

Root and Branch June 2020

The contents of the June 2020 issue include:

Regular Features

West Surrey Family History Society Information / Root and Branch: Information about membership categories and guidelines for submitting articles to Root and Branch.

Publications through the WSFHS Bookstall include: CD9: Early Woking Buildings and their occupants - 2nd edition April 2008 (amended 2013).

E-downloads now available from Genfair.co.uk. Many parish transcription and indexes for marriages, baptisms and burials from start of register to about 1837 in PDF format for personal use only. Now available to download to your PC, iPad, MacBook, iPhone, etc.

Editorial: The editors consider how life has changed because of the coronavirus lockdown and wonder how our ancestors managed to survive and to recover from the twin disasters of WW1 and Spanish flu. The WSFHS Trustees hope to restart our meetings in September but please check our website for the latest information.

“Family Tree” is a globally collaborative database on “FamilySearch” where you can enter details of your ancestors and share these with other users to form eventually a massive family tree. Richard was able to make a connection with another researcher’s tree and suddenly his Huguenot ancestry emerged. Please write and share any discoveries you make during lockdown. Articles and snippets are needed for future issues of Root and Branch.

Letter from the Trustees: The Trustees suggest that as we are in lockdown it would be a good idea to record how coronavirus has changed your life - create a real piece of family history for your descendants. Family history research can continue using initiatives from FindMyPast and The National Archives.

Although The Family History Show in York has been postponed until 19th June 2021, the organisers have decided to hold an online virtual event this year on 20th June. For full details see <http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com>

At the moment meetings are planned for this autumn at the four centres together with the AGM on 10th October and our Surrey Family History Fair on 7th November. Please check our website for the latest news.

How well do you know Surrey? Tony Kelly poses two questions for members and gives the answers to the last quiz.

Members’ Interests: Should any of the following names appear on your family tree, you may wish to check the list in Root and Branch for complete contact information. BRUCE, FARRELL, GOSDEN, REE(A)D, SIMPSON, STEELE.

Diary of Events around the UK: News regarding museums, family history fairs and associated events that will interest both new and experienced genealogists. For obvious reasons there are few events planned at the moment. Please check the relevant websites for cancellations and postponements.

Monumental Inscriptions: Tony Kelly gives details of the progress made on the Index to the Surrey Monumental Inscriptions Library, the Churches of Surrey Index and the Surrey Index of Names. He asks if you have ever wondered why there are occasionally several apparently identical entries in the MI Index. The simple answer is illegible stones! Wind, rain and air pollution cause serious damage to stones while some are damaged by plants and lichens growing over them and others are vandalised. Tony explains that he includes in the MI Library copies of the inscriptions made at different times and he gives examples of differing transcriptions,

Mailbox: Kath Fairweather has stepped down from her role of organising Mailbox. We thank her for all her work and support over many years.

A member shares with readers a joke he saw in the Sunday Mail recently. Cliff Webb writes to ask if anyone has knowledge of the Harryyonge family who were present in Southwark from the late 16th to the early 19th centuries.

Help for Members: Jane Thomas runs the Help Register which aims to put in touch those members requiring help with those who can offer suitable assistance.

News from Surrey Heritage: While the History Centre is closed to the public because of the covid lockdown, Julian Pooley is working at home, running the public service from his laptop. He and his colleagues are still providing an enquiries service, endeavouring to answer questions and requests as best as they can. However, he thinks the way that they work at SHC, the services provided and engagement with the public will have changed forever. The archive service is being transformed into a virtual platform. SHC's Facebook audience has increased by 450%, the Twitter reach by 126% and Jane Lewis is posting her Seeking Surrey Ancestors blog twice weekly.

While there is disappointment that talks, courses and activities have had to be cancelled Julian hopes they can be reinstated in the future so please check the website. He lists some of the recent additions to the History centre.

Computer Corner: Jeanne Bunting explains how the app 'FaceTime' allows you to connect, via the internet, with anyone in the world who has the same app and an Internet connection. She writes about her research into her family connection with the 'Carry On' actress Joan Sims. While she found the elusive missing link she is now left with one more problem to solve.

News from the Centres: Details of the September talks planned for Camberley, Farnham, Guildford, Walton-on-Thames and Woking as well as a recap of recent meetings held before the lockdown.

Future Meetings at the Society: Upcoming meetings of the West Surrey Family History Society from June through September. Please check the Society Website regarding all future meetings as these may have to be cancelled due to public health considerations.

Articles

“The Despard Plot - Members of the Jury”. Transcription

“Improving transcriptions by research” by Cliff Webb

Surrey History Fair - 7th November 2020

WSFHS Notice of Members’ Afternoon and Annual General Meeting. Nomination forms

Cliff Webb continues his series of Abinger PCC Wills pre 1700. These include the wills of John WORSHFOLDE, John FORRESTE, John OKELEY or OCKLEY, Richard SAWYER, Robert BISHOPP, Michael APSLEY, William SHEFFIELD, Avis SAWYER, Thomas SAYER alias SAWYER, Richard CHEESMAN or CHEESEMAN, William CONSTABLE, Thomas TICKNOR, Edward SLARKES, Joan SLARKES, Francis PELLATT, John LEANE

“Robert Moser – iron merchant” by Naomi Weatherhead

“DNA” by Keith Riddle

Looking for a Fleet Marriage

Bob Verner-Jeffreys writes about “DNA - Demonstrates Numerical Absurdity”

Jenny Mukerji continues her series of “Tales from Green Lane Cemetery” telling the stories of Major Arthur Brome WILSON and Emily Mabel Gardner WILSON nee JOHNSON