

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.

Volunteers' Miscellanea

Our MP visits TNA

Earlier this year Chris Grayling, MP for Epsom and Ewell and Lord Chancellor and Secretary for Justice, visited The National Archives. Shortly afterwards we received the following email.

From: Amanda Bevan

To: 'webmaster@epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk'

I thought you may be interested to know that when Chris Grayling visited the National Archives today (we fall under his remit as Lord Chancellor) we showed him a display of documents including many about Epsom.

One of them was a document about Joseph Short (*Receiver General of the Land Tax in Surrey and alleged embezzler*) who has been written about on your website which refers to a court case in Chancery about the estate of Joseph Shaw. Since this very interesting article was written (*by Brian Bouchard*), the actual court records have been catalogued. I promised that I would forward the reference to you in case the author wishes to look at them.

The reference is C 13/120/21 Noel v Weston. Bill and answer.

Plaintiffs: Gerard Noel and others.

Defendants: Sarah Western, George Ware, Charlotte Croasdaile, Henry James Alexander Croasdaile and wife, Hastings Nathaniel Middleton, Attorney General and Henry Croasdaile othwewise Henry Gould Starkie Croasdaile (abroad)
1810.

These records are kept offsite, and need 3 days notice to produce.

Yours sincerely

Dr Amanda Bevan

Principal Records Specialist, Legal Records, Advice and Records Knowledge Department
The National Archives

Dr Bevan later added that Mr Grayling was very interested in the website, and had told them about Shaw's house – *now known as Richmond House in Church Street, Epsom.*

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

Another commendation for the website.

The lost Ewell Great War Bench Memorial - By Hazel Ballan

Earlier this year I had been collating and scanning historic documents from the now demolished St. Francis of Assisi church (West Ewell) when I met local resident Barbara Meineck in the new Ruxley Church car park. The discussion about the importance of saving these records and others turned to something much more exciting when Barbara explained that she had in her garden a bench with the following carved on it:

IN HONoured MEMORY OF THE MEN OF EWELL
WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918.

The bench also has a brass plaque with a personal memorial to Hugh J. P. Hopkinson.

THIS SEAT WAS GIVEN BY MR & MRS HOPKINSON OF GARBRAND HALL
IN LOVING MEMORY OF THEIR ELDEST SON HUGH J. P. HOPKINSON. LT. R. E.
WHO FELL AT GALLIPOLI NOVEMBER 1915

It is believed that the Ewell Great War memorial bench was originally placed in St. Mary's churchyard in Ewell. Later, on 15 August 2014, Barbara wrote the following:

"Over 30 years ago I was working at Ewell Castle School in the village. One day, crossing the courtyard on my way back to class, I saw a large wooden seat being loaded into a van. I noticed it because it was in a bad state of repair and had been vandalised with a saw or knife. The woodwork tech told me that he had been given it to repair in the workshop but felt it was beyond repair and he was taking it to the dump. I saw the inscription and the brass plaque on the front of the seat and was sure it should be saved and I knew the man who could do it! My husband Frank. Consequently it was delivered to my house and soon the repairs were done, as Frank loved his hobby of carpentry and D.I.Y.

It has been a wonderful seat – the family and many friends have sat on it and talked about its history and how we saved it. Now on this centenary remembrance of the beginning of the Great War I feel I must return it to its rightful place in Ewell – much as it holds special memories of my late husband. I have loved having it in my garden all these years."



The bench has since been returned to the grounds of the demolished Garbrand Hall and is on display at the top of the stairs in Bourne Hall Museum. We would like to thank Barbara and her late husband Frank Meineck for saving, preserving and returning this Ewell Great War memorial to the people of Ewell village.

I have also researched the

Hopkinson family <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HopkinsonFT.html> and their son Hugh's short life, <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesH.html#HopkinsonHJP> which can be read on our website.

Many thanks for your help.

The following series of emails are self-explanatory. Congratulations Clive and another satisfied customer expresses her appreciation:

From: Tina Coates

To: Clive Gilbert

Subject: RE: Joey

I have only just started researching the Carter Wood family. My daughter in law's

GGrandmother was Florence Rose Carter Wood so that would make her Joey's Aunt.

I have been a little confused about Joey's parents as to his father's middle name. BMD have

Joseph E Carter Wood and Joseph Edward Carter Wood marrying Evelyn Alice Adair in 1883.

You say Edmund in your article. The marriage on Ancestry could read Edward or Edmund, as the middle name. The only letters really clear are Ed d.

1911 Census lists Joseph Edward Carter Wood at Skinburness. I found an entry on the Internet which says Joseph Carter Wood and Joseph Edmund Carter Wood traded in partnership as J C Wood and Co, Artillery Brewery.

I know it is only a little thing and possibly just a transcription error but I would like to sort it out. Do you have access to Joey's birth certificate, which could end the confusion, or his military records, which would list next of kin?

From: Clive Gilbert

To: Tina Coates

I photographed all Joey's remaining service papers held at TNA (The National Archives). The attachments are photos of Joey's birth cert and baptism record, which both give his father's name as Joseph Edmund. Hope this helps.

Any useful information I found in Joey's service papers have been incorporated into the write up I sent you.

From: Tina Coates

To: Clive Gilbert

Many thanks again for such a prompt reply and for Joey's birth and baptism records which clearly state his father's middle name as Edmund so that solves my query.

I have found that ancestry sometimes transcribes incorrectly which leads to confusion.

Just out of interest are you connected to the Carter Wood family in some way?

From: Clive Gilbert

To: Tina Coates

No I am not connected to the family. My interest lies in the Great War memorials of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. I am trying to research all the names on the memorials; the information is then put on the web. Joey attended a prep school in Epsom and is remembered on the Upland House School memorial

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

The home page of the memorial section can be seen at

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

From: Tina Coates

To: Clive Gilbert

You seem to have given yourself quite a task.

I am sure lots of people like myself will find your site both extremely useful and interesting.

Again many thanks

More details on 2nd Lieut. Joseph Carter-Wood can be found at:

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesC.html#Carter-WoodJA>

The Records of London's Livery Companies Online

Linda Clark has recently informed us that the Records of Apprentices and Freeman at London Livery Companies from 1400-1900 London Companies are now available to search at www.londonroll.org

They include:

The Bowyers' Company

The Drapers' Company

The Goldsmiths' Company

The Musicians' Company

The Tallow Chandlers' Company

The Clothworkers' Company

The Girdlers' Company

The Mercers' Company

The Salters' Company

A lot of burial for your money?

Bert Barnhurst recently came across this funeral invoice dated July 18th 1917. It reads:

To the funeral of the late _____
Furnished with a stout polished
Elm Coffin finished with Brassed fittings etc.
Open Cas and pair of horses
Two Mourning Carriages complete
With attendance and Cemetery
Fees at Tooting Cemetery
£10.0.0
£11.5.6

Line four is not very clear. It reads like 'Open cas'. Did this mean open casket or open carriage. One also wonders what the additional charge of £1.5.6 was for.

It seems a very inexpensive funeral but remember the average wage in 1918 was £1.10.6 for a 52-hour week. So not so cheap after all. Remember also, 1918 was the height of the Spanish Influenza epidemic which killed over 40 million people worldwide.



The Writing on the wall From Jeremy Harte

So much has been written on the graces and elegance of Epsom Spa that we tend to forget the effects of those medicinal springs on which it all rested. However, taking the waters would clearly have required

occasional breaks in the social round, and visitors seem to have put their time in the smallest room to good use, according to this graffito found in 1731 at the 'Bog-House at Epsom-Wells':

*'Privies are now Receptacles of Wit,
And every Fool that hither comes to sh—t,
Affects to write what other Fools have writ'.*

See 'Hurlo Thrumbo', The Merry-Thought: Or, the Glass-Window and Bog-House Miscellany (J. Roberts, London, 1731) 3 p13. Ironically, this complaint of plagiarism was itself plagiarised in some later publications.

There but for the grace of god! From Peter Reed

On Thursday morning, May 29th, Kala Rosser, Ewell Library Manager, pulled open the blinds in her room only to discover that one of the trees in the park had fallen and smashed into her window cracking it.



The night before Jeremy Harte, Museum Curator, was returning home fairly late when he heard a loud noise from Bourne Hall and thinking that someone was up to mischief, investigated but only found the tree and no culprit.

The Council contractors were soon on site and the tree was very quickly removed and by Thursday afternoon the glass in Kala's door had been replaced. If the tree had fallen just a few feet to the west the History Centre windows would have been hit so every body was thankful that no one was injured and the service to the community was uninterrupted.

WDYTYA? at Epsom Library - 10th May 2014

From Angela Clifford



Volunteers assisting visitors to the WDYTYA? Day at Epsom Library

A big 'thank you' to all who helped to make a success of this new venture. I think the day can be counted a success as we had over 30 visitors some with more than one query, and they all went away very satisfied. Well to be honest, we were not really able to answer an enquiry about Mauritius and South African records defeated us too! One or two queries will probably be wending their way to Clive.

Janet Painting, Epsom Library Manager, made us feel very welcome, called the day a great success and would be pleased if we

decided to run a similar day every year. It was lovely to have so much space! We are asked that any future event there be planned around exam revision times – students want the computers!

As the person who pressed for this day in Epsom, my personal thanks (in no particular order) to Peter, Glenda, Meg, Margaret, Linda, Joanna, Diane, Joyce, Ian, Bert, Bob and Matt for co-ordinating with Janet.

Bourne Hall Dog Gate Memorial Reflections Ceremony - 4th August 2014

By Clive Gilbert

After Germany invaded Belgium early on 4 August 1914, Britain issued an ultimatum to Germany that unless German forces were withdrawn from Belgium by midnight, German time, Britain would declare war on Germany. The ultimatum was ignored and consequently Britain was at war with Germany from 11pm, British time, on 4 August 1914.

Shortly afterwards the British Minister for Foreign Affairs (Foreign Secretary) Sir Edward Grey made the now famous remark:

The lamps are going out all over Europe, and we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.

To commemorate this truly momentous moment in history, a number of ceremonies were held throughout the Borough: The Clock Tower, Ashley Road War Memorial, Horton Estates Cemetery Memorial and at the Bourne Hall Dog Gate War Memorial. Each ceremony followed a similar format. A number of local churches also took part. I attended the Dog Gate ceremony and by 10-45pm an estimated 200-250 people had gathered around the memorial. Each person carried either a burning candle or a torch, which were to be symbolically put out at precisely 11pm.



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Harte.

Councillor Michael Arthur welcomed everyone present, after which three poignant poems were read:

The Soldier, by Sub-Lieutenant Rupert Brooke. Died aged 27 on 23 April 1915.

Such, Such is Death, by Captain Charles Hamilton Sorley. Killed in Action aged 20 on 13 October 1915.

In Flanders Fields, by Lt. Colonel John McCrae. Died aged 45 on 28 January 1918.

Then at 11pm all those present were asked to extinguish their lights and observe a two minutes silence.

The ceremony concluded with *The Exhortation*:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

With all repeating: *We will remember them.*

The congregation then slowly dispersed, each leaving with their own thoughts about the start of a catastrophic war that cost the lives of some 16,000,000 people and devastated the lives of countless millions more, and led to a yet more devastating World War in 1939.

I conclude this short résumé by noting that a rather touching gesture occurred during the ceremony, when a passing bus driver switched off his lights as he slowly drove past the memorial.

WW1 Trench Art finds its way home.

By Robert Sparrow

In May this year we had a remarkable success in helping a Ewell couple, Ann and Bob, reunite this First World War brass souvenir with the family of the soldier who made it in the trenches in 1918. Ann found the attractive keepsake whilst clearing her late Fathers house. The only clue she had was a cardboard slip saying that it was made by a Corporal E.L. Turtle. Royal Engineers. They contacted the National Army Museum and the Royal Engineers but they were unable to identify him.



So Ann and Bob turned to the Local Centre for help where Volunteers Margaret, Glenda and Bob got to work on the case. They discovered his surviving Army records including his Medal Roll, attestation in Salford,

Manchester in 1915, and service records showing he was Ernest Leslie Turtle, born in 1882 in South Stoneham now part of Eastleigh near Southampton.

The 1891 Census shows him living at 15, Cambridge Road, Southampton with his Father William, a Master Mariner, his Mother Sarah, his Sister Effie, a Music Teacher, and his Brother William an apprentice Yacht fitter. By 1901 he was an Electrician still living with his parents and Effie at Cambridge Road. In 1904 he married Amelia May Leal in Christchurch and had a son Leslie William, born in 1906

By 1911 he was working for the Post Office and living in lodgings in Salford, Manchester, but Amelia and Leslie were still in Christchurch. Amelia died there in 1922 and Leslie married Lillian Ashwin in 1931, Leslie died in 1987 without having children.

The team discovered that Ernest remarried Gertrude Daisy Willis in 1929 and had a further Son Ronald, born in 1931, Ernest had by then gone to sea with P&O serving aboard luxury liners travelling between Southampton and New York including on the maiden voyage of “Empress of Britain” accompanied by King George and Queen Mary. He died in 1952 in Winchester.

Searches of the Electoral Registers found Ronald, now aged 83 still living in the Eastleigh area. Contact was made with an emotional Ron who was of course highly delighted to receive a memory of his Father, which has resulted in Ann and Bob making arrangements to visit Ron and his wife to present this memento.

The label shown above reads:

FRANCE 1915-9. This souvenir was made by Corp. E.L. Turtle. R.E. No: 138168. With crude tools while on active service in France, in his leisure time, from a shell case which held a German 18 inch Naval shell used in the bombardment of Aire July 1918.

I'm sure you'll agree it's a remarkable piece of work and superbly crafted.

A very pleasing outcome for all concerned.

Glyn School visit to the Local History Centre

On Monday, February 10th, sixteen year 7 students from Glyn School, accompanied by History Teacher, John Matthews, and Learning Support Assistant, Anne Donovan, visited the Local and Family History Centre in Ewell Library, Bourne Hall for a teach-in on local history.

Following an introduction by Bert Barnhurst on the work of the History Centre, the students had presentations and discussions on five subjects that had been agreed with Mr Matthews. These subjects were World War One - by Clive Gilbert, World War Two - by Bert Barnhurst, History of Ewell Court - by Carol Hill and Eileen Hunter, Tracing the Glyn Family – by Jeremy Harte and an Introduction to our Explorer Website – by Peter Reed. In addition, Hazel Ballan was on hand to show the students how to start their family history research, backed up with a wide range of samples and exhibits. Margaret Jones and Ian Parker were also in attendance to assist and support the speakers.



Clive Gilbert and Jeremy Harte talking to students about WW1 and Tracing the Glyn Family.

Following an hour and a half of presentations/discussions, the students had a Question and Answer session with two old boys from Glyn – two Glynians – Roger Manning and Matt Skipp. Roger and Matt had been at the school from 1944, during the Second World War. This led to some interesting questions, for example, were they able to skip off school because of the bombs – No; did they have sports – Yes, football, cricket and many others. The session could have gone on longer but two hours had sped by and the students had to return to Glyn.



Matt Skipp, 85, Carew House, 1940-46; Roger Manning, 86, Tudor House 1940-46. They first met when 12 years old.
 Many thanks to everyone involved, especially our speakers, and to Matt Cockshutt from the Library and the management of Bourne Hall for opening to allow this event to proceed.

A Fine Car and a Very Fine Young Driver

By Clive Gilbert

The photograph below was recently sent us by Jennifer Whiskerd, who is the great niece of the young man in the car. He is George Walter Whiskerd, who was a chauffeur for a wealthy Epsom family. The car is a de Dion Bouton



*George in uniform driving a de Dion Bouton on Epsom Downs with The Grandstand behind.
 Image courtesy of George's great niece Jennifer Whiskered © 2014.*

George Walter Whiskerd was born at Westminster on 10 January 1896 to Walter David and Louisa Eliza Whiskerd. George attended St. Matthews School before transferring to Ewell Boys School in September 1905. At this time the family lived at Poole Road, West Ewell and George's father worked as a store porter for the London County Council, so presumably worked at one of Epsom's Asylums.

In 1911, aged 15, George was not working even though he had left school in January, the previous year and was a member of the 'Ewell Old Boys' Association'. Eventually he became a chauffeur for a wealthy Epsom family, hence the attractive photograph.

Then, in September 1914 George volunteered for the 2nd London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), a Territorial Army unit, and by December 1914 the Battalion had moved to Epsom Downs. The 2/2 London's were moved around quite a bit, being sent to Malta, then to Egypt, on to Gallipoli, back to Egypt, and then to Marseilles, France at the end of April 1916. They were then trundled by train, the length of France to Rouen. Whilst they were billeted at Rouen the Military authorities decided that the Battalion should be disbanded, and the men used to bolster three existing units of the 56th Division. George was to part company with his chum, another West Ewell lad, Albert Beams who had joined up with him on the same day.

In May 1916 George joined his new unit (The Rangers) and on 1 July 1916 they attacked the extremely well fortified German positions at Gommecourt Park and village at the northern end of the Somme battlefield front. Gommecourt formed a salient into British lines, and in order to eliminate it and straighten the line, it was to be attacked from the north and from the south, the two Divisions linking up behind Gommecourt village. The width of No Man's Land on the 56 Division front was some 800 yards, and in order to reduce the distance the troops would have to cover once they went 'over the top', a new trench was dug about 350 yards out into No Man's Land, commencing on the night of 26/27 June.

On the night of 30 June/1 July, instead of sleeping, the Rangers marched to their jumping off positions, and were in place by 3.40am, having thus far suffered no casualties, despite there being shrapnel fire in the vicinity. However, between then and 7.30am whilst waiting to attack, many casualties were caused by shellfire.

On 1 July 1916, 143 men from the 1/12 London Regiment, and 169 from 2 London Regiment lost their lives including George killed in action. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. George was awarded the 1915 star, British War medal and the Victory medal. Coincidentally, his friend Albert Beams took part in the same attack and he too died on the same day.

The De Dion Bouton - light and easy to drive

In the early 1880's in the days when French aristocrats did not work, and certainly not in engineering, Count (later Marquis) Albert De Dion formed a partnership with the brothers-in law Georges Bouton and Charles Trepardoux to make steam-powered vehicles. Producing steam powered tricycles, four wheel "domestic" and commercial transport, the partnership of De Dion Bouton et Trepardoux had some considerable success in the ensuing decade, and one of these primitive steam powered vehicles is credited with winning the World's first race which was held in their home country, France.

It was however the concept of the new four-stroke petrol internal combustion engine which the Count instinctively saw as the way forward. It revolved at twice the speed of competing firms' products; a unique electric ignition system, and a simple gearbox that made the early motor vehicles relatively simple to operate.

In 1899 the firm launched their first petrol driven four wheel "petit voiture" which was capable of carrying four persons. It was an instant success and at the turn of the 20th Century, De Dion Bouton quickly became the largest car manufacturer in the world. The name De Dion Bouton was a household word, not just in France, but around the world as there were very few developed countries that they did not export to or have manufacturing licence agreements with. Great Britain was a particularly strong market.

Whilst not fast cars, De Dion Boutons are lively. The firm went on to make the first production v8-engined car in 1910 and it continued in business until 1950. The legacy of the De Dion Bouton is that many of the vehicles they made are still in existence, and cherished worldwide by enthusiasts.

For more information on George Whiskerd:

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesW.html#WhiskerdG>

With thanks to Ajax Bardrick and Jennifer Whiskerd for supplying additional information.

For more information on the De Dion Bouton: www.dedionboutonclub.co.uk/marque_history.html

Picture research can be so distracting.

By Bert Barnhurst



Earlier this year I was lucky enough to go to RAF Hendon Museum on Veterans Day and what a fantastic day it was. It was a chance to meet up with old comrades as well as viewing the exhibits. There was lots going on such as a Jazz band and dancing in a huge hanger under the wing of a Sunderland flying boat.

We were also entertained by a group of three very attractive young ladies, The

Three Belles (*pictured above*) singing in the style of the Andrews Sisters, - for those of you who can remember, Patty, Maxine, and Laverne! What an advertisement for the WAAFs!!!

We need your help

Oh! I nearly forgot, can't think what could have caused that!!! I was supposed to be checking up on a photo titled 'Royal Air Force Epsom Detachment 1944'. We had asked RAF Hendon if they had any clues on where this photo of RAF 'erks' had been taken. But, unfortunately, Hendon has no more information about them. So it's down to our readership

Does anyone know where this picture was taken and if they recognise any of the people, can they let us have some information about them? We know their names and we can see that half of them are wearing Telegraphist badges, which means they could belong to a radar or tracking station.

So if you can anyone help please contact us at the Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre in Bourne Hall Library (see the end of this newsletter for contact details).



LAC. GARLAND	LAC. FRANCIS	AC. D-SWORD	CPL. BALL	CPL. WILLSON	CPL. WHELAN n.c.o./c.	CPL. THOMPSON	
AC. LOCKWOOD	AC. HEELEY	LAC. THOMPSON	LAC. PAINTER	AC. MACDONALD	LAC. PINGRAM	LAC. EDWARDS	LAC. POOLE
AC. SKINNER	LAC. HARWOOD	LAC. SMITH	AC. WHEELER	AC. WILSON	AC. SHARP	AC. DURRIDGE	

A Memorial will be reinstated .

By Clive Gilbert

In the January newsletter we featured a piece by Clive Gilbert on the discovery of the St Barnabas WW1 Roll of Honour and the hope to have it reinstated in the church. Since then, events have moved on as shown by the following correspondence.

The opening comment about the Great War Panels refers to the display that a team from the History Centre have produced to commemorate the start of WW1. Around 60 panels were displayed in Bourne Hall from August 4th. Of these several were also lent to St Barnabas for display in the church.



Reproduced by permission of Surrey History Centre

From: Clive Gilbert

To: Sue Bull

The Great War panels you asked for have been produced. I will bring them to the church on Friday 1st August at 7-45 as agreed and take them down during the evening of Sunday 3rd, time to be agreed.

Has any progress been made with regard to St Barnabas War Memorials?

From: Sue Bull

To: Clive Gilbert

Thank you so much for producing the Great War panels and I will look forward to seeing you at St Barnabas on 1 August.

After much discussion and a lot of work it is being proposed that a plaque in Portland Stone be installed on the church wall in the garden of remembrance, the plaque to read 'For the Fallen' with a cross inscribed into the stone. Inside the church it is proposed that a memorial case be purchased with a loose-leaf memorial book. Inside the case will be a copy of the Scrolls and the names of the fallen, with some of the information which you are kindly producing, so there is both the list of names and some social history.

The notice period for this began on Sunday and hopefully a faculty will be granted in time for everything to be ready for 8 November when we are hoping to have the plaque unveiled and the memorial case blessed during or after the Remembrance Sunday service.

Kind regards

Sue

Dutch Aircrew Memorial - Hoeksche Waard 1940-1945

We need your help

By Bert Barnhurst



Artist's impression of the proposed monument, including names of fallen servicemen.

At the end of 2013 Epsom & Ewell Local and Family history Centre were contacted by Mr. Anton de Man, who represents the Hoeksche Waard Aircrew Memorial Trust. This is an organization that is in the process of commissioning a monument to be erected in the village of Oud-Beijerland, near Zalmpad just south of Rotterdam. It will commemorate aircrew of all allied Air Forces who died in that part of Holland during the Second World War. The plan is to unveil this memorial in May 2015.

Anton had asked if there was any chance of our being able to trace any family members of one of the aircrew who was thought to have an Epsom connection, although we do not know the source of their information. The member of aircrew they were seeking was one 19-year-old P/O P L Dooley. While Anton said that Epsom was area where Peter grew up, the connection seems somewhat tenuous. His parents were Albert and Frances, having moved to 25 Gayfere Road Stoneleigh around the mid 1950's, but this was some six years after P/O Dooley died.

So, what is the background to why somebody in Holland got in touch with us? It is a very sad story, but not untypical of wartime. The 19-year-old P/O Dooley was a member of the crew of a Lancaster, numbered

LM-693 with the call sign of KO-T. This was one of 115 Squadron's aircraft which had taken off from RAF Witchford in Cambridgeshire at 21.28 on the night of 15/16 September 1944.



The crew of LM-693. P/O Dooley is the second from the right.

At much the same time a number of similar aircraft took off from RAF Tuddenham in Suffolk. 90 Squadron, flying Lancaster 1's were on the same raid on Moerdijk Bridge in support of Operation Market Garden; probably better known as the assault on the bridges over the River Rhine in an attempt to hasten the end the war, and as is portrayed in the film 'A Bridge Too Far'.

While the full details of what actually happened are somewhat shrouded in the mists of war, the reports from other aircraft returning from the same raid was that the two Lancasters had collided with each other over the target area. The outcome was inevitable; all the crews of both aircraft were killed. By chance the outcome was that the crew of the 90 Sqdn Lanc were buried in Dordrecht, while P/O Dooley and his fellow crew members were buried in Strijen. With the irony of chance it transpired that P/O Peter Dooley was just 19, young for aircrew even at that stage of the war, but the rear gunner of the other aircraft Sgt L.M. Gill, was 36!

Once again, we need your help.

These brave men, together with many more, are to be commemorated in the area where they fell; *so if any of our readers knows of any connections to the family of P/O Peter Dooley we would be only too pleased to hear from them*, so that we can inform Anton de Man of the Hoeksche Waard Aircrew Memorial Trust in good time for the unveiling in May 2015. Please contact us at the Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre in Bourne Hall Library (see the end of this newsletter for contact details).

This is the second time we have been contacted by a group from Holland; the last time it was from the Toren museum, (see E&ELFHC Newsletter No. 27 May 2011). We do not know if our address was passed on but at least it proves that our fame continues to spread.

The Epsom Nurse Scam

By Jeremy Harte

There are times, maybe, when all of us have wished that someone near to us was a long, long way away: but not everybody takes such decisive action as the lady in this story from the Bow Street magistrates' court in 1795, where Ann Blandford had caused her husband to be apprehended for having, as she said, returned from transportation before the expiration of the time for which he was sentenced.

How far this charge is grounded on truth, we shall not at present determine; at all events, he seems to have been very ill treated by his wife, who last week got a letter sent to her husband, informing him, that his child, who is at nurse at Epsom, was taken very ill, and required his immediate attendance; and during the time he was gone to Epsom (where he found the whole story of the child's illness to be false), she robbed his lodgings of all the furniture, &c. and absconded with a hair-dresser'.



Our source, Jackson's Oxford Journal (17 Oct 1795) goes on to say that 'the husband, whatever may have been his former failings, has borne a very good character for the last three years', so that while the magistrate was obliged to commit Mr. Blandford for dodging transportation, he dropped a heavy hint that he could have his wife picked up for robbery.

The fate of the child is unknown; presumably he was conceived before the three-year separation of his parents, and then sent away to a country nurse. It sounds heartless of Ann Blandford, but she may not have had a choice: under the Act of 1767, children admitted to a London workhouse had to be sent to be nursed three miles out of London if they were under the age of 4.

New Additions to the History Explorer Website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk

Since the last newsletter in January 2014, Webmaster Peter Reed and the team have added a wealth of new information and pages to the website covering some 57 different subjects as well as 28 major updates. They include business records, family histories and reminiscences and more war records. They are too numerous to mention here so we suggest it is easier to look at the 'What's New' page at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html and enjoy browsing. There will surely be something to interest you.

St Martin's Graveyard Index.

Many thanks to Phillip Weatheritt for producing an index to St Martins Graveyard.

It draws together Name, Burial Year, Month and Day, Age, Graveyard Map Location Number and Relationship.

The index has been added to <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomMonuments.html> ; alternatively it can be accessed directly via this link

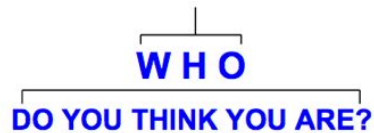
<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/StMartinsGraveyardIndex.pdf>

This index will greatly help researchers in the years to come.

Forthcoming Events – Make a note in your diary

Family History Day, Saturday, 18th October 2014, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Don't forget our Family History Day in Ewell Library, Bourne Hall. In previous years we have dealt with a hundred plus enquiries on the day so it can get quite busy. Hopefully the current series of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' on BBC TV will encourage people to come and explore their own family history. Please make a note of the date and times in your diary. Would Volunteers who are able to help let Angela Clifford know ASAP.



Family History Day, Spring 2015, Epsom Library

The date for the spring 'Who Do You Think You Are Day?' in Epsom Library has still to be decided. Once we know, we will inform Volunteers.

More Anniversaries worth researching

As you know, the LHC together with Bourne Hall Museum mounted a substantial and successful display commemorating the centenary of the start of The Great War and its impact on Epsom and Ewell.

Discussions are now in hand regarding other anniversaries in 2015. These include the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The museum will be putting on events related to both of these. Are any volunteers interested in helping to research either of these events with the aim of creating displays?

Surrey Land Tax 1780-1832 and more - Now Online

Surrey History Centre have informed us that over 2 million more records can now be searched online on the family history website Ancestry.co.uk: Surrey Land Tax Returns 1780-1832; Surrey Licensed Victuallers Registers 1785-1903; and Surrey Jury-Qualified Freeholders and Copyholders Lists 1696-1824.

These new record sets were all kept by Surrey's Clerk of the Peace. At a time when political rights were far more restricted, he used the Land Tax returns to work out who should have the vote in elections and also kept lists of property holders so properly qualified juries could be appointed. Rowdy or unlicensed drinking houses were as much a concern in the 18th and 19th centuries as they are now and it was the Clerk's responsibility to keep lists of those innkeepers who had been approved by the local magistrates.

You can search for your Surrey ancestors on Ancestry free of charge at any Surrey Library and at Surrey History Centre in Woking. If you have an Ancestry subscription, you can also view the records in the comfort of your own home, no matter where you live!

Over 2 million Church of England baptism, marriage and burial records dating back to 1538 are already available to search; as well as over 10 million Electoral Register entries 1918-1945. Look out for 100,000 more early parish register records that have also now been added.

Other records to appear online soon are: Electoral registers 1832-1915; Brookwood Hospital Woking, Registers of Admissions 1867-1900; Holloway Sanatorium, General Registers 1885-1899; Calendars of prisoners: Surrey Sessions and Assizes 1848-1902; Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment enlistment registers 1920-1946; Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment transfers in registers 1939-1947; Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment World War II Honours Indexes [1939]-1946; East Surrey Regiment enlistment registers 1920-1946; East Surrey Regiment transfers in registers 1924-1946; and 21st - 24th Battalions the London Regiment Nominal Rolls of Officers 1914-1919.

The original records, on paper and parchment, are all held in Surrey History Centre in Woking where they are preserved in temperature and humidity controlled strong rooms.

Where else in the World is there another Ewell? In Virginia, USA.

In the January 2012 newsletter we listed a number of towns named Epsom and Ewell from around the world. We decided to do some digging on these towns. In May 2012 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, in September 2013 it was Epsom, Victoria, Australia and in January 2014 it was Epsom in Indiana USA. This time we thought we would look at a town called Ewell in Virginia USA.

Ewell, Virginia, USA

Ewell was a town in James City County west of Williamsburg, in the U.S. state of Virginia. It was named for Benjamin Stoddert Ewell (1810-1894) who was a U.S. and Confederate army officer, and civil engineer. A local farmer, he is best remembered for his presidency of the College of William and Mary in nearby Williamsburg during turbulent times for the school before and after the American Civil War. Ewell's tireless efforts to restore the historic school and its programs during and after Reconstruction became legendary in Williamsburg and at the College and were ultimately successful, with funding from both the U.S. Congress and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Benjamin Ewell remained in Williamsburg as President Emeritus of the College until his death in 1894.



In 1881, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway (C&O) was extended east from Richmond to a new coal pier at Newport News on the harbor of Hampton Roads. The railroad's new Peninsula Subdivision opened new shipping opportunities for the farmers of the region. In James City County, new railroad stations were established every few miles, at Diascund, Toano, Vaiden's Siding (Norge), Kelton (Lightfoot) and Ewell, Williamsburg, and Grove.

In the mid 20th century, the smaller stations along the line were discontinued as trucking assumed most of the shipping business, although Williamsburg remained open for passenger services. The wooden station from Ewell was relocated a short distance away and was in alternate use as of June 2013. The larger station building from Norge has also been preserved, and was relocated to a site adjacent to the Williamsburg Regional Library branch on Croaker Road.



As the Williamsburg community expanded even beyond the city limits, Ewell lost its individual identity and became part of an area popular with tourists for outlet shopping, hotels, restaurants and attractions. Ewell is no longer a mailing address, and is now considered one of the Former counties, cities, and towns of Virginia.



One of the many fine buildings on The William and Mary College campus is shown left. The history of The College can be traced back to a 1693 royal charter establishing "a perpetual College of Divinity, Philosophy, Languages, and the good arts and sciences" in the British Colony of Virginia. It was named for the reigning joint monarchs of Great Britain, King William III and Queen Mary II. In 1918, William and Mary became the first of Virginia's state-supported colleges and universities to admit women as well as men to its under graduate programs. One of the many fine buildings on the campus is shown left

Source: Wikipedia

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, Bob, Clive, Hazel, Jeremy, Linda 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 early in 2015, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

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 Library is open on Wednesdays to Saturdays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm and on Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm

The History Centre is open

Tuesdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon

1st Tuesday of each month from 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Wednesdays from 10.00am to 12 noon

Thursdays and Fridays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

1st Saturday of each month from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Other Tuesdays and Saturdays by appointment

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, 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 WW1 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.

To the Memory of Two Founding Volunteers

It is with deep regret we report the passing of two of Epsom and Ewell History Centre's founding volunteers: Carol Hill and Peggy Bedwell. They will be much missed for their experience and knowledge of Epsom and Ewell as well as for their warmth, wisdom and willingness to help visitors to the Centre.

Carol Hill. 1935-2014

Carol had been a volunteer with the History Centre since its founding in 2002 and was the committee member responsible for co-ordinating projects and organising displays, of which she initiated and helped produce many.



Because of her career with Ordnance Survey she was the Centre's expert on maps, of which there are many. She researched and wrote a series of booklets including 'The Inns and Alehouses of Epsom and Ewell, 1667-1868' and 'Hotels and Hostelrys, 1869-2011' and 'The Allotments of Epsom and Ewell'. She also took great pleasure in recruiting new volunteers to the centre. She was also very involved with the Surrey Garden Trust.

Carol was born in 1935 in Ewell and went to Nonsuch Girls School. She briefly attended Portsmouth Teacher Training College but soon returned to the warmth of her home. She then spent five years doing a Bachelor of Science degree and a further two years converting it to an honours degree. In her work for the Civil Service she was sent to Hong Kong to verify information that was inscribed on UK maps and it was commented that she "had more common sense than most of the organisation put together". As well as being deeply involved in local history she enjoyed time spent in her beautiful cottage style garden with her beloved dog, Bods, and her cats. Carol passed away on 23rd May 2014.

Peggy Bedwell. 1920-2014

Peggy was one of the early volunteers to join the History Centre when it was founded in 2002 and served on the committee as Treasurer for the past decade before stepping down in 2012. She was very involved in organizing and transposing the records and documentation of the History Centre in the days before everything became digitized. But her involvement went much wider than the History Centre. She joined EEHAS (formerly known as NAS) in 1968 and worked in the archaeological digs in St Mary's Churchyard and Church Meadow. She served on the committee as Secretary and as Chairman in 1996. She began working with Bourne Hall Museum in the 1980 and had a claim to being the longest serving volunteer. She was a founder member of the Museum's supporters' group and regularly helped in the museum shop. In 1998 her many years of volunteering were recognized by Surrey County Council with a 'Surrey Award for Achievement' presented at a ceremony in County Hall, Kingston.



Peggy was born in 1920 in Lancashire, read English at Kings and moved to Ewell after she married. As well as history and archaeology she had many other interests including music, gardening, needlework and Blackpool FC.

Peggy died on 5th July 2014.

Our thanks to Jen Hawker (Carol's daughter) and Jeremy Harte for their help in preparing these all-too-short memorials of Carol and Peggy.