LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



PROCEEDINGS VOL 7 Nº 4 2010

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The following Lectures, Visits and Walks were arranged during 2010:

January 15th Lecture: 'The famous and Infamous of Leatherhead' by Edwina Vardey February 19th Lecture: 'Francis Frith: The Photographer' by David Edney March 17th Joint visit with the Friends of Leatherhead Museum to the the Lightbox Gallery/ Museum and The Mosque in Woking arranged by Fred Meynen March 19th Lecture: 'The Work of the Surrey Archaeological Society' by David Calow April 16th The Society's 63rd Annual General Meeting, followed by a Lecture 'Milner House' by Peter Tarplee May 21st Lecture: 'Early Saxon Landscapes in Surrey' by Chris Howkins June 16th Visit to St Mary's Church, Stoke d'Abernon arranged by John Wettern September 17th Lecture: 'Early Motoring in Surrey' by Gordon Knowles October 15th Lecture: 'Just Fish: Recollections of a Village Fishmonger' by Ron Fowler

November 19th
December 17th
De

as part of the Christmas Social evening

Members of The Society led walks around the district and gave talks to organisations during the year.

A visit to historic places in Reigate in July was cancelled through lack of support

Number 3 of Volume 7 of the *Proceedings* was issued in February 2010.

63rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Letherhead Institute

The Report of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 2009 were adopted. The Officers and Committee members elected to serve until the next AGM are shown below.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2010-2011

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Leatherhead and District Local History Society PROCEEDINGS

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FAMILIES, MARRIAGE AND BAPTISMS IN GREAT BOOKHAM, 1695–1730

By WILLIAM WHITMAN

Introduction

This study was started in order to investigate the possibility of using Church records to obtain some idea of the size and nature of families during the period 1695–1730, which is the earliest period for which suitable transcribed records are readily available. This period comes after the abolition of civil marriages before a Justice of the Peace, which had been lawful during the period of the Commonwealth 1649–1660. However, 'common law' marriages, not solemnised in Church, were recognised legally until the passage of the 1753 Marriage Act. This law was enacted to rectify perceived abuses of the system, by requiring both parties to sign the Register [or to make their mark], by making the calling of banns a normal requirement and by requiring officiating clergy to be licensed. After this time 'common law' marriages were not recognised as legal.

Earlier marriage records tend to be restricted to just the names of bride and groom but, after 1690, the parish affiliations are commonly recorded. In the same way baptismal records after 1695 include father's names and sometimes other information. The main repository of Church records for Surrey is the Surrey History Centre, which holds the original registers as well as micro-fiche copies and, most usefully for this purpose, typed transcripts that have been made available by the Society of Genealogists.

Method

A transcript was made of all the 421 baptisms registered in Great Bookham between 1695 and 1731; these were classified by date and by surname. The records usually give the surname and Christian name of the child together with the Christian name of the father. Sometimes the father's occupation is recorded, more rarely the name of the mother. There are a few entries for 'baseborn' children that give the name of the mother but not the father. A transcript was also made of all the 106 Great Bookham marriages recorded between 1695 and 1726. These give date, Christian and surname of bride and groom and their respective parishes. (Owing to the limitations of space, it was not possible to print the transcripts of baptisms and marriages here, but a complete hard copy of each has been deposited as part of the Local Studies Library in the Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND, and also in the Leatherhead Museum and Leatherhead Library.)

Marriage registers from some other local parishes were also examined and transcripts made of marriages in which one party was from Great Bookham. Twenty one such marriages were identified during the period. These are listed in Table 1, together with a number of other marriages before this period that are included for interest.

A record on computer of all the 394 burials recorded at St Nicolas during this period is also available. If we assume a life expectancy of 50 years, this would suggest a population of about 500 people through this period. The burial and baptism rates (Table 2) are fairly steady during this time, indicating that the population of the village was not changing greatly.

Analysis

The baptism data make it possible to identify families with some confidence, because all the

children born to a man with the same surname and Christian name in a limited period are likely to belong to the same family. The method may underestimate the size of some families and will not recognise partnerships that were childless, nor will it identify children who were not baptised. All these factors are more likely to lead to the method giving a low estimate.

The number of families counted was 164, with 416 children baptised [table five]. It is likely that at this time nearly all children would be baptised. There were 35 families with four or more children.

No. of children	9	8	7	6	5	4
No. of families	3	3	5	7	7	10

Just under one half of the children were born to families with four or more children. Five children were described in the register as 'baseborn', with only a mother's name given in the baptismal register. These have not been included in the totals. The rate of formation of families over the 37 year period was thus 4.43/year. The number of marriages solemnised at St Nicolas, Great Bookham during the period was 106: a rate of 2.86/year. Comparison of these two figures shows that the rate of formation of families was greater by a half than the rate of marriages. This suggests that about one in three marriages was a 'common-law' marriage; such marriages were less expensive and might suit some Puritan families who were reluctant to go to Anglican churches.

Marriages

It is evident from the register of marriages that about half of them do not include a partner from Great Bookham. It is possible that in some cases one of the partners may have moved from Bookham and returned to their 'home' village to marry in the presence of family and friends, but in 28 cases neither party can be traced as a family name among the burial and baptism records at St Nicolas. Some at least of the marriages may have been 'under-age' marriages or elopements. In other cases Great Bookham may have been chosen because of the vicar or because there was a danger of disease elsewhere.

There were 96 marriages registered in the period 1695–1726. In 27 cases the groom was recorded as being from Great Bookham. With only one exception, they married brides from the parish; the one exception was a girl from the neighbouring parish of Fetcham. Ten girls from Bookham married men from other parishes. In three of these cases an entry in the baptism register corresponds to the marriage of a bride from Great Bookham to a man from another parish: these are Elizabeth Bourn/W'm Meeres of Fetcham, Sarah Stodal/John Palmer of Letherhed, Mary Phillis/W'm Shering of Fetcham. There are no entries for the other names, nor for Joyes, in the death registers.

Of the 55 surnames of brides in the list, 13 are in the register of deaths, so it is possible that they had family in the village. On the other hand, 80 of those married at St Nicolas, Great Bookham during this period have no apparent link with the parish, the criteria being: no surname entry in the register of baptisms and no entry in the registers of deaths during the period around the marriage. Of course, some Great Bookham parishioners will have married in other parishes, and some of these marriages are listed in table 1. Rather more men than women married out of their parish.

The 21 marriages from neighbouring parishes that included a partner from Great Bookham were: eight in Little Bookham, seven in Dorking, two in Leatherhead, three in Mickleham and

one in Effingham. At Little Bookham, two men and six women were from Great Bookham, but in the other churches nine men and only three women were from Great Bookham. Children from ten of the marriages appear to have been baptised at St Nicolas.

Conclusions

- 1. Great Bookham was a parish with a population of 500, or fewer, at this time.
- In this period 164 families had 416 children baptised but only 106 marriages were celebrated.
- 3. At least one third of the unions were 'common-law' marriages not celebrated in Church.
- 4. Eighty of those persons married at St Nicolas during this period had no apparent link with the parish.
- 5. Twenty eight of the marriages were between partners neither of whom had an apparent link with the parish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My grateful thanks are offered to Mr Derek Renn who read through my draft, identified some of my worst errors and encouraged me to hope that others may find something of value in my study.

Detailed Examples of Some Marriages

<u>Baker</u> Stephen Baker married Susanna Virgo in 1717. A Susan Virgo, daughter of Henry, was baptised in 1697. Two children of Stephen were baptised: Mary 1718 and Stephen 1721. A Stephen Baker was buried in 1725, the only eighteenth century Baker burial. Henry Virgo was buried in 1701.

<u>Blundell</u> Thomas married Elizabeth Hamdon in 1700 and William married Rebeckah Hubbard in 1709. There are in the registers records of the baptisms of: 1704 Jane, 1706 Richard, 1712 Anne, 1722 George, children of Thomas. There are records of 1721 Anne and 1723 John, children of William.

There are numerous Blundel[I]s in the burial registers covering a long period. Some relevant ones may be: 1706 widow Blundel, 1715 Anne, 1723 John, 1723 Mary, 1725 Elizabeth, 1728 William, 1732 Rebekah, 1732 Thomas, 1748 Ann.

Boughton Richard married Mary Waterer in 1697, both of these were established Bookham families. Edward married Sarah Croucher in 1709. Richard and Mary had three children: 1702 John, 1705 Susanna, 1708 Elizabeth. Edward and Sarah had eight children, three of them called Sarah in 1710, 1715 and 1719. The others were 1712 Mary, 1717 Elizabeth, 1724 Richard, 1727 John and 1728 Thomas.

There are over 30 Boughtons in the pre-1865 burial registers; two of these, in 1708 and 1711, are for a Sarah Boughton. There is a tombstone in the churchyard in memory of Elizabeth Waterer [66] died 1814 and of her sister Sarah Hall [69] died 1817

Joseph Boughton of Great Bookham married Margaret Johnson of Fetcham at Little Bookham in 1687. There is no baptism record of children born to a Joseph Boughton.

<u>Burgess</u> Edward Burgess of Little Bookham married Mary Batt of GB at Dorking in 1717. Two children of Edward were baptised: Mary in 1720 & Edward in 1726.

A Richard Batt was baptised in 1697 and there are several Batts in the burials register at about that time. An Edward and a Mary Burgess were buried in 1726

<u>Cooper</u> John Cooper and Mary Cook, both of Bookham were married in 1704. There are three baptisms, of children of John, recorded: Anne 1706, Ann 1707 and William 1710. An Anne Cooper was buried in 1709, a John in 1733 and a Mary in 1745.

<u>Dennier</u> John Dennier of Great Bookham married Mary Spurling of Dorking in Dorking in 1706. There are a number of spellings in the registers [Dennier, Dennyer & Denyer]. A child of John Dennier, Sarah was baptised 1707. Another Sarah, daughter of John Denyer was baptised in the same year and a son of John Denyer was baptised in 1710. Two John Denyers were buried in 1748 and 1752, and a Mary Denyer was buried in 1745. Francis Denyer, a labourer, married Hannah Peter of Great Bookham in 1702 at Little Bookham. There were children baptised in 1702 and 1705, but the mother of later children is recorded as Susannah.

<u>Fenn</u> Richard F[P]enn married Margaret Snaper in 1715. There are no Snapers in the baptism or burials register. Three children of Richard were baptised: Richard 1725, William 1726 and Francis 1731. There are two Fenn burials recorded: Jane 1729 and Richard 1725.

<u>Grainger</u> Charles Grainger married Mary Blundell in 1716. There are five baptisms of children of Charles: 1717 Charles, 1719 Samuel, 1721 a son, 1727 Mary, 1728 Ann. There are burial records of Graingers after 1732: Benjamin 1732 & 1737, Charles 1742 & 1768, Joseph 1733 & Mary 1728 as well as others later. (There are numerous Blundells in the register.)

Heath George Heath, a 'husbandman', married Mary King, who was also from Bookham, in 1695. There are seven children of George Heath in the baptismal registers: George 1696, John 1697, Mary 1700, George 1701, Thomas 1705, Elizabeth 1707, Ann 1712. There is no record of the burial of the infant George born in 1696, but a Thomas Heath was buried in 1705. There are quite a lot of Heaths in the burials registers of the period, and a few Kings.

W'm Heath of Great Bookham married Elizabeth Woods of West Horsley in W Horsley, 1690. There is no record of children of a W'm Heath in the registers.

Holt Richard Holt of Wooton married Elizabeth Stone of the same parish in Great Bookham in 1709.

There is in the register an Andrew Holt, miller, who was the father of four children baptised: 1696 Mary, 1700 Richard, 1705 Elizabeth, 1706 Thomas. These are unlikely to be the same family. There are burials of Holts in the register: Andrew 1680, 1711, 1757, Jone 1767, Mary 1729, Thomas 1739 and William 1650. There are numerous Stones in the burial registers

<u>Hudson</u> John Hudson, GB, married Mary Worsel in Dorking in 1711. In 1718 John Hudson son of John was baptised and in 1719 Mary Hudson, with no father's Christian name recorded, was baptised. There are about 20 Hudsons in the burial registers, including a 'widow' Hudson in 1735 and a John in 1743.

Lee John Lee, husbandman, married Elizabeth Moor in 1705; both were from Bookham. There are three baptisms of children of John: 1708 John, 1709 Abraham, 1712 Mary. An Elizabeth Lee was buried in 1725. There are numerous Lee entries in the registers and numbers called Moor/Moore/More.

<u>Loveland</u> William Loveland and Elizabeth Tanner were married in 1695. These were both frequent Bookham names. There are five Loveland baptisms during the period; the first, of Eliza in 1695, does not give the father's Christian name, but the other four (1696 Mary, 1698 Elizabeth,

1700 Martha, 1706 Susanna) were fathered by William, who in the last entry is described as a 'shopkeeper'. An Eliza Loveland was buried in 1696.

Marter There are a large number of Marter, Martir and Martyr names in the burial records, but the baptismal records for this period have Christian names of Thomas and John for the father and not Edward. There is no Edward Marter in the burial records but there are a number of Cheesmans. It seems likely that Edward Marter, of Stoke d'Abernon, married Anne Cheesman whose family were living in Bookham in 1713 and that they went to live in Stoke d'Abernon. In 1701 John Martyr of Great Bookham married Margaret Wheeler of Mickleham. There are two children of a John Marter in the baptism registers: John 1703 and Anne 1704. A John Martyr was buried in 1742.

Meeres William Meeres, of Fetcham, married Elizabeth Bourn in 1715. There are two children: 1716 William, 1717 Thomas in the register of baptisms. There are no entries in the burials register. There were three children of a James Bourn baptised 1717–1720. There are a lot of Bourns in the burials register.

Moor In 1717 Stephen Moor and Elizabeth Clark, both of Great Bookham, were married. There are no children in baptism register. A Stephen Moore was buried in 1745 and an Elizabeth Moore was buried in 1791. There are numerous Clarks in the burials register

Palmer There were lots of 'Palmers' living in Bookham. They appear in the earliest burial registers in 1639 etc. There are about 30 entries before 1865. A John Stodal was buried in 1719, the only entry in this name. John Palmer, of Letherhed, married Sarah Stodal in 1716. They had five children: John baptised 1716, buried 1717, John baptised 1718, buried 1719, Sarah baptised 1720, John baptised 1723, father described as blacksmith, Mary baptised 1727. There was also a John buried in 1724, but this may not have been the boy born in 1723 as there was also a John baptised in 1712, a son of John Palmer J'nr who also fathered Robert in 1713 and Jane in 1717. A Sarah Palmer was buried in 1729 and also in 1754 and 1769. John Palmers were also buried in; 1743 and 1774.

Phips The marriage between William and Frances Hurst took place in 1715 [possibly a second, short, marriage], all eight children of William, a gardiner, were born between 1695 and 1709: Thomas baptised 1695 buried 1695, John baptised 1696, Thomas baptised 1700, John baptised 1701, Francis baptised 1703 buried 1703, Richard baptised 1704, Elizabeth baptised 1706 buried 1712, Job baptised 1709 buried 1710. A Frances Phups was buried in 1716. There are two burials of a William Phips recorded, in 1719 and 1730. There is no record of the burial of a John Phips There are no other baptisms of Phips in the records between 1695 and 1731. A William Hurst was buried in 1797.

<u>Saver</u> Richard Sayer married Ann Mainwaring in 1698. Both were from Bookham. In 1698 Thomas, son of Richard was baptised. Three children of Thomas were born: 1725 Edward, 1727 Thomas, buried 1728, 1727 William, buried 1728. A Richard Sayer was buried in 1715.

<u>Saywell</u> Thomas Saywell, a 'gardiner' married Margaret Richbell in 1698; both were from Bookham families. There are six children in the baptism register (Harriet 1698, John 1703, Harriet 1708, Frend 1709, Charles 1711, Elizabeth 1718), although no Christian name is given for the father of the sixth. Only two Saywell deaths are recorded: Charles in 1725 and Thomas in 1727.

<u>Shering</u> [or Sherring, or Sheering]. William Shering of Fetcham married Mary Phillis of Bookham in 1711. There are two baptisms recorded: William in 1712 and Thomas in 1713.

Thomas Sheering of Great Bookham married Mary Arrow of Mickleham in Mickleham in 1702. There are at least six children of a Thomas Sheering, labourer, in the register: Thomas 1703, Thomas 1704, Joseph 1708, Elizabeth 1710, Stephen 1716 and Daniel 1718. There is also an Ann Sherwin born to a Thomas in 1707. The only Shering in the Burial Registers is Daniel [died 1719] who may be the child born to Thomas in 1718.

<u>Sinks</u> [Sink, Sinke]. Robert Sinks married Katherine Stanton in 1696. Both were from Bookham. The baptism records show two children: Katherine baptised 1697 and John 1700. In 1698 a Robert Sink was baptised, the son of John Sink, possibly a brother.

Tanner Richard Tanner, of Cobham, married Anne Eade in 1726. There were six children of Richard Tanner, labourer, baptised: 1697 Sarah, 1698 Richard, 1704 John, 1706 Edward, 1709 William, 1715 Mary. The burials record lists 11 Tanners from 1657 to 1856, but the only three in the eighteenth century were: 1730 Richard, 1736 Matthew and 1752 Richard. Elizabeth Eade was buried in 1785 and William Eade in 1794. There are no Eade baptisms recorded.

Wilson George Wilson, of St Dunstan in the West, London, married Sarah Appleby, of St Andrews, London in 1720. There are six baptisms recorded, all with Thomas as the father: Elizabeth 1706, Ann 1709, Mary 1713, John 1715, William 1717, Henry 1718, George 1721. In the burials record are found: William 1717, Henry 1719, Thomas 1728 and 1738 and Elizabeth 1792. There are nine Wilsons in the burial registers but no Applebys. There are no Appleby baptisms recorded.

Wood There are two Wood marriages in the Great Bookham Register. John Wood of Warnham married Mary Stone of Capel in 1708. There are no children recorded and it is probable that Mary was a Bookham girl who moved to live with her new husband in Warnham. The other marriage was between two Bookham residents, George marrying Anne Jolley in 1708. There are 21 Wood christenings between 1695 and 1731 but the only one naming a George Wood as father was that of Ann in 1696. There are also two without a father's Christian name but these were also before the marriage: in 1695 and 1701. There are no burial records for Jolley at this period. William Wood, maltster, married Jane Cooke of Effingham at Effingham in 1701. He was the father of six children baptised in 1702 Mary, 1703 Elizabeth, 1705 Jane, 1706 Thomas, 1707 Katherine and 1709 John. The burials register lists an Elizabeth Wood dying in 1715 and 1781, Jane in 1716 and 1763, and John in 1710, 1715 and 1766.

Table 1—Some Marriages out of Bookham

DATE	NAME	PARISH	NAME	PARISH	REGISTER
1640	Hiller, Chris'	GB	Shore, Ann	Mick'm	MICK'M
1648	Carter, Thos	Dork'g	Bothwell, Jane	GB	DORK'G
1656	Turner, Thos	Mick'm	Hubberd, Eliz	GB	DORK'G
1657	Hall, Simon	Dork'g	Fetherstone, Eliz	GB	DORK'G
1657	Allen, Ben	Dork'g	Baldwyn, Hanna	GB	DORK'G
1661	Wilkins, Edmund	Dork'g	Burgess, Anne	GB	DORK'G
1679	Roe, Anthony	L B'kh'm	Walker, Eliz	GB	LB
1680	Moses, Thos	L B'kh'm	Skelton, Anne	GB	LB
1680	Ham, John	L B'kh'm	Illegible	GB	LB
1688	Roberts, John	Dork'g	Burgess, Mary	GB	MICK'M

1689	Smith, Geo	L B'kh'm	West, Damaris	GB	LB
1690	Heath, W'm	GB	Woods, Eliz	WH	W. H.ors'y
1690	Hudson, Edw'd	L B'kh'm	Roberts, Marg'	GB	LB
1691	TrippeThos	Richmond	Kidwell, Dor'ty	GB	LB
1692	Steward, Roger	L B'kh'm	Hubbard, Jane	GB	LB
1697	Boughton, Joseph	GB	Johnson, Mg't	Fetcham	LB
1697	Smither, Joseph	GB	Mills, Mary		LB
1698	Fencott, Thos	Ashtead	Hubbard, Mary	GB	L'HD
1698	Tickner, Joseph	Eff'm	Richbell, Eliz	GB	LB
1701	Wood, Wm	GB	Cooke, Jane	Eff	EFF
1701	Martyr, John	GB	Wheeler, Mg't	Mick'm	MICK'M
1702	Denyer, Francis		Peter, Hannah	GB	LB
1702	Sheering, Thos	GB	Arrow, Mary	Mick'm	MICK'M
1704	Habbord, W'm	Molesea	Coles, Mary	GB	LB
1706	John of Betchworth?	Mick'm?	Ockshutt, Mary	GB	MICK'M
1706	Dennier, John	GB	Spurling, Mary	Dork'g	DORK'G
1707	Steddal, Stephen	Dorking	Stobel, Sarah	GB	LB
1709	Clark, W'm	Fetcham	Hide, Mary	GB	LB
1711	Holyday, Humph'y	L'hd	Goodenough, Mary	GB	LB
1711	Hudson, John	GB	Worsel, Mary	Dork'g	DORK'G
1713	Hiller, Jas	GB	Sturt, Susanna	Lhd	L'HD
1717	Songhurst, Thos	Book'm	Croater, Mary	Dork'g	DORK'G
1717	Burgess, Ed	LB	Batt, Mary	GB	DORK'G
1718	Rogers, Thos	GB	Brown, Mary	Dork'g	DORK'G
1729	Wood, Thos	GB	Wickes, Anne	Dork'g	DORK'G
1732	Humphery, John	GB	Taylor, Eliz	Dork'g	DORK'G

Table 2—Marriages, Baptisms and Deaths by Year

Date	Marriage	Baptisms	Deaths
1695	4	14	16
	1	11	14
	1	11	9
	3	12	9
	2		15
1700	3	10	14
	0	15	15
	0	7	5
	3	19	9
	8	14	9
1705	4	19	11

	3	16	16
	4	25	10
	5	19	4
	5	14	9
1710	3	8	7
	6	4	8
	5	15	9
	7	13	9
	4	8	9
1715	3	10	23
	6	9	12
	4	16	9
	2	14	8
	2 2	11	17
1720	3	11	}
	2	10	} 13
	2	11	}
	1	9	7
	0	6	13
1725	0	8	15
	2	8	6
	2	16	8
	0	6	20
	0	10	14
1730	2	9	15
	6	10	7

ZEBEDEE LOVEMORE AND A QUESTION OF SLAVERY

By BRIAN BOUCHARD

Brian Godfrey's informative article about "Zebedee Lovemore, Arthur Moore's Indian Boy" (*Proceedings* 2003, V.6, No. 7 with Addendum 2004, V.6, No. 8.) posed a number of questions that it had not been possible to answer completely at that time and this piece is intended to offer a few more thoughts on the matter.

To quote a late member, R. A. Lever, "It was fashionable at this [early Hanoverian] time for the gentry to employ coloured servants from the slave plantations of North America or brought back by trade ships from other parts of the world." Arthur Moore had a chequered career as detailed in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography which mentions in particular his involvement with the Spanish treaty of commerce or Asiento, otherwise *El pacto del Asiento de negros*, of 26 March 1713. The negotiator in Madrid had been Don Manuel Manasses Gilligan [another man with a colourful history] acting under the influence of Arthur Moore who was a director of the South Sea Company. That monopoly agreement covered the supply of 4,800 slaves p.a. for 30 years, a total of 144,000, to Spanish colonies in the New World. A Spanish designation of a Negro as *picza de India*, literally "a piece of India", entered into common usage and could explain why the baptismal record has the subject as "an Indian boy".

Conversion of the pagan slave was pursued enthusiastically during the 18th century: Rev. Jonathan Boucher, later to become vicar of Epsom, baptised 115 Negro adults into the Anglican faith on one day in 1765 and 313 on another in 1766 whilst he was rector of a parish in Virginia. He went on to acquire a plantation and to become a slave-master but argued for abolition, writing that, in the meantime, "I do entreat you to make them some amends for the drudgery of their bodies by cultivating their minds...though they still continue to be your slaves, they shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." And so, perhaps, Moore's "boy" came to be brought for christening.

Common practice was to give a slave his or her master's surname. Here we seem to have an ironic injunction or reminder to show loyalty or be grateful: "Love Moore". Another late member, F. B. Benger, also observed that little was known of Arthur Moore's early life³ but he repeated statements, by Bishop Burnet and derived from old ballads, about humble origins that could have been issued by an "adverse faction" intended to be derogatory. A Victorian writer tentatively suggested that the man could have descended from Arthur Moore, one of the sons of first Viscount Moore of Drogheda, who settled at Dunnoghan (Monaghan?) but he concluded that Moore could only be regarded as "an architect if his own future". A family of Moores are known to have been plantation owners in Jamaica—from which Sir Henry Moore, Governor of the island from 1756 arose—and it may not simply be coincidental that the surname "Lovemore" later appears frequently in Slave Registers for 1812–1834. Whatever Zebedee's antecedents, however, he clearly became a freeman and waged servant.

Since the original report was produced, Surrey History Centre has acquired, from a dealer, another letter from "Zeb. Lovemoore" to "My Lord", dated 29 July 1752. At present the Archive's catalogue associates it incorrectly with Frederick Calvert, 6th & last Baron Baltimore. It relates to the tenancy of farmland adjacent to "the Prince of Wales hare warren" of which remnants still abut Langley Vale—probably, therefore, it concerned Headley Farm.

Remarks quoted in the second paragraph above related to burials at St Giles, Ashtead, of Joseph

Lode, a "black boy" servant to Robert Eden, Esq., on December 1768, and of John Spencer, a black adult servant to Samuel Martin Esq., on 29 December 1771. Eden had married, on 26 April 1765, the Hon. Caroline Calvert, daughter of Charles Calvert, 5th Baron Baltimore from Woodcote Park. Since Lord Baltimore possessed proprietary rights over the Province of Maryland one may reasonably assume that the Edens' "black boy" had been brought from North America as a Negro slave. Although a practice by members of the gentry of bringing in slaves had long been tolerated, slavery was unconstitutional in England and under the law they should have gained freedom upon arrival. Eventually, in 1772, it was decided by the Court of King's Bench that the principles of English liberty were so incompatible with slavery that even if a slaveholder from another part of the world brought his slave into England—though for a temporary purpose and with no intention of remaining—he nevertheless gave the slave his liberty.

The Rev. Thomas Bacon, of Talbot County, Maryland, published, in 1743, a series of sermons he had addressed to "Masters and Servants" in which he insisted that masters should bring their slaves for baptism and be taught the Creed, Lords Prayer and Ten Commandments.⁵ Evidently, the education of Zebedee Lovemore was taken much further, to equip him to administer his employers' business affairs and discharge other responsibilities capably.

When Arthur Moore died, on 4 May 1730, his relict was a second wife, Theophila née Smythe (C1676–1739), who, by her will dated 12 October 1738 and proved 26 January 1739/40, devised all "her worldly substance", after pecuniary legacies, to Zebedee's daughter, Mary Lovemore, describing her as a poor girl whom she had brought up and educated. This bequest was to be paid when Mary became 21 or married with consent whichever event occurred earlier. Unfortunately, the child did not reach full age and was unwed on her demise, before burial at Fetcham on 26 July 1745. A dispute then developed over who should benefit which eventually came to court in Chancery in July 1752: Zebedee had been one of the claimants but the Master of Rolls decided that the Executors had become Trustees for Theophila's next of kin who, under the circumstances, became beneficiaries of the residuary estate.⁶ Consequently Zebedee did not obtain his daughter's legacy as speculated by Brian Godfrey in 2004. The present writer suspects that Lovemore went off to Epsom having gained employment in one of the grand houses there: Alderman William Belchier had bought Durdans from Lord North and Guildford in 1747 to demolish it and set about rebuilding the property but it caught fire on 25 February 1755 before the new structure could be completed. According to Brayley, however, final demolition (of the shell) did not occur until 1764 and certainly Belchier remained in Epsom because John Wesley dined with him there on 13 August 1759 and he had a new home built, possibly as an enlargement of a small farmhouse to create a property which became *Pit Place*.

Little more is known about the descendants of Zebedee apart from three burials at Fetcham including a son, William, aged 19, described as a Distiller, on 2 July 1754. Although the legibility of the Parish Registers from St Mary's Church, Leatherhead, as copied on microfiche at the Surrey History Centre, is poor a transcript exists on which one can find a record of that William's birth 20 November 1734 as a child of "Zebedee Lovemore of the Parish of Fetcham in this County". For 24 July 1729, there is another entry naming "Zebedee James the son of [left blank] of the Parish of Fetcham..." which, one surmises, could have been an elder brother. Intriguingly, yet another Zebedee Lovemore looms out of the mists of time a generation later, married to Susannah and father of Henry Lovemore who was born 1777 in London. The last-named individual wrote in 1819 from 9 Mabledon Place, Burton Crescent, (off the Euston Road, NW1) about a British government scheme to assist emigration to Cape Colony, South Africa.

His address was a public house, once known as *The Kentish Arms* but now renamed, and in the passenger lists for the "1820 Settler Ships" he may be found with "Wine Merchant" stated as his occupation. If these tentative associations have any validity, some of Zebedee Lovemoore's descendants seem to have completed a circle by returning to the continent of his roots to establish themselves at Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth. They called a farm there "*Bushy Park*", a title which appears to reflect the appointment of Lord North's wife as Ranger of the Middlesex namesake in 1771 and their occupation of Bushy House from that year to 1792 (with Ann remaining in the property, as a widow, until her death in 1797).

In Memoriam

Brian Godfrey

The preceding article had been drafted over two years ago and was submitted to Brian Godfrey for comment in advance of publication. Sadly, illness prevented him from making a further contribution before his demise on 1 December 2008. Since this piece of research would not have been undertaken had he not assembled such a detailed report earlier, it is dedicated to his memory.

NOTES

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- 7 Brayley, E. W., 1875, A Topographical History of Surrey, p.118.
- 8 L & D LHS Archives LW 35. Lewarne, J.W. G. 1954, Fetcham Parish registers, *Proc. L. & D. L. H. Soc.*, 1, 8, p.9.
- 9 1820 Settler Parties, Lovemore in Bailie's Party, http://www.geocities.com/capecolonysettlers/

EDWARD ABRAHAM DE GRAVE (C.1792–1864), SCALEMAKER. By BRIAN BOUCHARD

Deposited at the Leatherhead Museum during October 2007 was a parcel scale and incomplete set of avoirdupois weights, up to 4lb, marked "GPO". The black base of the scales bore, in gold paint, a maker's name "Degrave" whilst the package pan made from copper had been stamped "DEGRAVE SHORT AND FANNER".

The De Grave family business was founded by Charles De Grave who had been living and working in Aldersgate, London, from around 1767 having been apprenticed to Samuel Read (fl. from 1735). Read died in 1778 to be succeeded by his widow Mary who is believed to have entered into a partnership with Charles De Grave from 1780 until the business was disposed of in 1781. Charles De Grave continued to operate as a sole trader from 59 St Martin's Le Grand—"De Grave's Corner"—and he became "Scalemaker to his Majesty" [George III] but died *in 1799, leaving the business of "Beam and Scalemaker" to his second wife, Mary.

Sons, Charles, junior, by his first wife, Hannah,* and, with Mary, Edward Abraham born at Walworth, eventually became involved in the trade variously on their own accounts and in partnership as De Grave and Son(s). Edward Abraham De Grave had been apprenticed to his mother, from 1806, to become a member of the Guild of Blacksmiths in 1813. He married Anna Maria Hill at St. Saviour, Southwark, on 17 August 1824.

William Fanner undertook his apprenticeship with Edward De Grave from 1826 before being admitted to the Blacksmith's Guild in 1836. He then worked for himself at Bankside, Southwark, until 1844. During 1845, Edward Abraham De Grave and William Fanner combined in partnership with a man called Short under the style of "De Grave, Short Fanner & Co." The works and Head Office were established at 102 Naylor Road, London SE 15 and a showroom maintained in 57 Hatton Garden.

Over the years, this firm became makers of all sorts of scales and weights for assays, gold, diamonds etc. They produced scales & weights of the different standards for the East and West Indies, Turkey, Spain and Portugal as well as for many British Corporations. Their product range extended to "chondrometers" used to ascertain the quality of grain and farina. In turn, Edward A. De Grave was appointed "Scalemaker to His Majesty" [George IV] and "Adjuster of weights to the Corporation of London" By 1851 the firm had also gained Appointment to the Royal Mint, Post Office and Assay Office as well as showing off their products at the Great Exhibition.

The example of their work donated to the Museum dates from circa 1852 being similar in appearance to scales featured in the Science Museum's "Making of the modern world" in 2004. [Photograph of equal arm postal balance in Science and Society Picture Library No. 10424999]

By 1830 Edward De Grave was insuring land on "Epsom Road opposite 11 Mile Stone" and in the 1841 Census is shown as resident with his wife, her brother and servants at Sutton Common. During 1845, when elected a Fellow of the Horticultural Society, his address had been 4 Park Row, Knightsbridge, but he seems to have withdrawn from the business to come to live in Fetcham after 1846 and before April 1847, subsequently appearing in censuses for 1851 and 1861 at *Fetcham Cottage* described as a retired scalemaker. Another daughter may be found christened in Fetcham on 2 April 1848, Harriet Elizabeth, but she survived only until 1858. Edward Abraham, himself, died at Croydon, registered in the first quarter of 1864, possibly at 13

Morland Road where members of his extended family were enumerated for 1881. It is recorded that he had been vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians of Epsom Union Workhouse for 6 years prior to his death in February 1864.



Fetcham Cottage

Whilst living in Fetcham, De Grave, or his gardener, H Lavey, is credited with the award of various prizes for exhibits at the Royal Botanical Society notably of collections of British ferns.

W & T Avery purchased De Grave Short & Co in 1919 and, after later changes in ownership, the business now forms part of Avery Weigh-Tronix international group.

* The records of two city parishes: a collection of documents illustrative of the history of Ss Anne and Agnes, Aldersgate, and St John Zachery from the twelfth century by William Mc Murray, pub. Hunter & Longhurst 1925 records that in the church of St. Anne & St. Agnes, Aldersgate, was once but now destroyed, a large oblong slab in the floor in front of the font, inscribed broadwise:-

"Departed in peace.

Hannah De Grave, who departed this life June 14th 1789, aged 42?,

Charles De Grave, died June 27th 1799, aged 55 years

Miss Harriett Elizabeth De Grave died February 18th 1800 aged 5 years and six weeks

Miss Mary De Grave died May 19th 1809 aged 13 years

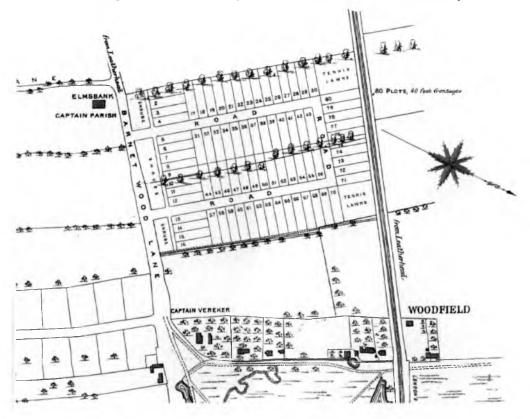
Also Mary, second wife of the above Charles De Grave died 7th April 1840, aged 83 years" This memorial inscription no longer exists and probably was destroyed when the church suffered severe damage as the result of incendiary bombs on the night of 29–30 December 1940.

CAPTAIN ALFRED PARISH R.N.R., F.R.G.S. OF ELMFIELD, BARNETT WOOD LANE, ASHTEAD, SURREY

By BRIAN BOUCHARD

In the L & D LHS archives may be found a plan drawn up in the 1890s to promote the sale of plots on the Greville Park Estate¹. Flanking a block to the north of Barnett Wood Lane (once fields 82, Upper Signal Post, and 83, Longhurst Nine Acres², but eventually developed as Read and Taylor Roads), the names of two prominent residents have been entered, Captain Vereker of *Oakfield Lodge* and Captain Parish at *Elmsbank* (sic), presumably because they would be regarded as attractive prospective neighbours.

Captain The Hon. Foley Charles Prendergast Vereker R.N., born 21 June 1850, is known to history as the second son of Viscount Gort. He joined Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth aged 13 and rose to Captain on 31 December 1888, undertaking surveying duties and work in the Hydrographic Department³. It is believed he moved from Ashtead around 1895 before being placed on half-pay and then joining the Board of Trade as Professional Officer in the Harbour Department. Having retired from the Navy in 1900, he died on 24 October of that year.



Plan of part of the Greville Park Estate, Ashtead, in 1890.

Captain Alfred Parish R.N.R. is, however, a more obscure figure (although his uncle was the diplomat, traveller and scientist Sir Woodbine Parish, 1796–1882, appointed Knight Commander of the Hanoverian Order for services in South America). Having been born during 1816 at Blackwall, where his father, Captain Charles Compton Parish, 1771–1841, formerly of the Royal Navy and East India Company, was Superintendent of West India Docks, he attended Tonbridge School 1829–30. Subsequently, he is thought to have joined Green's shipping line as a merchant mariner eventually gaining appointment in 1846 as Commander of "The Stag", a barque plying between London and Calcutta. A Master's Certificate No. 1428, "1st Class/Steam", was obtained in London during 1849, and around the same time he took charge of the "Northumberland".

In the summer of 1851, at Lewisham, Capt. Parish married Eleanor Mary Brandreth Kempe—one of eleven children born to Alfred John Kempe⁴ (antiquary and writer) by his wife Mary née Prior—to join a family that was very well connected socially. Parish had been given command of another East Indiaman "Wellesley", his eldest daughter, Lucy, being born aboard, crossing the Bay of Biscay, in the succeeding year. At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society of London, on 25 February 1856, Captain FitzRoy, R. N., read a paper written by Captain Alfred Parish, On the Formation of Cyclones and the Tracks they pursue, based upon the latter's observations recorded over 14 years of voyages mainly to India. In the list of ships under Parish's command next came "Barham" from 1857; a year in which his son Charles, a fourth child, was also born "At sea", and Parish had published a Sea Officer's Manual being a Compendium of the duties of Commander and Officers in the Mercantile Navy.



Captain Alfred Parish R.N.R. (With the kind permission of Hampshire Record Office; Phillimore Collection 115/M88/P1/910)



Captain Parish's former residence, *Elmfield*, now no. 174 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashtead

The East India Company was dissolved following the India Act 1858 as a consequence of the Indian Mutiny. This upheaval may have influenced Captain Parish to move over to the Peninsular and Orient Steam Navigation Company, initially on "Benares" for three years, but, when a fifth child arrived, he seems likely have been put under some domestic pressure to "come ashore". He was appointed Hon. Lieutenant Royal Naval Reserve from 9 May 1862, when his family were living in Tavistock, Devon, which could imply a stint as Naval Instructor before his next assignments with P& O to "Syria", "Delhi" and "Ellora" successively during 1865 on voyages which at that time would have shuttled between London and Alexandria, via Spain, Portugal and the Mediterranean, to connect with the Suez railway overland en route for India, carrying the Bombay mails.

In 1870, after the Suez Canal had been opened, Captain Parish was given charge of the "Salsette" conveying civil servants, military personnel and other passengers to and from the British "Raj" direct. He took over "Mirzapore", a screw steam-ship passenger cargo vessel, when the liner was launched on 20 May 1871, and remained with her for ten years until his retirement as the Company's Senior Commander. From 1871 at the latest the family had become based on the Isle of Wight, living at Swiss Cottage, Church Row (later called High Street), opposite Trinity Church in the village of Bembridge.

By 1876 the family had taken up residence at 1 Wellington Place, Guildford, Surrey, (in the vicinity of Sandhurst) probably to join the eldest daughter, Lucy, who had become the second wife of Captain Warren Richard Colvin Wynne, Royal Engineers, on 1 February. Mrs Wynne produced two sons before her husband left Shornciffe Camp in Kent to embark for Port Natal, South Africa, on the "Walmer Castle", 2 December 1878, in command of 2nd Field Company R.E⁶.

His unit built Fort Tenedos to protect a crossing of the lower Tugela River and engaged as infantry in action against the Zulu. After the British defeat at Isandlwana, Wynne was required to reinforce a depot at Eshowe against attack but his unremitting efforts, whilst suffering from fever, took their toll resulting in his death from typhoid on 9 April 1879, aged 36⁷.

Captain Parish is known to have been in occupation of *Elmfield* by 1887 (also to have been a member of Ashtead Horticultural Society in 1888). Whilst this large Victorian house on three floors could have been leased to provide sufficient accommodation for his widowed daughter with her stepson and the two boys of her own, the 1891 Census reveals only Mrs L. Wynne as "Head" with her parents being looked after by two servants. Although Captain Parish continued to live in the property up to 1895, he and his wife had moved to Weybridge by 1901 where he died at Blyton House on 11 June 1903. His will, disposing of a modest estate amounting to £318, mentions that he

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Captain Warren Wynne R.E.

had become an assessor in the High Court of Justice⁸. In fact his activities were as "Nautical Assessor on Wreck Inquiries for the Board of Trade".

NOTES

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THE COTTAGES OF WOODFIELD AND ASHTEAD COMMON

By BERYL WILLIAMS

Introduction

Woodfield, the road from Barnett Wood Lane to the railway footbridge, is a short road with a long history. The line of the road marked the western edge of the hamlet of Woodfield, a community of smallholdings, orchards, gardens and tiny cottages whose residents formed a homogenous group. In a letter of 21 March 1833 to the Lord of the Manor, his steward reported that: "The cottagers of Woodfield much prejudiced against inoculations for smallpox." In time the name Woodfield (in the context of the hamlet) was abandoned and the 1886 Rate Rolls give Ashtead Common as the address for residents who the previous year were considered to be living in the hamlet.

A Walk Down Woodfield

The land from the Barnett Wood Lane junction to the north edge of the Scout Hut comprised the grounds of *Oakfield Lodge*. In these grounds there was a cottage with its own small piece of land, and this was rented 1885/6 by George Burrage from Horsham. The next occupants were James and Martha Corbett, and by 1901 (until beyond 1911) the cottage was occupied by the *Oakfield Lodge* gardener, Thomas Hammond (from Berkshire) and his family. Balquain Close and its houses (built in the 1950s), the modern house *Hornbeam* and the Scout Hut (built 1957) have replaced *Oakfield Lodge*, its garden and its cottage.

The land from the northern edge of the Scout Hut to the southern edge of Elmwood Close is marked in the 1802 Wyburd survey as owned by a Miss Bailey. Ownership remained in the Bailey name and the 1887 Tithe Re-apportionment Map shows the owner as "Trustees of Ann B. Bailey" (Ann Baker Bailey was a daughter of the wealthy John and Rebecca Bailey of Epsom). From 1851 Richard Venn and his family occupied a cottage on this land, but ownership passed to Ann Baker Bailey's brother James about 1900 and he replaced the cottage with *Montgomery House* where initially he lived. By 1910 *Montgomery House* was occupied by the Knightley family, and by 1920 the house was called *Brantwood*. The house *Pinelea* was built on the northern edge of the Bailey land but both houses have been replaced by modern ones (including a new *Pinelea*).

The history of the land from the southern edge of Elmwood Close to the northern edge of *Hazeldene* is well established.³ Originally Ashtead manor land, it was purchased from the Steadman family by George Astridge in 1920 and given the name *Elm Croft*. With the purchase, George's cartage business (established in 1903) had a permanent base. *Elmdon* (built 1976), *Meadow Edge* (built 1926 as *Hannah Cott* and in the 1940s called *Desilu*) and *Hazeldene* (built 1923) stand on *Elm Croft* land.

The next houses north along Woodfield—Vinceholm, Outwood, Cleland and Oak Villas—stand on the piece of manor land retained by the Steadman family. Planning permission to build 1 and 2 Oak Villas was granted to E. Stedman in 1907 and into the 1950s Oak Villas were occupied by descendants of Parkhurst Steadman, the first Steadman occupier of the manor land.

St. James Court was built in 1982 on land and a cottage purchased by James Astridge about 1922. The cottage, known as *The Lodge*, was occupied by Jesse Swaby in 1925 and Fred Cook in 1928. James Astridge had a new house, *Cliddesden*, built fronting Woodfield, and from

1930 to 1932 the cottage, re-named *Cairn Cottage*, was the home of James's son Fred Astridge and his Scottish bride. The property was used as the base for the wood merchant and removal businesses of James Astridge & Sons Ltd. Woodfield Close and its 39 houses were built in 1931 on the site of *The Rosary*, old cottages and vacant land being used by the horses and orange vans of James Astridge.

Whittaker Court was built about 1987, replacing Whittaker Cottages which were built by 1885 on land which had been part of Richard Whittaker's holding of Ashtead manor land. The first owners of Whittaker Cottages were Messrs. Hewett (W. Hewett and later Joseph Hewett).

The Railway Footbridge and Beyond

The footbridge was built about 1911 and, from the bridge deck, the old hamlet of Woodfield spreads below, reflecting the same pattern of development seen in the 1638 Lawrence map: a tongue of land reaching to the present day Barnett Wood Lane with development solely on a trackway along its western edge.

Birch Court was built in the early 1960s on the site of the Felton/Mellish Bakery, Woodfield Cottages and Woodfield House. Links Corner Cottage sits on the northern edge of the landholding of Richard Whittaker and was his home until his death in 1849. The hoist in the upper story window was used to bring in bags of flour when the building was a bakery and hay when the building was used for stabling.

Links Road was named by association with the Caen Leys Golf Links which briefly occupied that land. The footpath continuing the other side of Links Road leads to a modern house on the site of semi-detached, 1 and 1A *Elm Cottage*. In the years 1885–1900 the Rate Rolls show that both halves of *Elm Cottage* were owned by George Dudman, blacksmith of Chessington and then by his widow Jane, sister of James Chitty, a founder of the Chitty coal merchant business. The cottage was demolished in 1968, the last occupant being Sarah Ellen (Nell) Hunt (née Astridge).⁵

The final buildings on the common are the five pairs and two blocks-of-four brick cottages with slate roofs built by James Weller between 1897 and 1908, replacing two old cottages that James had purchased in 1885 from John William Fair of Portsea, Hampshire. The 1885 ownership change from Fair to Weller is recorded in the Rate Rolls and the tenant of one cottage given as George Sharp, and of the other (the one closest to the Rye Brook) as Mrs. Waterer. This latter cottage was probably that built in 1811 on the "Waste of Ashtead, Woodfield" under a licence from the Lord of the Manor to William Goring.⁶ William Goring is shown on the 1838-40 Tithe Map and Apportionment⁷ as owning and occupying a cottage near the Rye Brook and was enumerated there in the 1841 census. On his death he left his "freehold cottage, garden, orchard and premises ... Woodfield"8 to his son William who is shown at the cottage in the 1851 and 1861 census returns. William, Jr. died in 1870 (aged 85) and his will9 leaves his "house, orchard and garden situated at Ashtead Common" to his niece Hannah Waterer. At that time widowed Hannah was lodging with widower, herbalist doctor, John Fair in Ewell. On inheriting the Goring cottage, Hannah moved into it bringing, Mr. Fair with her as her lodger, and soon after she sold it to John William Fair of Portsea (possibly the son of the herbalist) as "land orchard and garden with the ... dwelling house erected thereon". Following the sale, Hannah Waterer and John Fair (sometimes referred to as Fear) lived in the property until Mr. Fair's death in 1883 (aged 83). Hannah Waterer died in 1885 (aged 84) at which point John William Fair sold his cottages on Ashtead Common. Over the years names for some of the Weller cottages have been: Woodside

Cottage, Holmwood, Rye Cottage, Yew Tree Cottage, Rumble Cottage (previously Providence Cottage), Fir Cottage, Norfolk Cottage, Ivy Cottage, Rose Cottage, Fairview, Oak Cottage, Ockham Cottage, Myrtle Cottage, Fern Cottage and May Cottage. In the 1930s the weekly rents charged for these cottages ranged from just under eight shillings to fifteen shillings.



One pair of the Weller cottages

The Cottagers of Woodfield and the Common

"Inhabited by agricultural workers, life was very hard for the poor families who lived in [the cottages on the common]. Having many children and often lodgers, the overcrowded conditions led to sickness and a high mortality rate." Of great assistance to the cottagers must have been the payments of cash, credits at local stores (including Feltons Bakery) and gifts of blankets detailed in the Ashtead Charities Account Books. 11

Prior to the opening of the Barnett Wood Lane School in 1906, school-aged children of the common attended the National School in Dene Road. These extracts from the school log books¹² relate to sickness in the Filkins family of *Whittaker Cottages:* 5 June 1895 'David Filkins returned to school after being absent several months through illness'; 19 November 1897 'Mrs. Filkins came and took David away as the others had scarlet fever' and 3 March 1899 letter from Mrs. Filkins saying her younger children had whooping cough.¹³ Despite their illnesses, Mrs. Filkins's eight children survived their childhoods.

As would be expected in a close-knit community, marriage partners were often found among neighbours, resulting in multiple relationships between the families who have made Woodfield and the common their home. Some of these families have been:

ANSCOMBE: James Anscombe of Fetcham was in Ashtead by 1831 when he married Susanna Toone at St. Giles. One of their children, Thomas, lived in a cottage on the common with his Irish wife and their seven children one of whom was David, a bellringer at St. Giles and on enlistment in the WW1 army, a farrier, 5'6'4" tall weighing 140lbs. The combination of bellringing and horse shoeing would be a natural fit with being employed at the Rectory Lane forge of the Wyatt brothers and Victor Schafer, in his reminiscences of the forge, recollected a farrier called Dave, "a narrow-built slender man ... a great theologian; always ready to probe into the whys and wherefores of life". 14

ASTRIDGE: John Astridge (born Cliddesden, Hampshire) and his wife Hannah (nee Street) were living on the common by 1871. The couple's four sons were all connected with the common: George purchased land at the southern end of Woodfield; Charlie, a bricklayer, built *Hazeldene* and *Meadow Edge* on George's land; Harry set up a shoe-repair business in Gladstone Road which at one point operated from George's land, and Jim purchased land near the railway and set up a wood merchant business there which later moved to a shop at the top of Woodfield Lane leaving a removal business to operate from Woodfield. Jim's family also had a hardware shop in the village in the 1950s. John Astridge was still living on the common at his death at the age of 92.

BOXALL: Between 1778 and 1783 Arthur Boxall was an apprentice wheelwright in North Chapel, Sussex. He married Anne Whittington in Kirdford, Sussex just before Christmas 1788 and by 1790 Arthur and Anne were in Ashtead being examined on their settlement. Three of Arthur and Ann's children (probably their eldest) were baptised together on September 9, 1798 at St. Giles with the parish register notation "all of different ages", such delay in having children baptised could be an indication of religious non-conformity. In the 1802 Wyburd survey and the 1839 Tithe Map Arthur Boxall is shown living on the common near Barnett Wood Lane and his sons James and Thomas also had homes on the common. Thomas married Elizabeth, daughter of Parkhurst Steadman and their grandson, Thomas Boxall and his wife Eliza, lived at *Oak Villas* (on Steadman land) and then *Whittaker Cottages*. Thomas and Eliza's son, Lewis "Jum" Boxall ran a car body repair business on former Steadman land (*Elm Croft*) in the 1950s and Thomas and Eliza's son Thomas George Boxall still lived in *Whittaker Cottages* in the 1930s.

FELTON: Three children of John and Elizabeth Felton of Betchworth made their homes in Ashtead: Their daughter Rebecca following her 1846 marriage to John Haseman of Ashtead; their son Frederick following his 1853 marriage to Eliza Weller in Ashtead (he purchased part of the Whittaker land in 1860 on which he built *Woodfield House* and set up a bakery); and their son Henry, a baker on the common in 1871. It was Henry's grandson, Joe Felton, who ran the well-stocked ironmonger's shop in Ashtead village in the 1920s.¹⁷

HASEMAN: Ewell-born John Haseman was in Ashtead by October of 1823 when he married Catharine Davis at St. Giles and set up home in the Northfield area. Two of their children lived on the common: Mary Ann with her husband James Johnson and Rebecca with her husband George Haynes. More recently members of the Haseman family lived in *Norfolk Cottage* on the common. John and Catherine also had a son John who became a builder and lived in The Street.

HAYNES: Two branches of the Haynes family of Mickleham made their homes on Ashtead

Common: One branch represented by Hannah, widow of Edward Haines, who lived on the common in 1851 and her son George and his wife Rebecca (née Haseman) who lived on the common in 1871 and 1881, the other branch represented by Mary, widow of John Haynes, who lived on the common 1896–1900 and her son Walter who lived in *Woodfield Cottages* in 1908. Walter's Leatherhead-born grandfather, George Haines and his wife Lucy arrived in Ashtead by 1846 and approximately 100 years later Walter's three sons Ernie, Reg and Stanley established the Haynes furnishings shop in Woodfield Lane near its junction with The Street. After the death of George Haines, Lucy married widower Yearley Hogsden (father-in-law of her daughter Mary).

HOGSDEN: George Hogtrough (probably born Abinger 1757 son of William Hogtrough) was in Ashtead by 1785 when he is in the land tax records as renting a house from William Stone. The following year baptisms for George's 13 Hogtrough children began at St. Giles. The children simplified their surname to Hogsden and George himself was buried as George Hoggsden. In 1841 two of George's sons, Henry and Haley (baptised Allie and from 1861 known as Yearley) lived on the common with their families as did George Hogsden, a nephew of Henry and Yearley and his son Albert who lived in *Whittaker Cottages* from 1916–1928. The William Hogsden who had a shop and post office in the village was also a nephew of Henry and Yearley. In fact, it is likely that all Ashtead Hogsdens are descended from George and Mary Hogtrough.

HOLLAND: Abinger-born Thomas Holland and his wife Mary arrived in Ashtead from Ockley about 1855. Eight children (and a lodger) have been found for them. Thomas and Mary lived on the common in 1861 and 1871 and at least three of their daughters continued their education beyond the school leaving age and became teachers. The youngest of the three, 15-year old Rosa, was a pupil teacher at the Dean Road school from 1880–1884 (her younger sister Jessie substituting when Rosa was absent) and in January of 1885 Rosa began a two-year course at the Bishop Stortford Training College where she qualified as a teacher. She did not live in Ashtead again.¹⁸

MELLLISH: William Mellish, carpenter and gardener was born in Thames Ditton in 1804 and, with his wife Susannah and young family, moved from Reigate to Ashtead Common about 1837. William and Susannah's son William probably learned the bakery trade in Ashtead for as a young man he was a baker in Walton on Thames where he married Charlotte King. William later had his own bakery in Cannon Street, St. Albans where he died. William and Charlotte's son, William Robert Mellish was born in Walton-on-Thames and after serving with the 8th Hussars (and marrying) in Canterbury, he brought the Mellish family back to Ashtead by purchasing the Felton Bakery on the common shortly before his father's death in 1891. The purchase of the bakery no doubt came about through his wife Emma (née Parfitt) who was Eliza Felton's niece and who, as a 9-year old, had lived with her aunt at the bakery. William and Emma lived in Woodfield House and built up a very successful bakery and catering business which survived into the late 1930s.

PRAGNELL: Railway-signalman Benjamin Pragnell of Hampshire was in Ashtead by 1881 and in 1884 married Louisa, granddaughter of Parkhurst Steadman. Benjamin and Louisa lived in the Steadman household until Louisa and her 10-day old son died in 1893. Benjamin stayed in the area, married again and had at least one child before he died in 1911. His widow lived at 2 *Oak Villas* where a Fred Pragnell lived in 1950.

STEADMAN: Parkhurst (Park) Steadman (illegitimate son of Parkhurst Greenfield and Mary Steadman) was born in Billingshurst, Sussex in 1765 and brought to Ashtead for baptism. He married Elizabeth Jarman and in 1808 they began the Steadman occupation of Ashtead manor land in Woodfield held by the Jarman family. Park and Elizabeth had five children, a son married into the Longhurst family, daughters married into the Boxall and Sayer (of The Brewery Inn) families and a granddaughter married Benjamin Pragnell.

STONE: Chessington-born John Stone and his wife, Jemima (née Bundle) married in Headley in 1807 and arrived in Ashtead by 1811. Two of their children were to set up homes on the common: George and his wife Ann Street and Jemima and her husband George Penfold. After the birth of their eighth child in 1852 the Penfolds moved their still growing family to Epsom before settling in Fetcham. Two grandsons of John and Jemima married girls from the common and made their homes there: Benjamin Stone and Sarah Sharp and William Stone and Elizabeth Jane Johnson who lived in *Elm Cottage*.

VENN: Richard Venn (born 1815 Wisborough Green, Sussex) was in Ashtead by 1838 when he married Horsham-born Barbara Longhurst at St. Giles. The couple rented a cottage near Woodfield's junction with Barnett Wood Lane from Miss Bailey of Epsom and had 10 children there. The Venn children married into the Arthur and Weston families of Ashtead Common.

WATERER: Yearley Waterer (a descendant of the 1736 marriage of Thomas Waterer and Martha Yearley) arrived in Ashtead from Ockham by December of 1805 when his son Henry was baptised at St. Giles. In 1851 Yearley's son, Joseph and his wife Ann Elizabeth lived on the common with their children Joseph, Elizabeth, Yearley and Lydia. By 1857 the family had moved to Epsom Common. This family is not connected with Mrs. Waterer of the Goring cottage on Ashtead Common.

WESTON: James (from Esher) and Jane (from Epsom) Weston and their two Malden-born children arrived in Ashtead by 1847 and were living on the common in 1851. Two of their children retained their connection with the common: Alfred who lived in *Woodfield Cottages* in 1928 and Ellen who married Richard Venn in 1870 and set up home near the Felton bakehouse. Ellen and Richard Venn were living apart by 1881 when Ellen was a live-in servant at *Meadowlark*, Ashtead and their three children were living with their grandparents, James and Jane Weston. Richard has not yet been found in the 1881 census but later census returns show him living with his brother Edwin in Ashtead and the three children (Josiah, Amy and Annie Kate) continuing to live with their Weston grandparents. Annie Kate married fellow common-dweller Joseph Henry Bailey and in 1911 they were providing a home for Annie Kate's mother Ellen.

World War One

During the summer of 1914 Europe was drawn into armed conflict and on August 7th Lord Kitchener, the war minister, appealed for men aged 18-30 (soon raised to 35) to volunteer. The following year 40-year olds were being accepted and the oldest Ashtead man found to have enlisted was a 50-year old in 1917.

The Surrey Recruitment Registers¹⁹ show the first Ashtead man to step forward in August of 1914 was 26-year old Frank John Filkins of *Whittaker Cottages* who was killed just one month before the war ended. The other 17 residents of the common known to have joined the army are, in enlistment order: Herbert Mellish (*Woodfield House*), Alfred John Sharp (*Woodfield Cottages*),

Charles Bertie Stone (Woodview), Frank Haseman (Norfolk Cottage); Albert George Smith (Whittaker Cottages), Victor Hogsden (Whittaker Cottages), William Stone (Elm Cottage), Edward G. Mellish (Woodfield House), James Astridge (Ockham Cottage), Leonard P. Pritchard (Oak Villas), Albert Hogsden (Whittaker Cottages), George F. Pragnell (Oak Villas), Sydney A. Filkins (Whittaker Cottages), Francis William Frewin (The Common), Allen Stone (Elm Cottage), James Thomas Stone (*Elm Cottage*) and H.P. Flindlay (Woodfield House). In addition Harry Burfitt (Whittaker Cottages), son of Thomas Boxall's wife Eliza, enlisted in the navy and died at the Battle of Jutland on H.M.S. Tipperary - the handful of survivors from the ship were found on a raft singing "It's a long way to Tipperary" to identify themselves.

When these soldiers were home on leave, uniforms of the Army Veterinary Corps, the Bedfordshire Regiment, the Durham Light Infantry, the East Surrey Regiment, the Lancashire Fusiliers, the Middlesex Regiment, the Royal Field Artillery, the Royal Horse and Field Artillery, the Royal Fusiliers, the Royal West Surrey Regiment (on Ernest Haffenden whose wife Emily was living at *Oak Cottage*) and the Yorkshire Regiment would have graced the cottages of Woodfield and the common.



James Astridge of Ockham Cottage in his WW1 Durham Light Infantry uniform. He caught malaria while in Salonika but had a busy working life (establishing two businesses) and died at the age of 74.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With sincere thanks to Les and Janice Hammond for sharing their information on the cottages purchased by James Weller, and to Brian Bouchard for sharing his knowledge of the area, investigating planning applications and providing information from the 1887 Tithe Reapportionment Map.

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GEORGE WELLER 1887–1917

By GWEN HOAD

The war memorial outside St George's Church, Ashtead, lists the names of those killed in the two World Wars. There is one name at the very bottom, which looks very much like an afterthought and in a way it was. The name is George Weller and this is his story as far as we know it. His family have preserved much memorabilia from his brief service in World War I, but I have tried to find out something about his background before that.

George's father was William James Weller, born in 1847 in Oxshott. He had lost both parents before he was 4 years old, when he was a schoolboy living in The Street with his grandmother, Mrs Elizabeth Boughton aged 67, who was born in Fetcham. In 1861, now 14 years old, he was still living with his grandmother, now 77, and his grandfather, Joseph Boughton, an agricultural worker of 78 who was born in Leatherhead. In 1871 William was an unmarried agricultural worker living in The Street. In that same year he went to New Zealand on one of the clippers, which took 105 days to reach Dunedin. He stayed there, probably working as a shepherd, until 1875 when he returned to Surrey.

In 1879 he married Emily Champion and by 1881 he was working as a shepherd at Thirty Acres Barn Farm, or Farm Homestead, which Sir Thomas Lucas had acquired, along with Ashtead Park House, as lot number 1 in the Howard Estate Sale in 1880. It was later owned by Pantia Ralli from 1889. That area of Ashtead was ideal for sheep as it was on the chalk downland, with its lush grass. William and Emily lived in one of the two cottages facing the southern end of Park Avenue at the junction with Shepherd's Walk, later known as *Ermyn Lodge*. At one time, Park Avenue was a long tree-lined drive connecting Shepherd's Walk with *Ashtead Park*



Ermyn Lodge, Ashtead



The Weller family at Ermyn Lodge, George is at back, right

House, the manor house, but by this time it finished opposite the wall surrounding the park at Park Lane. Cottages which were about the same age as Ermyn Lodge, and were called Avenue Cottages, still survive in Park Lane at this point, but may now be one dwelling. The avenue no longer exists as such, but forms the drive to The Limes, where the remains of some old trees can be seen. Ermyn Lodge itself has been replaced by Ermyn Lodge Stud. The property was bought in 2005 by the current owners, who built a new house and stables on the site.

Here William and Emily raised their growing family:- Lilian May was born in 1879 in Dorking; Mary (or Polly) in 1881 at Wilsons Lodge on Brockham Hill. George himself was born in 1887; he and his later siblings, (William James b.1882, Edward (Ted) b.1884, Elizabeth (Tots) b.1890 and Herbert b.1892 who died in infancy), were all born in Ashtead. Lilian May later (1902) married James Weller, the farmer at *Woodfield Farm*; she was considerably younger than him but predeceased him in 1929. The two families at *Woodfield Farm* and *Ermyn Lodge* were extremely close to each other, and there was much visiting between them. Emily died of a stroke in 1908 aged 59 and William died suddenly in 1911 aged 64.

William, junior, worked as a milk roundsman at *Woodfield Farm* until the round was sold to W.Kelsey in The Street. He and his elder brother George and George's friend, F.W.Skilton, all went to work in the Kodak photographic plate and film works in Ashtead, formerly Cadett and Neall Ltd, in about 1901. When Kodak moved their operations to Wealdstone, Middlesex in 1908, George and F.W.Skilton went with them, but William stayed in Ashtead.

George met his future wife, Ada Ellen Wooster, born in August 1888, in Wealdstone where they lived in the same road. In April 1910 George and William junior went to Canada on the S.S. Corsican (Allan Line), George ending up in Toronto and William in Vancouver. George sent a postcard to Ada from the ship; he sent many postcards and letters to Ada when he was away from home, some of which have survived. In 1912 the S.S. Corsican hit an ice-berg in the same area and within a week of the Titanic disaster, but suffered only superficial damage as her speed was only 5 knots as opposed to the 26 knots of the Titanic. The ice-field was about 70 miles wide and 2 miles deep, with a considerable number of ice-bergs of tremendous size.

In 1911 Ada followed George out to Canada, and they were married in Toronto on 5th June in that same year. Sometime after the birth of their only child, Phyllis, on June 10th 1912, and after the start of World War 1, they returned to Wealdstone. It is not known exactly when this was, but presumably George continued to work at *Kodaks* on his return, and it was from here that he enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) 13th Battalion, which had been formed at Hounslow on September 13th 1914. We know that he probably enlisted in early 1917 as a postcard exists postmarked "Dover" and dated 9 May 1917, in which he says he is coming home on leave. Another postcard was sent to Phyllis in which he asks her to save the postcards he is sending her, and maybe her mother will buy her an album to put them in. She certainly did save them! A letter sent to Ada but unfortunately undated, written on YMCA paper, and headed North Fall Meadows, Dover (a tented camp near Dover Castle?) says he is "going to France tomorrow Thursday so don't get worried too much for I shall be alright for a week or two anyway and with God's help I shall come back to you my darling. I shall trust in God to guide me so don't you worry. I know you can't help it but try to be a brave little girl for my sake for I am going out with a good heart. I hope to return very soon but I feel sure I shall come back".

A letter dated 26th June 1917 was sent to Ada from a Field Post Office somewhere in France





George Weller in 1908 at Ermyn Lodge

George Weller at the Kodak works

in which he says:- "we are on the move, we have marched about 35 miles in 3 days with full pack so you can guess we are about fed up. You can guess my feet are pretty tender. I could hardly move when we got here. I am more than sorry to hear about Albert getting gassed. I hope it is not too bad that is one of the worst things we have got to deal with but I shouldn't think he is very bad if it was a gas shell but it affects the lungs. Well dear don't worry about me for I shall be alright. If you ever hear that I am wounded at all don't worry for I will let you know as soon as I can. Well dear the country here is very nice you would never think there was a war on if you didn't see the troops around and there are some around here".

Another letter, probably his last, was dated July 7th 1917. This paints a vivid picture of conditions in the battlefields of Ypres and Passchendaele. "I might as well tell you a little about the part where we are and how we go on as we are holding the line and I haven't anything else to write about but I don't want you to start to worry for there is no need for I am quite alright for God is guarding me. I am quite a different boy now for I think there is a God and that he will take care of me if I follow Him. You might think me different to when I left home but it makes you change when you have the little (sic) I have seen since I have been here. Well dear this part is nothing else but great shell holes hardly a yard between them for about 5 miles, some full of water, in fact there is something of everything laying about. Rifles, bayonets, shovels, picks, wagons smashed to bits, so you can guess what it looks like and how you feel. Well dear we have had it fairly quiet but Fritz woke us up last ... afternoon and all day Sunday. He wounded 9 of our company, the Major included who has died since of his wounds. He was a decent sort too and there was another one hit this Thursday". The 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) on

the Menim Road to Pilken Ridges was launched on 31st July 1917.

The next we hear of George is in a letter to Ada from his great friend F.W.Skilton, written on August 10th 1917. in which he says:- "I am very sorry that it should be necessary to write to you, but George asked me some time ago if I would write you in the event of anything happening to him: and if you have not already heard from the War Office, you will know by this that it has happened. Sympathy is such a poor thing to offer at such a time, but believe me, you have my heartfelt sympathy. George was always a true chum, both when we worked together at Kodaks, and out here; and next to yourself, I shall miss him more than anyone. There is one small consolation, he could not have suffered any pain, it all happened so suddenly. It was last week, Thursday August 2nd, about 6 o'clock in the morning. A shell burst right in the trench where he was sitting, and there was absolutely no chance of escape. I would give everything I possess to bring him back again if only it were possible. I have had two chums out here from Kodak, one was young Jack Lidstone and the other was George, and now both have gone under, it is almost enough to make one wonder when one's turn is coming. I have had two very narrow escapes. Well I am very sorry I was not able to write before, but I did not go into the trenches this last time. Several of us including myself were left behind for a rest, when the battalion went up, so I did not know George had been killed until they came out of the line again.

My address is 51428 Pte F.W.Skilton, 11 Platoon, 8 Co, 13th Royal Fusiliers, BEF France. If there are any questions you would like to ask, or anything you want to know, I will tell you all I possibly can, in the meantime, believe me to be yours very sincerely, F.W.Skilton".

An engagement at Pilken Ridge had finished on August 2nd and the troops had returned to their trenches but a German shell killed George there on August 4th. He was 30 years old. The official notification of his death came in a letter to Ada from 2nd Lieut L.E.Baker written on 14th August 1917:- "I am deeply grieved to have to inform you of the death of your husband who was killed in action on the 4th inst. by a shell which burst in the front line trench. Death was instantaneous and a cross was erected over the grave. He is a great loss to the regiment as he was very popular with his friends and was a very good soldier. I sympathise with you very much and the Company share the same sentiments". Another letter followed from the Chaplain, F.Basil Davis, dated August 20th in which he says that George "was spared long suffering, as he was killed instantly. His grave is marked by a cross bearing his name and regiment and will be carefully looked after".

It appears that F.W.Skilton and 2nd Lieut L.E.Baker both survived the war but Skilton's friend "Jack" Lidstone was 19 year-old John Lewis Lidstone, 61816 13th Royal Fusiliers formerly 20976 East Surrey Regiment, killed on April 28th 1917. George's identity tags and other possessions were returned to Ada, but his grave was lost in the ensuing battles in the mud of Flanders. As a result his name is engraved on the Menim Gate, Memorial B, at Ypres, as having no known grave. George was awarded 2 medals; the British War Medal (Squeak) and the Victory Medal (Wilfred or Mutt & Jeff), but he did not get the 1914 Star Medal (Pip) as he was not in France within earshot of gunfire in 1914 and in fact he had not enlisted until much later.

Ada was absolutely devastated by George's death and sought solace from the family at Woodfield Farm, spending much time there. Her daughter Phyllis, who died recently at the age of 87, later took many of the photos of the farm, which still survive. The Weller family felt strongly that George's name should be on the war memorial even though he had not lived in Ashtead for a number of years before his death. They agitated for it to be included and, as he

was Ashtead born and bred, it is fitting that his name is there. Better late than never!

I thank Janice and Les Hammond for allowing me to write this about Janice's great uncle and for letting me quote from their private letters, but they did much of the research. I also thank Brian Bouchard for helping me with details about World War I.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society has published or compiled a number of books on the local history of the area, and the following are still available (prices include p&p):-

A History of Ashtead, edited by Jack Stuttard, 1995.	£9.99
History of Fetcham, edited by Jack Stuttard, 1998.	£8.95
Bookham in the Twentieth Century, by Bill Culley, 2000.	£6.50
History of Headley, edited by Jack Stuttard, 2001.	£7.95
Archive Photographs Series – Leatherhead, compiled by Linda Heath, 1996.	£12.99
Leatherhead and District. Then and Now, compiled by Linda Heath and Peter Tarplee, 2005.	£12.99
Leatherhead, A History, by Edwina Vardey, 2001.	£15.99
The Swan Leatherhead and its Brewery, by Mary Rice-Oxley, 2001.	£5.95
The Inns and Public Houses of Leatherhead and District, by Goff Powell, 2006.	£5.50
Past Industries of Ashtead, Leatherhead and Bookham, by Peter Tarplee, 2010.	£8.99

Copies may be ordered from the Sales Secretary, L&DLHS, 64, Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP.
Cheques should be made payable to "L&DLHS"