



Smallpox in Ewell Vicar was first to organise inoculations.

By Jeremy Harte

The first Sunday of August, 1766, saw an unusual gathering at St. Mary's church in Ewell. A crowd of 156 people – young and old, women and children – attended to give thanks for their health after being inoculated with smallpox in the previous month. Prayers were led by James Hallifax the vicar, who had organised the inoculation, bringing in the surgeon Robert Sutton to provide the medical skills needed. When the service was over, he retired to the vicarage and wrote it all up in a letter to the *Gentleman's Magazine*.



*Edward Jenner vaccinating 8-year-old James Phipps
on 14th May 18 1796*

The population of the village was a little over 1,000 at this time, so that, allowing for strangers and relatives who had arrived to share in protection from the disease, one in ten of Hallifax's parishioners were inoculated. He adds that a further 94 then asked for the treatment on seeing that their friends and neighbours had gone through with it and survived. Most people were inoculated with

pus from the sores of a woman and her daughter who lived in the neighbourhood, and who had contracted smallpox in the usual way. Smallpox itself was not invariably fatal, but about 1 in 6 of those who got the disease died, enough to give it a fearsome reputation as a killer. Inoculation was by no means a safe process, either, and up to 1 in 50 might die out of those who were treated in this way. So there was good reason for Ewell people to give thanks at St. Mary's that all of them had survived. But even with its high rate of risk, inoculation formed the best safeguard against contact with people carrying the highly infectious virus of smallpox, and a village like Ewell which was in continual contact with London could hardly escape this, as the example of the infected woman and her daughter showed. A generation earlier, in 1721-3, the burial register for St. Mary's had recorded the victims of a local smallpox epidemic.

Sutton took every precaution to minimise the risks that inoculation entailed. He took his infected matter from patients in an early stage of the disease, when it was less virulent, and introduced it through a light incision and not a deep cut. As an alternative, patients could have a thread which had been steeped in the pus drawn through their skin, but this method, though less alarming than the surgeon's lancet, turned out not to work for the Ewell volunteers, and they had to be incised like everyone else. Inoculation was no picnic. Within a week, all the patients 'began to complain of great lassitude, of fluctuating pains... a dimness in the eyes, and now and then a giddiness, and cold shiverings'. Shortly afterwards the typical pustules of the disease would appear, and were extremely painful until they broke. But after a week in isolation, strengthened by various proprietary medicines marketed by the enterprising Sutton, the crisis was over and people could return to their employments.

In 1766 the only preventative treatment for smallpox consisted of inoculation using pus from the disease itself, with all the risk that this entailed. A generation later, Edward Jenner's discovery of

vaccination, where the patient only had to take the less life-threatening disease of cowpox, had become common knowledge. But whichever method was used, it was the clergy and the principal gentlemen of the parish who would hire the smallpox doctor and sort out the logistics of putting over a hundred people in a fortnight's quarantine. At Ewell, the scheme was backed by Anthony Dickins JP, with much of the practical administration probably falling into the hands of William Jubb from the paper mills, who was churchwarden for that year, and the Overseers of the Poor, John Bunney and Henry Kitchen. They all appear as co-signatories of the *Gentleman's Magazine* letter.

There was an element of self-interest in this, of course – Hallifax in his plan for inoculation included 'six persons in my own family', by which he probably meant servants rather than relatives. In this way he lessened the risk that infection would be introduced into his own household. But many of the gentry class clearly thought that they should run schemes for the prevention of smallpox as part of their duties to those below them. At Carshalton, inoculation was introduced by Edward and John Wallace from 1807 onwards; at Woodmansterne it was another clergyman, the rector Gilbert Buchanan, who brought in a surgeon from the

Royal Jennerian Society in 1804. Another Surrey rector, who was also a magistrate, 'had not thought it any disparagement of his rank, to inoculate his poor neighbours with his own hands'. Some of the elite obviously enjoyed the role of doctor, and William Cobbett (who, typically, was against inoculation of any type) thought this was a new pastime for the gentlemen and ladies. 'If a cottagers child ever seen by them on a common, were not pretty quick in taking to its heels' it would be infected with some type of serum before it could get away.

Vaccination was introduced at Leatherhead when the disease broke out there in 1833, but this was one of the last occasions in which it was left to local initiative. The establishment of Poor Law Unions in 1834 put health policy on a more bureaucratic footing, and the last mention of smallpox in Epsom and Ewell comes thirty years later, when the Clerk to the Guardians of Epsom Workhouse issued a notice for compulsory vaccination by medical practitioners, as authorised under Act of Parliament. The days when well-meaning gentry might run voluntary vaccination programmes of their own were past, but the results of their labours lived on the developing model of a public health service.

Sources

Letters from Joseph Richardson of Ashted: SHC 203/28/14

Burial register of St. Mary's Church, Ewell: SHC 2374/1/1

Epsom Poor Law union papers: SHC 2395/8/2

Ian and Jenifer Glynn, *The Life and Death of Smallpox* (Profile, 2004).

James Hallifax, 'An authentic account of the state of inoculation at Ewell, in Surry'. *Gentleman's Magazine* 1766, pp413-4.

Francis Leeson, 'Vaccination 150 years ago', *Local History Records of the Bourne Society* 5 (1966) pp12-15.

Stanley Williamson, *The Vaccination Controversy: The Rise, Reign and Fall of Compulsory Vaccination for Smallpox* (Liverpool UP, 2007).

This article is also on the website at www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk/SmallpoxEwell.html

Maintaining the Lochnagar Crater

By Clive Gilbert

Most of the readers of this item will know of the Lochnagar Crater, near the small French village of La Boisselle. It is an immense 'hole' in the tranquil farmland of northern France, some 90 feet deep and 300 yards around the rim. If you walk round it six times you will have walked about a mile. It is believed to be the largest manmade hole ever made in warfare.

It was formed on 1 July 1916 at 7.28 am when 27 tons of high explosive that had been placed in an underground chamber, was detonated. The chamber was made by the 179 Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, and was the result of many months work. From the British front line, a shaft was dug deep down into the French countryside, and then straight towards the German front line. The explosion was intended to destroy a German strong point called the 'Schwaben Hohe'.

People often ask why it is called the 'Lochnagar' crater. It is simply named after the trench from which the initial shaft was dug, and this trench was first named by Scottish troops who lived near Lochnagar mountain. To preserve the site as a monument to all those who fought and suffered, takes quite some time and effort. If left alone it would not take very many years for the crater to become completely overgrown and unrecognisable. The Hawthorn crater, captured on cine film by Geoffrey Malins as it exploded, and often shown on the television, still exists but is now unrecognisable as it is full of mature trees and other foliage. So how is Lochnagar maintained?



The congregation surround the crater after the annual Ceremony of Remembrance. 8.30am, 1 July 2005.

Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards. Incidentally, on this day tanks were used for the first time.

One of the men on the Ashley Road memorial, Ernest James Coleman, a 17-year-old Corporal in the Machine Gun Corps, fought very near to the crater as it was formed. He was in Becourt Wood and fought his way to Willow Patch, both of which can be viewed from the crater. Ernest survived the Somme but was later killed at Arras. He was by then an 18 year old Sergeant, having refused a commission.

This year we stayed at Orchard farm B&B in Combles, a village that was taken from the Germans towards the end of the Somme battle. Highly recommended to anyone wanting a comfortable homely base to tour the Somme battlefields.

The last fighting Tommy, Harry Patch has just passed on, and the Great War slips further into history. That generation who were sucked into 'the war to end wars', endured the unendurable and suffered hardships that we today can hardly begin to comprehend. We should all remember their suffering, try to understand how they managed to keep going, and honour their memory.



Liz at the Guillemont Road cemetery.

The lengths our Volunteers will go to research an enquiry

With Hazel Ballan and Clive Gilbert

and acknowledgements to Liz Manterfield and Peter Reed

Don't we all like to eavesdrop. Here's just 24 hours in the research for one enquiry to find out more about John Barnard. Like all good eavesdrops, it might not flow sensibly, but persevere, you'll get to the point in the end. By the way, you don't need to know who Douglas is; he's just a conduit into the story

Sat, 2 May 2009.

Haze

Something of a rewrite for our Douglas, can you have a look please?

Clive

Sat, 2 May 2009. 17.14

Clive

What's 'ammonal' please? Good re-write. Have you much on John Barnard apart from what's online at the mo?

Haze

Sat, 2 May 2009.

Haze

An explosive consisting of a mixture of powdered aluminium and nitrate of ammonium. Makes a big bang!

Clive

Sat, 2 May 2009

Clive

Thanks Teach! Think I've got the right John Barnard born in Epsom but can't tie him up the one on the memorial on the web site!

Haze

Sat, 2 May 2009

Haze

Not done very much.

72 Brigade 24 Division. 1915 star, BWM, VM. France 31-8-1915. DOW aged 25

B Dec 1890, Camberwell 1d 807. Found in SRR, not found service or pension.

Married Rhoda Patching, Sep 1912 Wandsworth 1d 1467. No births found. Buried Dernancourt.

Clive

Sat, 2 May 2009

Haze

Maybe I've got the wrong John Barnard?

Clive

Sat, 2 May 2009

Clive

That's just it, neither do I!!! I found John Barnard, baptised St Martin's 4/5/1884 (GRO: Jun 1884 Epsom 2a 23) son of Sydney and Annie Barnard. 1881,1891 censuses in Epsom, father born in Epsom too, corn dealer.

Moved to Hove in 1901 census and in Steyning 1911.

What do you reckon?

Haze

Sat, 2 May 2009

Haze

If they moved to Steyning, who would have put his name on the memorial? A remaining relative?

'My' Barnard enlisted in Epsom and worked as a porter. Don't know if railway or hotel. If hotel then the employer may have had his name added. Your guess is as good as mine. Pray for a miracle.

Clive

Sun, 3 May 2009

Clive

Have had another freebie go in the 1911 census and there were still rellies living here then, John's uncle and several cousins.

While I was searching again on Ancestry I noticed a correction had been submitted regarding the spelling of Sydney's surname so I've sent this to the submitter, who's called Linda;

Hi Linda

I am a volunteer researcher for the web site <www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk>

We are attempting to trace the lives of the names listed on the WW1 memorials in Epsom.

One of them is "J. Barnard". I wondered if you have any idea if this could have been John Barnard, son of Sydney and Annie Barnard?

I've found the family living in the 1881 and 1891 censuses in Epsom and then in 1901 in Hove. The freebie bit in the 1911 suggests that they were living in Steyning then.

We know that a John Barnard enlisted in Epsom and was a porter but do not know much more than that.

Any info would be appreciated and recognized by your help on our site.

Regards

May or may not get a response, will let you know.

Haze

Sun, 3 May 2009

Clive

Just had this reply - have highlighted in red her praise for us all!!!!

RE: Barnard family of Epsom

Hi Haze

I can definitely confirm it isn't him. John, son of Sydney and Annie, moved from Hove to Wandsworth and later to Alfriston, Sussex, where he worked in insurance. He died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in his house in Alfriston in 1941. Sorry it isn't the man you're after but at least it eliminates him. The man you're after could be the one in the District Metropolitan School in the 1901 census, born about 1892, place unknown.

Incidentally, you and your colleagues are doing a great job - I found a lot of info and a photo re John Chadband on your site - he's a very distant connection of mine as well.

Sun, 3 May 2009

Clive, Liz, Peter

Have replied to Linda with the following:

"Many thanks Linda for your prompt reply even if it was a tad disappointing! However thanks for pointing us towards the other John, we will investigate ASAP.

Our greatest thanks though for your praise re our site - its gratifying to know that someone out there is visiting it! I have suggested to the web master that we have a 'what did you think to our site?' page but he said its then open to mis-use, so, may I pass your praise on to our team via our newsletter?"

and, almost by return, got her reply:

Haze

My friend, Bill, and I (my friend being grandson of the John who isn't your man) visit the site all the time in case there's some new information and we've made a couple of trips from Sussex up to Epsom/Ewell to the History Centre, cemetery, churchyard etc trying to find more about his Barnard people. His John is a sad case actually. Apparently he was badly affected by his service in WW1 (which we've not been able to track down) and had mental troubles for many years. So the story goes, he was so traumatised by the outbreak of WW2 that it unhinged him and he killed himself.

You're welcome to pass on the praise to the team!

Regards, Linda

Nice to know we are not just doing this for our own pleasure!!

Haze

I agree with Hazel. It's nice to be appreciated both for the work we do (over the weekend too) and for the wonder of our website. Ed.

And there's more ...

Clive Gilbert has been researching Rifleman Willie Dunn, 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own), who was killed in action at Passchendaele on 16 August 1917, aged 28, to include his details on our History Explorer website. The following is some more email correspondence on the subject:

Fri, 26 Jun 2009

To: Ian

From: Clive Gilbert

This came in from Clive Dunn (don't panic, its not corporal Jones!). Could you use it in the newsletter?

Fri, 26 Jun 2009

To: Clive Dunn

From: Clive Gilbert

At last your Great Uncle is on the web

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org/WarMemorialsSurnamesD.html#DunnWW

Many thanks for the information you provided. I hope you like the entry.

Sun, 28 June 2009

From: Clive Dunn

To: Clive Gilbert

Thank you so much for updating the entry. I think this is an excellent tribute to Willie Dunn - a relative who, until last autumn, I did not know existed. I think it is all the more important that we do our part to recognize him given that he gave up his life in the Great War. Terry has provided invaluable information and guidance relating to my research into the Dunn and Deane families and I am indebted to him. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the time you have taken to create the entry for my Great Uncle. If you do make it

to the Tyne Cot War Cemetery this year, I would be most interested to receive an image of Willie's entry of remembrance.

With best regards

Well done, Clive. Another satisfied enquirer.

New Additions to the Website

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

Webmaster, Peter Reed, has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website. A full list of the additions can be found at

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html

Here's a taster of some of the items for you.

New pages:

Images from Bourne Hall Museum's [Lost Buildings](#) Exhibition

[Kingswood Warren](#)

[Race Track Gangs](#)

[Maori Sports Ground Plane Crash](#)

[Derby Day Traffic Control](#)

[Policing - Epsom](#)

[Epsom Court House](#)

[Emily Davison](#)

[Rev. Samuel Glasse](#)

[Pitt Place, Epsom](#)

[Nonsuch Palace Gardens](#)

[Epsom Brotherhood War Memorial](#)

[The Ancient Order of Foresters](#)

[Yarsley, Victor \(Plastics and a man named Yarsley\)](#)

[Cuthbert, Arthur \(c.1734 - 21 Jan 1788\)](#)

[Rev. John Parkhurst](#)

[The Nonsuch Trail](#)

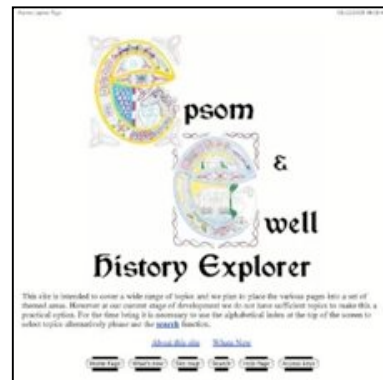
[Nellies Story](#)

[Boucher, Rev. Jonathan](#)

[Nonsuch Palace](#)

[Barton Boucher](#)

[Epsom Spa](#)



Revised pages:

[Grandstand](#)

[Flour Mills page](#)

[Horrid Murder](#)

[Epsom Spa](#) to include details of Ashted's Mineral Spring

Peter has started to indicate on the website Site Map if an item is new or updated. And on the various War Memorials-Surnames pages which items are new or updated.

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.

Some Forthcoming Events

Who Do You Think You Are? Day at Ewell Library, Bourne Hall

Our annual 'Who Do You Think You Are?' day will be on **Saturday, 31st October 2009** from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Joanna is setting up a rota for volunteers so please sign in as appropriate. Everyone is asked to try and limit the time they spend with any one enquirer - approximately 10mins is suggested as we hope this will lessen waiting time for everyone. Please make a note of the number of people you help just to give us an idea of attendance.

We are very fortunate that experts from the Surrey History Centre will be with us to hold a special advice session for family historians interested in sources for mental health history that are held at the Surrey History Centre.

Two Social Events for Your Diary

Let's Get Together over Coffee. There will be a Volunteer's Social Morning on **Monday, 7th October from 10.00 to 11.30 am** at Ewell Library, Bourne Hall. It's just an informal get together for us all to meet up, get to know the other volunteers and enjoy a chat over coffee

New Year Celebrations for 2010. After considerable discussion the committee has proposed a New Year's celebration in mid-January. We thought it would be easier for our volunteers rather than in December, when life is frantic! And it's a fine way to brighten the January gloom. We suggest we agree a date when we meet the Get-together in October.

Family History on the Internet Workshops – Epsom Library, Saturday, 7th November

This workshop by Surrey History Centre is for newcomers to family history research and more experienced researchers who have not yet used the Internet. The workshop will introduce you to some useful websites to assist your research. Duration is one and half hours. Price: £5.00. Advance booking essential either by phone on 0300 200 1001 or by visiting Epsom Library,

Apart from the Epsom Library workshop, they are also available at Staines Library: Wednesday, 25 November and Guildford Library: Friday, 4th December.

London Metropolitan Archives New History Card Required By Linda Clark

I recently went to the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) at 40 Northampton Rd, London, EC1R 0HB and they were giving out leaflets about 'History Card Registration'. I have left a copy in the back office pinned on the wall and put a note in the book, but I thought you might want to know about it.

LMA has introduced a new printing management system, which requires a History Card to make use of the full suite of printing facilities. In the future you will need a History Card to gain access to original documents in the Archive Study Area. You will not need a History Card to look at copies of documents in the Information Area, or to access online or microfiche/film resources. However, as the History Card also works as a printer credit card, if you wish to use the full set of microfilm printers or print from the computer terminals you will need to register.

You can complete the registration form using the computer terminals at London Metropolitan Archives or start your registration up to a month before your visit to London Metropolitan Archives at The registration process should take little more than five minutes to complete, and a card can be issued to you straight away by one of their staff, or you can register online at http://search.lma.gov.uk/opac_lma/registration.html

Registration must be completed in person at LMA. Your details will be held on their system for 30 days before being deleted. During this time you can complete your registration process by taking proof of identity and address to the Information Point at London Metropolitan Archives. Proof of Identity requires two documents – one to prove your identity and one to prove your address.

The registration process includes them taking your photograph for the photo card, which is valid for three years. The photograph must show your full head without any head or face covering, unless it is worn for religious or medical reasons. Acceptable documents for registration are:

- Proof of your identity (must include a valid signature): Passport, Driving licence, Bank card, Credit card
- Proof of your address (internet printouts or online statements are not accepted): Utility bill (issued within the last three months), Bank/building society statement (issued within the last three months), Credit card statement (issued within the last three months), Council tax bill, Passports with address (where the address has been officially entered by the issuing authority), Driving licence with address, TV licence.

All I can say is phew!! More bureaucracy, but once done, it's done, and you can enjoy your researches at the LMA, one of the largest local authority record office in the United Kingdom. There are 72KM of archives, modern records, plans, audio-visual and printed material in their strong-rooms - an enormous amount of information about the capital and its people. This material dates from 1067 to 2006 and is part of the History of London Collection, which is held jointly at Guildhall Library and LMA within the City of London's Libraries. So it would be well worth it if your research takes you into London records.

Going to the Derby

Finally, a song to finish – supplied by Peter Reed.
Does anyone know the tune to go with these lyrics?

As performed by J.W. Rowley (1850)

I'm Billy Bell,
A costermonger as you sees,
A-dealing in carrots, turnips, leeks and cabbages,
Cauliflower and broccoli,
Really I may say.
I deals in heverything wot's in the vegetable way.
And tho' I work so 'ard I likes me pleasure too
And once a year like other folks the nobby thing
can do.
For every Derby day
I dresses up so smart
And drives meself to Hepsom in me little donkey
cart.
Yus, I'm up wiv th' lark that mornin'
And up to all sorts of larks all day.
It aint no 'ardship for me t' get up early
I'm as wide-awake then as any other time.
With the first of the vehicles you'll see me on the
road.

Chorus

Goin' to the Derby,
Lookin' very smart,
Doin' all the journey in me donkey cart.
Passin' all the vehicles
Like a blooming dart,
Goin' to the Derby in me little donkey
cart.

And when I gets to Hepsom
Amongst the bustle there,

I puts away me donkey
What 'asn't turned a hair.
Then I gets me luncheon,
A chunk of bread and cheese
With a gallon jar of fourpenny, oh! At which you
wouldn't sneeze.
And while I sits enjoyin'
Me very 'umble fare,
I sees the swells their shammy and their nobby
things prepare.
But they doesn't eat an' drink with a beter 'eart
Then me wot goes to Hepsom in my little donkey
cart.
Ah then when I gets 'ome
I give Billy 'is supper (that's me)
And Tommy a rub dahn (that's me donkey)
Tumbles into me virtuous couch.
Up in the mornin' to work a-sellin' me vegetables
And go there like a good 'un till the time comes
round again.
And every year if you look out for me you'll see
me –

Chorus

Goin' to the Derby,
Lookin' very smart,
Doin' all the journey in me donkey cart.
Passin' all the vehicles
Like a blooming dart,
Goin' to the Derby in me little donkey cart

From: Stanley Holloway More Monologues and Songs
Edited by Michael Marshall

Have You got News for Me?

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 January 2010, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP. 19th September 2009