

LEATHERHEAD
& DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



PROCEEDINGS VOL 6 NO 5

2001

p 107-124

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The following Lectures and Visits were arranged during 2001:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| January 19th | Lecture: 'The Landscape Archaeology of Mickleham Downs', by Judie English. |
| February 16th | Lecture: 'Vernacular Architecture in Epsom', by Ian West. |
| March 16th | Lecture: 'Leatherhead in 1851', by Dr. Ron Cox. |
| April 20th | The 54th Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk, 'Postcard Connections', by Goff Powell. |
| April 21st | Guided Walk on Mickleham Downs postponed due to Foot and Mouth precautions. |
| May 18th | Lecture: 'The Wonderful Patterns of Nature', by John Bebbington. |
| May 27th | Guided Walk round Little Bookham led by Stephen Fortescue. |
| June 20th | Guided Walk round the Woodcote area of Epsom led by Ian West. |
| July 14th | Guided Walk round Headley Village led by Peter Denyer. |
| August 11th | Visit to the Field Studies Centre at Juniper Hall. |
| September 21st | Lecture: 'The History of Chessington', by Mark Baker. |
| September 29th | Guided visit to Chessington, led by Mark Baker. |
| October 19th | Dallaway Lecture: 'How the Railway came to Leatherhead', by Gordon Knowles. |
| November 16th | Lecture: 'Tudor and Stuart Leatherhead', by Dr. Peter Edwards. |
| December 21st | Christmas Miscellany, 'Leatherhead in Wartime', arranged by Gordon Knowles. |

In the course of the year, Society members have given talks to other Societies. There have also been guided historic walks in and various events were arranged for the Heritage Weekend.

Number 4 of Volume 6 of the *Proceedings* was issued in February 2001.

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Lethered Institute, 20th April 2001

The Report of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 2000 were adopted. The Committee elected to serve until the next AGM and the Officers of the Society are shown below.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2001–2002

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>President:</i> | DR DEREK RENN, C.B.E., F.S.A. |
| <i>Past President:</i> | STEPHEN FORTESCUE |
| <i>Vice President:</i> | LINDA HEATH |
| <i>Chairman:</i> | PETER TARPLEE |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | VACANT |
| <i>Membership Secretary:</i> | JACK BARKER |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | JUDITH MILLS |
| <i>Editor:</i> | JACK STUTTARD |
| <i>Museum Curator:</i> | GRAHAM EVANS |
| <i>Treasurer, Museum Trust Fund:</i> | JOHN BULL |
| <i>Sales Secretary:</i> | Vacant |
| <i>Archaeology Secretary:</i> | PAULINE HULSE |
| <i>Lecture Secretary:</i> | GORDON KNOWLES |
| <i>Librarian:</i> | GWEN HOAD |
| <i>Records Secretary:</i> | BRIAN GODFREY |
| <i>Newsletter Editor:</i> | JOHN WETTERN |
| <i>Committee Member:</i> | TREVOR MARCHINGTON |

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 6, No. 5

2001

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OCCASIONAL NOTES

HISTORY OF HEADLEY

This book, published by the Society, was launched at a reception in Headley Village Hall on 29th November 2001 which was attended by many local Headley residents as well as by representatives of several Societies and Associations. The book is similar in style and content to those published by the Society on Leatherhead, Ashted and Fetcham. After an introductory chapter on Headley's physical features, geology and conservation areas its history is described from early times to the present day, with emphasis placed on the last few centuries. There are, in addition, separate chapters on the growth of population and on Headley's old houses, cottages and farms. Over 24 half-tone photographs illustrate the text and there is an impressive colour photograph of Headley Parish Church on the front cover of the book.

Many Society members contributed to the writing of the book and much source material was obtained from *Proceedings* articles as well as from libraries and learned societies. It is hoped that this publication will encourage further research into Headley's history.

P. TARPLEE

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, LEATHERHEAD

The school was founded in 1851 at St John's Wood in London and its 150th Anniversary was celebrated during 2001. In the spring of this year the School's Choir and Orchestra played at an Anniversary Concert at St John's, Smith's Square in London, attended by a large congregation, including the Duchess of Gloucester, the School's Patron. At the end of the summer term there was a grand Anniversary Ball, at which the Royal Marines Band 'Beat the Retreat' and the School's Quad was spectacularly floodlighted. Later in the year there was an Arts and Technology Festival at the school and on 17th October a Commemoration Service was held at St Paul's Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury giving the address. After the service the congregation crossed the Thames to the Globe Theatre for a drama production of scenes from Shakespeare's plays performed by past and present pupils of the school.

J. C. STUTTARD

CHRISTIAN CENTRE OPENED AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, ASHTEAD

The Christian Centre was opened by the Bishop of Guildford, the Rt. Rev. John Gladwin, on 16th September 2001. It has been widely welcomed and much admired. In part of the building is a specially constructed secure room for a computerized church archive.

H. J. DAVIES

ADDENDUM TO THE PROCEEDINGS, 2000

The article 'Baptist Meeting Room at Hampton Cottage' which appeared in the last *Proceedings* (p. 90) stated that it was not then known if the James Ockenden who was the first Pastor of the Baptist Chapel in Church Road was related to the Ockenden family of Hampton Cottage. It has subsequently been discovered that he was a cousin of Albion Ockenden, although the exact relationship is not yet known. James was born in Wiston (near Littlehampton) in 1821, moved to Camberwell around 1865 and died there in 1875. He was by trade a coffee roaster at the time of his death. It was also stated that Richard Blake does not appear in the 1841 Census. A more



HEADLEY PARISH CHURCH FROM ACROSS THE FIELDS.
Courtesy P. Denyer.



CHRISTIAN CENTRE, ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, ASHTEAD.

careful search has revealed that he was in fact living in Linden Cottage in Fairfield with his daughters Mary and Hannah Blake. His wife does not appear. A James Blake, 25, also a gardener, was living with his wife Mary and their two children in Kingston Road. He was probably Richard's son.

A. ROBERTS

Apart from the *History of Headley* already noted, the Society this year produced Mary Rice-Oxley's book, *The Swan, Leatherhead and its Brewery*, and supported Edwina Vardey's, *Leatherhead: A History*, commissioned and published by Phillimore.

Errata: Procs LDLHS 6 (4) 2000: p. 90, line 4, for 'Particular and Strict Baptist' read 'Particular or Strict Baptist'.

FETCHAM PARK ICE HOUSE

By A. E. TIMS

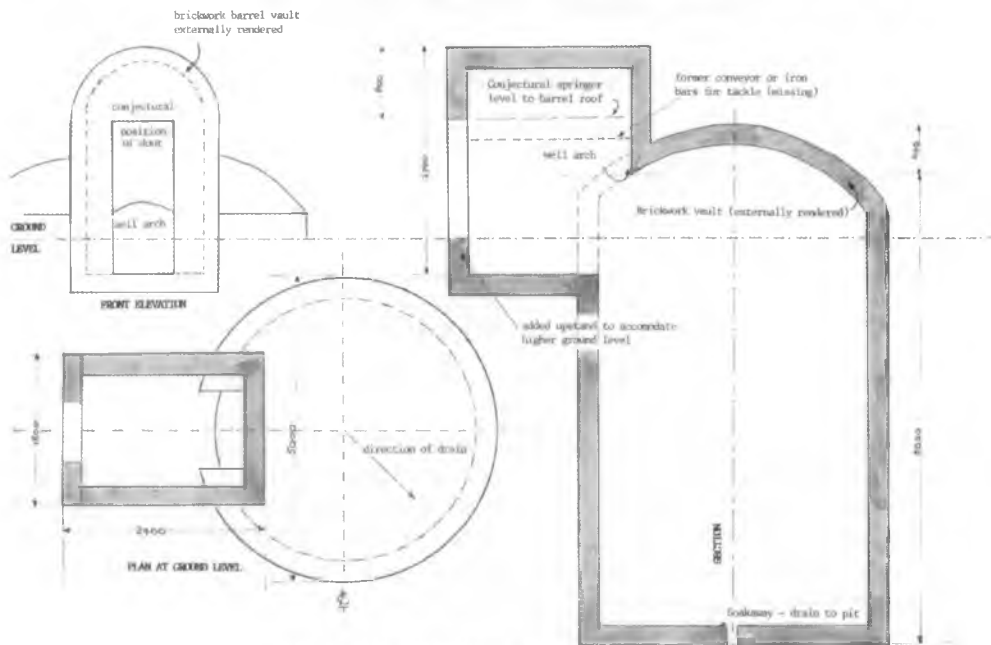
THE Dell is a deep pit, excavated in earlier centuries, as a possible source of flints for building and chalk for farming purposes. It is on the south side of St Mary's Parish Church and close to Fetcham Park House and contains some magnificent forest trees estimated at over 150 years of age. The existence of an ice house in the Dell was highlighted by an article in the Autumn 1993 Newsletter of the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society. That society, having financed the removal and reconstruction of the 19th century fruit barn in the grounds of Manor House School, Bookham,¹ turned their attention to the preservation of the ice house which had been damaged by vandals. The owners of the Dell, Trafalgar House, were approached for the possible purchase of the structure with a small access area, but this was rejected as the owners were only prepared to sell the whole site, possession of which was beyond the Society's resources. Because of the danger posed by the pit in the vandalised structure, the owners in 1995 ordered its demolition and burial.

Late in the 18th Century, the potential of icehouses attracted owners of large estates as this made possible the storage of food in the summer months from winter activities in procuring fish, game and home killed meat. The usual system, in the smaller structures, was to suspend the food in baskets or trays in the cold air above the ice. Fetcham Park Ice House was probably built during the ownership of George Bernard Hankey and was possibly included in the extensive refurbishment and remodelling of the house which took place in 1875. It fell into disuse in 1924 following the dispersal of the adjoining land and the coming of mechanical refrigeration. Its destruction is to be regretted as it formed an historic part of the domestic activity of the Manor House in the 19th century.

Before the demolition, the late Anthony Hill, assisted by the author, took measurements from which the plan on p. 105 was prepared. The initial survey suggested that the pit was brick lined



FETCHAM PARK ICE HOUSE, DEMOLISHED, 1995.



ICE HOUSE, THE DELL, FETCHAM PARK.

Measurements in millimetres. 1: 90 scale drawing after Anthony Hill, 14.7.94.

(hence the inference in the plan) but, during demolition, it was seen to have been hewn from the living chalk. The whole structure was probably covered with earth to add to the insulation properties and the melt water from the ice had gravitational drainage to the base of The Dell because of its position on the rim.

The Fetcham Park Ice House was a very basic structure resembling similar types associated with manor houses throughout the country. The author has seen an identical unit in the grounds of Powis Castle, Powys, which had recently been restored.

The small entrance lobby of the ice-houses had a barrel vaulted roof of brick and the pit was some 14 ft. deep and 16 ft. in diameter. The puzzle, however, is the smallness of the aperture into the storage pit, being barely 2 ft. in height and inaccessible to a person. Evidence existed of an iron rail which probably supported the necessary tackle and pulleys to suspend the food trays/baskets above the ice. Filling the pit with ice must have been a laborious task in view of the small aperture as no other means of entry existed in the dome. The source of ice for the pit was, in all probability, the shallow pond, part of which can be traced in what is now Rookery Close. This pond would be filled with water pumped from Fetcham Mill to the storage cisterns in Rookery Close and Park Farm.² The existence of this pond is indicated on the 1914 and 1924 maps of the area, the latter being reproduced at the time of the sale of the Park for housing development.

NOTES

1. *LDLHS Proceedings* 6 (8) 1995, pp. 202–205.
2. *LDLHS Proceedings* 5 (4) 1991, pp. 101–102.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author acknowledges the assistance of notes provided by S. E. D. Fortescue and notes and drawings by the late Anthony Hill.

DEW PONDS IN NORBURY PARK

By T. MARCHINGTON

TRADITIONAL dew ponds, such as those on the South Downs, were lined with layers of straw and puddled clay. Some believe that the resulting insulation from surrounding soil or rock produced a micro-climate that caused the precipitation of dew and mist into the pond. Others are sceptical and believe that rain, hail and snow were the sole sources of water.

The Norbury Park “dew ponds” were clearly intended to depend principally on rainfall. They were of simple construction, consisting of a margin of brick and a lining of concrete. They date from a period when game birds were shot on the estate and were intended as a water supply for the birds; in dry periods the nearest alternative source was the River Mole. There are two ponds, differing in detail and condition.



THE HAZELS DEW POND, NORBURY PARK.

1. The Hazels (GR.TQ 14965445—just over half a mile from the car park at the top of Young Street)

This pond has a diameter of 16 ft. (including the brick rim). It is 22 in. deep and has convex sides with an angle of 12 degrees increasing to 20 degrees before the concavity at the bottom is reached. After a period of heavy rain only five inches of water was retained as the basin is severely cracked by tree roots. Missing sections reveal the construction. There was little hardcore; the concrete is about two inches thick with an additional half inch of rendering. Vegetation has now been cleared around the pond to prevent further damage.

2. The Scrubbs (GR.TQ 14955361—about quarter of a mile south of Roaring House Farm in the area also known as Denshire Hill)

The condition of this pond is much better, showing only moderate cracking. The outside diameter of the brick rim is 18ft. and the sides are steeper at a uniform 30 degrees. Water is 12 inches below the lip after heavy rain and the depth of water appears to be at least 15 inches, giving a total depth to the pond of two feet three inches or slightly more. Precise measurement is difficult as the basin contains much brushwood and logs, resulting from clearance around the pond.

After these ponds were described at the Society's Christmas Miscellany, 2000, members offered additional information. One recalled that her grandfather was gamekeeper on the Norbury

estate before the Second World War and (as was usual at that time) had a gibbet displaying the bodies of crows and other predators. Another member drew attention to a similar pond at Polesden Lacey, about 50 yards east of the car park. It is now lined with plastic or butyl rubber and is of similar size to those described above. Its location in "Preserve Copse" suggests that this also was a water source for game birds.

MEMORIALS TO THOMAS AND WILLIAM MOORE IN ST NICOLAS CHURCH, GREAT BOOKHAM

By B. E. GODFREY

Introduction

IN the north aisle of St Nicolas Church, two memorials stand against the north wall almost hidden from view by the organ case. These memorials commemorate two former owners of the Carolean house at Polesden; Colonel Thomas Moore, who bought the house from his brother, Arthur, in 1729 and owned it until his death in 1735, and William Moore MP, who inherited the house from his uncle, Thomas, and lived there until his death in 1746.

Both memorials stood originally in the chancel, but were moved to the north aisle at the time of the church restoration in the late 19th century. Colonel Moore's memorial inscription states that he was interred in a vault in the church, and William's inscription states that his remains lie near this place (*viz.* his memorial in the chancel), but was there a vault under the chancel which was obscured by the 19th century restoration? Also, Colonel Moore's memorial can be attributed to the stonemason, Thomas Carter the Elder, known for his fireplaces and memorials,¹ but who sculpted William's memorial?

As part of a study of early owner's of Polesden, new evidence has been found in the North Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford and in some North Papers at the University of Keele, which helps to clarify the existence of the vault in the chancel and the erection of the two memorials.

The Moore family's vault

Colonel Thomas Moore died on 16 March 1735.² His will (dated 18 November 1732 and proved in London on 19 March 1735) appointed his nephew, William, as sole executor, but made no reference to his place of burial or any monument.³ As a former infantry officer, he may have been unconcerned about his place of burial, and the family vault may have been William's idea, for it is referred to in an undated draft of his will in which he requests that he might be buried 'in the chancel of the parish church of Bookham . . . in the vault which I am now going to make there for the burial of me and my family, over or near which . . . a decent monument shall be erected with a proper inscription thereon taking notice of my body's being there deposited'.⁴ This draft of William's will must have existed before Colonel Thomas was buried on 25 March 1735 as Zebedee Lovemore writes that he is buried 'in a vault in Bookham Church built by my master (*viz.* William) for the interment of his uncle'.²



DETAIL OF MEMORIAL TO WILLIAM MOORE M.P.. SHOWING THE MEDALLION AND TWO CHERUBS CARVED FROM STATUARY MARBLE.

William Moore died on 21 October 1746² and was buried on 1 November.⁵ A bricklayer, Henry Lee, and a labourer were employed for two days to open the vault, which was probably entered through the chancel floor as Henry Lee's bill included 'morter and pavingtyles'; the total cost of the bill was 12s.⁶ No evidence has been found to indicate that any other members of William Moore's family are buried under the chancel.

Thomas Moore's memorial

The memorial to Colonel Thomas Moore has been illustrated in various publications and it has been assumed generally that it was erected soon after his death in 1735: its erection, however, was delayed for more than 20 years. Before his uncle's death, William had made provision in a draft of his own will for his own memorial; later, as sole executor for his uncle, he may have wished to provide a similar memorial for Thomas, but his will (dated 28 April 1744) suggests that he may not have commissioned it before he died in 1746.⁷

William's executors, Lord North & Guilford and Thomas Parr, found that interest on his mortgages, bonds and judgments exceeded his income: they took immediate action to sell his estates to pay off his debts. Their accounts show that it took many years to clear William's debts and raise the money for the memorials. Although Lord North may have commissioned Thomas Carter the Elder to design Colonel Moore's memorial soon after William's death, it was not erected until August 1758 (viz. after Carter's death in 1757).⁸

The R^o Hon^{ble} S^r Guildford D^r

Nov^r 12th 1761 To Benjamin & Tho^s Carter

To a Monument of the late W^m Moore
Esq^r of Salisbury, consisting of two things & a Medal
viz Statuary Marble and the other parts of different
Marble according to the Design as Agreed to by her
Lordship for the sum of

| | |
|---|---------------|
| No ^s 619 Letters to Inscriptions at 2 ^s Each | 5.11.0 |
| Carriage of the Monument | 3.18.0 |
| Bricklayers Work | 2.12.0 |
| Smiths Work | 0.18.0 |
| Carpenters Work | 0.06.0 |
| Men for Lab ^r 23 days at 1 ^s 6 ^d Day | 1.01.0 |
| Exp ^s of Lodging for the Men | 0.04.0 |
| Exp ^s of packing Cases at 2 ^s 8 ^d per Foot | 1.19.4 |
| Painting the Coat of Arms in Fields | 1.01.0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 174.07.0 |
| Rec ^d on Acct | 80.00.0 |
| Balance L | <hr/> 94.07.0 |

April y^e 22^d 1762

Received of the Earl of Guilford sur-
-viving Executor of W^m Moore Esq^r
Deceased, ninety three pounds thirteen
Shillings which with eighty received
before, is in full of this Bill & all
Demands by me Tho^s Carter

ACCOUNT FOR WILLIAM MOORE'S MEMORIAL (NOV. 1761), RECEIPTED
BY THOMAS CARTER. Courtesy, University of Keele.

The account, submitted on the 24 August 1758 by the executors of Thomas Carter, itemises the total cost of the memorial and gives some indication of the work involved:

| | |
|--|------------|
| A Monument per Agreement | £200. 0. 0 |
| Paid for carriage | £ 3. 0. 0 |
| 551 letters drawn, cut and painted on the statuary marble at 2d./letter | £ 4.11.10 |
| 162 letters on the black marble base in gilt at 4d./letter | £ 1.14. 0 |
| A mason and labourer 23 days each to the country and setting up the monument and returning to London at 6s./day | £ 6.18. 0 |
| Paid for lodging | £ 0. 6. 0 |

With other sundry items—strong packing cases; bricks, lime & hair and 5 days work for a bricklayer, Henry Lee, and a labourer; ironwork and carpentry—the total cost came to £228.11.11.

The executor's accounts show that the monument was paid for in two instalments—£120 on 26 February 1759 and £108.11.6 on 14 April 1760.⁹

William Moore's memorial

Thomas Parr had died in 1757, so Lord North (by now the 1st Earl of Guilford) was the surviving executor responsible for William's memorial. He made an agreement (dated 26 Feb 1759) with Thomas Carter the Younger to provide a memorial for £145; there was little money coming into the executor's accounts by this time and he may have wished to keep the total cost of the memorial within 'the like sum' indicated in William's will. The memorial was to comprise 'two boys and a medal in statuary marble and other parts of different marbles'.¹⁰

On this occasion, Thomas Carter sought a payment 'on account of a monument I am now preparing' and received £80 from the Earl of Guilford on 22 December 1760.¹¹ The monument was probably finished and erected about six months later.¹²

The account, submitted on the 12 November 1761 by Benjamin & Thomas Carter, is itemised as for the previous memorial and the cost of erection by the mason and the other sundry items were all comparable—the total cost came to £174.7.0.¹³ The executor's accounts show that the Earl of Guilford paid the balance of the bill (£94. 7) less 14s. on 22 April 1762.

Given that the memorial was for William Moore Esq, one unexpected item on the account was 'Painting the Coat of Arms in Shield . . . £1.1.0'. No reference was found elsewhere to a Coat of Arms, but William could have been entitled to one through the Earl of Berkeley, whose portrait was listed amongst the family pictures; in a letter to the Earl of Guilford, the vicar of St Nicolas Church, Reeve Ballard wrote 'I believe the Arms are proper'.¹⁴

The documents which have been found in the Bodleian Library, Oxford and the University of Keele confirm that there is a vault under the chancel of St Nicolas Church, Gt Bookham which contains at least the remains of Col Thomas Moore and his nephew, William Moore; also, there are two memorials in the church attributable to a Carter. Colonel Thomas Moore's memorial was sculpted by Thomas Carter the Elder before his death in 1757, and William Moore's memorial was sculpted by Thomas Carter the Younger in 1759–60.¹⁵

NOTES

1. The National Trust guidebook for Polesden Lacey, the guide for St Nicolas Church and the Dictionary of British Sculptors (1660–1851) attribute Colonel Moore's memorial to Thomas Carter on the basis of an undated memorandum in the North Manuscripts which refers to 'a half length picture of Colonel Moore left with Mr Carter, the stonemason, who is making a monument' (MS North b14 f19).
2. Letter to the Earl of Guilford from Zebedee Lovemore, 18 Sept 1757 (N5/3, University of Keele).
3. SRO K35/1/6-7.
4. N4/1, University of Keele.
5. Letter to the Earl of Guilford from Zebedee Lovemore, 1 Nov 1746 (MS North d5 f135)—he writes 'I went down in the vault myself and saw him laid close to Col Moore'.
6. MS North b18 f21
7. SRO K35/1/17—William's executors are requested 'to lay out £200 in erecting a monument for my late uncle, Thomas Moore, (if not done in my lifetime) and the like sum in erecting another for myself'.

8. N14/8, University of Keele—the bill for the erection of the memorial contains an item, ‘To new pollishing occasion’d by laying by . . . £8.10.0’, which was not paid.
9. N7/2, University of Keele
10. N14/6, University of Keele
11. N14/9, University of Keele
12. Letter to the Earl of Guilford from Francis Geary, 21 July 1761 (N14/10, University of Keele)—he has heard that monuments are being put up in the Bookham chancel without seeking his permission and without offering a fee. On the 7 August (N14/11, University of Keele) he receives 10 guineas from the Earl ‘for leave to erect monuments’.
13. N14/12, University of Keele
14. Letter to the Earl of Guilford from Reeve Ballard, 7 April 1762 (N14/13, University of Keele)
15. Thomas Carter the Younger worked chiefly on tombstones, memorial tablets and monuments: he was a member of the committee formed to found the Royal Academy in 1755: he died in 1795.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to Sophie Chessum, the Research Assistant, Historic Buildings Department, National Trust Southern Region for her interest and support, and to Helen Burton, the Librarian, Special Collections and Archives, University of Keele for making her archives readily accessible.

THE NEATE FAMILY OF LEATHERHEAD

By A. ROBERTS

THIS article is an introduction to the story of the intertwined lives of two of Leatherhead’s most important 19th-century trade families: the Neates, who were grocers and pork butchers, and the Simmons, who were carpenters and builders. Mention is also made of a third connected family, the Browns, also builders, who took over the Simmons’ business interests in the 1830s and eventually owned much of the same property. As there were many people with the same Christian name in the Neate family (there were at least seven women called Mary over four generations) it is recommended that a close eye be kept on the family tree (see p. 114) to avoid confusion.

Many people who shop in Leatherhead town centre will have used Neate’s Alley as a short cut to the High Street and may have wondered how it came by its name. Few now remember the Neate family, although they were once prominent citizens of the town. Now extinct in Leatherhead, the family is still numerous in Wiltshire, where they may be traced back to the Norman Conquest.

Neate’s Alley

Stephen Neate’s grocery, after which Neate’s Alley is named, stood on its southwestern corner, on the present site of Halfords, for more than eighty years (c. 1862-1945). Next to it was Gothic Lodge, where the Edmund Tylney public house now stands. According to Stephen’s grandson, Charles Lester Neate, the present name was never used when he was a boy, the thoroughfare being generally known as Dog Alley, after the many stray dogs who frequented it for various purposes. Pigs were kept for fattening and eventual slaughter in the back yard of the shop, which attracted both the dogs and small boys who would beg for the animals’ bladders for



STEPHEN NEATE, c. 1880.

use in their footballs. The nearby Church Walk, into which Neate's Alley runs by way of Elm Road, was known, incidentally, as Cat Alley, being overrun with the animals then as now. The old buildings on either side of Neate's Alley (Gothic Lodge and the former Neate's Grocery) were demolished in 1956 and replaced shortly afterwards by the existing modern shops.

Early History of the Neate Family

According to family tradition, the Leatherhead Neates can be traced back to Norman French ancestors who came to England with William the Conqueror. The reminiscences of one of Stephen's forebears, Ann Neate of Barton Farm near Marlborough, set down in 1840, record that they were farmers and cattle breeders, as their name suggests (it derives from the Old English word meaning cattle, which has an equivalent in many early European languages, including Norman French). They are reputed to have supplied the invading army with beef and later to have done much to improve the livestock of this country by crossbreeding with animals from France. For their services William rewarded them with a baronetcy, now extinct, and a large tract of land in Wiltshire which they farmed for many generations. Their coat of arms featured a 'Bull's head Gules and a chevron and two trefoils Vert', the whole surmounted by a helmet and another bull's head bearing wings to symbolise the speed with which the Neates had come to the assistance of their king.

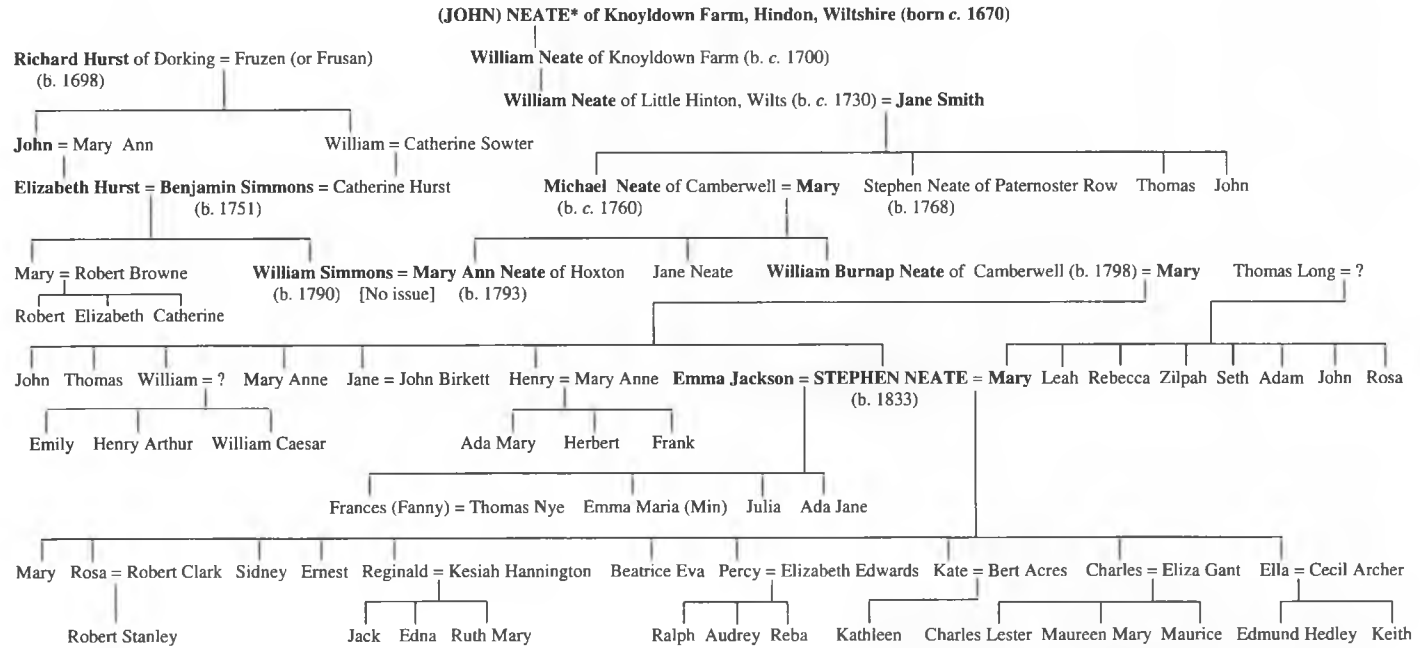
Their later lineage has so far been traced from the present day back to Ann Neate's great-great-grandfather, possibly called John, although his first name is not certain, who worked Knoyldown Farm near Hindon, Wiltshire, in the 17th century. His son and grandson, both called William, were farmers in the same county, but in the 18th century two of his great-grandsons, Stephen and Michael, moved to London and set themselves up as butchers and grocers. Stephen was a butcher in Paternoster Row (near Newgate Market) and is buried in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. It is from his brother Michael, a Camberwell butcher—Neate Street in the borough is named after him—that the Leatherhead family descended (see family tree).

The Move to Leatherhead and some 19th century recollections

The Neates first came to Leatherhead in the early 19th century and became substantial property owners in the area, living near the Parish Church (and in the High Street and Fairfield) for many years. At various times members of the family ran a school, two grocery shops and a hackney carriage business. Although there are no Neates in Leatherhead at the present day, some of their descendants still maintain close connections with the town.

The first member of the family to settle in Leatherhead was Mary Ann Neate, the daughter of Michael and sister of Jane and William Burnap Neate (of Hoxton and Camberwell). She was born in Hoxton in 1793, married the carpenter and builder William Simmons (1790–1864) in Leatherhead in 1821 and died childless in 1867. She was a governess and schoolteacher and the aunt of brothers Stephen and Henry Neate, the Leatherhead grocers and William Neate, who was a solicitor's clerk in Guildford.

FAMILY TREE OF STEPHEN NEATE OF LEATHERHEAD



* First name uncertain



NEATE'S GROCERY, c. 1894.

The lady in the doorway may be Mary Neate, but she is more likely to have been a customer. The man with the knife is thought by some to be Henry Neate. The stable block of Gothic Lodge is visible on the left.

Mary Ann's husband William Simmons was the son of Benjamin Simmons (1751–1832), the owner of an old-established carpentry and building business whose yard and workshops were opposite the Parish Church. Skeet House now stands on the site. Benjamin was a wealthy but entirely self-made man who built many of Leatherhead's finest houses, most of which are still standing. They include Devon House, The Lilacs, the former National School and headmaster's house ('Oakshott') near the church, Flint Cottages and Nos. 16–20 on Gravel Hill, The Terrace (Nos. 28–34) and No. 43 in Bridge Street and Linden Cottage and other cottages in Fairfield, including some of those on the east side of Middle Road. He also built the Workhouse in Kingston Road, which was demolished in 1867. Simmons was born in Islington and maintained close connections with his family there. His second wife Catherine, who was his first wife's cousin, also came from nearby (Hackney). William probably met Mary Ann Neate while visiting London with his parents. After Benjamin's death in 1832 William inherited most of his property, including the business. He sold it shortly afterwards to William Brown of Church Street and was thereafter styled a Gentleman and House Agent in the directories. His father had always been listed as a tradesman, although he did describe himself as a Gentleman in his will.



THE NOOK, c. 1895.

The Nook

William and Mary Ann lived at The Nook (No. 1 Poplar Road), a house, no longer standing, which Benjamin and William had built in around 1818. William made a number of additions to it over the years, jokingly remarking after building an extension to the north that he had done it in order to live nearer to London! Mary, possibly aware that she would never have children, started a girls' school here in the early 1830s. It appears as a 'Ladies' Boarding School' in Robson's Leatherhead Directory of 1838 and in the 1841 Census, when there were seventeen pupils (one of whom, another Mary Ann Neate, was Mary Simmons' niece from Camberwell). There were also two assistant mistresses. Mary Simmons is listed as 'Schoolmistress', which at that time usually meant head teacher. By the next Census (1851) the school had moved next door to Devon House (then known as Church House*), which the Simmons also owned. The joint head teachers were Catherine and Mary Piercey: Catherine had been an assistant teacher under Mary Simmons and was one of the witnesses to Benjamin Simmons' will in 1831. The

* It should be noted that a number of buildings near the church have been called Church House at various times. As well as Devon House, Benjamin Simmons' house on the site of the Parish Hall was also usually called Church House (his son's house The Nook being sometimes called Church Cottage) and an early building of that name stood in front of the church until it was purchased and demolished by William Clarke of Elm Bank in the mid-19th century.

school appears as a 'Ladies' Seminary' in the 1855 Handbook of Dorking and Leatherhead. It remained at Devon House for more than twenty years, appearing in both the 1861 and 1871 Censuses. In 1861 'the Misses Piercey' were still headmistresses, but by 1871 the head was Maria Hyatt, assisted by her younger sisters Sarah and Ellen. The school moved to London House (then called Stainforth House) in Church Street in 1878, where it remained until it finally closed in 1893.

Mary Simmons' niece Mary Ann Neate (1827–1889) had come to Leatherhead from Camberwell in the 1830s to live with her uncle and aunt and to attend their school. In the mid-1840s she became a teacher at the school (1851 Census) and was later employed by the wealthy property owner Mrs Emma Sturgess of Fairfield as governess to her two daughters (1861 Census). She moved back to The Nook when her aunt died in 1867.

New Arrivals in Leatherhead

In 1871 two other new arrivals from Camberwell were recorded—Mary's younger brothers Henry and Stephen, both grocers. Henry lived with his sister for a while before opening a shop in North Street (Post Office Directory 1878). This was situated in a building (owned by the



THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN THE GARDEN OF THE NOOK c.1897 AND SHOWS MARY NEATE WITH HER TEN CHILDREN AND THREE STEPCCHILDREN (FRANCES, EMMA AND JULIA).
Back row, left to right: Mary Emma (May), Sidney, Kate (Kitty), Ernest, Beatrice Eva (Beattie), Reginald, Rosa Emily (Rose); *Middle row:* Emma Maria (Min), MARY NEATE, Ella, Frances (Fanny), Julia;
Seated on the ground: Percy, Charles.

photographer Richard Huck) at the top of North Street opposite the Bull Hotel, near where Dyers the printers are now (1884 Rate Book). He lived over the premises. For some years he also rented a yard and a 16 acre meadow in Kingston Road, probably for grazing animals (this was the parcel of land at the junction of Barnet Wood Lane and Kingston Road known as Hilly Fields—not to be confused with the adjacent Hilly Meadows, which was used by the High Street butcher John Symonds. Part of Hilly Fields was donated to the Parish in 1889 by Captain and Mrs Richardson of Kingston House as the site of All Saints' Church. Kingscroft Road was eventually cut through the middle of it).

We can see from the 1881 Census that Henry soon abandoned his shop. By that year he had married a local woman—yet another Mary Anne—and changed his occupation, although he was still living in the same premises. He now ran a fly (one horse hackney carriage) business listed in Gravel Hill—his former shop had a large yard backing on to it. One of his jobs would have been to meet trains at Leatherhead's stations. (See 'The Adventure of The Speckled Band' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in which Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson hire such a vehicle in Leatherhead: 'At Waterloo we were fortunate in catching a train for Leatherhead, where we hired a trap at the station inn, and drove for four or five miles through the lovely Surrey lanes.' They draw near an old manor house on a wooded slope: '“That be the house of Dr Grimesby Roylott,” remarked the driver.' Had Holmes existed, the driver would probably have been Henry Neate!).

Henry left his North Street house in 1884 (it was demolished in the same year) and moved to a cottage in Fairfield—No. 3 Percy Cottages, one of a group of four terraced houses opposite the Prince of Wales (1891 Census). Both the cottages and the public house were demolished when Leret Way was built. In January 1892 he left Leatherhead for an as yet unknown destination: he does not appear in any subsequent Rate Book or Directory. His former grazing land (which he had relinquished in 1886) was taken over by Emily Moore of The Swan.

The other new arrival recorded in the 1871 Census, Henry's older brother Stephen (after whom Neate's Alley is named) had opened his own shop in the High Street around 1862. He started by selling glass and earthenware (Post Office Directory 1870), later becoming a general provision dealer and pork butcher. The business flourished there until after the Second World War. Stephen himself died from stomach cancer at the early age of 55, having fathered fourteen children (thirteen of whom survived) with his two wives: four with Emma, who died in 1868 shortly after the birth of her last child (who also died) and ten with Mary, his second wife, whom he married in 1872. A charming photograph exists of the whole family in the garden of The Nook (see p. 117). Mary ran the shop after Stephen's death and her two daughters Mary and Beatrice Eva ('The Misses Neate') after her death.

Mary Simmons' niece Mary Ann Neate, who never married, lived in The Nook for nearly twenty years after her aunt died in 1867, although it is not clear if she ever actually owned it. The 1885 Poor Rate Book does list her as the owner, but this is probably a mistake as her aunt plainly stated in her will that whereas Mary was to have Devon House for her lifetime use (she was forbidden to sell or mortgage it), The Nook was to go to her (Mary Simmons') sister Jane and after her death to her nephew William, a solicitor's clerk who lived in Guildford. He is listed as the owner from 1887 until his death in 1913. The house remained part of his estate until 1919, when it was bought and occupied by the Misses Palmer. After Mary Simmons' death in 1889 Devon House was bought by George Brown, the son of William Brown (mentioned above).

Mary Neate stayed in The Nook (letting Devon House to various tenants) until 1886, when she moved the short distance to No. 1 The Lilacs (now 25 Church Road). She and her sister Jane Birkett had bought this property and the adjacent house, No. 2 The Lilacs, some time earlier, perhaps because it had family connections: it had been built by Benjamin and William Simmons, probably around 1815. (It was built on the same parcel of land as the nearby China Row in Church Walk, also by the Simmons, which dates from that year.) It is not mentioned by name in Benjamin's will but the Tithe Apportionment of 1841 records William Simmons as the owner. Mary Neate remained at The Lilacs until her death in 1889: her will reveals that there was a mortgage of £1000 on the property—a substantial sum, equivalent to perhaps £300,000 today. It was bought by Dr Sackville Davis, a barrister who lived at The Grange in Church Street.

When Mary left The Nook her brother Stephen moved in with his second wife and family and lived there until his death. The family had previously been divided between the High Street premises and a house in Church Road (2 Myrtle Cottages, now No. 21). One of the reasons for Mary's move was no doubt that Stephen needed a larger house to accommodate his growing family under one roof. Sadly he died at a young age in 1889, as mentioned above, but his widow lived on at The Nook until 1908, when she moved to 34 Bridge Street (No. 4 The Terrace), one of four substantial brick and flint houses (28-34 Bridge Street) built in 1810 by Benjamin Simmons, which she had inherited from her husband (and he from his aunt).

Links with Edward Lear

For many years one of Mary Neate's tenants at No. 1 The Lilacs was Edward Lear's sister Eleanor Newsom, the widow of William Newsom, a former Governor of the Bank of England. Lear himself visited the house many times and was said to be very fond of Leatherhead. His brother Charles also lived there for a while with his wife Adjouah, an African woman whom he had met while working as a missionary. The story of their marriage is an interesting one. He was taken seriously ill in West Africa and was ordered home on the first available ship. Adjouah volunteered to accompany him as his nurse, an offer he accepted provided that they first marry to protect her honour! They remained for at least three years in Leatherhead before returning to Africa, Adjouah attending a local school to learn English. It is not recorded what the somewhat conservative citizens of the town thought of this exotic presence in their midst. Eleanor Newsom died aged 85 in 1885.

The Neates during the 20th century

In the early years of the 20th century (around 1905) some of the Neate's meadowland adjacent to The Nook on the eastern and northern side, a copyhold of Thorncroft Manor (acquired from Benjamin Simmons, who had held it since 1814) was sold, including an old barn which stood on it, to William Henry Brown, who had built and lived in an adjoining property (York Cottage in Church Road). It was his grandfather William Brown who had bought William Simmons' building business nearly a hundred years earlier, and his father and uncle George and William Brown who built it up into a thriving concern (the present writer lives in one of their houses in Church Walk). The business no longer exists, having closed in 1933 after getting into difficulties during the Depression, which hit the building trade in Leatherhead very severely. They had also suffered a severe fire in 1927 which destroyed their premises, including, unfortunately, a magnificent 18th-century timber barn built by Benjamin Simmons. Some people believe this to have the result of an act of arson by the firm's owner.



BEATRICE NEATE AS KATE AND GEORGE FURNISS AS SAMUEL IN A 1907 PRODUCTION OF 'THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE' PRESENTED AT THE VICTORIA HALL, LEATHERHEAD.

In the 1920s W. H. Brown's cousin, also William Brown (who lived in his grandfather's house Rose Cottage, now No. 39 Church Street) rented the yard and workshop next to The Nook in connection with his own building firm, Brown and Willcox. Subsequently a number of other small businesses occupied the site, including an optician's, a small general store and a bakery. Local residents may remember the delicious smell of fresh bread from Cornwell's the bakers who were there in the 1950s. The Nook was finally demolished in 1965, the existing modern houses being built on the site shortly afterwards.

Neate's Grocery

Some may also remember Stephen Neate's grocery. It was a well-known and prosperous High Street shop in its heyday: a typical old-fashioned family grocers, the floor strewn with sawdust and the walls hung with sides of bacon. It sold a wide range of teas, cheeses, biscuits and other provisions. (Some of Leatherhead's older inhabitants have told me that when money was tight they recall being sent to the shop by their parents for a pennyworth of broken biscuits for their tea.) Stephen's specialities were pork sausages and bacon which he made from pigs fattened in a meadow in Barnet Wood Lane (close to what had been his brother Henry's land) and in a small pigsty behind the shop. (From their parlour window the family could keep an eye on the animals.) His sausages were highly esteemed and were sent all over the country, being especially favoured by aristocratic shooting parties in

Scotland. He was often asked for the recipe, but wisely kept it to himself. Many of the firm's bills, some signed by Mary Neate, are preserved in the LDLHS collection (LW 271).

Stephen Neate's descendants

After Stephen's death his widow Mary took over the business and ran it until she died in 1925. After that the Bridge Street houses were sold and her daughters May and Beattie (Mary Emma and Beatrice Eva, 'the Misses Neate') ran the shop for many years, living over the premises. They were assisted by their half sister Minnie (Emma Maria) until her death in 1931. It was claimed in advertisements inserted in 1930s directories that the business had been established for 'over a hundred years'—a slight exaggeration as far as the Leatherhead shop is concerned, although the family had previously (*circa* 1820) been grocers in Camberwell with a shop near the street named after them. The latest directory in which the Leatherhead shop appears is that for 1940, when Mary would have been 67 and Beatrice 60. The business failed shortly afterwards, partly due to wartime shortages, but also because for some years it had been regarded as rather old-fashioned. As the sisters grew older, they were content to cater mainly for a dwindling number of established customers. Mary died in 1952 and Beatrice in 1963: she had acted as housekeeper to various families in the Leatherhead area after the shop closed. The shop premises (which the Neates never owned, having always rented it from the Bradford family, and subsequently from their executors) were demolished in 1956.

Of Stephen's thirteen surviving children (all of whom appear in the family photograph), seven eventually married (Fanny, Rosa, Reginald, Percy, Kate, Charles and Ella). Three sons (Ernest, Reginald and Charles) served in the First World War and all lived through it, although they were badly wounded. Reginald died in 1921 as a result of his wartime privations (he had been taken prisoner by the Turks at Kut el Amara). Ernest emigrated to Canada and his brother Percy to California, where he is survived by more than twenty grandchildren and great grandchildren. The youngest son, Charles, who lived in Magazine Place, married Eliza Gant, who had worked as a cook for Dr Dove of Gothic Lodge. Charles was head assistant and slaughterman at Humphrey's butcher's shop (earlier John Symonds') in Leatherhead High Street until 1932, when he contracted osteomyelitis after cutting himself while killing a pig. His arm had to be amputated to save his life and with the industrial injury compensation he received (£750) the family was later able to buy their own butcher's shop in Yalding, Kent. Another tragedy struck the following year when their twelve-year-old daughter Maureen was killed by a falling elm branch at Littlewood's Swimming Pool in Ottway's Lane, Ashted. An off-duty policeman shouted a warning that the branch (weighing nearly a ton) was about to fall but Maureen and another little girl, Florence Hydes, were last out of the pool and were struck by it. Sadly Charles never really recovered from the shock of this loss and his own injury. He was frequently hospitalised both in Leatherhead and Yalding and finally died at the age of 56 in 1942. Father and daughter are buried together in Leatherhead churchyard.

The Leatherhead branch of the Simmons family and Stephen Neate and his two wives are also buried in Leatherhead, Stephen with his first wife Emma and her infant daughter Ada Jane, and his second wife Mary separately with her oldest son Sidney. Stephen's daughters Emma Maria, Mary Emma and Beatrice Eva are buried here as well and Ella's ashes are scattered in the churchyard. Five generations of the Brown family (three of whom were Parish Clerks, serving for a total of 121 years) are also buried here.

Lester Neate's reminiscences

Charles Neate is survived by his son Charles Lester, now living in South Wales after many years abroad. He worked as a young man in the family shop in Yalding and later in another butcher's shop in Rye, Sussex. During the Second World War he reached the rank of Captain in the Royal West Kent Regiment (later being seconded to the Royal Welch Fusiliers) and served with the occupying forces in Germany. When hostilities were over he took an assisted passage to New Zealand where he ran a successful butcher's business for some years, later returning to the UK. He was the last of the Neates to follow the trade which had been traditional in the family for many generations. A much travelled man, he now lives in Lampeter (Ceredigion), having recently moved back to the UK after living in France for many years. His reminiscences of his early life in Leatherhead have been invaluable in preparing this article. He remembers for example that the Neates were a very musical family, particularly Percy, Reginald, Beatrice, Kate and Ella. Beatrice and Ella were mainstays of both the church choir and the Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society. This society had been founded in 1906 by Charles Grantham, the North Street carpenter and builder, and its productions (mainly Gilbert and Sullivan) were of a high quality. They had a creditable orchestra of some twenty players, directed by Cornelius Hooker, the Parish Church organist and choirmaster, and sometimes employed a professional producer from the D'Oyly Carte company. Sets were designed and painted by the multi-talented Charles Grantham, who was also the stage manager and one of their best singers and comic actors. They rehearsed in the Unionist (Conservative) Club Hall and staged their productions every year at the Leatherhead Institute, the Victoria Hall and other venues (and later at The Crescent Cinema, whose larger stage permitted more elaborate effects). Profits from their performances (which were always well reviewed, Ella Neate in particular being singled out for high praise) were donated to various local charities, including the Fetcham Reading Room and the Leatherhead Cottage Hospital.

Lester Neate (as he is usually known) also recalls that when his grandmother Mary was out, his aunts and cousins would often play ragtime music on the piano (with saxophone accompaniment), carefully replacing her classical scores before she returned! Not that she did not enjoy lighter music occasionally. When living in Bridge Street she would pay an itinerant street singer sixpence every Saturday to sing 'Tom Bowling' outside The Terrace. Lester was often detailed to take the money to the 'Tom Bowling man'. (In the years after the First War Leatherhead was frequented by many itinerant vendors and street performers: they were often paid to go away as much as to perform.)

Lester tells many amusing stories of his own childhood. He remembers that local boys received a penny a week pocket money, which they preferred to be given in the form of two halfpennies. If carefully placed on the railway line in the path of the Brighton express, these would be sufficiently enlarged to operate the 1d Nestlé's chocolate machine in the station! Minor crimes such as this and scrumping, if detected, were often dealt with informally by the local policeman. A judicious clip round the ear with his gloves or rolled-up cape would be administered and that would settle the matter.

When The Terrace in Bridge Street was sold after Mary's death in 1925, Nos. 28 and 30 were bought by Cecil Edmund Archer, a printer who had married Stephen Neate's youngest daughter Ella (she and her brother Charles are the children at the first floor window in the High Street photograph). The couple had met at the Leatherhead Operatic Society (it was a great

marriage market) and lived first at No. 30, and then, until 1954, at No. 28. Their son Keith Archer, a retired research chemist, is currently living in Woodbridge, Suffolk, where he does voluntary work at the local museum.

NOTES

The sources used for this article are given in the text where appropriate and below:

Reminiscences of Ann Neate, 1840 [LX 1089]

Reminiscences of Lester Neate, 1999 [LX 1089]

Rate Books and Street Directories in the LDLHS collection

Census Returns 1841–1891

Leatherhead Parish Registers (LDLHS collection, LW35 and 39)

Wills of the Neate and Simmons families [LX 1089]

Records of the Court Baron of Thorncroft Manor (Merton College archives, Muniment 5.5)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY,



EDWARD II COIN.

The coin reproduced (shown twice natural size) was found in Worple Road, Leatherhead, by Mrs Joan Banks, who recently donated it to the Museum. It is a silver penny from the reign of Edward II (1307–1327). Minted in London—the coin would have represented about half a day's pay for an unskilled workman. The obverse bears a crude crowned bust of the king and the legend 'EDWAR ANGL DNS HYB' (Edward King of England Lord of Ireland). The reverse has a large cross from the middle to the edge of the coin with three pellets in each quarter and the name of the mint 'CIVITAS LONDON'. After 1279 the coinage of both Edward I and Edward II was very similar, with only minor variations in image, spelling and lettering to distinguish each issue. They are divided by collectors into fifteen classes. Although it is so worn that some of the inscription is not decipherable, the style of lettering of this coin suggests that it belongs to Class XI and dates from 1310.

A ROBERTS