

The articles in this newsletter are purely the responsibility of the authors and are not necessarily the views of the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre.

Congratulations to Peter Reed – and the Angels

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and Voluntary Action Mid Surrey celebrated the dedication and commitment of volunteers to their work in local community groups and voluntary organisations at the annual Epsom & Ewell Volunteer Awards held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 26 March 2013.

34 nominations were received this year and 31 winners attended the ceremony, which was held in the Council Chamber. The awards recognise the invaluable contribution of volunteers who offer their time selflessly for the benefit of the community in Epsom & Ewell.

Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Councillor Christine Long who presented the awards said, "Volunteers are very special people who give freely of their time. It was a great privilege for me to be able to mark their achievements and to thank them on behalf of the Borough for all the work they do for us."

Each volunteer was presented with a 'Certificate of Thanks' by the Mayor, marking his or her outstanding and selfless achievements. Volunteers were nominated through either their remarkable contribution to an organisation and its members over a period of five years or more or individual involvement as part of a project that has made a real difference, for instance designing a website, fundraising, outstanding support to an individual or a voluntary organisation.

One of the recipients of the award was Peter Reed, Webmaster for the Epsom & Ewell History Explorer website which is closely associated with the Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre. He was nominated by Hazel Ballan, a volunteer at the Epsom & Ewell Local History Centre, at the suggestion of Sally Jenkinson from Surrey History Centre and Matthew Cockshutt from Surrey Libraries.



'The Angels' with Peter Reed.

L to R: Joyce Witham, Hilary Marogna, Anne Cheshire, Peter, Rosemary Chapman, Janet Painter, Carol Hill. Missing from picture, Eileen Hunter

safely store photos and documents related to Epsom and Ewell's history. As well as this Peter is always



The commendation from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council reads, as follows (based very much on Hazel's nomination) . . .

Peter Reed is a key member of the Epsom and Ewell Local History Centre as well as being their computer guru. Peter instigated a new catalogue system and heads a group of volunteers fondly known as Peter's angels. They all meet to catalogue and

available to help with any public enquiries on a number of days of the week. He also works non-stop as the Webmaster for the History Centre's website www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk. He was instrumental in helping set up the website in 2006 and it now stores many of the historical records for Epsom and Ewell. In fact it was recognised by genealogy expert Nick Barrett in Family Tree magazine as being one of the top three websites for historical information in Surrey.

We feel that Peter should be publicly recognised and congratulated for producing such an impressive resource. The information is used by local residents, academics, researchers, school children as well as people from abroad looking to trace their family roots. Without his freely given hours and expertise none of our records would be available online. Added to this our volunteer researchers have at their fingertips information that can be accessed at home which enables them to support the work of the centre more effectively. Thank you Peter for your outstanding contribution.

Peter has responded to receiving the award as follows ... "As some people will know I was nominated for and accepted an Epsom & Ewell Volunteer Award 2013 . . . I would like to thank those who nominated me and everyone who has helped me achieve this award. As far as I am concerned the award is not just for me but for all the volunteers at Epsom & Ewell Local & Family History Centre."

Sources: Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Voluntary Action Mid-Surrey and the Epsom Guardian

Volunteers' Miscellanea

How shopping at the Epsom branch of Waitrose in February helped boost our funds

Last year Angela Clifford applied to Waitrose for us to be nominated for their Community Matters Collection. This duly took place in February this year. Recently, Angela had an email informing her that Waitrose had raised the very welcome sum of £175 for the History Centre. The cheque has been received and duly banked. Well done Angela and thanks to everyone who made frequent shopping trips to Waitrose to put the little green counters in the relevant box.

Now you see it, now you don't. Or do you?

Bert Barnhurst has supplied this birth certificate of CLARA BARNHURST. Her birth is listed as such in the GRO registers (ref. 6 d 424 Stratford on Avon, Dec Qtr 1853). Bert says she was his grandfather's aunt. Nothing wrong there then, or is there?

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON

Application Number... 4240 A

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Stratford on Avon

1853. BIRTH in the Sub-district of Stratford on Avon in the County of Warwick

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
38	<u>Eight November 1853</u> <u>Greenhill Street</u> <u>Stratford on Avon</u>	<u>Clara</u>	<u>Girl</u>	<u>George Barnhurst</u>	<u>Martha Rawlins</u>		<u>Martha Rawlins</u> <u>Mother</u> <u>Greenhill Street</u> <u>Stratford</u>	<u>Twenty eighth November 1853</u>	<u>J. Tomb</u>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 17th day of December 19 73

The next item is the death certificate of CLARA RAWLINS listed as such in GRO registers (ref. 6 d 332. Stratford on Avon Sept 1854). Nothing wrong there then either, or is there?

FE 101913

CERTIFIED COPY
 Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

Registration District Stratford on Avon									
1854. Death in the Sub-district of Stratford on Avon in the County of Warwick									
Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
366	Thirteenth September 1854 Greenhill Street Stratford on Avon	Clara RAWLINS	Female	10 months	Daughter of Martha RAWLINS Domestic Servant	Low vitality from birth Certified	Elizabeth Blundal In attendance Sheep Street Stratford	Fourteenth of September 1854	S Tombs Registrar

Except all is not as it seems; they are in fact one and the same person.

If you look carefully you will notice that the mother's maiden name is not mentioned on Clara's birth certificate! Clara was in fact the 10th child of Bert's Gt. Gt. Grandfather, George Henry Barnhurst. Martha, Clara's mother, was to be George's second wife but they were not married at the time of Clara birth and it would seem that it was Martha who reported the birth of Clara as if she and George were married, perhaps in the hope that he might make an honest woman of her! You will see that the address given on both certificates is the same so perhaps Martha was George's 'housekeeper'?

George must have been a bit slow to take the hint as it was one more child and five more years before he and Martha eventually tied the knot on the 28 Oct 1858.

As the old saying goes, - seek and ye shall find, - with a bit of luck and some lateral thinking on the part of my cousin Margaret.

Photographs of Britain from Above

Angela Clifford has suggested a fascinating website with loads of pictures of 'Britain from the Air' between 1919 and 1953. There are quite a few pictures of Epsom and Ewell, which you can access if you browse the site and keep drilling down into the maps - it's very easy. Here's one example, one of many: It's the railway bridge over East Street, Epsom in 1921. For other views go to www.britainfromabove.org.uk



Legacies of British Slave-Ownership



In 1833 Parliament finally abolished slavery in the British Caribbean, Mauritius and the Cape. In place of slavery the negotiated settlement established a system of apprenticeship, tying the newly freed men and women into another form of unfree labour for fixed terms.

It also granted £20 million in compensation, to be paid by British taxpayers to the former slave-owners. That compensation money provided the starting point for tracking back to 1763 the ownership histories of the 4000 or so estates identified.

Brian Bouchard has informed us that University College London (UCL) has now put this project on-line. He also tells us that the only representatives in the database from Epsom were Rev. Robert Hesketh and Edward Whitmore – who are both featured on the Explorer website under, respectively, 'Parkhurst' - and 'Grove House'.

You can find out more about these two characters at:

Parkhurst, Rev. Hesketh: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Parkhurst.html

Grove House, Mr. Edward Whitmore: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GroveHouse.html

For more on the 'Legacies of British Slave Ownership' see: www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs

Do you know anything about 'The Sally from Mincing Lane'?

Peter Reed sent us this cartoon. It's titled 'The Sally from Mincing Lane to Little – Hell'.



It was published in February, 1777 by W. Humphreys of Gerrard Street, Soho and is described as a political cartoon showing a man sitting in a carriage called 'Annuities' riding over a human skull by a marker showing '5 miles to Epsom'. It forms part of a collection of British Cartoon prints in the US Library of Congress.

If anyone can throw any light on the meaning behind this cartoon and what it has got to do with Epsom, we would be delighted to hear from you.

A compliment from the "Mark Rutherford Society"

William Hale White (22 December 1831 - 14 March 1913) was a well-regarded Victorian writer using 'Mark Rutherford' as a pen name. He was briefly resident in Epsom, at Flint House, and much later in Street Farm, Ashted. Brian Bouchard has written about WHW's local connections for the website and in response the Mark Rutherford Society have written to say that they "like the page very much". They will be holding a symposium

celebrating the 100th anniversary of WHW's death on 22nd June 2013. Full details are on the website: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HaleWhite.html

The wife takes no responsibility ... Wrong!

In the January 2013 Newsletter we carried an item on a census entry supplied by Angela Clifford. Under the heading of Rank, Profession or Occupation the husband is listed as "Clerk in Holy Orders (Schoolmaster)". Under the wife's entry it says "No Other Care of Souls".

We suggested an underlying source of tension between husband and wife.

Since then, two volunteers – Hazel Ballan and Susan Leather - question this implication. Both believe that the entry "No Other Care of Souls" against the wife's name is actually a continuation of the occupation of her husband's above. The entry could have also been written as "Without Care of Souls".

The term "Care of Souls" is also known as "Cure of Souls" (Latin: cura animarum), and is where the title "Curate" comes from. Curate is the commonly used title for an assistant or trainee clergyman to a parish priest.

The term "Clergyman without Cure/Care of Souls" actually means a clergyman without his own parish. It was the usual way of stating that a gentleman was in Holy Orders but not employed as the clergyman in a parish caring for the souls of its parishioners. Often these *unbeneficed* clergy were schoolmasters as in this census.

Thank you for clearing this up and it just shows how we have to be careful interpreting historical data. It also shows how smart our volunteers are – Ed.

A well attended AGM

More than thirty people attended our AGM on Wednesday, 17th April at Ewell Library. As well as our volunteers we were delighted to welcome a number of visitors. The draw was an illuminating, informative and entertaining talk on 'The History of Epsom Hospitals' Railway' by Stewart Cocker, Countryside Manager, Epsom & Ewell BC.

The Horton Light Railway

The Horton Light Railway, as it was known, was built in 1905 to transport materials for building London County Council's Long Grove Asylum to the west of Epsom. It never (officially) carried passengers, its main purpose being to carry building materials and coal and other supplies to Long Grove and the other psychiatric hospitals in the Epsom Cluster. The railway connected with the mainline network near to Ewell West railway station.

Up to nine hundred workers travelled from Waterloo Station to Ewell West station every day to build the hospitals. The workers had to walk the two and a half miles from Ewell West station to the hospitals, as passengers were not permitted to be carried on the railway.

It was a standard gauge light railway and had four engines – Hollymoor, Crossness, Hendon and Sherwood. The railway closed and the track was lifted *circa* 1950. The trackbed is now used as a walking and riding path through Horton Country Park.

It's always interesting to hear about features of Epsom & Ewell that have now disappeared but for nearly 50 years were a vital transport facility for the Epsom Hospitals cluster. Stewart's talk was illustrated with some excellent and intriguing before-and-after photographs and maps, and solicited a number of questions from the audience. Thank you Stewart and thank you Carol Hill for arranging the talk.

For further information on the Horton Light Railway see our website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HortonRailway.html

Other sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horton_Light_Railway

Do you have memories and photographs of the Horton Light Railway?

Stewart is seeking more details, and in particular, more photographs of the railway and the people who worked on it. If you or any of your relatives and friends has such information or pictures please contact the History Centre and we will put you in touch with Stewart. Any photographs will be scanned and the originals returned to the owners. *Contact details for the History Centre can be found at the end of this newsletter.*

'Days of Steam Walk' led by Stewart Cocker

Later this year Stewart is leading a walk to explore the route of the Horton Light Railway so why not join him and find out more. The walk will be on:

Sunday, 17th November 2013
Starting at 1.00pm.
Meet at the Information Centre,
Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve.

History Centre Committee

There will be separate minutes of the AGM circulated to volunteers. In their place, Clive Gilbert has offered to take the Treasurer's role and was unanimously elected and Linda Laker has agreed to be the new examiner. We thank them both.

The committee offered to continue and put themselves forward for re-election, which the volunteers approved. It was also agreed that we continue, as now, without a permanent chairman. For the record, the committee is as follows:

Hazel Ballan, Meg Bower, Linda Clark, Angela Clifford (Minutes Secretary), Clive Gilbert (Treasurer), Carol Hill, Ian Parker (Newsletter) and Peter Reed (Webmaster). We also want to thank Linda Laker for being the examiner of the accounts with the responsibility of deeming them correct.

Peggy Bedwell

We also want to take this opportunity to send our best wishes and fond thoughts to Peggy Bedwell, who has recently been taken ill. Peggy was one of the early volunteers to join the History Centre when it was founded some eleven years ago and served as Treasurer for the Centre for the past decade before stepping down last year. We look forward to hearing she is making a good recovery.

Back to School

By Bert Barnhurst

Not so long ago my youngest grandson, Austen, asked me questions about my Grandfather as part of a project for his 'Myths and Legends' homework. Having come up with copies of photos, some medals, newspaper cuttings and other general back ground material, both Austen and his teacher seemed well pleased with the result.

It was not long before I found myself being 'volunteered' to give a talk to Austen's classmates. As the History Centre had not had the opportunity of doing much with schools of late, I thought why not. However I could not have anticipated what a fascinating afternoon it would turn out to be.



I was met at reception by Austen and taken down the corridor to Holly Class to a rousing greeting by some thirty curious six and seven year old children, probably thinking that what ever it was, it would be better than working. But what a fun afternoon we had.

Having made my initial presentation where one of the boys did a very good job of reading some of my material for me, we went through medals, a WWI memorial plaque, some old style coins and notes and how they related to

the cost of things in days gone by. My grand father had been a conductor on old style horse trams, of which I gave them copy pictures. Some stories of passenger helping to push trams up hill caused great merriment.

If I had any concerns about my presentation being too much for Holly Class the questions they put to me left me in no doubts as to their interest, including comments on the Bourne Hall museum from some.

The time fair flew by, but I was left with one overriding impression of Holly Class, that they were a great group of children and that if the afternoon was anything to go by the future of history will be safe in their hands. Well done Holly Class and thank you for asking me to talk to you.

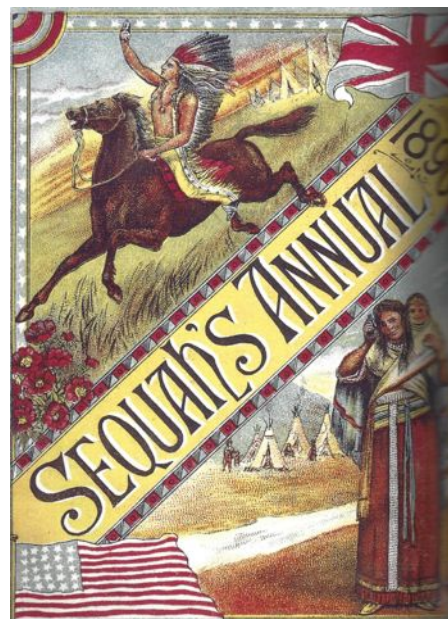
The Amazing Sequah – Medicine Man

By Jeremy Harte

Amusement was in short supply if you lived in a small Surrey town in the 1880s, and the people of Epsom must have spent a long time staring at the posters and handbills which announced that the great Sequah, a man who cured everything and laughed at doctors, would be paying them a visit. They were not disappointed. On the expected day sounds of a brass band were heard thumping through the High Street. A colossal gold chariot drew the bass drummer, and after him, with whoops and yells, came riders escorting a covered wagon, all the way from the fabled American West. Sequah himself lived up to expectations.

There he stood, a tall figure in buckskin coat and leggings, his piercing eyes surveying the crowd from under a ten-gallon Stetson hat. If he was disappointed in his accommodation – it was the forecourt of the Marquis of Granby – no feelings registered in that hawk-like gaze. Slowly, in a seductive Western drawl, he began to talk about the places he'd been and the cures he'd worked. Night drew on, but the hissing flares of the gas lamps kept the show bright, casting long shadows on the faces of the growing crowd. Was there nothing this man couldn't do? Bad teeth? You betcha! And at once, with the aid of an electric headlamp and two or three cowboys and Indians working in unaccustomed partnership, Sequah had pulled out several teeth and sent the patient back into the crowd with a patent painkiller.

The ladies? His voice took on a softer tone. The ladies had their little problems, we all knew that. But take a bottle of Prairie Flower, dames – out it came from the back of the van – and you could be as free from feminine discomfort as the robust squaw on the label. Supplies were limited, buy now or tomorrow at the latest, because Sequah was lonesome for the road, and he'd be moving on soon...



By the time that daylight dawned on the sooty flares, some of the magic must have died away. Those with good memories would have noticed that Sequah, like Father Christmas, looked different each time he came. In fact there might up to 23 of him travelling the country at the same time, all part of a franchise run by William Hartley who fitted them for their buckskins and taught a convincing drawl. Given that Hartley was a Yorkshireman, this must have owed much to audience expectation, but that was the nature of quack medicines. Prudently, the Sequahs concentrated their attention on areas away from the established medical centres, where bystanders might include the sort of young doctor who asks awkward questions (Prairie Flower, on analysis, had turned out to contain no active ingredients at all). At Clapham they set up their roadshow on the Common. At Mitcham it was the Fair

Green. At Kingston it was a field near Densham's Laundry in London Road.

But the crowd didn't just come for the patter and the medicines. They wanted to see cures, and they were not disappointed. The rheumatic, the arthritic and the lame were invited up onto the stage where a bottle of Sequah's Seal Oil would be produced and their joints massaged vigorously. The band played extra loud at this point to discuss any yelps of pain. And sometimes it worked: there are reports of thankful patients dancing a jig with the great man on stage. And sometimes it didn't. At Epsom, Edward Charman wrote 'One remembers a case where the Minister of a church offered prayer; anyhow they dragged the poor fellow round afterwards with his crutches. I would not like to say he was cured'. Morning told a different story, but by morning the great Sequah was gone.

Sources:

Sequah in Surrey:

Edward Charman's reminiscences of Epsom,

The Sequah Industry

A disastrous fire, made worse by a catalogue of disasters

The Way We Were - January 1919

By Janet Painter

Early on a Sunday morning in January 1919 a devastating fire broke out at the Manor House, Little Bookham when the famous old mansion was all but destroyed. The outbreak was discovered about 6a.m. when one of the maids was awoken by the smell of smoke. She at once aroused the ladies maid who in turn went to the bedroom of her mistress, the Hon. Mrs Barrington and informed her that the house was on fire, the whole place by this time was full of dense smoke. An alarm was raised and the family which included four children and Mrs Barrington's sister together with seven maids, escaped by the back stair-case in their night clothes as the front hall and staircase had become impassable.

Mrs Barrington attempted to telephone the Leatherhead Fire Brigade from the nearby Manor Farm. This took nearly an hour, as she was unable to get an answer from the Bookham Telephone Exchange. It should perhaps be noted that at that time all telephone calls were routed through manual exchanges via an operator and it would seem that there was no-one on duty at that time of the morning. ----- Meanwhile the property burned.

Eventually contact was made with the Leatherhead Brigade who set off in their horse drawn appliance. Having managed to rouse the telephone exchange, Mrs Barrington attempted to contact the Guildford Fire Brigade and after some considerable delay the Chief Officer came to the telephone but despite Mrs Barrington's plea for help he declined to send his brigade to her assistance. -----Meanwhile the property continued to burn.

In the meantime, a member of staff from the Manor House had been sent off in a motorcar to try and make contact with the Leatherhead Brigade. They met in Fetcham and the car immediately returned to Little Bookham with the Chief Officer, Mr Cowen, leaving the horse drawn engine to follow on. On arrival at the scene they found the fire had taken a firm hold on the property and in the absence of any fire extinguishers the Chief Officer then drove to Effingham Lodge where he obtained two small chemical extinguishers. With these he attempted to check the fire but they had little effect on the blaze with the result that when the rest of the brigade arrived the fire was all but out of control. They managed to obtain some water from a hydrant some distance away but the pressure was not very good. -----Meanwhile the property continued to burn.

Finally, the Epsom brigade was sent for, as they, along with Guildford were the only two brigades in the Surrey area with motorised engines and pumps. However, they hadn't gone very far before their engine broke down.



Firemen in those days were all volunteers and had to be summoned to their fire stations either by means of a loud hooter at the station or in the case of Epsom's brigade by call bells that had been installed in the firemen's houses. For the horse drawn appliances this usually meant having to round up the horses from farms or stables and bringing them to the station before they could be harnessed to the engine, all of which took a great deal of time and effort before the brigades could start out. -----Meanwhile the property continued to burn.

The Leatherhead Chief Officer again contacted the Guildford Chief Officer and he eventually agreed to turn out, arriving in due course along with the Epsom brigade who had managed to re-start their engine. These two motorised engines quickly got to work pumping water from a nearby pond on to the fire. The blaze was finally checked but not before the whole mansion was practically gutted. The local brigade remained at the scene for the rest of the day and until Monday evening in case of further outbreaks.

The Hon Mr Bernard Barrington, who had been away, arrived home that night to find his elegant home a complete wreck. The cause of the fire is thought to have been due to a beam under the fireplace becoming ignited by a heating apparatus under the floor and there was evidence that it had been smouldering for some time, possibly days, before bursting into flames. The estimated damage was between £5,000 and £6,000, [about £223,500 to £268,500 today] but as the building and contents were fully covered by insurance the house was rebuilt to its former state.

The reason given by the Guildford brigade for its refusal to attend was that some time earlier a scheme had been drawn up under which Parish Councils that desired the services of the brigade had been asked to make a contribution towards the upkeep of the service. Some Parishes had agreed but some had not, consequently the brigade was not in a position to go to a non-contributory parish and the Chief Officer did not know whether Little Bookham came under the scheme. Anxious as he was to attend the fire he had to point out that he could only go if he received a call from the Chief Officer of Leatherhead in whose district the fire had occurred.

The outcome of this disaster was that all parishes were made to contribute to the scheme to ensure all areas were covered in case of fire.

Source: The Surrey Advertiser January 8th 1919

A girl called Urith

By Jeremy Harte

Travellers who turn off the road from Barnstaple to Crediton will find themselves in a landscape of little valleys, intersected by B-roads, one of which leads to Chittlehampton. Distinguished by its fine fifteenth-century church tower, a favourite destination for bell-ringers on their outings, Chittlehampton also has a holy well in East Street visited every year on the 8th July by a procession of village children singing the traditional hymn to St. Urith.



Statue of St Hieritha in a niche in the Church of St. Urith, Chittlehampton, Devon

St. Urith, the patron saint of the parish church, is said to have lived in the sixth century, a remote period about which pretty much anything could be claimed. She was martyred by local farmhands who cut off her head with a scythe for her Christianity at the instigation of her jealous and pagan stepmother. It is said that where her blood dropped on the rich red soil a spring of water burst from the spot and there grew the first scarlet pimpernels (*Simon Jenkins remarks that in the Dark Ages it was customary for martyrs to cause these springs to appear, often thanks to the marketing zeal of the spring owners*).

It was in the late medieval period that her cult began to flourish, and its fame brought in pilgrims from the country round about. The village grew rich. Little girls were christened Urith in her honour, and no doubt grew up to marry boys called Nectan or Rumon from Hartland or Romansleigh. They have a lot of saints in North Devon.

None of this, however, explains why there should have been girls called Urith in Tudor Ewell – but that is what happened. The first, as far as records tell, is Urith the daughter of William Saunder, born in 1534. She married John Palgrave of Norfolk, where she died in 1600, leaving a large family. Less is known of Ureth the daughter of Richard Bray, who is mentioned only once, as the youngest daughter on his tomb in 1559. Bray married Jane Saunder, daughter of William's brother Nicholas. Young Ureth, who may have died in infancy, seems therefore have been named after her mother's cousin.

Another local figure was Urith the wife of John Mylls, who held land in Ewell although she was living in Malden at the time of her death in 1614. She was not originally from the parish, though; John Mylls was her second husband, her first marriage having been to James Gage of Framfield in Sussex. James died in 1573, which puts the birth of this Urith back to the 1550s at least.

Other woman of the same name appear in early sources for our area. When William Buttes of Mitcham died in 1595, he left a widow Urith. A girl called Urye was baptised at Wimbledon in 1603; another, Urith, was the daughter of John and Elizabeth West at Twickenham in 1646.

This is a curious group of mostly unrelated people – and it is a discrete group. If you follow women called Urith through Tudor and Stuart documents, most of them come from Devon, as you might expect; they or their female ancestors were Chittlehampton girls who moved a few miles away on marriage. Following this natural drift, the name is found also in Cornwall and Devon. But that's its normal limit. The Surrey Uriths are an exception.

What happened? Although the name later was passed down in the family, both in Sussex and Norfolk, there doesn't seem to be a common female ancestor who could account for the north Surrey names. My hunch is that there was one original Urith of reasonably high standing who stood godmother to our local families. She would almost certainly have been a Devon woman whose husband came east to take advantage of the opportunities in Tudor London. But who was she?

A fall from a horse and Miss Emily Mawbey becomes Lady of Epsom Manor - briefly

By Brian Bouchard

In *Some particulars relating to the history of Epsom*, 1825, Henry Pownall recorded: -

“Mrs. Ricarda Parkhurst died in 1770, and in September following the manor was sold by auction, and bought by Sir Joseph Mawbey, Bart, for £7,140....

Sir Joseph Mawbey died 16th of June 1798, and was succeeded by his only son Joseph, upon whose death the manor became the property of the present owner John Ivatt Briscoe, Esq., in right of Anna Maria his wife, and sole heiress of the last Sir Joseph Mawbey, at whose death the title became extinct.”

What Pownall had failed to notice was Anna Maria Mawbey's elder sister Emily.

The Ashted estate had been 'entailed' [limiting the property to a specified succession of heirs] and on the death of the younger Sir Joseph Mawbey, 2nd baronet, 27 August 1817, 'in consequence of a fall from his horse', Emily was his heiress.

Having inherited Epsom Manor from her father, 27 August 1817, Emily died less than two years later, whilst still a minor (born 27 January 1799) and unmarried, on 24 March 1819.

John Flaxman, the sculptor, drew upon a model he had exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1797 of Christ raising the daughter of Jairus from the dead to create a memorial tablet to Emily. Pevsner describes the bas-relief as '...rather worse than other Grecian tablets. A sentimental group of Christ raising her from a couch. Her parents on the left, Christ's disciples on the right'. One cannot say whether the figures represent true likenesses of her mother or of the father who pre-deceased Emily.

On Emily's early demise, she was succeeded as tenant in tail of Epsom manor by her sister Anna Maria, the last surviving child of the younger Sir Joseph Mawbey, Bart. The marriage of Anna Maria to John Ivatt Briscoe was celebrated on 25 September 1819 at St James's Westminster but she did not attain the age of 21 until 25 March 1822.



*Memorial tablet by John Flaxman to Emily Mawbey
Chancel of St Peter's, Chertsey*

New Additions to the Website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/

Since the last newsletter in January 2013, Webmaster Peter Reed, has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website covering some 38 different subjects as well as seven major updates. Just to mention a few:

[Epsom Properties During the 18th Century](#) – interactive map with histories of properties

[Tales From Epsom Magistrates' Court](#) – this is what it says, tales from the court

[The Old Buildings Of Ewell Village - Millenium Project](#) - a documentary timeline

[Business Guide to Epsom And District c1913](#) – a 25 page guide

[Parliamentary Records](#) – Epsom & Ewell in parliamentary records since 1605

[The Cleft Chin Murder](#) 1944 – the victim, the killer and the moll

[The Mormon Kidnapping](#) – a bizarre and sensational tale c1977

[Death At Epsom College](#) – Howell v. West and Jones 1880

[St Barnabas WW1 Roll of Honour](#) – 54 names to remember and honour

[Hamilton, Archibald Gavin Hamilton, Baron Hamilton Of Epsom](#) – MP. 1978-2001

[Sources for Epsom and Ewell History](#) – links to a variety of research sources

plus many family histories and reminiscences too numerous to mention here. It is probably easier to look at the 'What's New' page at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html and enjoy browsing.

Surrey History Centre News

Exploring Surrey's Past = Re-launch of the website

www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/

The Exploring Surrey's Past website has been completely revamped. The look and feel has changed, and is designed to allow the site to be read on iPads and smartphones. The content has been updated and added to, so there's more to search.

Results can now be filtered so it's possible to start with a broad search and then narrow it down. The new map allows the display of historic images in their related location, this is a work in progress but some fantastic early 19th watercolours have already been loaded.

There is now a selection of map options to choose from. Thanks to the support of the National Library of Scotland, the site allows various historic maps to be overlaid on different modern map presentations, so you can see how much Surrey's towns, villages and countryside have changed over the last century.

Exploring Surrey's Past is still being developed, so please tell us what you like and what you think can be improved. Do keep visiting the site to check for new additions and updates.

Surrey manorial maps and enclosure maps CDs

The Ewell Enclosure Map, 1802, and Award, 1803 - *SHC refs 6054/1 and 8887/1* - is now available on CD. It contains high-resolution coloured digital images of the map, presented using software which allows you to navigate around the map and zoom in on sections. A transcript of the key to the map is provided where there is one. The disc requires Microsoft Windows to run.

As well as Ewell, CDs are available for Cobham Manor, Crowhurst Manor, Molesey East and West, Molesey Matham and Molesey Prior Manors, Thorpe Manor and Woking Manor. All the material on the CDs can be viewed in the search room at Surrey History Centre or can be purchased for £30 (plus postage and handling) from the Surrey Heritage online shop - www.surreycc.gov.uk/recreation-heritage-and-culture/archives-and-history/surrey-history-centre/surrey-heritage-shop

Who Do You Think You Are? 2013

Ewell Library Event

Here's an advanced notice for the 10th 'Who Do You Think You Are?' day at Ewell Library. The committee has proposed Saturday, 19th October 2013, as long as it does not clash with other events – if you remember there was a fair taking place at Bourne Hall last October, which meant there were very few spare parking places. Hopefully we will confirm the date after the next committee meeting in early July.

Taking to the road – Epsom Library

The committee have also been considering taking the ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ event on the road around the borough to widen the audience appeal. As a first step, to test it out, we are proposing an event in Epsom Library in the Ebbisham Centre next Spring, 2014. We have agreement from the Library that we can do this, so we will keep you informed of progress as the programme develops.

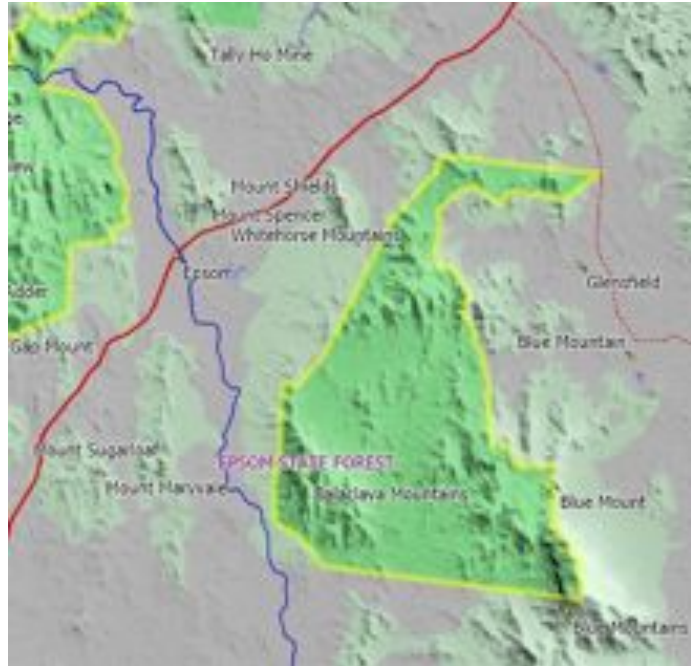
Where else in the World is there another Epsom? In Queensland, Australia.

In the January 2012 newsletter we listed seven other towns called Epsom and two named Ewell from around the world. We decided to do some digging on these towns. In May we looked at Epsom in New Hampshire in the USA, in September it was Epsom in Auckland, New Zealand and in January 2013 it was Ewell on Smith’s Island, Maryland, USA. This time we thought we would have a look at another Epsom in Queensland, Australia.

Epsom, Queensland, Australia

Epsom is a place with a very small population. To prove the point the nearest more populous place is the village of Nebo, which is 16 miles away. The nearest town is Mackay some 32 miles to the northeast with a population of 117,000. The closest major city is Brisbane, which is 490 miles to the southeast, and Sydney is over 1,000 miles to the south.

You’ll find Epsom at an altitude of approximately 784 ft on the Denison Creek, just off the Peak Downs Highway. Denison Creek starts near Pisgah Range at an elevation of 2,400 ft and drops some 1,706 ft over its 58 miles length ending at an elevation of 500 ft when merging with the Funnel Creek. The Peak Downs Highway is 169 miles long linking the towns of Mackay on Queensland’s coast and Clermont, a centre of coal mining in the Central West region of the state. The highway is notorious for the extremely dangerous conditions caused by its service as a primary access route for workers, fuel, machinery and other supplies to the coalmines of the Bowen Basin.



To get back to our subject, the main feature of the area is the Epsom State Forest, which covers some 7,910 acres. It is a good place for bird watching and wildlife but, paradoxically, it is said to be a popular area for off-road motorcycling.

As you will note from this geography lesson, there isn’t much to say about Epsom, Queensland. Still, if you wanted to locate there you could buy Lot 33 in Coal Court. It is a 6,146 sq. ft plot with all services including the National Broadband Network and is close to shops, sporting facilities and public transport. It will set you back around \$114,000 (around £76,000), assuming it hasn’t been sold already.

Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. Thanks to all those who provided information, anecdotes stories and pictures – Angela, Bert, Brian, Hazel, Janet, Jeremy, Susan and Peter. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again - as it seems to encourage more people to contribute material.

I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all, so let's have them - you can see from this current issue, we like gossip and comments as much as more serious subjects.

So, please don't be shy. 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 be in September 2013, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP May 2013

Researching Local History or Tracing your Ancestors?

If you are interested in the history of Epsom and Ewell, or want to trace your family's history then visit us at the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre located in Ewell Library at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell.

OPENING HOURS

	<i>Local & Family History Centre</i>	<i>Ewell Library</i>
Monday	Closed	Closed
Tuesday	10.00 am – 12 noon and 5.30 pm – 6.45 pm	9.00 am – 7.00 pm
Wednesday	By appointment *	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Thursday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Friday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Other Saturdays	By appointment *	9.00 am – 5.00 pm

* *Contact the Centre for availability of Volunteers*

Take a look at our History Explorer Website

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, personal reminiscences of life in bygone times and notable events.

There is also an extensive and searchable collection of local birth, christening, marriage, death records, cemetery burials, gravestone inscriptions, detailed Workhouse records and WWI memorials with numerous stories of those remembered.

It is a fascinating and continually growing source of information for historians and genealogists. You'll find it at

www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk