.

For a young woman of Creek's social standing her only options were marriage or work as a live-in female domestic servant. Although Eliza was raised in Chelmsford work options expanded with the coming of the railway in 1843 and working in London was a possibility. The Eastern Counties Railway (later the Great Eastern Railway) ran steam trains from Chelmsford to Liverpool Street, London and until the underground was built an omnibus would have completed Creek's journey to Lambeth. Today that trip takes less than 2 hours so in 1851 it is hard to see it taking more than half a day.

By aged 19 in 1851, Creek had left home and was working in London as a female servant for John McKerrow, an artist, at 5 York Terrace, Camberwell New Road, Kennington. In Charles Booth's poverty map of London 1889 Camberwell New Road is classed as 'middle class, well to do'.



A TERRACE IN CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD KENNINGTON BUILT IN 1825.

NOTE 5 YORK TERRACE HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF A TERRACE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET.

SOURCE : A TERRACE IN CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD, KENNINGTON, BUILT IN 1825. DIGITAL IMAGE TAKEN 2022, BY TM REED, PERTH, AUSTRALIA.

“Throughout Britain domestic service was the largest occupation of women in the nineteenth-century. As soon as a family’s income reached about £150 pa it engaged a young teenager as ‘maid-of-all-work’ (general servant). She usually worked 14 to 16 hours daily at the most menial chores.”¹ These unmarried girls were often from rural families and working as a servant offered better pay than farm work. But it wasn’t like Downtown Abbey with a convivial downstairs and fellow servants. Usually she was the only servant in a big household. It was lonely.² In 1851 Creek was servant in the McKerrow household of eight people. She would have cleaned, emptied chamber pots, lit fires, washed clothes and helped in the kitchen. According to the Victorian author Mrs Beeton, in ‘The Book of Household Management’, the maid of all work was to be pitied.

*“The general servant or maid of all work is perhaps the only one of her class deserving of commiseration. Her life is a solitary one and in some places her work is never done.”*³

By the time Creek was 25 years old both her parents had died. Her father William had died in May 1851 following a terrible accident. He had fallen off a water cart at about 5 o’clock and the off-wheel had run over him. Joseph Clift, a labourer, stated that he was walking up Moulsham and saw the fall. Two hours later William died at home. An inquest was held and it was declared an accidental death. The foot board was found to be loose, but William had also been drinking. Eliza’s mother died in October 1857 from consumption. William had been a parish labourer and Charlotte a charwoman – so they were a family of very limited means.

“For much of the 19th century Chelmsford had been trying to pull itself up by the bootlaces: the upmarket development of New London Road, with its churches,

FATAL ACCIDENT - An inquest was held yesterday, at the King’s Arms, public house, Moulsham, before C.C. Lewis, Esq. coroner, touching the death of William Creek, aged 48, a labourer in the employ of the Board of Health, as roadman, which occupation he had followed for upwards of twenty years, under the surveyers of Chelmsford. - Joseph Clift, a labourer, stated that he was walking up Moulsham, on Tuesday last, between four and five o’clock, by the side of a horse which was drawing a cart laden with water; deceased was sitting on the front of the cart, and when opposite Mr Godfrey’s house, witness, on turning round, observed him lying in the road behind the cart; witness stopped his horse and took up the deceased who appeared much hurt, and said “Pray, mate, get me up, and take me home.” He knew from where deceased lay that the off wheel had gone over him. A shutter was then procured, and deceased was immediately taken home. They had had five pints of beer together, but Creek did not appear the worse for drink. - George Martin, a shoemaker, deposed that he saw the deceased fall from the cart, and the off wheel pass over his body; the horse was going steadily along and the cause of his fall he (witness) could not state - Elizabeth Jarvis, a neighbour, was with the deceased when brought home, and until his death, which took place about seven o’clock. He was visited by Dr. Bird and was sensible at times, till the last; he did not appear as if he had been drinking. He was, however, in the habit of doing so. - Under these circumstances the jury returned a verdict of “Accidental Death.” Several of the jury, who had inspected the cart, were of opinion that the foot-board was not sufficiently secure. The deceased has left a widow and 7 children.

REPORT OF INQUEST. CHELMSFORD CHRONICLE 23RD
MAY 1851

*infirmary and townhouses, had begun in 1839; four years later, the railway had steamed into town on an enormous red-brick viaduct”.*⁴

Cheaper transportation and raw materials made milling and malting the main industries until the 1850s, then increasing prosperity created a local market for agricultural machinery.⁵ In 1888 Essex County Council was formed with Chelmsford as the county seat.

By 1860 the gold rush in the Australian state of Victoria was over and only 1,000 people arrived in that year compared to 60,000 in 1854.⁶ However, for Eliza, with both parents dead, two sisters already in Australia and her older sister Martha with her own family in Chelmsford, it offered more than England could offer. Although her sisters had left more than two years before it appears that Eliza waited – either to save up the money or let her younger sister, Caroline, grow up a bit so she could migrate as a worker rather than as a child.

Mary Ann, another of Eliza’s sisters, had migrated to Australia in April 1857, but sadly she died 1 August 1860. Then Frances migrated to Australia in 1858. Finally, Eliza and her 14-year-old sister Caroline also sailed from Liverpool on 1 May 1860 on the *Ocean Home* landing in Port Melbourne on 20 August 1860 after 112 days at sea.⁷ Eliza is listed as a general servant and Caroline as a nursemaid. Their destination is Bailey (Baillie) Street North Melbourne; their sister Frances’ home. The passenger manifest lists A D Spencer as Eliza and Caroline’s employer – Frances Creek had married Arthur De Spencer in September 1859.

They missed a final farewell to Mary Ann Creek by 3 weeks.

“The *Ocean Home*, with 261 government immigrants, tonnage 591, was placed in quarantine on the 18th of August, 1860. She was released on same day, after five of her passengers - four of these ill of typhus fever, were landed and received into hospital here. Of these five, one died, three were released and forwarded to



EMIGRANTS BETWEEN DECKS ENROUTE TO AUSTRALIA 1829.

PUBLIC DOMAIN. FIRST PUBLISHED IN ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, 13 APRIL 1844.

Melbourne on the 1st of October, and one on the 10th of October".⁸

Typhus was a common ship board disease due to the overcrowding and poor hygiene found on migrant ships.

The majority of passengers on the *Ocean Home* were women. British newspapers of this period regularly had advertisements offering free emigration to Australia for female servants.



SOURCE WINDSOR AND ETON EXPRESS 12 NOVEMBER 1859

However, these generous terms did create problems. Edward Whitworth of Melbourne in a letter to the British Banner of 1858 laments the standard of female servant. '*...we have a number of females forced upon us as servants...who are ignorant of domestic service...and after a few pounds are made it is spent profusely in a style that no mistress would tolerate*'.⁹

During this period Caroline Chisholm was active in improving the conditions for female migrants to Australia. In addition, between 1854 and 1858 she toured the Victorian goldfields; while her husband Archibald maintained a store in Kyneton. The conditions on the goldfields appalled her and in 1855 she suggested a series of shelter sheds along the routes to the diggings.¹⁰ Ten were constructed by the end of 1855.

Perhaps Eliza benefited from these as by January 1863 she is in Kyneton, Victoria with Patrick Cullen where she gives birth to a son, William Cullen. The family oral history suggests that Cullen had met Eliza onboard the *Ocean Home*. However, Cullen's death certificate of 19 April 1900¹¹ states he has been in the colony for 44 years which means he is more likely to have met Mary Ann Creek in April 1857 while on the *Mt Stuart Elphinstone* rather than Eliza in 1860.¹²

Eliza and Patrick went on to have four more children before they finally married in June 1882.¹³ The family belief is that Eliza's sister Caroline marched them down the aisle at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Kyneton when she realised they weren't married. Initially there may have been a problem with Patrick being Roman Catholic and Eliza Anglican; but perhaps after the children had been born that was no longer an issue.

Eliza and Patrick lived in Kyneton, a former gold mining town, for the rest of their lives. Eliza's marriage certificate states they were farmers. Eliza lived for 18 years after Patrick's death, dying in 1918.¹⁴ She was grandmother to 32 grandchildren.

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14. Death Certificate Eliza Cullen 8 October 1918, Kyneton, Victoria Australia

Note from Colleen, Editor

With regard to the above article, space did not allow for all the references given by C J Eddington, I have selected some of the references to Australian sources that I thought readers would find of interest. The journey to Australia was taken by thousands of our Essex ancestors. If you have any questions regarding the above article the author can be emailed at runforhills@gmail.com and has a blog site: fromoaktogumtree.wordpress.com



Free Newspaper Searches by Colleen, Editor

<https://veridiansoftware.com/collections>

In recent research I came across the above site when I was looking for historical newspapers of Switzerland and succeeded in finding the details of the marriage of an English couple in 1902. To be fair I knew they were married in Bern, Switzerland however although not printed in the English language I could identify their surnames from the local press.

For those readers that are looking for individuals, businesses and facts from the past in foreign parts, I can only urge you to spend some time investigating this site. But beware it is time consuming. Veridian is a software company which provides libraries and other bodies with digitisation services and many of the archives they have digitised are free to explore. Initially it looks as if the digitisation projects are American sources, like universities and colleges, but further research revealed, especially under the Multilingual Newspaper Collection, digitised information from other parts of the world including New Zealand. I especially found the English colonial newspapers like The Singapore Free Press covering the years, 1835-1869, with its articles and adverts fascinating reading. Don't take my word for it have a browse at this vast collection of digitised material.

A Fatal Day in 1943

by Eric Simonelli, Historian at the RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group

Researching a wartime aerodrome uses various skills including historical analysis of sources both primary and secondary, genealogy, which plays an important part, and ‘thinking outside of the box’. These skills help the researcher provide a rounded conclusion.

The aerodrome is RAF Bradwell Bay in Bradwell-on-Sea in Essex. I am the Historian to the RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group; our group’s aims are to preserve the stories of this WW2 aerodrome. Our approach is people centred and equality. Whilst looking at aircrew and their operations is important, we believe that everyone’s story is important from the base commander down. Everybody’s role contributed to the smooth running of the base, or even sometimes not so smooth running!

This tale demonstrates the relationship between historical records, written stories, and genealogy. I am researching the details of an aircraft accident that happened on 2nd January 1943. It is not the story of bombs and bullets carrying out an operation to the low countries. Instead, it is the story of what could be termed a ‘training flight’ and happened just a few miles from RAF Bradwell Bay.

The day was a Saturday and 6 or 8 cadets from the 1207 Maldon Squadron of the Air Training Corps (ATC) were visiting RAF Bradwell Bay for familiarisation of RAF Stations at War and air experience flights. Most of the cadets had been up for a flight in the station’s Boston Havoc aircraft, it was getting late in the afternoon and 2 cadets were waiting but there was only time for one more flight. ATC Cadets Colin Hull and Len Barrell, both aged about 17, tossed a coin for the flight and Colin won the toss.



BOSTON W8292 IWM ATP 10657C © IWM

The stark facts are that the crew of Boston III Intruder aircraft, serial 8292, with crew of three on board took off at 15.38. The aircraft was piloted by F/O P.K. White RAF, the wireless operator/air gunner was Sgt. J.J.A. Field RCAF, and 17-year-old ATC Corporal Colin Hull. About 30 minutes later the aircraft was seen to fall by another 418 Squadron aircraft. There were mentions of a Spitfire aircraft in the area at about 1,000 feet.

The Boston appeared to fall out of the air in an uncontrolled manner and had hit the ground inverted at an angle of 80 degrees and burst into flame. All people on board were immediately killed. The full details of the crash can be found in the RAF Casualty Records held at The National Archives.¹ Further information was obtained from The RAF Historical Branch.²

The subsequent inquiries were basically inconclusive but claimed the aircraft became uncontrollable from a height which was insufficient to recover from. Although F/O Peter Kersey White was an experienced pilot, without overtly saying the crash was down to pilot error the remarks were leading towards this conclusion.

The two documents mentioned above provide a detailed account of the crew, including the flight hours of the pilot, engine hours and permissions for the flight. There are two other documents that record the accident. They are the Operational Record Books (ORB) kept by each unit including the base aerodrome, the other being the Operational Record Book of 418 Royal Canadian Air Force Squadron.

The base ORB states:

*"P/O WHITE of 418 Squadron crashed aircraft BOSTON W.8292 at DENGIE MANOR. The Pilot and his passengers were killed as a result of the crash."*³

The 418 Squadron ORB states:

*"The Squadron suffered a very serious loss as a result of a fatal accident to an aircraft flown by Flying Officer White, in which Sergeant Field and ATC Cadet Hull were also killed. An investigation of the accident is being held but it is apparent that the accident was due to the aircraft spinning from a height insufficient to regain control."*⁴

From these records a very in-depth but perhaps a little sterile article could be written. However, there is a human story underlying this. The story of this accident is quite well known as a 17½ year old ATC cadet was killed. While re reading a book recounting the memories of a WAAF⁵ serving at Bradwell I read that Johnny Field had just got married and his wife, a WAAF, was pregnant. This led me to realise there were so many more people involved. Genealogy comes to the fore of research now and gives depth to the story. Knowing about the history of each crew member opens their connections, relatives and friends who were affected by the deaths.

Space here does not allow an in-depth account of how people were affected, although I am gathering the information together to publish a book.

ATC Corporal Colin Hull

Starting with the youngest first, ATC Corporal Colin Hull, Colin was born in Messing, just outside Tiptree, on 12th June 1925. His parents were Percy William Hull and

Alice Louisa Goody. At the age of 14 in 1939 he was living with his parents at 3 Damson Gardens Messing and had left school, working as a butcher's assistant. He had an older brother, Owen Percy Hull who was born in 1922. Sadly, Owen was lost in a bombing raid on 12th January 1945. He was part of the crew of seven in a Lancaster NG257, they along with 15 other Lancasters, who had been briefed the day before to bomb the U Boat pens at Bergen Norway. Owen was now a Flying Officer, the aircraft left RAF Bardney in Lincolnshire at 08.48.

Percy and Alice had 2 children and both were killed in aircraft incidents.

John James Alfred Field (a.k.a Johnny)

The Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, John James Alfred Field, known as Johnny, was born on New Year's Eve, 31st December 1920. Johnny was a first generation Canadian of English and Irish parents. He was born in Toronto, Ontario and lived at 146 Albertus Avenue, Toronto Ontario. His initial aircrew training was carried out in Canada and then he was posted to Britain, entering the country via the Personnel Reception Centre in Bournemouth, Hants. He was just 22 when he was killed on 2nd January 1943. Johnny had become close to a WAAF, Jenny Cantor, who was a Radio Operator at Bradwell Bay. The couple married on 7th September 1942 at St Mary's Church, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Jenny's parents were living in Hitchin.



JENNY CANTOR IN WAAF UNIFORM.
COURTESY THE CANTOR FAMILY

When Johnny died Jenny was pregnant and the resulting baby never met her father. He was buried in Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Jenny's family had come from Bohemia in the 19th century and worked in the leather trade. Jenny's grandfather was an artist recognised by the Royal Society of British Artists.

The baby was born on 5th October 1943 and was initially named Rosetta Carol Ann Field, (R C A F). The baby is now grown up and goes by the name Ann Wright, her married name.



JENNY CANTOR WITH BABY CAROL.
COURTESY THE CANTOR FAMILY

Jenny had entered RAF service on 2nd June 1941. She was discharged on 7th April 1943 with an excellent record. Jenny's parents were not too far away and so able to offer some support. Support also came from 418 squadron from Harold (Ace Irving). Romance developed and Jenny and Harold moved to Canada where they married on 9th July 1945 in Toronto. Baby Rosetta, eventually becoming known as Anne would not have remembered much of her English roots. Although Anne's father had been brought up in Canada her Canadian grandparents (Johnny's parents) did not keep in close touch. Jenny and Harold had a daughter, Mary, who was born August 18, 1946, to complete the family.

During this research I made contact with Ann, the baby. She and her whole family have been thrilled with the details that I have found, much of which they did not know. In May 2023 the RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group held a Family Weekend in which we tried to gather as many relatives as possible of people who served at Bradwell Bay. Ann and her daughter came over from Canada. I met them at Heathrow Airport. I only had the picture of Ann in her mother's arms. I found she had changed a lot!

As I knew that Ann and her daughter were coming over from Canada I contacted the Canadian Embassy, who kindly sent a military attaché, a Naval Captain and Naval Pilot. He had brought a wreath which he laid at the memorial with Ann.



ERIC SIMONELLI, CANADIAN ATTACHÉ CHRISTOPHER PESCHKE, ANN WRIGHT AND HER DAUGHTER TERESA BIRD. PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN BRUCE

The following day a memorial service at the site of the crash was held and current members of the Air Training Corps 1207 Squadron attended. It was such a unique occasion with Johnny Field being represented by his daughter and granddaughter Teresa, and ATC Cpl. Colin Hull being represented by current cadets.



COURTESY AUTHOR ERIC SIMONELLI

Peter Kersey White

There is one person missing from this story, the pilot, known in the RAF as Peter Kersey White. P. K. White has proved a research nightmare. The details of his RAF career are reasonably easy, his family history is much more difficult. His father was Spencer Caleb Kersey and mother was Ella Reidford. The couple had married on Christmas Day 1909 in Newcastle upon Tyne. Spencer was 32 and was divorced, Ella was 18.

Peter was proving difficult to find, the RAF Historical Branch kindly answered my enquiry and told me that he had given his date of birth as 16th July 1916. This coincided with his entry on the 1939 Register. However, the surprise was that he had been born in Dublin as was registered as Spencer Laurence Kersey. This has raised many questions, especially as this was the time of the Dublin Uprising. Neither parent seemed to have any strong Irish ties apart from Ella Reidford's mother having the surname Flannagan. It does appear that Spencer and Ella came back to England. The couple seem to have split up in the early 1920's. Spencer Caleb in fact married again in the 1920's and emigrated with his new wife to Australia. So far, no details of

a divorce from Ella have been found. Neither have any marriage details been found for Ella and a man called Mr White. The fact that P.K. White has retained the name Kersey as a middle name shows that there is some memory of his parentage but when his mother took on the name White her son's name was changed. There is a lot of research to be done. The 1939 register shows Peter Kersey White living with his mother in Hove, Sussex. Peter was a Clerk Receptionist, and his mother was a Turf Accountant, she was about to get married to Frederick William Roberts. Peter must have joined the RAF shortly after this. After his training as a pilot, he was posted to 418 Royal Canadian Airforce Squadron, who were based at RAF Bradwell Bay in Essex.

RAF Bradwell Bay initially was a small airstrip serving the firing range on the Dengie Flats. In 1941 it was expanded to a large airbase with concrete runways, and with a staffing level of 2,000 which must have been overwhelming for the village of less than 1,000 people. The RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group is researching the rich history of the base and its relationship with the village. We want to save the history and stories of this period in history. To this end we are working towards having a museum very close to the unique RAF memorial which exists at the moment.

Please look at our website www.rafbadwellbay.co.uk, in addition to the history of the base you can donate on our Donate and Shop page. We also have an active Facebook site known as BradwellBay. I can be contacted on rafbadwellbay@gmail.com

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BRADWELL-ON-SEA AT THE TURN OF THE 19TH CENTURY

How a Medieval Northumbrian Noblewoman ended up in Essex

by Simon Mynott (ESFH 416)

The December 2022 HISTORIAN contained an article of mine on the Ferrers family, who held Domesday Book manors at Buttsbury, Stebbing and elsewhere in Essex. That article prompted a response from EFSH member Trish Conder of Stebbing, telling me that a brass in Stebbing church is reputed to represent a Lady Ferrers.

I decided to see if I could work out the identity of the lady in the brass. The 2-volume publication "Monumental Brasses of Essex" dates this brass as from around 1390, and says the lady was wearing a widow's dress. Morant's "History and Antiquities of Essex" gives details of the following Ferrers in Stebbing in the second half of the 14th century: -

- William, who died about 1371, and had two wives
- Henry son of William, who died 1398.



Further details of the family can be found on the WikiTree website, (www.wikitree.com) drawn from the sources listed in my footnote. William actually died in Stebbing, and he was the 3rd Lord Ferrers. Henry son of William was baptised in Stebbing. Both of William's wives were named Margaret: -

- the first was a daughter of the 1st Earl of Suffolk, Sir Robert de Ufford, and she was dead by May 1368.
- the second Margaret (surprisingly) was born at Alnwick in Northumberland, daughter of Sir Henry de Percy, 2nd Lord of Alnwick.
- Margaret No. 2 initially married Robert de Umfrville in Northumberland, but he had died by 1347.
- Robert himself was the son of Sir Gilbert de Umfrville, 10th Earl of Angus; he outlived Robert, dying in 1381.

Margaret No. 2 thus came from a high society Northumbrian background. She was married to William de Ferrers by 25 May 1368 and she died as a widow on 3 September 1375 at Buttsbury, Essex. She COULD be the 'Lady in the Brass' in Stebbing, but without more evidence certainty on that point is not possible.

After the first husband of Margaret No. 2 died, I assume that she probably lived for a while in the household of her father-in-law the Earl of Angus, who was based at Prudhoe Castle, Northumberland. If so, this raises another question:

- How did William de Ferrers in Essex, as a widower, come to know of the existence of a possible second bride in Northumberland?

My theory about this is that contacts between William, Baron de Ferrers, and Gilbert, Earl of Angus, may have occurred while both were attending the House of Lords in Westminster. They were both members of the Lords during the years 1354 - 1369 and as indicated above William's first wife was dead by May 1368 (maybe earlier).

A conversation in the House of Lords remains just a theory; however, it is a fact (according to my sources) that the second Margaret, a Northumbrian noblewoman, ended up dying in Buttsbury, Essex.

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☆ ☆ ☆

Luckett Children

by Colleen, Editor

A non-member of the Society recently sent me this delightful picture of 3 children and on the back was detailed Nancy, John, Freda Luckett Xmas 1918. It was found in the Colchester area. If any members are familiar with the surname, please contact me.



'Never the Same Again?' Essex Labour Movement Activists in the 1984-85 Miners' Strike and After

by ESFH Award Student Paul Topley

I am grateful to Essex Society for Family History for its Award to support my doctoral research at the University of Essex on the life stories of Essex labour movement activists, with reference to the miners' strike of 1984-85.

March 2024 marks the fortieth anniversary of the 1984-85 miners' strike, a convulsive year long industrial conflict seen by many as a crucial moment in Britain's post-war history. Contemporary society has been described as, at least in some respects, an outcome of that desperate struggle.¹

Even in Essex, a county without any coalmines, the 1984-85 miners' strike was undoubtedly important. However, Essex did already have a long history of labour movement activism which, over decades, had built traditions of solidarity with trade unionists taking industrial action.²

My own parents were deeply political. They were trade unionists and labour movement activists who moved from London to Essex as part of the post war exodus from the East End.³ I remember as a child marching to Hyde Park against the Conservative government's 1971 Industrial Relations Bill.⁴ Also vivid in my memory is the time when Kent miners stayed at our house during a previous, victorious, miners' strike in 1972. They visited Essex to raise solidarity and to picket power stations and docks.⁵

The dominant discourse today of the 1970's is a negative one, a time of overweening trade union power and militancy. But for many working class families like mine, the great industrial battles of the era generated high hopes for change.⁶

The 1984-85 strike itself was called in response to the announcement of twenty thousand job losses.⁷ The National Union of Mineworkers claimed there was a secret plan, subsequently revealed to be true, to close more mines and lose even more jobs.⁸

My family, as did many others, plunged into support for the strike. On my return to the family home from university, my parents were once again hosting miners, this time from Nottingham, who were fed by my mother when they came to stay in Essex to again raise funds and engage in picketing of power stations and docks.

But 1984 was different to 1972: Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government was determined to defeat the National Union of Mineworkers, the most powerful trade union in Britain. It was perceived as an important barrier to the government fulfilling its programme of trade union reform and economic transformation and whose leader and militant members were portrayed as 'the enemy within' in a memorable speech by the Prime Minister.⁹

The 1984-85 strike lasted a year and, it has been argued, involved more people engaging in its support and at a greater pitch of activity than any other workers' struggle in British history.¹⁰ In Essex, solidarity was organised through the Essex

County Association of Trades Councils. It saw hundreds of people involved in some way: putting up and feeding miners from Kent and Nottinghamshire, collecting money and food in town centres every weekend, organising fundraising events, collecting at work, even taking part in picketing at Tilbury power station and Wivenhoe docks.¹¹ The strike also saw police blockading the Dartford Tunnel to prevent miners from Kent travelling into Essex, and several violent picket line confrontations.¹²

However, the strike was ultimately defeated, and the miners forced back to work. Soon the mines were indeed closed and many mining communities suffered poverty and hardship as a result.¹³

But what happened to those Essex labour movement activists who, like my parents, gave their all to support the strike, and who had to live through the bitter aftermath of its defeat? My research traces stories of those activists, during and after the strike. How did they support the struggle? How did they understand its defeat? And how did they come to terms with the very different social, political, and economic climate in the following years and decades?

I would like to hear from anyone involved in active support for the 1984-85 strike in Essex, who wishes to talk about their experiences of that time and of subsequent years. I will anonymise participants' testimonies before transcription unless they prefer otherwise.

I can be contacted via the following email: pt21105@essex.ac.uk

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⁴ Ralph Darlington and Dave Lyddon, *Glorious Summer. Class Struggle in Britain 1972*, (Bookmarks, London, 2001) pp.19-20

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⁷ Francis Beckett and David Hencke, *Marching to the Fault Line. The miners' strike and the battle for industrial Britain*, (Constable, London, 2009) p.47

⁸ Nick Higham, *Cabinet papers reveal 'secret coal pits closure plan.'* (03/01/2014) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25549596> [Accessed 11/06/2023]

⁹ Martin Adeney and John Lloyd, *The Miners' Strike. Loss without limit*, (Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1986) p.210

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Trustees' Report 2022-2023

by Andrea Hewitt Chair

This year has been challenging in many ways. After several months of live meetings following the COVID-19 pandemic, when we were assured by our members that they were very anxious to return to live meetings however it soon became apparent that this was sadly not the case. The number of attendees at 2 branches were attracting less than half of their former audiences. Many other family history societies also reported the same issue.

In view of this and venue costs we asked branches to try to encourage extra visitor numbers and reduce their costs where possible.



ANDREA HEWITT

To offset some of the losses these activities were creating, the Executive Committee decided to ask members to pay £3 to attend live meetings. We were hopeful that once audiences increased over time, we would be able to reduce or remove this payment. Despite the fact that many members appeared to be happy to do this, over time, the revenue from live meetings fell, for various reasons and the overall attendance figures were not increasing.

At a meeting of branch officers, they agreed to:

- * Make more meetings accessible to more members where possible,
- * And continue to, or begin to use, free venues like libraries etc. to attract more new members to support local meetings.

As a result of this the Executive Committee agreed that the £3 charge for members to attend would be dropped for 6 months from 1st November 2023, an email will be sent out shortly to all members to make them aware of this change. (Please spread the word to any without email!)

This situation will be reassessed at the end of a 6 months period.

Throughout the year we have held and enjoyed a vast number of talks and workshops on a large number of topics, at live meetings, online via Zoom, and via hybrid meetings, many reaching both live and online members. I would like to thank all of our contributors, and facilitators that have made it possible to provide such a huge range of well received subjects, by giving up so much of their own precious time. Without you all, we wouldn't have the fantastic society we have! - sorry I can't name you all, but you all know who you are!

We hope you will have seen in our March 2023 membership magazine the photo of members Heather Feather, Eric Jude and Linda Medcalf, members of our South East Essex Branch, who were awarded the Southend City and Queens Platinum Jubilee Award 2022 for work in the community.

Via our magazine and using many other platforms we put out a plea for volunteers

for the many vacant roles in our Society including most importantly for a new Editor. Colleen Devenish has to step down from this role. It is sad to say that if we don't find a suitable replacement soon the December 2023 edition could be the last one, so if anyone knows of a possible volunteer, please get them to get in touch with Colleen as soon as possible.

We again took part in RootsTech the largest online family history event in the world, compared to last year the lack of response to our booth was very disappointing, so we won't be taking part next year.

We also took part in one 'Really Useful' virtual show promoted by the Family History Federation, and we held two of our own virtual Open Days with workshops in January and July. We attended the East Surrey Family History Society virtual show which we found to be well worth while and may repeat in the future.

Special Interest Groups were started on various aspects of DNA, and one Surname interest group was set-up, and they attracted many members to join in online.

Many of our branches supported events at their local libraries and began or continued their working relationship with them, to share resources and offer help and guidance to their visitors.

On behalf of our Society, myself and Heather Feather took part in a British Library project to produce a video where we discussed everything that local family history societies could offer their visitors.

We continued to support the Essex branch of the Victoria County History Project, the Commonwealth War Memorial Trust and we awarded Paul Topley this year's Student Award.

We had a drop in our membership renewals in April, as did other Societies, with some of our members saying they reluctantly needed to reduce their outgoings. Member numbers were still considerably higher than our pre-COVID levels however they are now rising again.

Instead of holding regular meetings, here at Galleywood Heritage Centre we held an Open Day, in March, and recently a Military Day. Both events disappointingly attracted few visitors, however those that attended the Military Event told us that they found it a very useful and fun day.

2024 sees the 50th Anniversary of our Society and the Events Committee has already met to discuss the best way to celebrate this important milestone. Our Anniversary date is Tuesday 21st September 2024 so please put this in your diaries, but we plan to hold events throughout the year. If anyone would like to join this group, please contact me.

We have exciting news regarding our website! It appears that we can give it a make-over and make it much more user friendly and more attractive to visitors of all ages, and the best news is that it will not cost a huge amount of money. Work is already underway with our Web Manager and our Web Developer and we plan to launch our new look site in the New Year!

Having been looking for a volunteer to organise and develop our Social Media profile I am delighted to tell you that we have recently met with at least 2 knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers, and work has started on our existing Facebook page, and on Instagram and even TikTok to promote our Society.

When several of us took part in the recent Suffolk FH Show, Toni Neobard, chair of the new Social Media group, was filming us at the event for Instagram between advising the many interested visitors we had.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to pay tribute to 3 members who died earlier this year, Beryl Sidney, Shirley Harman, and Christopher Scrutton. who all were loyal and hardworking members of our Society and particularly well known at our office at the Essex Record Office. I'm sure they will be sadly missed by many.

As I said there have been many issues to deal with this year and I would particularly like to thank Tanya Sewell for working so hard for us through a very challenging year, not just with her Treasurer's hat on but in so many ways other ways. I have no idea where she finds all her energy and enthusiasm!

I would also like to thank John Young, who is stepping down as Vice Chair, who has always been there, working hard, for longer than I remember! Also stepping down are Colleen Devenish after 7 years of editing our great magazine and Meryl Rawlings who has been the Society Secretary for 8 years. John, Meryl and Colleen will still be members of the Executive Committee.

Barbara Harpin, David Cooper, Mary Rix, and Trevor Rix (one of our founder members) are all stepping down from the Executive Committee but I know will assist us in the future if they can.

On behalf of all the members it's my pleasure to welcome Toni Neobard as Vice Chair, and Jean-Marc Bazzoni as Society Secretary on to the Executive Committee.

This concludes my report and I have pleasure of inviting Lord Petre, our President, to take over the Chair to conduct the Election of Officers/Holding Trustees.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Conducted both online and at Galleywood Heritage Centre

On Saturday 21 October 2023 at 1.30pm

Present: Lord Petre (President), Ann Church and Yvonne Tunstill (Vice-Presidents), Andrea Hewitt (Chairman), John Young (Vice-Chairman), Tanya Sewell (Treasurer), Meryl Rawlings (Secretary), Jean-Marc Bazzoni (interim Secretary); Executive Committee members and members online (43) and at Galleywood Heritage Centre (24).

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all those present.
2. Apologies for Absence were received from Sheila Moore, Janice Sharpe, David

Cooper and Angela Tuff.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 15 October 2022: these were approved by both vote in the hall and online and signed by the President as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from those Minutes: None.

5. President and Vice-Presidents: The Chairman announced that it had been agreed by the Executive Committee as follows: President - Lord Petre; Vice-Presidents - Ann Church, Ann Turner and Yvonne Tunstill. The appointments were ratified by the members.

6. Chairman's Annual Report on behalf of the Trustees: Andrea gave her report, a full copy of which will appear in the Essex Family HISTORIAN and on the Society's website.

A short discussion took place with regard to the proposed changing of the ESFH Constitution as proper procedure had not been adhered to i.e., all members had not been properly notified of the proposed change. Consequently, the Chairman agreed that an online Extraordinary General Meeting will need to be arranged, the likelihood this being held in January 2024. All members to be informed.

7. Financial Report by the Treasurer: Tanya said that the Annual Accounts to 31 March 2023 had been approved by the Executive Committee and signed by the Chair and our Examiner and these were available on the Society's website. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes.

No questions were raised.

Tanya then formally proposed adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 and this was approved. This was seconded by Andrea Hewitt and agreed by a vote in the hall and online.

Tanya then proposed that Peter Kittle of Chelmer Company Services Limited, who has acted as our Examiner for a number of years, continue as our Examiner, this was seconded by Andrea Hewitt and agreed by a vote in the hall and online.

The Chairman then handed over to Lord Petre to continue the meeting.

8. Election of Officers/Holding Trustees: **Andrea Hewitt** (Chairman), **Toni Neobard** (Vice-Chairman), **Tanya Sewell** (Treasurer) and **Jean-Marc Bazzoni** (Secretary) have been nominated. These were the only nominations and therefore duly ratified.

9. Election of Executive Committee: The following have been nominated and were elected en bloc - **Pauline Adlem, Colleen Devenish, Meryl Rawlings, Janice Sharpe, Denise Somers, Paul Stirland** and **John Young**.

The following would serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee - **Gill Peregrine, Elizabeth Cox** and **Heather Feather**.

As no other business was raised, Lord Petre declared the meeting closed at 2.22pm.

Minutes taken by Jean-Marc Bazzoni Secretary

Challenges encountered in Research

by Peter Graggs (ESFH 30979)

I was very interested in the Editor's paragraph in the August 2022 issue of this magazine entitled *Death and Probate Years Apart* and the follow up in the December issue by Margaret Welham and Patricia Gardener concerning probate dates a long time after death.

I am currently researching all the names on the Second World War memorials in St. Mary's Church, Corringham and St. Michael's Church, Fobbing. One name on the memorial in St. Mary's is Ralph Birch. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website says that he died on 7th August 1944 age 21 (so born about 1923), the son of Herbert and Dorothy Birch of Corringham, Essex. In my research I found that Dorothy, née Irving, was first married to Edward Andrew Wheeler in 1914, they had one son. Edward died on 10th August 1916 and probate was granted on 1st April 1949, 33 years after death. I asked a friend in our U3A Family History Group why there was such a delay and he suggested that Dorothy may have had property that was in Edward's name, and she needed probate to verify this.

Researching Ralph Birch has taken me about two years as I couldn't find his birth. A tree owner on Ancestry who I had contacted as Ralph's mother was on this Ancestry tree and she told me that there was a Ralph Barr born in London in 1923 with the mother's maiden name of Irving. I ordered the certificate, and it was the right person. The certificate said that Ralph Barr was born on 31st July, son of Ralph Barr and Dorothy Barr late Taunton formerly Irving. This is not 100% true. As mentioned above, Dorothy married Edward Wheeler, this name is not on Ralph's birth certificate.

On 22 August 1918 Dorothy married Alfred William Bertram Osbaldeston Mitford Taunton. There were no children from this marriage, although Alfred did father 10 children by three women.

There is no marriage between Ralph Barr and Dorothy Irving/Wheeler/Taunton, although the birth of their son Ralph records that Dorothy's surname is Birch. At the time Ralph was married with three children.

On 13th June 1930 Herbert Birch, bachelor, married Dorothy Taunton, widow. Alfred Taunton did not die until 29th July 1943, I can't find a divorce for Dorothy and Alfred, did Dorothy commit bigamy?

Ralph Barr, born in 1923, must have stayed with his mother, and when she married Herbert Birch in 1943, Ralph's surname must have been changed to Birch. In the 1939 Register, Herbert and Dorothy are living at 9, Lampits Hill Avenue, Corringham. The third name at this address has been redacted, this may be Ralph.

In all my years doing family research this family is the most complicated family I have encountered.

Research Tip

by Angela Hillier (ESFH 28397)

If you have some spare time whilst on your computer look at the online catalogue of any Record Office in the United Kingdom and put in

1. The name of the place you are interested in
or
2. The name of the county
or
3. A surname

and you may be surprised at the result!

If you are at a Record Office it is worth asking the archivist how to access the name/place you are looking for as there may still be a card index, in addition to online references or both. In the latter case the old cards may not have been added to the newer online section so both should be checked.

The reasons that Essex towns and other information pertaining to the county is located throughout County Record Offices tends to fall into three categories: -

1) Family Estates and Archives

Wealthier families tend to make marriages with others in their class and as a marriage settlement, dowry or through inheritance acquire land and manors all over the place. Record Offices are loath to split up a family archive and generally keep all the documents in the place where they were deposited, which is usually the County the depositor comes from. Sometimes the depositor will split the records so that the various Counties get the records pertaining to them so it is a good idea to see if there are any records for the family elsewhere as not all records are so easily split up.

2) School and University Holdings

When schools like Eton and University Colleges were founded, they were endowed with land or Manors which contributed to their finances and these can be scattered all over the country. The records they hold are either in their own archives or deposited at a Record Office, usually the one for the county they are located in. In the case of Eton School, the 'Eton Collection' which covers their own records as well as those that have been collected for their historical significance. All collections can be explored through their online catalogue: <https://collections.etoncollege.com>

The University of Cambridge archives can be found on their online catalogue on their ArchiveSearch database. <https://archivesearch.lib.cam.ac.uk/> holds their main catalogue and also has catalogues for the Royal Greenwich Observatory Archives.

The University of Oxford and the Oxford College Archives holds massive amounts of data. For details of the holdings see <https://oac.web.ox.ac.uk/oxford-college-archives>

3) Ecclesiastical Holdings

Similar to some schools and colleges the same thing applies to cathedrals and some churches which were also endowed when they were built. I know Westminster Cathedral has its own archive where I found records pertaining to Bucks and the City of Derby. For Westminster archives family historians are advised to go to www.findmypast.co.uk which has digital copies of the sacramental registers held by the Diocesan Archives, as well as the 1893 Catholic Census for the Diocese of Westminster. For information about their collections in general, go to www.catholic-heritage.net a portal website that hosts the electronic catalogue to the collections, as well as those of other Catholic libraries and archives.

A good place to find out what land is owned by Cathedral or Chapter House is to use a copy of the book 'The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers'. Look at the maps of the counties and any shown as a "peculiar" – outlined in a colour - are in the jurisdiction of the place mentioned in the small inset.

Below are listed some of the holdings for Essex places that I found at the Berkshire and Oxfordshire Record Offices by looking in the place name catalogue under Essex. I am afraid that they are not always that helpful but at least you know that there is some sort of document there.

REFERENCES TO ESSEX LOCATIONS AT BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

<https://www.royalberkshirearchives.org.uk>

I did not have time to note all the reference numbers and for many places the name of the place was all there was. I have listed the place for as many times as it was shown. It seemed that many were to do with deeds or estates.

Various Parishes ref. D/ELV E106, Abbess Roothing ref. D/EE T31, 32 [Manorial Docs and family papers of the PALMER, EWEN (of Dedham), L'ESTRANGE, GREENE & MASHAM (Lord MASHAM's Estate in Essex) families], Amerden Hall ref. D/EP1 F3, Barking ref. D/EST E1, W/z 8: D/EBY T104 [some of the D/EBY archive was transferred to the Essex RO. To do with BENYON of Gidea Hall c1768, Osmond BEAUVOIR of Downham Hall c1756-7]: Benyon Estates, Barking, East Ham & West Ham, Beauchamp Roding, Bobbingworth ref. D/EM B20, Bower, Brentwood, Bulfan [BulfanOrset] 1754 deed, Chelmsford, Colchester ref. DE/EKm T20: D/ERx T10: D/EHy O16, Colchester, Curles Manor Clavering 1870-1879 ref. D/EX 2650/4/2, Coopersale ref. D/EM B20: D/EX 32, 69, 71, Dagenham ref. D/EBr B3/1, Dedham D/EBx T11: D/EE T29, 30; F61a, 63, 65/1-5; E28, Dedham, Dedham, Downham ref. D/EBY Q1/3; A152-3, East Ham – see Barking, Epping, Hook Farm Finchingfield 1898 ref. D/EX 208/B18/9 Finchingfield slum clearance 1936, Foulness, Fyfield, Gosfield, Great Horksley, Great Maplestead, House of Mercy 1866-1943 ref. D/EX 1675/1/12/15: 1675/11 [also see Leytonstone] Great Totham, Guestingthorpe, Hallingbury, Henham, High Lanes, High Ongar, Ingrave, Layer Marney, Leytonstone 1936 sale particulars, Leytonstone Childrens Home 1890 D/EX 1675/1/8/1, Leytonstone, The Pastures & Home of Good Shepherd 1886-1942 ref D/EX 1675/17 [also see Great Maplestead], Little Lanes, Little Warly Franckes, Lower Magdalen, Loughton, 1935 plans for a

house, Margaretting, Matching, Matching Green 1847-1883 deeds ref. D/EX 208/T9/1, Moreton, Mountnessing, North Ockenden, Orset [BulfanOrset] 1754 deed, Plaistow ref D/ECH T145; 161: D/ECH T56, 97 [may be LOVEDEN of Buscot Park] Romford, Shalford, Shopland, Snaresbrook, The Royal Navy Education Foundation ref. D/EX 2362, Stratford 1824 ref. D/EX 1949/21 [may be HOWARD GIBSON & Co Stratford, chemists], Sutton Temple, Theydon, Tollesbury, Ugley, Waltham, Westcliffe-on-Sea 1896-1939 ref. D/EX 1891/1/11-12. West Ham - see Barking, West Ham, Wickford, Witham, Woodham Ferrers 1628 deed ref. D/EX 1151/1

REFERENCES TO ESSEX LOCATIONS AT OXFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/history/oxfordshire-history-centre

I am afraid I didn't have much time to look at all of the possible records here but I found them on their online catalogue.

John FANE of Wormsley in Oxfordshire had an estate in Essex and there are records for places under the ref E4/7/D2/10 for the approximate years c1817-1825 including lists of tenants, rents and acreages of property in the Manors of Chernoll/Cammis/Camoss Hall, Kensington, Great Wheatly, Burses/Burshes, Myles/Miles and Wickford.

There are also records for the following places (as spelt in their catalogue) :- Ashington, Blackmore, Canydowne (otherwise Canewdon, Canewdon, Canonden), Doddinghurst, Farnbridge, Great Stambridge, Hadley, Hawkwell, Hockly, Kelvedon, Laindon Mills, The Liberty of Lee Chapel, Little Bustard, Little Stambridge, Much Stambridge, North Benfleet, Pakelsham, Rawrith, Rayleigh, Rayley, Rochford, Roxwell, South Farnbridge, South Weald, Stonden Massey (otherwise Stondon Massa), Thundersley, White Roothing (otherwise Morrell Roothing), Wickford, Willinghall, Writtle.

☆ ☆ ☆

Calling All Medieval Family Historians

by Colleen, Editor

A few months ago the British Library's project devoted to Medieval and Renaissance Women reached a successful conclusion. They have digitised a grand total of 93 volumes, 219 charters and 25 rolls that are connected with the lives of European women between the years 1100 and 1600. All the items can be viewed online. See the British Library blog under the tab Medieval Manuscripts. <https://www.bl.uk/blogs>

ROSE HANNAH SAWARD 1909-1953

by Derek Saffell (ESFH 7168)

I have put this article together for the Essex Family HISTORIAN as my contribution to the 70th Anniversary of the 1953 North Sea Floods which embraced the East Coast of England and parts of The Netherlands (South Holland), as it directly affected my family on 1st February 1953.

Rose Hannah Saward was the seventh child of William and Alice Saward (née Algar). She was the elder sister of my mother, born 18 January 1909 at Shot Farm Cottages, Shotgate, Rawreth, Essex and baptised in St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth, Essex on 06 June 1909, by the Rev. Geoffrey George Kemp, Rector. (D/P 40/1/9 Register Entry No. 247, Page 31)

My aunt started her working life as a parlourmaid and in the 1921 Census was single and working for a medical practitioner in Hockley Road, Rayleigh. She lived at a house called The Poplars. Sometime after that she became a conductress (clippy) on Southend Corporation Buses which is where she met her married partner Ernest Henry Rogers, who was a bus driver. Whether they were paired on the same bus I do not know. I cannot ever remember meeting her or her partner, although I do have an elder cousin who remembers them both quite well.

Unfortunately, no employee records have survived for the couple either within Southend Borough Council or Arriva, the company that took over the Corporation Buses, so I have no way of knowing how many years service they achieved or when they left the company.

To me, Auntie Rose was the black sheep of the family, as my mother would not enter into any form of discussion about her. I believe this was because Ernest was already

married and they were cohabiting, much frowned upon in those days.

Their names crop up again in 1953, when they were living at No. 61 Gulf Green Road, Jaywick, Essex. This is where they lost their lives on that fateful night, drowning whilst sleeping in their beds.

Thanks to the records held by the Crematorium at Weeley, Essex I know that they were interred in the cemetery in Burrs Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex on 10th February 1953.



BURRS ROAD CEMETERY CLACTON-ON-SEA, ESSEX

Rose was 45 years of age, and Ernest 68 years of age. Her death certificate which was released on 24th February 1953 states the causes of death as:-

1. Asphyxia by Drowning

2. Misadventure – following an inquest held at Clacton Town Hall, Essex on 19 February 1953. (Note that the burial took place prior to the inquest and issue of the death certificate).

Carmel King's book 'Without Warning the Great Storm of 1953' indicates that 37 victims died at Jaywick, Essex. It goes on to record nine separate locations for the 37 in Jaywick.

There is a memorial plaque, which is mounted on the inside wall and unveiled in the local church of St. Christopher on 29 January 1995, recording the names of all the 37 dead.

The book indicates that each year since that fateful night, close to the date of the event, the clergy and local people come together and light 37 candles in remembrance of each one of the victims.

☆ ☆ ☆

SAVE THE DAYS IN 2024

Saturday April 20th is the East of England Really Useful Show Live at The Burgess Hall St Ives PE27 6WU UK – look out for details in the family history press from February 2024 onwards.

☆ ☆ ☆

Tuesday 21st September 2024 is the 50th anniversary of the formation of ESFH – plans are afoot so look out for news of celebratory events in the coming months.

☆ ☆ ☆

Rita Harris

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for
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£18.00 per hour

Interesting sources beyond the internet

Baxter Essex Marriage Index 1754-1851

Baxter Essex Burial Index 1813-1865

01245 346490

contactrita71@gmail.com

71 Vicarage Road, Old Moulsham
Chelmsford, Essex
CM2 9BT



Essex References at the Royal Berkshire Record Office

by Colleen Devenish (ESFH 6237)

Intrigued by Angela's Research Tip on page 70 I decided to explore some of the Berkshire Record Office online references:

<https://www.royalberkshirearchives.org.uk>

As there were many Essex place names listed, I called up records for Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester, Finchingfield, and Maldon, to see of what type of records are available and if they could be of help to family historians. Following are my selections:

Brentwood – a selection from 16 entries

D/ESB/B190 Wills book

pp 44-55 Jessica May Shottee Wood of Brentwood, Essex, spinster, 1929 (proved 1945)

D/EWP/T29/1-3 Marriage Settlement

(Settles the manor of Aldermaston and lands in Aldermaston and Padworth; the manor of Arnolds or Arnolds Hall in Mountnessing, and lands in Beauchamp Roding, Brentwood, Ingrave and Mountnessing, Essex; all formerly the estate of Dorothy Pert, bequeathed to Charlotte Hassell; and assigns a lease granted by the Dean and Canons of Windsor in 1750 for 21 years of the manor of Hartley Wespall, Hampshire, with mills and lands belonging to the same. Includes schedule of lands in Aldermaston. By two leases and one release).

D/EX1549/22/91/1-13

Arthur Edwin Wild of Redcliffe, 70 Headley Chase, Brentwood, Essex, retired naval architect (d.1941): probate, estate duty accounts, executors' accounts, lists of investments, beneficiaries' legal agreement, birth certificate and grant of burial.

RD/E/SB6/25/1-17

Winkfield, Fernbank Road, Ascot

Plans of: Bungalow, 1935

Owner: Alfred Reader

Owner address: Greencroft, Coptfold Road, Brentwood, [Essex]

Architect: Not stated

[Drawing, notice and covering letter]

Chelmsford a selection from 55 records

COR/RB2/77/10/1-7

Case papers for Edith Gertrude Peates of Chelmsford 31 May 1944. Place of death Reading.

D/ELV/T69/1-3

Deed (and counterpart deed) to lead the uses of a fine (marriage settlement of John Loveden of Lambourn and Joan, daughter of Nicholas Ive of Chelmsford, Essex),

1586; with final concord, 1590.

D/ELV/T121

Grant by John Holemere, son and heir of Robert Holemer of Chelmsford, to Robert le Seyere of Chelmsford, of a cottage in Wandonereslane in Chelmsford, Essex c1352

D/ELV/T123

Grant by Margery Newland of Chelmsford, widow, to her son John Newland, of all her goods and chattels in Chelmsford, Essex, or elsewhere. c1430

D/ELV/T126

Copy of court roll recording the feoffment by Stephen Lambe to the use of his wife Joan, of 3 roods in Moulsham Mead, Moulsham manor, Chelmsford, Essex. C1445

D/EX1675

Records of the Community of St John Baptist Clewer

ST MARY'S HOME/ST ALBAN'S AND CHELMSFORD DIOCESAN HOUSE OF MERCY, GREAT MAPLESTEAD, ESSEX: annual reports, 1881, 1890, 1925-1942; statutes, 1866-1930s; agreement for management by Community, 1929; admission register, 1924-1943; penitents' maintenance accounts, 1942-1943; photographs, 1920s; miscellaneous, c.1880s-90s.

Q/APE1/1/139

Police examination record for James Joslin of Chelmsford, Essex. c1856

Colchester – a selection from 67 references

COR/RB2/101/12/17

Case papers for Frederick James Bright of Colchester (stationed in Reading) 21 April 1947

D/EX1159/4/14

Charlotte Eleanor Cooper Lease (for 14 years) of All Saints House, East Hill Colchester

Q/APE1/1/360

Police Examination of Alfred Dunt of Colchester 1864

D/P38/19/6

Order of Justices of the Peace for Colchester, Essex, for the payment of costs of relieving Sophia Briggs, a pauper lunatic residing in Colchester and legally settled in Cholsey. C 1855

Finchingfield one selection from 5 references

D/EX208/B18/9/1

Sale particulars and draft conveyance to Edward Over of The Hook Farm, Finchingfield, Essex. C1898

Maldon a selection from 17 references

COR/RB2/102/3/1-12

Case Papers for Arthur Russell Smith of Maldon, Essex 15 May 1947

The Godfrey Family in Loughton

by David Godfrey (ESFH 31140)

This is an account of my researches into the lives of my ancestors in the nineteenth century when several generations lived in Loughton. They were not in any way rich or famous, but if their story strikes a chord with any other members of the society, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

James Godfrey, my 3 x great grandfather was born in Theydon Garnon in 1791, and shortly after marrying a lady called Anne Waller, moved to Loughton with their eldest son William, where their subsequent children were born, James in 1822, Maria in 1825, Charles in 1827, and Thomas in 1838. The family lived in an area known as "The Hole", which was at the top of York Hill. This was probably not a very nice place to live – a letter published in the Woodford Times a good few years later stated "It is high time the attention of the sanitary authorities was called to the disgusting condition of some of the houses situated in that part of Loughton known as "The Hole". They are totally unfit for human habitation". They might not have been so bad earlier on, but the newspaper described them as "patched up old stables" so it is likely that they were never very desirable. James and his family lived there until his death in 1838. He had been a labourer all his working life.

At some time after 1838 Anne moved away. The 1851 Census shows her living at Forest Lodge, the home of James Lyndte, the Secretary to Chelsea Water Works, and quite a prosperous man. She is described as a "dairy woman". She later married a man named Henry Harris and remained in Loughton until her death in 1879.

William Godfrey, James and Anne's eldest son, started school in 1827, attending Loughton National School. James, Maria, Charles and Thomas also attended the school, making them, I believe, the first generation of my family to have gone to school.

In 1843 William married Caroline Street, a member of the extensive Street family of Loughton. They lived in Old Mead, where their two sons, William and James were born. William was an agricultural labourer, like his father James, but at some stage they moved to Woodberry Hill. They were rather better off by this stage, and William was assessed to pay the Poor Rate in 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1880. William died in 1880, and Caroline continued to live at Woodberry Hill for a while, but the 1891 Census shows her living at the almshouses at Baldwin's Hill.

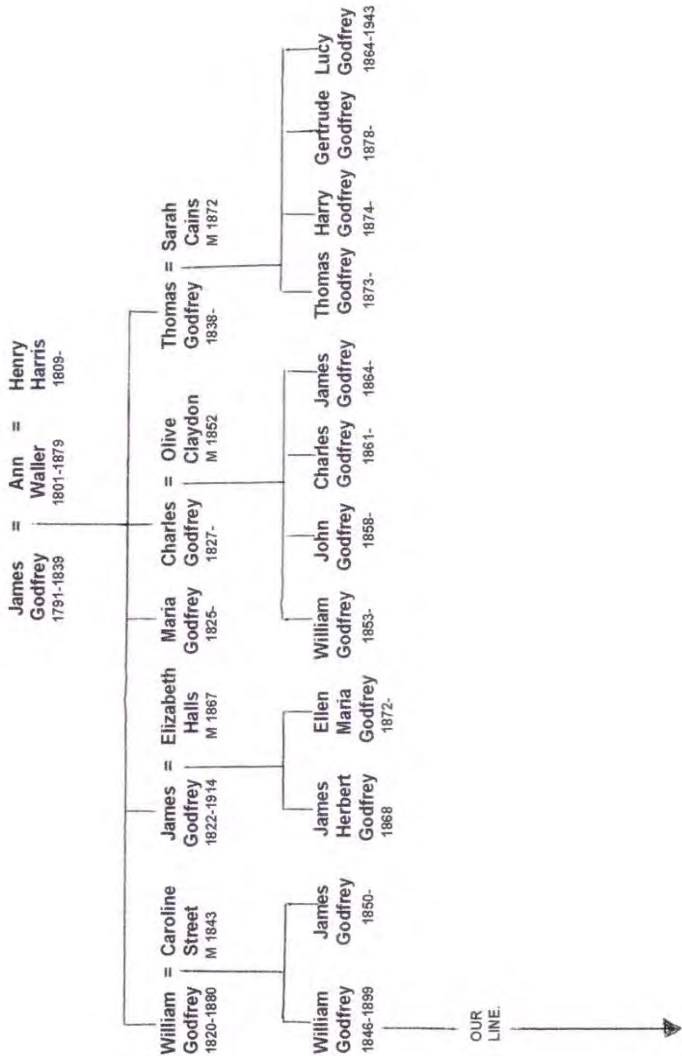
William Godfrey, the son of the William mentioned above, was born in 1846, and he grew up to be an agricultural labourer, like his father and grandfather. In 1868 he married Isabella Sarah Farrow. Their first child, Agnes, was born in Loughton, but in the early 1870's the family moved away from Loughton, settling in Whitechapel in East London. Agriculture was in quite a bad recession in the 1870's, and work for agricultural labourers was becoming more difficult to find.

Thus ended my family's connection with Loughton, except for the years 1930 to 1935 when my mother and father, George and Nellie Godfrey lived at 99, England's Lane, while my father was serving as a police officer. In 1935 he was promoted to Sergeant,

and this made it necessary for the family to move back to London.

There must have been many relatives of the three generations of Godfreys mentioned above who also lived in Loughton, and later generations may be living there still. I would be pleased to hear of them, and share our knowledge. My email address is patanddavid@blueyonder.co.uk

Diagram 3. The Godfreys in Loughton.



Summaries of a Selection of Presentations given between February and September 2023

February 2023

North East Essex Branch Meeting

Newspapers and Research by Gill Peregrine (ESFH 5204)

We had a good number of attendees for our February meeting. Eleven of the members brought a newspaper article that had helped them with their research. The subject matter was very diverse from a death by horse and cart to weddings with guests and presents listed. We also heard about a suicide unfortunately and court cases.

Although many of the subjects were serious some of the facts and the way they were reported caused a great deal of laughter. Everyone agreed that it was so good to be together again and we had had a wonderful afternoon.

March 2023

North East Essex Branch Meeting

Computer Search Hints and Tips by David Cooper

Summarised by Christine Chatfield (ESFH 10754)

The speaker this month was David Cooper, Secretary to the Colchester Branch, who gave us a talk and demonstration about the use of various online websites in researching Family History. He started the talk by giving us a short history of his own experiences when starting his research, then continued by talking about the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) which is “a guideline for establishing the reliability (“proof”) of a genealogical conclusion with reasonable certainty” - taken from <https://en.wikipedia.org> - this included: -

- reasonably exhaustive research
- complete and accurate source citations
- analysis and correlation of the collected information
- resolution of any conflicting evidence
- a soundly researched, coherently written conclusion

David also emphasized the importance of having at least 2 primary sources to verify that you have found the correct ancestor.

I have now outlined below a few of the tips David gave us which may help some of the less experienced members of the Society.

www.ancestry.co.uk – non-indexed information can be found by looking in the Card

Catalogue, search by typing in a location or keyword then open the record set. On the top right hand side there is an option to 'choose' to narrow down your search (for example a set of workhouse records) and you can then look at the original records/ registers.

www.familysearch.org – click on the 'Search' heading, then 'Research Wiki'. On the World Map, type in the place name you are researching. Lots of useful information is shown including what online records are available for that place (together with links to those sites), the names of neighbouring parishes etc. Under 'Search' Images lots of un-indexed records can be found, as only about 10% of the site's information is indexed.

www.findmypast.co.uk – this enables access to the 1921 Census, which can be searched by both names and addresses.

At the end of the talk everyone agreed that it had been very interesting, and we had all learnt something.

April 2023

South East Essex Branch Meeting

The Pewter Tankard - Was it a Family Heirloom?

by Heather Feather (ESFH 366)

Summary by Toni Neobard (ESFH 32898)

Heather opened her talk by showing a photograph of an old half-pint pewter tankard that she had inherited from her mother. She had never thought too much about it, as it was just a really handy receptacle for pens and other oddments found around the house. On the side of the vessel, it had the inscription "G A Coombs" but as far as she knew Coombs was not a family name.

A little while ago she decided to see if she could find out who G A Coombs was and whether this person had a connection with her family. She knew that her great grandfather on her mother's side was called Mitchell Roberts. He was licensee of the Red Lion public house in Shooter's Hill during the 1870s/1880s. But through

some pub research she established that about twenty years earlier the landlord of the same pub was George Albion Coombs (in your browser search for pub history). With matching initials, it seemed very likely that he was the owner of the tankard.



Heather was unable to find any connection between George and her family. But she did find a possible reason for her family acquiring the tankard because George had died during his tenure of the Red Lion, and perhaps his tankard had got missed when his possessions had been cleared from the pub. It was likely that Mitchell had taken a fancy to it and decided to keep it and it has been handed down through Heather's family.



MITCHELL ROBERTS

We all had a chance to examine the tankard as it was passed around the room. It was a really interesting story that incorporated some good old fashioned family history detective work.



A PAINTING OF THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE IN SHOOTER'S HILL

June 2023

South East Essex Branch Meeting

The City That Walks on Water by Beth Hooper

Summary by Heather Feather (ESFH 366)

Beth Hooper, the leader of the Blade Education project, explained to the audience that now Southend-on-Sea has become a city they can “walk on water” by venturing down our famous pier.

The aim of this project is to gather stories from local people about their experiences in the town, especially during the war of 1939-1945.

The 50 strong audience was then divided into groups, which were led by Sixth Form students from Southend schools, armed with recording equipment. Gradually the members and visitors were drawn into recalling memories from their past. These

would be analysed to see if they helped with the project.

June 2023

North East Essex Branch Meeting
Essex Towns and Villages by Patrick Denny

Summarised by Pauline Adlem (ESFH 6098)

For this talk Patrick had picked some of his favourite and interesting towns and villages in Essex which he considers are well worth a visit.

We started off at St Andrews Church, which is an old Saxon church, at Greensted-juxta-Ongar, reputed to be the oldest wooden church in the world. The wooden walls were made by splitting tree trunks into what are called staves. There are 51 of them believed to have been dated to about 1060. Throughout the years, after the Saxons, there have been various renovations and extensions to the church. In the wooden walls you can see a squint, a stoop for holy water and the existence of an old doorway.

From Greensted-juxta-Ongar we moved on to Thaxted, a town which thrived in medieval times with many well preserved houses. The church of St John the Baptist is a large, perpendicular style church, started in the early 1300's but not finished until about the 1520's. It has no fixed seating and wide aisles. It is one of the largest churches in Essex, 183 feet long and 87 feet wide with a spire reaching 181 feet.

Thaxted Guildhall is a Grade I listed timber-framed medieval moot hall in the main high street. It was built in the late 15th century, supposedly with funding from the significant cutlery industry, and served the cutlers' guild.

John Webb's Windmill is a restored brick tower mill, built in 1810, standing to the south of the church. The Almshouses consist of the thatched Chantry House and the tiled Almshouses building of 1714, the latter still in use providing accommodation for elderly people.

Dick Turpin was reputed to have lived there in Dick Turpin's cottage and worked as a butcher, but there is no real documentary evidence apart from the fact that he was baptised on 21st September 1705 in nearby Hempstead.

Another resident was Gustav Holst the composer of the Planet Suite, who lived in The Manse (then called The Steps) in the High Street. His residency is marked by a blue plaque.

The next village Patrick mentioned was Little Dunmow and the pub called the Flitch of Bacon. There was a tradition in the area dating from Norman times involving a flitch of bacon which is still carried on today in Great Dunmow. Any couple who had been married for over a year without a cross word between them could enter. They are both questioned and the people who are doing the questioning try and catch them out. The winners are given a flitch of bacon and are carried around the village in a procession. It is only held every leap year now.

The most photographed village in Essex is Finchingfield. A picturesque village with well preserved medieval houses, a Guildhall, windmill and the Church of St John the Baptist with a Norman tower and doorway. It also has its large duck pond. The largest estate is Spains Hall which is now owned by Jamie Oliver, the celebrity chef. The Guildhall originally had shops and workshops on the ground floor and a hall for guild meetings above.

Great Bardfield came next with mention of the unusual water feature to be found there which enabled the villagers to have access to spring water from a stream running underneath it. It is still available today. It was provided by Henry Smith the then lord of the manor. The church of St Mary the Virgin has a medieval stone rood screen between the nave and the chancel. This is very unusual and there are only three in the world. The other two being in Stebbing Essex and Trondheim, Norway. In the 1940's and 1950's Great Bardfield was the home of many artists who held open house in the village to share their art. Bardfield Cage was the nineteenth century lockup built in 1816 consisting unusually of two rooms. The date is in nails on the front door. The Bardfield Cottage Museum dates from the seventeenth century and was lived in until 1958. The person living there did not want to move out even though there were no conveniences.

Our last stop was in the village of Castle Hedingham. Castle Hedingham itself is built on a hill. It belonged to the De Vere family and Aubrey De Vere finished the initial building of the keep and established a Benedictine nunnery near the castle gates. Entry is through the first floor up an external staircase and the walls are 12 feet thick. The church of St. Nicholas is late Norman and Gothic. It was started in about 1180. The church has a double hammer-beam roof which is well worth seeing and the Romanesque wheel window and cemetery cross are remnants of the Norman church. The village of Castle Hedingham grew around the castle and consists of many interesting houses. The castle these days holds many events and is a popular venue for weddings.

Patrick's whirlwind tour of Essex Towns and Villages was really interesting and I am sure it will encourage people to visit these places.

July 2023

South East Essex Branch Meeting

Origin of a Word by Mandie Adams (ESFH 31875)

Summary by Heather Feather (ESFH 366)

At the South-East Branch meeting in July 2023, member Mandie Adams produced a glass bottle which was shown to the audience.

It was from a Victorian designer Hiram Codd and was for safely drinking liquids, the unusual feature being a marble in the neck, which, when the bottle was struck, allowed the drink to flow. Insects could not get into that bottle. This was allegedly the origin of the expression "a load of codswallop" which for many years was used as a



A CODD BOTTLE

description of something that was incorrect. A similar bottle had recently been shown on the B.B.C. T.V. programme, Antiques Road Show, described as being "rare and possibly valuable".

Mandie said that it belongs to someone she knows and who lives in South-East Essex. It had been found inside a chimney of a Southend-on-Sea house. Mandie saw a piece of newspaper inside the bottle which appeared to feature a trial at the Chelmsford Assize in 1898, at which William Wilkes of Canewdon was convicted of murder and subsequently executed, the last person to be hanged in Victorian Essex. Enquiries about its provenance are in progress.

Note from Colleen, Editor

From one of my favourite websites, Grace's Guide to British Industry (<https://gracesguide.co.uk>) we learn

that Hiram Codd was born in the county of Suffolk, in Bury St Edmunds in 1838. He became an engineer and inventor. His first wife was Jane Colebrook whom he married in 1856 but when she died he married again, this time to Elizabeth Brundell in 1885. He is buried in Brompton Cemetery in South West London, their burial records up until 1997 are held at The National Archives Kew where they can be consulted free.



THE GRAVE OF HIRAM CODD

September 2023

South East Essex Branch Meeting

Don't Eat the Cabin Boy by Toni Neobard (ESFH 32898)

Summary by several members

Our speaker, at South-East Branch's 2023 AGM, had become aware of a story of Detection, Shipwreck and Survival that had passed through her family, from the Victorian times of Ada, Ethel and Araminta (a.k.a. Alice). It concerned (according to them and others) an incident where 4 sailors and a cabin boy (among them a forebear) had been set adrift in a storm in the Bristol Channel and had survived 4 days and 4 nights in a small boat. These circumstances did not appear entirely credible to Toni and she set about establishing more detail. She became aware that her great-great-grandfather Benjamin Sheals was born in 1832 and had been a sailor.

Toni's attention focused on an incident of January 1866. A "Times" article told the tale of the wreck of an Australian bound sailing ship in the Bay of Biscay on 11th of that month. S.S. *London* was a fine 3-masted sailing ship with a steam engine, only 2 years old. A trip from England to Australia at that time could last up to 3½ months,

but in 1865 she had made two trips, one of 59 days, returning with large quantities of gold. However, on this journey she carried a huge weight of cargo, including 345 tons of railway sleepers, much other luggage and stores and with 50 tons of coal (excess above her normal holding on her deck, possibly to clog up stairways). It was believed that she also carried over 220 passengers (including 6 stowaways) and crew. It was stated that her manifest was for over 300 passengers and 90 crewmen.

It also appeared that *London* was handling a violent storm badly, for she was low in the water and Australian Captain John Bohun Martin (aged 47) decided to turn back into the wind and towards Plymouth. The ship began to settle and the crew launched a small boat. Sixteen of them were in her (including Benjamin Sheals and the cabin boy) when 3 passengers joined them. At that time S.S. *London* sank below the violent waves and some 220 souls went with her, including the Captain. After 20 hours (not the rumoured 4 days) in a stormy sea, the boat crew were rescued. A few months later three bottles landed on the French coast, with pathetic messages from drowning passengers.

Sheals went on to marry in 1869, one Sarah Gates, proof of his survival is Toni and her family's existence. He lived until 1905 and had told his poignant story to the family and in far flung places, including Leeds. "*Don't Eat the Cabin Boy*" had been how Toni's family knew the story.

The enquiries into the disaster put the blame on the Captain's decision to turn in the storm with both overloaded cargo and dangerously positioned deck cargo. These facts were no doubt considered when Samuel Plimsoll soon after designed the "Plimsoll Line" to specify, in future, a ship's best depth, when loaded.

Toni finished a splendid and interesting talk by advising her audience that the detective part of this enquiry meant seeking information from every possible (including family) source. William McGonagall, the Scottish tragedian, wrote an "epic" poem about the loss of S.S. *London*.

There is lots of information about this disaster on the internet.

October 2023

South East Essex Branch Meeting

Chalkwell Park and its Environs by Simon Deacon

Summarised by Heather Feather (ESFH 366)

Our October speaker, Simon Deacon, is a local surveyor, with family connections to the City of London. His love of local history had come from his father who left a large collection of local photographs and postcards. Some 45 members and guests listened to his clear description of the area, originally part of the ancient borough of Milton but now as Chalkwell an area between Westcliff and Leigh-on-Sea. Much of the land was gradually recovered from the estuary on the southern border and developed as a housing estate with a substantial park area. He illustrated his talk with pictures of the area, both old and new.

Simon told us of the well-known and celebrity residents of the area. Trevor Bailey, the

Essex and England cricket captain. Barrington Pheloung, composer/musician who composed the TV theme music for "Morse" and "Lewis," John Lloyd, a tennis player, who started playing at Westcliff Hard Court Lawn Tennis Club behind The Ridgeway, Philip Latham, film and TV Actor, Dominic Wood TV magician and personality, known from "Dick and Dom," Benjamin Grosvenor, an international concert pianist, David Choyce, celebrated ophthalmic optician, developer of artificial lens implantation and the late Sir David Amess MP.



THE ENTRANCE ARCHWAY CHALKWELL
FAYRE WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
AUGUST 1822

The beach area to the east of the railway station was known as Joscelyne's Beach and had belonged to the Joscelyne family. (The late Arthur Joscelyne was an early member of the Society). There visitors could enjoy the Jolly Boys or a Punch and Judy show.

We were intrigued with such snippets as the story of how, during World War 2, the railway bridge in Chalkwell Avenue was mined so that any potential German invaders would not be able to reach the easier routes to London. Were the mines ever removed? Chalkwell Park was a much visited area and at different times contained a zoo, and a Test Match pitch, where England's cricket team hosted the Australians. Much loved by children.

There are unobtrusive markers designating an eruv for the benefit of the local Jewish residents.

A gateway to the park was designed by the father of one of our members, Shirley Rowe.

Simon finished his talk with a short video of the history of Chalkwell Hall in Chalkwell Park. The present building is the third and was built in 1830. It is now used as an art centre by "METAL". The video was narrated by Rachel Lichtenstein, a local artist and archivist and she has also written a booklet of the history. (I taught Rachel when she was seven years old and knew she would go far!)

A well organised and delivered talk. Thank you, Simon.

Online Presentations

An Introduction to using 'ScotlandsPeople' website by Jessica Evershed

Summarised by Jessica Collie (ESFH 33446)

Jessica Evershed is an archivist at the National Records of Scotland and her talk and slide show described a website called 'ScotlandsPeople', which is the official

government resource for family history, and goes into detail about what can be searched for and viewed on the site. It is quick and easy to register an account on the website and then the indexes can be searched for free however there is a pay-per-view to view and download digital images of the records you find. The number of credits and the cost of digital images vary on the record type and the charges are detailed on the website.

To access the site, visit www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

One of the first points of Jessica's talk was how, before the creation of a 'proper repository' to keep the nation's records safe, they were often damaged by damp and vermin. This building became the general register house and was designed by Robert Adam, opening to the public in 1789. It was the first purpose built public record repository in the British Isles and one of the oldest archive buildings in the world still to be used for its original purpose.

One thing that can be viewed for free on 'ScotlandsPeople' is the Scottish census dating back to 1801. The only census that are missing or were not taken were the census from 1941 and from 2021. As you may be able to guess, this is due to World War II, and the Covid pandemic. Additionally, Jessica Evershed also showed how the website holds parish documents from the church such as records of baptisms and weddings and the oldest register dates all the way back to 1553.

One interesting certificate that can be found on 'ScotlandsPeople' is the marriage certificate of Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller, also known as the famous write Agatha Christie. This is because, even though Christie was not Scottish, she married her second husband in St Cuthbert's church in Edinburgh in the year 1930. Additionally, you can also see the birth certificate of Muriel Camberg, better known as Muriel Spark, who was a Scottish novelist and was born in Edinburgh in 1918.

There is also an advanced search area of the website where you can look up photographs, Coats of Arms, Military service appeals and tribunals, prison registers and migration records. Wills and testaments from 1513 - 1926 have been digitised and can be viewed on 'ScotlandsPeople'. To search for a specific will on the website you can search by surname or forename, the year, a title or even just an occupation, a place or the court where the registration occurred. Scottish soldier's wills can also be searched and around 31,000 of them can be found on this website. Generally, the wills of the soldiers would be written down in their pay books and if they died, the books would be collected by their fellow soldiers and sent to the war office.

Overall, this was a very informative lecture on the contents of 'ScotlandsPeople' archive and it is hard to see how anyone could research their Scottish ancestors without reference to this website, unless they were able to visit the archive. For those readers who missed the live presentation it is still available on our website. Log in to the Members area, go to Zoom recordings and view it under Website and Resources category.

You can contact Jessica Evershed by emailing education@nrscotland.gov.uk if you have any further questions or queries.

Further Observations –

by David Frost (ESFH 3196)

(On the John Holmes article published in the March 2023 Edition No.179)

I must take issue with the identification of the weapon that John is carrying. The photo as published is too indistinct to be certain but although the Brunswick was still around I think it an unlikely weapon for a volunteer of 1865. By that time the Brunswick was mainly used by Sikh regiments of the Indian Army. The policy was to give Sikhs, who had remained loyal in 1857, a better weapon than the rest of the Indian Army, who had smooth bore muskets, but one that was inferior to the rifle used by British troops.

It is more likely that John was carrying a short-barrelled Enfield rifle. The 1853 Enfield .577 rifle proved its value in the Crimean War and spawned many variants. The most important of these was the 1856 pattern whose barrel was about 9" shorter. It had a sword bayonet rather than the spike bayonet of its parent. That fits with what is identifiable in the photo. Volunteers often provided their own rifles and would go to a gunsmith to get something a little smarter than the War Office issue. I have one such in my own collection made by G H Daw a leading London gunmaker of the time. The overall finish is better than that of the standard issue and its stock is embellished with chequering that the standard issue did not have. It still shoots well.



Dengie Information

by Colleen, Editor

www.essex-family-history.co.uk is a website which offers information about the Dengie.

For those of you interested in the Dengie area and for those that are unsure what places the Dengie covers, the above website refers to Althorne, Asheldham, Bradwell on Sea, Bradwell Waterside, Bridgemarsh, Burnham on Crouch, Cock Clarks, Cold Norton, Creeksea, Hazeleigh, Howe Green, Latchingdon, Mayland, Maylandsea, Mundon, North Fambridge, Ostend, Purleigh, Ramsey Island, Rudley Green, St Lawrence, Snoreham, Southminster, Stansgate, Steeple, Stow Maries, Tillingham, Woodham Mortimer and Woodham Walter.

There is an awful lot of information for the family historian on this website however I found the presentation a little haphazard so expect to spend time looking for relevant data.

Society Information

www.esfh.org.uk

Payment of Membership, Services and CD's by post

Facilities on our website allow for Membership, Services, CD's published by the Society, Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates etc. to be ordered and paid for using a credit or debit card (payment taken via the PayPal website) or a PayPal account. New members wishing to pay their membership fees by cheque should send an email, or write, to our membership secretary Miss A Turner to enable her to send them a membership application form. A payment by cheque must be in GBP, payable at a UK bank, in favour of the "Essex Society for Family History" and crossed.

Membership applications and queries should be sent by post to Miss Ann Turner, 1 Robin Close, Great Bentley, Colchester CO7 8QH or by email to memsec@esfh.org.uk.

Research Centre and Services

Our Research Centre is based at the Essex Record Office Wharf Road Chelmsford CM2 6YT and is open to both members of the Society and non-members from 1.00pm - 4.00pm on Wednesdays and 10.00am - 1.00pm on Thursdays when you will find volunteers on duty.

Our research team offers a service to search indexes and databases where we hold the relevant data at our Research Centre. For details of the indexes we hold please see our website under the Services tab followed by Research and Services. For all enquiries regarding our Search Services please email searches@esfh.org.uk.

For products sold via our online shop and how to order and pay please see our website under the SHOP tab.

Essex Strays Index

References to people from Essex found in records elsewhere. Enquiries with stamped addressed envelope to Mrs Ann Church, "Windyridge" 32 Parsons Heath Colchester CO4 3HX E-mail: ann.church@mypostoffice.co.uk

Correction from Issue No. 179 of the HISTORIAN

March 2023

On page 25 the article The Battle of the Brights incorrectly implies that Edward Bright, the Fat Man of Maldon resided at Church House, when in fact it was his son who lived there and the Fat Man lived a few doors along the High Street.

Society Information

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Webmaster/E-Commerce: Paul Stirland Email: webmanager@esfh.org.uk

Deputy Webmaster: Position vacant

☆ ☆ ☆

Branch Committee Members

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Chair: Gill Peregrine

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Paul Stirland

Registrar: Christine Chatfield

Committee Members:

Pauline Adlem, Roger Stirland

West Essex Branch

Chair: Elizabeth Cox

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Val Jones

Committee Members:

Ann Jones, Sue Spillar, Barbara Harpin

South East Branch

Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Heather Feather

Treasurer: Maureen Angerstein

Committee Members:

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Us section on our website.**

Pauline Adlem

Denise Somers

Colleen Devenish

Paul Stirland

Meryl Rawlings

John Young

Janice Sharpe

The following Branch Chairs or their Representatives have been elected by their
branch members and serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee

Chair North East Essex Branch (Colchester)

Gill Peregrine

Chair West Essex Branch (Harlow)

Elizabeth Cox

Representative South East Essex Branch (Southend)

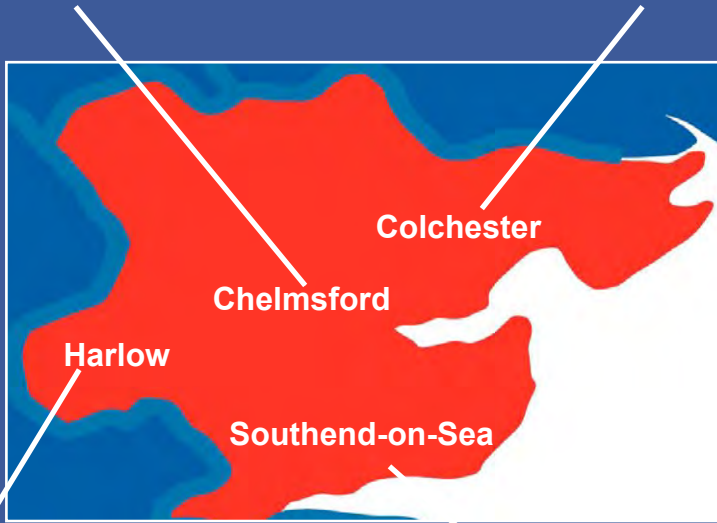
Heather Feather

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Secretary: Vacant



WEST ESSEX BRANCH

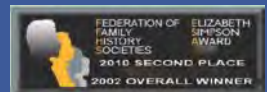
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