

Update on the Ewell Census Project

By Tim Bauckham

The Ewell census data for the years 1851 to 1901 has been transcribed and checked; thanks to all those who have been involved.

Peter Tilley, who devised the computer programs that are used, put on two sessions to show our volunteers the extent of the data that has been loaded and the next stages to be completed. He also showed us the information that will be available to the local history centre once the project is completed.

The output from the database that is being created will be useful to those looking into the family history of ancestors who lived in Ewell and those interested in population changes in Ewell in the second half of the nineteenth century. It will allow for a fast search for individuals appearing in any one or more of the six census years that have been loaded, identify the continuity of families and individuals who remained in Ewell for two or more censuses and, if required, form a database that can provide analyses of demographic changes over that period.



Frank STONE

Examples of the information available on the database are the following facts for Frank Stone (*picture provided by Jeremy Harte*). Frank is wearing a uniform, which is consistent with the information shown on the 1881 Census, that he was a lieutenant in the Epsom detachment of the Surrey RV (Rifle Volunteers?). It seems that these were created in the late 1850s in response to fears of a French invasion. As a consequence of the Cardwell Army reforms of the 1870s these units became Territorial battalions of the County Regiments, probably in the case of the Epsom detachment, the East Surrey Regiment. We have no information about the two medals Frank is wearing nor why the Carte de Visite was produced by 'Telesphore des Mares', presumably a French photographer.

INFORMATION ON THE DATABASE ABOUT FRANK STONE

AGE: 12	30 Mar 1851	CENSUS	PLACE OF BIRTH: Ewell Surrey	OCCUPATION: Scholar
			RESIDING: High Street	STATUS: Not Given; Son of George Stone (1218)
AGE: 22	7 Apr 1861	CENSUS	PLACE OF BIRTH: Ewell Surrey	OCCUPATION: Seedsman
			RESIDING: High Street	STATUS: Unmarried; Son of George Stone (1218)
AGE: 32	2 Apr 1871	CENSUS	PLACE OF BIRTH: Ewell Surrey	OCCUPATION: Not Given
			RESIDING: High Street	STATUS: Unmarried; Son of George Stone (1218)
AGE: 39	10 Oct 1878	MARRIAGE	Bachelor of Ewell (Corn Merchant) MARRIED TO: Helen Dora Brown (Sp) of Ewell BRIDE'S AGE: 25 GROOM'S FATHER: George Stone (Corn Merchant)	

AGE: 42	3 Apr 1881	CENSUS	PLACE OF BIRTH: Ewell Surrey OCCUPATION: Corn & Coal Merchant RESIDING Church Street STATUS: Married; Head of Household
15 Jun 1881	BAPTISM	LOCATION: St Mary's, Ewell FATHER: Frank Stone, Corn & Coal Merchant MOTHER: Helen Dora Stone CHILD: Mary Beatrice Stone (9106)	
18 Oct 1882	BAPTISM	LOCATION: St Mary's, Ewell FATHER: Frank Stone, Corn & Coal Merchant MOTHER: Helen Dora Stone CHILD: Constance Dora Stone (9107)	
4 May 1884	BAPTISM	LOCATION: St Mary's, Ewell FATHER: Frank Stone, Corn & Coal Merchant MOTHER: Helen Dora Stone CHILD: Helen Carrie Stone (9108)	
28 Oct 1885	BAPTISM	LOCATION: St Mary's, Ewell FATHER: Frank Stone, Corn & Coal Merchant MOTHER: Helen Dora Stone CHILD: George Stone (9109)	
18 May 1887	BAPTISM	LOCATION: St Mary's, Ewell FATHER: Frank Stone, Corn & Coal Merchant MOTHER: Helen Dora Stone CHILD: Margaret Stone (9110)	
AGE: 52	5 Apr 1891	CENSUS	PLACE OF BIRTH: Ewell Surrey OCCUPATION: Corn & Coal Merchant RESIDING: High Street STATUS: Married, Head of Household
AGE: 62	31 Mar 1901	CENSUS	PLACE OF BIRTH: Ewell Surrey OCCUPATION: Corn & Coal Merchant At Home RESIDING: Corn Dealer's Shop, High Street STATUS: Married, Head of Household.

In due course it is hoped to extend the scope of the database to cover those individuals who appeared on the 1841 Ewell census.

We are already working on computerising the data for the Epsom censuses. This is a bigger project, as Epsom had a substantially larger population but it will be extremely valuable, as it will help to identify those who lived in both Epsom and Ewell in the period. If any volunteers would like to help with this, please let me know, we will be very grateful. It is not necessary to have typing skills or even to own a computer, as the checking part of the exercise is entirely paper based

Visit to Bentley Priory

By Bert Barnhurst

Due to the fact that Clive Gilbert is a member of Friends of the I. W. M. – Imperial War Museum, he and Bert went on a guided tour of Bentley Priory, the home of RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain in WW2.



Spitfire outside Bentley Priory

The group of about 30 Friends met at the guardroom and then made their way to the main building. In true Royal Air Force tradition a Spitfire and a Hurricane were on display at the entrance. Somewhat unusually there was also an English Electric Lightning, a supersonic fighter from the Cold War period.

The book 'Place Names of Middlesex', by Professor J.E.B. Glover tells us that the name Bentley derives from Anglo-Saxon. The prefix Bent from 'Beonet' a kind of bent or

coarse grass, and the suffix 'leah', a tract of cultivable land. A tract of land artificially cleared for cultivation.

The original Priory is believed to have been built c.1170, and on a site thought to have been further down the hill. The present building was started c.1766 by James Duberley, an Army contractor. In 1788 the Priory was sold to John James Hamilton, the 9th Earl of Abercorn, who made extensive alterations.

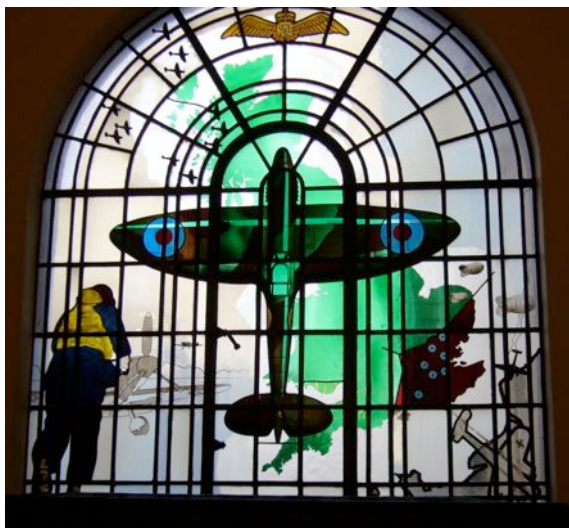
In 1846 the Dowager Queen Adelaide, widow of William IV leased the Priory. She died there on 2nd December 1849.

The eminent Victorian engineer, Sir John Kelk, bought the Priory in 1863 and made many improvements, spending £9,000 on conservatories alone, but the RAF demolished these in 1939 to make space for offices.

In 1882 Mr Frederick Gordon bought the Priory and converted it into a hotel. He even paid for an extension to the railway from Harrow to Stanmore for the convenience of hotel guests. On the death of Mr Gordon in 1908 the Priory became a girl's school, but after the Great War it failed, and closed in 1924. Remaining empty until 1926 when the building and 40 acres of land was sold to the RAF, the remaining 240 acres being split up for housing and green belt.

Much of the building had suffered in a dramatic fire, not once but twice since 1948, but the restoration had been carried out in a very sympathetic fashion. As already stated it has changed ownership several times and although present ownership is still with the RAF it is due to be sold yet again.

Virtually none of the original building showed any signs of what it must have been like in 1940. Although we were told what all the rooms had been used for in those days it was hard to imagine. There were a number of signed photos, perhaps the best known being of Douglas Bader, it was only Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding's, later to become Lord Dowding, office that retained any of the atmosphere of the period. The view from Dowding's office window has a commanding view across London, and it would have been from here that he could have seen much of the fighting taking place that was being reported via the official network. The 42feet deep underground Operations Block first used on 9th March 1940 is not open to the public. This would have been the nerve centre during the Battle of Britain, officially from 10th July to 31st October 1940, and in which nearly 3000 airmen from a dozen nationalities serving in 71 recognised squadrons took part.



Many of the interesting items on display reflected the period but did not necessarily date from that time. The stained glass window of a Spitfire and another of a Hurricane were designed by local schools after the 1948 fire. There was also a 15feet long by 65inches wide panel of lace by the firm of Dobson and Browne Ltd of Nottingham showing various aspects of the time.

Throughout the rooms on show there are various paintings, including those of the Queen, Prince Philip and the previous King and Queen, the Queen having been a great supporter of Bentley Priory throughout her life. There were three panels of signatures of Battle of Britain pilots, which had been collected, but I did not think that they had been given the prominence they deserved.

In all fairness the visit to RAF Uxbridge (*reported in Newsletter 14, September 2006*) gave a much better idea of the urgency and atmosphere of the time as there was much more original material on display. That is to take nothing away from the visit to Bentley Priory; as for anyone with an interest in events of the period it was a must.

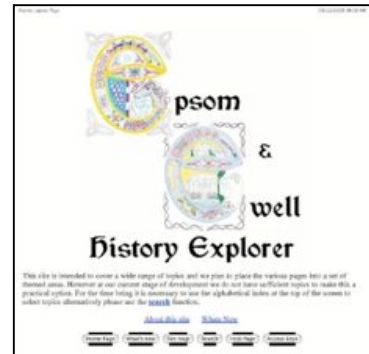
New Additions to the Website

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk>

Peter Reed has provided the following list of new additions to our website, in case you haven't looked at it lately.

25th August 2007	<u>Watch House, Ewell</u>
23rd September 2007	<u>Langley Vale</u>
24th November 2007	<u>Woodcote Park Camp</u>
25th December 2007	<u>Pound Lane School</u>
29th December 2007	<u>Gunpowder Mills</u>

And Clive Gilbert and Peter have revamped the War Memorials pages at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html



A full list of the additions can be found at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html

Go on, have a look. It's amazing how much work has gone into building a first class website and a remarkable new resource for local and family historians from anywhere in the world.

What do 2,664 Artificial Eyes, 3 tons of Epsom Salts, a holder of the Victoria Cross and Miss Marie Lloyd have in common?

By Clive Gilbert

They are all mentioned in some old newspaper cuttings about Horton Hospital contained in a scrapbook that was presented to the History Centre. Unfortunately there is no indication of who put the scrapbook together but was quite obviously done by medical staff at the Horton Hospital.

The first cuttings date from 20 March 1915 and commence just as Horton Asylum became the County of London War Hospital. A large proportion of them are about the War hospital. The final cutting dates from 12 August 1927, and is about an LCC prosecution of Albert Hartin for theft, but the bulk of them relate to the Great War period. They are mostly from the Epsom Herald or the Epsom Advertiser, although there are pieces from the Times, the Daily Sketch, the Daily Mirror, the Lancet and various other publications.

By the time the County of London War Hospital reverted back to Horton Mental Hospital in late 1919 it had treated some 44,613 soldiers from all over the empire of whom only 351 died. At least one VC was treated there Pte. Thomas Henry Sage who, during a German attack threw himself onto a live bomb in order to save his comrades.

Some other miscellaneous statistics; Artificial eyes supplied 2,664; Tooth extractions 18,439; X-ray examinations 29,399; Chloroform dispensed 9cwts; ether 14cwts; gauzes 157 miles; bandages 137,116; sutures 1,875 yards; lint 16 tons; safety pins 140,832; Epsom salts 3 tons; cod liver oil and malt 1 ½ tons; iron tonics 1,200 gallons; surgeons' needles 2,620.

There is a cutting from the Epsom Herald dated 28 January 1916 reporting on a concert given in the Recreation Hall by the biggest star of the day, Miss Marie Lloyd. I believe that the Recreation Hall was part of the same building as the Chapel, which is now disused and becoming somewhat derelict. The Chapel has two large bronze war memorials commemorating the staff who lost their lives during the Great War.

For anyone who wants to see the cuttings, and as they are quite fragile they have all been scanned and are available on a CD held at the History Centre. And we would be delighted if anyone could let us know who put the scrapbook together.

Who Do You Think You Are?

Saturday 20th October 2007

Here's a brief reminder of the action during the Family History Day, last October.



And here's a little anecdote from the day: An elderly lady together with her son came to see what was going on. They didn't require any assistance as they had done a lot of work on their own in the past. While the son was talking to Tim, Bert was in discussion with the lady who stated that her Grandfather had been responsible for building many of the houses in the Stamford Green area. At an earlier time, an unfortunate local resident had committed suicide and was buried outside the churchyard, as was customary in those days. When all the building was complete, it was found that the unfortunate *corpus relictus* rested at the bottom of her garden. When Bert asked what her family had done about it, her reply was, "Well, we certainly didn't say anything when we sold the house!"

What's been going on in the Back Office?

By Peter Reed

What the public mostly see of our work is the desk in the Local History Centre and the volunteers who are there to help with their research and enquiries; but there's a lot more going on behind the scenes. So we thought we would let you know something of these projects and activities and who has been involved (*and we apologise here and now for all those we have missed off the list*).

Over the last year Peter Reed, Eileen Hunter, Anne Cheshire, Linda Clark, Hilary Marogna, Clive Gilbert and many others have been working away in the Back Office on the Local History Collection.

The tasks carried out have included, in no special order, the following:

- Reorganisation of the Local History stacks and filing cabinets.
- Reorganised the microfiche and microfilm cabinets.
- Stock Checking and identifying the location of each item.
- Merging the various catalogues into one computerised system showing the exact location of the items.
- Labelling items, where possible, to show not only their catalogue number but also where the item should be returned to after use (now there is no excuse for not putting things back in the right place!).
- De-duplication of items inadvertently catalogued more than once.
- Reorganising the photographs, and putting the items into conservation grade clear plastic covers with their relevant catalogue cards.
- Started scanning and numbering the photographs. Thanks mainly to Clive Gilbert we have just completed the scanning of the Epsom photos, totalling over 1,100 scans! Work on the Ewell photos has just been started by a new volunteer, John Logan. The visual images catalogue is currently held in an Excel spreadsheet, but this will be incorporated into the main catalogue in due course. These scans can be quickly located and viewed, and if desired, printed via a computer without the need to look for, or handle the physical photograph, so helping preserve our collection.
- *Please note* that after the scanning it is important that the physical photos are kept in *strict number order*.
- Organised a couple of Photo days, which have added 1,200+ new local images to the collection. These are digital images and no physical print is available for inspection but they can be viewed and printed if desired.
- Identified and sorted many hundreds of un-catalogued items, some of which had been hanging around for more than two decades! These items, which were mainly found in the back office filing cabinets and stacks, have been sorted into broad classes (e.g. E25 ...) as preparation for them being catalogued, and appropriately stored. This should enable one to access un-catalogued records more easily.
- Created a slide show of all the scanned images.
- Dealing with general correspondence and other routine back office tasks (e.g. photocopying census forms) etc.
- General tidying up and clearing a filing backlog.

And there is still more to be done . . .

Over the next few months we still have massive amounts of work to do so if anyone is looking for a little job do let Peter Reed or Jean Walsh know. These include:

- Starting on the task of cataloguing the backlog of 'new' items. This is a specialist task, which historically has only been carried out by an Information Librarian, in our case Jean Walsh. However Jean is retiring in August 2008 and as a replacement is unlikely, alternative arrangements will have to be worked out and appropriate training given.
- Identifying and sorting the many hundreds of un-catalogued items, currently located in the fireproof store, into broad classes as preparation for them being catalogued, and appropriately stored.
- Identifying and sorting hundreds photographs so that they can be catalogued and scanned.
- Scanning an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 photographs (mainly covering Ewell, Stoneleigh/Cuddington & Nonsuch)
- Tracing, or organising replacements for missing items.
- Moving some stock around so that the items of stock are more logically grouped together.
- Moving some stock into new folders etc to help protect the collection.
- Indexing and cataloguing work relating to the 'minor' collections, e.g. Glyn, Chuter Ede collections.
- Contacting local Schools for a copy of their current prospectus
- Sorting out local estate agents particulars into street order
- Writing to local groups to see why we no longer receive their regular newsletters.

Have You got some old photos for us?

We all like looking at old pictures - Victorian ragamuffins playing barefoot in the back street, Eton toffs in their top hats and frock coats, Just William kids scrumping for apples in an orchard. So I

make no excuse for trying to start a series of pictures that will, hopefully be studied for historical clues fifty or a hundred years from now. If you want to send me your pictures and stories - street parties, playing out, school plays, trips to the seaside, maybe we can start a database and publish them on our website. It would help to have a story that makes a point - like the one below about the orb and the pencil case prize.



Here's a prize image to start with. This volunteer won the fancy dress competition at the Cunliffe Road 'Street party' celebrating the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth on 2nd June 1953.

She says she hated being photographed (could have fooled us, she looks great) - and still does! She adds "My mother made my 'robes' out of crepe paper and gold paint. My orb was a 'toilet thingy', which was my reply when asked by the judge what it was made of. My prize was a treasure for me - I can still see it - a dark blue pencil case with pencils of all colours, along with the usual rubbers, sharpener. I was so happy and loved my pencil set. Amazing how much pleasure we gained from simple items, unlike today with the I'm not going down that road."

Worked out who it is yet. It's Hilary Marogna. Thanks Hilary. Can we have some more of this from other volunteers.

By the way, Hilary also wonders whether volunteers who like pictures have looked at the Images of England website:

www.imagesofengland.org.uk

The site comprises over 300,000 'Millennium' images of listed buildings and structures each with a description, prepared during the listing process. All of the photographs were taken between 1999 and 2005 providing a 'snapshot' at the time of the Millennium and can be downloaded for educational use free of charge.

Forthcoming Events and Other Happenings

Herald of Spring - 8th and 9th March 2008

The Herald of Spring will once again be at Bourne Hall, Ewell on Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th March 2008. The theme this year will be a step back in time to the days of Roman Ewell, with re-enactors showing what it was like to live in those far off times - with craftsmen, soldiers and even gladiators - all in a Roman setting.

Advanced notice of the Annual General Meeting - 21st April 2008

The Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre AGM will be held on Monday, 21st April 2008 starting at 6.45 pm at Bourne Hall. As usual, there will be a talk after the AGM, which will also be open to the public. Details will be circulated later, but based on previous years' experience it should be well attended; so make a note in your diary.

The National Archives, Kew

It has been reported that the National Archives at Kew is still functioning but under pressure. There is less space while refurbishments take place and in early January the photocopy machines were not working properly. The good news was that there was not a charge for the prints. The site is due to close again from 21-27th January 2008. There is no news as to how the parking has been affected. It is suggested that if you are planning a visit shortly after 28th January it would be best to phone to check on progress before you go - tel: 020 8876 3444. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Family Records Centre, Myddelton Street

The National Archives at the FRC will move to Kew in Spring 2008. The National Archives intends to close its services at the FRC (including census records and wills pre-1858) on 15 March 2008.
www.familyrecords.gov.uk

The London Metropolitan Archives, Clerkenwell

The LMA is currently closed for refurbishment. It will reopen on Monday 21 January 2008 at 9.30. Normal opening hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 4.45pm, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am - 7.30pm.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure_heritage/libraries_archives_museums_galleries/lma

Should any Volunteer get to hear, or have first hand experience of the progress on any of these sites', please put a note on the board in the back office so that we can say how things are getting on if asked.

Sites to Behold

Why not tell us of the genealogy sites that you have found of late. Here are two to start with:

- **GeneaNet** www.geneanet.org It's purpose is to connect people so that they can help each other and share genealogical research. Basic registration is free.
- **National Trust Names** www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk which shows "where my name comes from " just as long as there are more than 100 people listed in the 1881 census with that name. You can compare the distribution spread for your name from 1881 to 1998.

For any sites you suggest you could also let us know whether they are free or pay to view and whether they are any good or not. We are unlikely to find all the best sites for ourselves and we can all learn from others.

Have You got News for Us?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. Thanks to all those who provided information and stories. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message. If you have any

- reports on visits to various sites or centres
- intriguing Information Requests
- forthcoming projects or events
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- or just strange tales to tell

please let Ian know - supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome. It will help make the newsletter more interesting for us all. The next publication date will probably be in May 2008, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP. 16th January 2008