



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.

The real Woodcote Park revealed.

The Epsom, Ewell, Cheam, Memories, Local History and Genealogy Facebook group was launched on 20 March 2016 and now has around 210 members, including two of our volunteers Hazel Ballan and Angela Clifford.

There have been several photographs of Epsom and Ewell posted since then, some of which Hazel has added extra information to and often a link to an appropriate page on our Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website. This has included links to Epsom Downs Railway Station, the Cropley family, Epsom Station, Ruxley Splash, Ewell Watchhouse, E.H.J. Williams, Ewell Castle, Ewell Congregational Church and Ewell Horse Pond.

On 4 April 2016 a postcard with “Woodcote Park” printed on the front of it was posted and given the title ‘Woodcote Park, Epsom 1908’. Hazel posted a reply that she was not convinced that this grand house was ‘ours’. She knew from the article on our website www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WoodcotePark.html that the original Woodcote Park mansion in Epsom was rebuilt following a fire in 1934 but this photo did not look anything like any of the illustrations shown.



Woodcote Park, Midlothian



Woodcote Park, Epsom

Other members of this new Facebook group entered into a debate as to whether or not she was correct, resulting in her contacting, via eBay, the seller of the postcard. Sure enough back came the reply “Hi, I did a web search on Woodcote Park and it came up as Epsom! But further investigations, has put this particular house in Midlothian. Thanks for the enquiry, will amend my listing accordingly”.

Nice one Hazel. Ed.

Whilst we are on about Facebook . .

Hazel has informed us that if you are a Facebook member and interested in local history, then you should check out a new page entitled ‘What WAS on in Epsom and Ewell’.

‘What’s On In Epsom’ has teamed up with Bourne Hall Museum to bring back images of the past. Lots of lovely old (and some new) photos of Epsom and Ewell with interesting facts to go with them. You can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/whatswasoninepsomandewell/?fref=ts>

If you are not a Facebook member, then maybe it’s time to join!

Our Help Requested for Research on Family Health History

Bert Barnhurst

Whilst at the Epsom & Ewell Local History stand at the East Surrey AGM on the 23rd April, I met a very interesting lady who was conducting research on *Family Health History* and wondered if we might be able to help.

Louise Gillies of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College London is conducting research to discover how people find out about diseases that run in families and how they talk about them, how the family found out and how the information was shared amongst relatives.

While I advised Louise that it was unlikely that we would be asked such a direct question it sounds like a fascinating item of research that I thought that we should all be aware of it, - just in case! I will leave fuller details in the back office.

Louise can be contacted on louise.gillies@kcl.ac.uk if anything of interest should come your way.

Our stand at the East Surrey AGM

Whilst we are mentioning the East Surrey AGM, we were fortunate enough to have been offered a table to display our services. Thanks to Glenda Charman and other volunteers it attracted a lot of interest.

Pictured are top: Glenda Charman and Liz Manterfield, lower: Bob Sparrow and Eileen Hunter.



Happy Golden Birthday to Stoneleigh Library.

From Bert Barnhurst

On Saturday 16th April I went to a birthday party with a difference; Stoneleigh Library was 50 years young. The event was very well attended and it seemed that much fun – and cake – was had by one and all. Diana Kay, the Chair of Friends of Stoneleigh Library, gave a fulsome address and ensured that E&E LFHC were given due credit for our assistance in help given with the displays.

Our MP, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling, was present to unveil a very large coloured aerial picture of the Stoneleigh area, and I did catch him viewing two of our many panels which were up in the Community Room.

This report would not be complete without a shot of Diana Kay with the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom & Ewell, Councillor Christ Frost and his wife Liz.

While I would have loved to have obtained a picture of the cake which had been made by Laura of Cupcake – delicious - I am afraid that the locusts beat me to it



*Top: Rt Hon Chris Grayling, MP
Lower: Mayor Chris Frost with Mayoress Liz Frost and Diana Kay*

Whitgift School, Croydon Great War Exhibition

By Clive Gilbert

On Thursday 14 April, Liz Manterfield and I visited the Whitgift School Great War exhibition, which we found to be both interesting and professionally produced.

Although titled 'Remembering 1916 Life on the Western Front' it has displays and information on each year of the war from 1914 right through to remembrance at the end of the war. About 1,400 boys and teachers served during the war and 251 did not return.

The exhibition has British, French and German artefacts and information not just about the Army on the Western Front but includes the war at sea, in the air, Gallipoli, and the vital women's services.

The home front is not neglected and several displays show what a typical middle class home might have looked like whilst the men were away fighting. Medical services and the role animals played are included.

Two local men commemorated on the Ashley Road memorial are included in the school Roll of Honour, namely John Latham Hampton and John Stanley Chadband.

More about the exhibition can be found at www.remembering1916.co.uk which runs until the end of August and I recommend a visit.



Part of the display at Whitgift School

14th Annual General Meeting

The AGM for Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre held on Wednesday, 13th April at Bourne Hall starting at 6.30pm. Some twenty people attended the meeting and we were pleased to be joined by Karen Swan from the Surrey Library Service and Jeremy Harte from Bourne Hall Museum.



Some of the volunteers gathering for the AGM. Photo courtesy Angela Clifford

A major item on the agenda was the election of the committee. Three members stood down from the committee: Peter Reed, Hazel Ballan and Ian Parker. However, Peter agreed to continue developing and maintaining the website, computer facilities and the photographic library and Ian said he would continue editing the newsletter.

We are pleased to say that Meg Bower, Angela Clifford, Linda Clark and Clive Gilbert were unanimously re-elected and that Glenda Charman, Margaret Jones and Janet Painter were the three new volunteers elected to join the committee. We wish them all the best. The full minutes of the AGM have been issued by Angela Clifford and are available in the History Centre.

The Mystery that followed the AGM . . .

The AGM was followed by a fascinating talk by Bert Barnhurst on the convolutions of researching one of his relatives. The story had so many twists and turns it was correctly titled "The Man Who Never Was" although he eventually "Was!" thanks to some clever research by one of our volunteers – Meg Bower. Thanks Bert.

You can learn more about this mystery on page 4 of our December 2015 Newsletter which can be found at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/NewsletterDec2015Web.pdf

'Out for a Duck!'

By Margaret Bower

Here is a glimpse of Ewell 130 years ago, and clear evidence of the draw of the Epsom Petty Sessions (October 1884), particularly when the cases involved colourful details of the lives of friends and neighbours. For us though, it is not the outcome of the hearing that is of interest. It is the very fact that the proceedings were reported in such detail, and then in the detail itself:

- the image of a man trying to kill ducks with a 6 foot pole
- the Chairman assuming that this was a natural death for a duck
- the nurse who was 'rather nervous of corpses'
- defence counsel's assertion that his client was justified in 'smashing the ducks' - an odd choice of words that surely cannot have helped his case.

So with apologies to anyone who can place Charles Boyce or Charles Henry Smith in their own family tree, here is a salutary tale of what can happen if we over-react to some 'poultry' irritation and allow our 'fowl' temper to get the better of us.

You may argue that it must have been a slow news week; nevertheless the proceedings seem to have caused considerable mirth among those who turned out to see justice done.

EPSOM PETTY SESSIONS

Charles Boyce was summoned for using threatening language towards Charles Henry Smith, of High street, Ewell, and further with unlawfully killing three ducks, value 6s., the property of the same complainant. There was a cross-summons against Smith for assaulting Boyce, on the 13th September.

Mr. Dennis represented the prosecutor, and Mr. Pridham the defendant.

Mr. Smith deposed that he was a barrister's clerk, residing at Ewell. The house adjoining his was an empty one, and the garden uncultivated.

On the evening in question he saw his ducks go into the garden. He got over to drive them out, when he saw the defendant in the garden, and he said, "Smith, you and me are enemies, ain't we" (laughter), but he replied that he did not wish any conversation with him. He then turned to go away, when the defendant said, "If I see you in the garden again I will smash you, and the ducks too" (laughter.) He also added that he had orders to shoot the ducks and him too, and he meant to do it (laughter).

Prosecutor then took two of his ducks out of the garden, and shortly afterwards he saw the defendant with a six-foot pole trying to kill three other ducks. -- Prosecutor jumped over the wall, collared the defendant, and the pole getting between his legs, he fell to the ground. The ducks died from injuries they received--.

The Chairman: "They died a natural death. (laughter).

Prosecutor: "Oh no a very unnatural one (laughter).

By Mr. Rodham: "The ducks were decently buried in the garden (laughter). Had never been requested by the defendant to keep his ducks off the garden, but he had to keep "chicken" off (loud laughter).

Mr Pridham: "What a nice distinction.

In continuation, prosecutor admitted clutching the defendant by the throat. He did not look to see if the ducks were dead till the next morning.

Eva Smith, wife of the prosecutor, was called, and generally corroborated her husband's evidence.

Cross-examined: Was too much agitated to look after the "poor ducks" that evening.

Hester Smith, a nurse, gave corroborative evidence, and said that two of the ducks died before "the bells went out for church" and the other afterwards (loud laughter). She did not examine them before they died, as she was rather nervous of corpses (renewed laughter).

William Rogers, a witness for the complainant, said that the complainant's fowls were a nuisance to himself and his neighbours.

In defence, Mr. Pridham said that if the defendant had frequently given the complainant notice to keep his poultry off their garden, of which he was caretaker, and he refused to do so, he was perfectly justified in "smashing the ducks," and the complainant was certainly guilty in committing an unjustifiable assault.

Charles Boyce, the defendant in the last case, was then called as to the cross-summons. He said he had constantly to complain to Mr. Smith of allowing his poultry to run over the piece of ground of which he was custodian. The quarrel commenced by him asking Smith if he meant "to keep his ducks chained up" (loud laughter.) When the ducks came into his garden he used to get at them with a long pole, and then the defendant came and took hold of him by the throat. They had a "bit of a tumble."

By Mr. Dennis: "Was never drunk in his life. Was never given into custody at Waterloo station for being drunk.

Boyce was fined 6s., the value of the ducks, and the costs.

The summons for threatening language, and the cross-summons for assault was dismissed.

*Source: The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser, 4th October 1884 edition, page 6
The British Newspaper Archive (Find My Past)*

The National Archives' Answer to Alistair MacLean

From Gillian Alford

As a researcher, are you diligent, or dilettante? I'm sorry, but I can't help being a busybody and often, even if there is no mention of any ancestor of mine, I have to continue reading in the vein of, "Ooh, what's this all about?"

Some time ago, I was researching the records of the Transport Board, which was part of the Admiralty records, in an effort to find out about the origins and building of Dartmoor Prison in the early 19th Century. This particular large and heavy tome covered correspondence beginning in the late 18th Century on many subjects to and from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

As I've said, I don't find it easy to withstand the lure of documents which have nothing to do with my research and on this occasion, leafing carefully through the ledger, I discovered an account of a mutiny on the Lady Shore in 1797, written in 15 pages of beautiful copperplate. This was the year of the Spithead and Nore mutinies in April and May over conditions in the Royal Navy. However, this particular mutiny was by convicts being transported to Australia and wanting to escape. I admit it, I read the lot and it was as riveting as an Alistair MacLean novel.



Convicts in a prison ship. Courtesy: www.pilotguides.com

The mutineers took over the ship in the middle of the Atlantic, although apparently none of them was competent to take command of the vessel. The Captain, called Willcocks, resisted and was bayoneted; he collapsed, appeared to rally but then died slowly of his wounds over the next two days. They lost a mutineer overboard but didn't know how to stop the ship or turn it around, so his cries for help could be heard receding as the ship sailed on. Crew members were changing sides and eventually some of the officers were set adrift in the Atlantic in one of the ship's boats (yes, very Mutiny on the Bounty - "avast there, Mr. Christian!")

Credit to the officers, they managed to make it to the coast of South America and then got passage home which is of course how the Lieutenant's account managed to reach the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty - and subsequently destroy about an hour of my researching time, but oh, how could you resist?

It's so nice to be appreciated.

The correspondence below is self-explanatory. In my opinion, the last sentence of Helen's email says it all and makes the hard work well worthwhile. Well-done Clive – Ed.

*To: Helen From: Clive Gilbert
Subject: John Tester*

You might remember way back about 2008 we did a write up on a great uncle of yours, John Tester.

Recently more information about him has come to light and I thought you might like to read it.
<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesT.html#Tester.J>
Regards Clive

From: Helen To: Clive Gilbert

You can imagine the impact that this new information, photographs and letters have had on me and my family. That there was a child (Irene) unknown to us, despite my extensive searching, has astonished us. The letters are SO moving there have been tears.

Are you able to tell us where this all came from? We thought that we were the keepers of Jack's flame but we are so happy to see that there must be other people who hold him dear too.

I must have mis-identified the photograph that was in my Grandfather's possession as being of John and I wonder if you would be kind enough to remove it from your site? We did it by a process of elimination but in the light of these new photographs it is obvious that they are of Jack (he looks exactly like his father...and mine!) and that the one we believed to be him, was not.

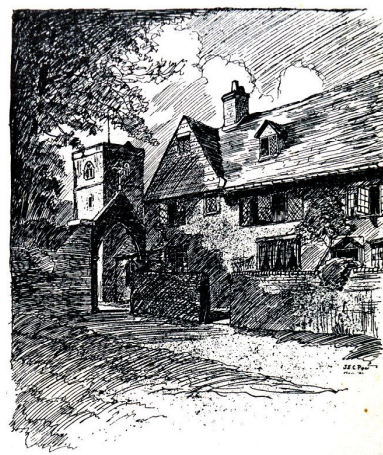
I don't know how to thank you Clive. Your work is life-changing.
Helen

And yet another ‘Thank You’ . . .

‘Four Weddings and a Funeral’ nailed it.

Earlier this year Linda Jackson was contacted by Hugh Fowler-Wright, an art historian who is helping to curate two forthcoming John Piper art exhibitions in Sussex and he would very much like to identify the subject-matter of this drawing (right). It was made in 1921, when John Piper was 17, and is quite likely to be within cycling distance of the Epsom and Ewell area. We believe we were contacted because John Piper was born in Epsom on 13th December 1903, the son of solicitor Charles Alfred Piper and Mary Ellen Matthews.

Elaine Parker saw the drawing and immediately said it is in the village of Betchworth, Surrey. It shows the cottages alongside the blacksmith's house in front of St Michael's Church and opposite The Dolphin pub - proof at <https://goo.gl/maps/8ypfFyRnhhS2> Incidentally, the church featured in the film ‘Four Weddings and a Funeral’.



Drawing by John Piper
Source: Hugh Fowler-Wright



Artist John Piper

Here is Hugh Fowler Wright's email in response to Elaine's instant ID of the place.

How fantastic! Yet again I find John Piper was artistically active as a youngster (here it's 1921) in a location that subsequently became much more important to him. For in 1928 he chose Betchworth as the location to build Chalkpit Cottage and in 1934 outbuildings at The Dolphin pub were where he and his wife, Eileen Holding, made art when it was too cold at home.

Also the relative closeness to his home at Epsom explains probably why he chose this image as his Christmas card for 1921 rather than the many other churches he had drawn by that date.

Please thank all those who have so deftly answered the question.

Kind regards, Hugh

Two Contemporary Accounts of Woodcote Park Hospital during WW1

Brian Bouchard has sourced two laudatory accounts of the military hospital at Woodcote Park during WW1. They are from *The Canadian Hospital Association, Hospital World*. The first, entitled ‘**Epsom Hospital is unique**’, is dated August 1916.

The second, written by Lacey Amy, is headed ‘**Canadian Camp on Epsom Course**’ and was published in March 1917. They not only praise the hospital but are equally generous about the town and its surroundings.

W(illiam) Lacey Amy, 1877-1962, who wrote the second of these two articles, was a journalist by training and became the editor and eventually owner of the wonderfully named ‘*Medicine Hat Times*’ in Alberta, Canada. He also wrote popular novels under the name Luke Allen, including a series of twenty western/detective books featuring ‘Blue Pete’, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer, whose exploits take place in the Canadian Prairies between 1930 and 1938. He also published seven whodunits located in [England under the name Gordon Muldrew](#).

If you are interested in the wartime history of the Woodcote Park Hospital and the town you can find the articles on our website at:

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/CanadianHospitalAssociation.pdf



Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital Image, Graham Deepprose.

Some Memorials in St Martin's Church, Epsom

From Elaine Parker

For more information and maps of the graveyard see
www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomMonuments.html

Graveyards and Memorials can be both interesting and amusing. St Martin's in Epsom has its fair share of both.

The Oldest Memorial

A small plaque set into the floor of the South aisle in St Martin's is the oldest in the church. It is made of brass with the inscription in Latin commemorating:

William Merston of the Manor of Horton
High Sheriff of Surrey in 1488
Died in 1511



A Memorial to raise a smile

This memorial was set in the floor in the South aisle in 1704 for Charles Parkhurst, aged 86.

*Here lyeth the carcase
of **Honest Charles Parkhurst**,
Who nere could dance or sing,
But all ways was true to
His Sovereign Lord the King,
Charles the First.
Ob. Decr. XX MDCCIV Aetat LXXXVI*

The Innkeeper's Praise

Partridge Perry (*what a great name – Ed.*) was a victualler in Epsom. The eulogy to his wife on their tombstone is perhaps a relevant 'thank you' bearing in mind his trade.

*In memory of **Partridge Perry** of this Parish
Who died July 5th 1836 Aged 74 years
A good kind husband and a faithful friend
Also Ann his wife
Who departed this life February 22nd 1848
Aged 87 years
An Honest Sober Careful Wife*

The grave is number 379 on the North East side of the Church.

The 'Be Prepared' Memorial

Septimus Coppinger (*another great name – Ed.*) was a tailor and outfitter in the High Street, Epsom. He was also a first class cricketer who played nine first class matches for Sussex (he was born in Northiam, Sussex) as a right-handed batsman between 1857 and 1862. He was declared bankrupt on the 7th January 1864.



*To the memory of **Septimus Coppinger**
Born 15th September 1828. Died 8th April 1870
Watch therefore for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
Matthew. Ch.24. Vr.42
In my Father's House are many Mansions.
If it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.
John. Ch.14. Vr.2.*

The Bankruptcy was reported in the London Gazette, March 1st 1864.

The tomb is shown on the graveyard map as number 222 in the South West quadrant. However, it has been moved since the map was drawn and it now lies on the floor immediately to the right of the main entrance to St Martin's Church.

The Woodcote Park Connection

From Bert Barnhurst

Over the years, while we have had some dealings with the Royal Automobile Club we have never had a firm contact, until now. I had a very interesting and productive meeting with the recently appointed Heritage Manager, Jane Holmes. While Jane only joined the Club about a year ago she has had an extensive and interesting career in Heritage in general.

Jane has a keen interest in local matters both personally and to anything appertaining to the Royal Automobile Club at Woodcote Park, so she has requested that if any of our volunteers come across anything that might relate to Woodcote Park or indeed the Club in general, she is keen to hear about it. Similarly if any of our volunteers think that there may be something in their archives, which are currently being moved to the Westminster City Archives, might be of use in any of our research Jane would be more than happy to hear from us on

www.royalautomobileclub.co.uk



Image:

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WoodcotePark.html

While there is nothing specific intended at the moment this is just to let everyone know of this arrangement. Let us hope that this exchange of ideas will prove to be beneficial to all over the coming years.

Builders leave their mark, thank goodness.

By Elaine Parker

Some years ago I had the opportunity to research the history of the garden of Pitt Place Epsom. The surrounding walls and the remnants of garden buildings had for many years been completely covered in ivy. During the clearing of one of the walls there was a wonderful 'find'. Cut into two of the coping bricks was the announcement that *J. Foster, Builder, Epsom, 1785* had built this wall. A climb to the top and a careful balancing act resulted in photographs being taken of a 'signature' that probably hadn't been seen since they were put in place.



Some research on this builder gave his name as James Foster, a bricklayer. He and his family lived in Epsom where he had a number of properties.

His grave in St Martin's churchyard tells that he died on the 28th July 1787, he was 77 years old. His wife Mary died seven years later on the 26th September 1794, also aged 77.

Another grave close by tells of their daughter Mary who died 20 years before her father, on the 4th August 1766, aged just 17 years. After James Foster senior's death his son also named James, also a bricklayer, carried on the family business.

James Foster's tombstone is No. 507 on St Martin's graveyard map. Mary, his daughter is No. 509. The graveyard map, details of the inscriptions and photos of the tombstones can all be found at

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomMonuments.html

Research was by Nonsuch Antiquarian Society under the direction of Martin Nail, 1963 and transcribed by Barbara Meredith in 2011. The photos shown here are by Elaine Parker.



Tombstones for James & Mary Foster (left) and their daughter Mary Foster (right) overlooking the wall around Pitt Place, where the brick was found

It must be in the Genes.

From Hazel Ballan

This came today from Perth, Australia and it made me smile – it is by Lilly, my 4 ³/₄ year old granddaughter – it's her homework, a first attempt at her family tree. It must be a family thing.



Oops! Census-deciphering errors can change everything.

From Angela Clifford

Here's just a few transcription errors I have come across in my research.

- 1851 Census for 'Belvoir Castle', seat of the Dukes of Rutland transcribed as 'Reloom Castle'.
- 'Adelize GE Norman, daughter of the Duke', transcribed as 'Wife of TI Roman, recitor of Haffulfors' was actually 'Wife (indecipherable) FE Norman, Rector of Bottesford'.
- 'Pensioner's daughter' instead of 'Peer's daughter'.
- 'Engineer' instead of 'Esquire'.
- 'Wife of W Spalding assistant' should be 'Wife of W Spalding, Annuitant' (*an annuitant was in receipt of monies perhaps as a pension*).

They just show you shouldn't take everything you see as gospel.

2016 Display Schedule

Linda Clark has recently catalogued all our displays and produced a schedule for their appearance at the entrance to the History Centre in Bourne Hall library. The current schedule for 2016 is as follows:

Display Title	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1950's Memories of Childhood	■	■										
Mrs Beeton		■	■	■								
Garden Nurseries since 18th C.			■	■	■							
Fish Photos				■	■	■						
Epsom Downs					■	■	■					
Victoria Cross							■	■	■			
Hospital Cluster								■	■	■		

As you can see there are some dates available towards the end of the year, which we are confident will be filled as the year progresses.

Some Anniversaries in 2016

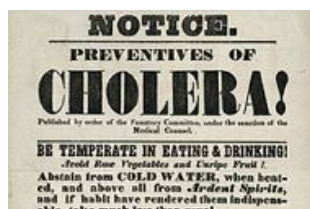
As well as the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death on April 23rd (which, if you had missed it you must have been on the way to Saturn) here are some other interesting anniversaries to commemorate and celebrate in 2016.

Event	Anniversary	Date
The Somme offensive	100 th	1 st July 1916
England last won the World Cup	50 th	30 th July 1966
Lancelot 'Capability' Brown birthday	300 th	30 th August 1716
Great Fire of London	350 th	2 nd September 1666
Roald Dahl birthday	100 th	13 th September 1916
Battle of Hastings	950 th	14 th October 1066
Beatrix Potter birthday	150 th	22 nd December 1866
Blue Plaque commemorations	150 th	Lord Byron's was the first plaque



950th Anniversary of Battle of Hastings
The Bayeux Tapestry

Also check for epidemics . . .



We often wonder about how the people we are researching might have died, especially if they were young. Was there perhaps an epidemic? I recently came across the following website for a timeline of 'Major Epidemics and Disease Outbreaks' which maybe will help in determining how someone might have died.

It was produced for the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies and I found it on the Keighley & District Family History Society website. You can find it at www.kdfhs.org.uk/index.php?Itemid=30

New Additions and Amendments to the History Explorer Website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk

Here is the list of new and amended web pages since the last update (25 December 2015) (8 **New**, & 9 Amended). Our thanks go to Linda Jackson, Brian Bouchard, Jeremy Harte, Hazel Ballan, Bert Barnhurst, Roger Morgan and Peter Reed for these additions and amendments.

Alway E	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/AlwayEJ.html	Amended
Atmospheric Railway	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/AtmosphericRailway.html	New
Bourne Hall	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/BourneHall.html	Amended
Bowles H	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/BowlesH.html	Amended
Christ Church History	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/ChristChurchHistory.html	Amended
Glasers	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Glasers.html	New
Hodges J	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HodgesJ.html	New
Horton Cemetery	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HortonCemetery.html	Amended
London Gazette	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/LondonGazette.html	New
Oakshott G	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/OakshottG.html	New
Perceval GJ	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/PercevalGJ.html	Amended
Roberts & Leete Sports Day	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/RobertsLeete.html	New
The Railway Operating Division	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/ROD.html	New
Street List	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/StreetList.html	Amended
Wheatley CWC	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WheatleyCWC.html	Amended
WW2 Civilians	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2Civilians.html	New
WW2 Memories	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2Memories.html	Amended

Also, Clive Gilbert and the WW1 War Memorials Team have recently researched & updated the following people:

Boden W	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesB.html#BodenW	New
Collings A	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesC.html#CollingsA	New
Corrigan AVE	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesC.html#CorriganAVE	New
Ferguson P	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesF.html#FergusonP	New
Grimshaw S	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesG.html#GrimshawS	New
McMahon P	http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesM.html#McMahonP	New
Pullinger WG	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesP.html#PullingerWG	New
Shaw W	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesS.html#ShawW	Amended

Brian Bouchard has been working on the RAF guys on the WW2 Book of Remembrance Supplementary Page

Butterworth JEG	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#ButterworthJEG	New
Freakes K	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#FreakesK	New
Greenslade JL	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#GreensladeJL	New
Todd EJ	http://epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#ToddEJ	Amended

Linda Jackson has looked at some of the WW2 Civilian Deaths in the borough. Many turned out to be victims of bombing in London and as part of wartime *Emergency Medical Services* were taken by ambulance to Horton and other local hospitals for treatment but died as a result of their injuries see -

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2Civilians.html> and
http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2_CivilianDeaths.pdf

Thank to you all for all your hard work in continuing to make this a valued and meaningful local and family history website for Epsom and Ewell which is available to a global audience.

Where else in the World is there another Epsom? In Ontario, Canada.

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 that year we looked at Epsom in New Hampshire in the USA, in September it was Epsom in Auckland, New Zealand, in January 2013 it was Ewell on Smith's Island, Maryland, USA, in May 2013 it was Epsom in Queensland, Australia and in September 2013 it was Epsom, Victoria, Australia. January 2014 was Epsom in Indiana, USA and in September 2014 it was Ewell, Virginia, USA. This time we thought we would have a look at another Epsom in Ontario, Canada.

Epsom, Ontario, Canada

Epsom is located in south central Ontario between Lakes Huron and Ontario. The nearest town, some 5 miles to the east, is Port Perry on Lake Scugog. Epsom is less than 50 miles northeast of Toronto and is described as being in the Greater Toronto area and many residents in the area commute to Toronto for work on a daily basis. However, the largest private-sector employer in the area is the Great Blue Heron Casino, located on the Scugog First Nation on Scugog Island. The region is also a popular tourist destination due to the casino and recreational opportunities from Lake Scugog.



The crossroads at Epsom, Ontario showing the old school house.

Epsom itself is on a crossroads of two minor roads running east-west and north-south and is probably more of a hamlet than a village. There isn't even a population count for Epsom but Port Perry has a population of less than 9,000, so Epsom is probably a few hundred at most. The weather records show it ranges from a low -6° in January to 26° in July/August.

You can see from my comments I don't have much to say about Epsom, Ontario. However, with a little bit of digging we found some history of the area written by Reverend R. Monteith in 1859.

"The area was surveyed by Major Samuel Wilmot in the year 1809, and he named it 'Reach' after a Colonel of that name. Up until the year 1821 there was not a single settler in the area, all was unbroken forest. In the month of May that year, Reuben Crandell, senior, had the courage to settle there. The township had several large swamps and marshes, as it still has, which for a large number of years, were infested with bears, and still more with wolves.

"It was not until 1828 that John Ensign laid the foundation of Epsom, and early in 1829 a number of other settlers joined him there. By 1832 there were enough settlers for a partial road from Epsom to the nearby development of Uxbridge. We say partial because it was a bit more than a bridle road and was serviceable for ox-carts. Transport in the region was gradually improving, not only between settlers within the township, but between these settlers and others in neighboring townships. And as might have been expected, new settlers were attracted into Reach/Epsom.

"In 1845 a plank road was opened which was replaced by a gravel road as the planks deteriorated, paid for with Government money. It was later bought by a private company who obtained it for little more than half the original cost. At the same time three much needed schoolhouses were erected in the region; one less than a mile from Epsom was built in 1850; and in 1852 a post office was established at Epsom.

“On the afternoon of the 4th July 1850 a dreadful tornado storm hit the township of Reach/Epsom. Its effects were appalling, destroying trees, houses, mills and farm offices and injuring and even killing animals and humans alike.”

And that is it, except that we did discover a personal recollection of Simon Miller, who was living in Ontario and whose immediate ancestors were connected with the very earliest stages in the history of Toronto. The following comment was told to Mr. Miller in 1906 by a Mr. John Claughton, and is an illustration of the change in Ontario in the course of one lifetime.

“I was on my way from Barrie to Whitby when night found me with a very tired horse, near Epsom, in the township of Reach. There was not a house of public accommodation within miles”.

And yet Mr. Claughton remembered when Epsom had two hotels; Prince Albert, three; and Utica and Manchester, two each—all the places named being within a few miles of each other.

"Where are the pioneers and their descendants'?" asked Mr. Miller. The answer came in something like a wail: "Gone, gone—gone almost to the last man and the last woman. The bodies of the pioneers lie in neglected or forgotten cemeteries. Their descendants have been scattered as if by the four winds of heaven. In many cases even the names are forgotten. Of the families living between Whitby and Oshawa in the 1840s I do not believe one remains to-day. Between Manchester and Whitby it is much the same. Only two or three remain between Epsom and Manchester."

So it seems that since then Epsom has remained a quiet backwater on a minor crossroad to the west of Port Perry on the way to Toronto.

Sources:

Scugog Heritage Maps. www.scugogheritage.com/heritagemaps/index.htm

History of the Township of Reach by Reverend R. Monteith, 1859

History www.scugogheritage.com/history/reachtwphistory.htm

Simon Miller: www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/ontario/ontario5.htm

Google Earth



Epsom, Ontario in 1877

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 – Gillian Alford, Hazel Ballan, Bert Barnhurst, Meg Bower, Brian Bouchard, Angela Clifford, Clive Gilbert, Elaine Parker, and Peter Reed. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again – Have you got news for me, please.

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

please let me 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 September, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

Ian Parker – May 2016

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

The History Centre is open and staffed by volunteers at the following times

Tuesdays	10.00 am – 12 noon
1 st Tuesday of the month	5.00 pm – 6.30 pm
Wednesdays	10.00 am – 12 noon
Thursdays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Fridays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Other Tuesdays and Saturdays	By prior appointment

The Centre is closed on Mondays

Enquiries can also be made by email to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

Take a look at our History Explorer Website - www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, and 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.

Receive the newsletter by email

If you would like to receive regular copies of this newsletter by email, please just send your email address to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk with the heading "EMAIL ME YOUR NEWSLETTER". Your email address will not be provided to any other organisation or company and will only be used to send you the newsletter.