

# Root and Branch September 2020

The contents of the September 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:** CD24 - A 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection of Surrey Baptisms (not in the IGI)

**E-Downloads** now available from Genfair.co.uk. Many parish register 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 report that the Trustees have decided to cancel or postpone all previously scheduled September to December events, in order to protect the health and safety of our members and to avoid last minute cancellations. In their place the Society will be hosting meetings each month using Zoom technology. If you have never used Zoom before, please give this a try as it is a great free way to keep in contact with both the Society and your friends and family. Meanwhile if you have any genealogical questions or problems that the Society can help with please send in an email and we will see if our members can help you. WSFHS is still 'open for business'.

**Letter from the Trustees:** The Trustees hope that members have been able to further their family history research during lockdown by making use of free downloads from TMA and other sources. The reopening of record offices will be a gradual process so do check websites before visiting. The Virtual Family History Show on June 20<sup>th</sup> was a success and the same organisation is making plans for a virtual London Show in September and for Bristol next February. The Trustees regret they had to make the difficult decisions to postpone the AGM, to cancel our 2020 Surrey Family History Fair and to cancel centre meetings at least until the New Year. However they will continue providing services to members and plan to provide some online talks so please check the WSFHS website for details.

**Zoom Meetings in the Autumn:** Two meetings a month with Zoom are being arranged, which will be solely available to WSFHS members. Information about how to attend the talk will be in the Members' Area on the Zoom page. For that you will need your membership number and a password supplied by the Web-master [webmaster@wsfhs.org](mailto:webmaster@wsfhs.org)

**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. BERRY, BETSWORTH, CHAPMAN, CHARLTON, CROSS, FLETCHER, FOX, HARPER,

HAYNES, HENDERSON, HORTH, HURDLE, KELL, LIMING, MARSHALL, MAY, NEWMAN, NEWSON, PAGE, REEVES, RITCHIE, ROGERS, ROSSER, RULE, SHAW, SHEEHAN, SHEEN, VICKERY, WAYMARK, WINSLADE, WITCOMBE

**Mailbox:** Yvonne Tatnall reminds readers that family members may have been recorded under a nickname, for example Polly was often used instead of Mary Ann.

Julie Martin writes that Puritan Cristian names were particularly well-liked in Sussex where non-conformity was strong. Philadelphia was particularly well liked and was generally shortened to Philly in the censuses. This can cause confusion as Philly was usually taken to be Phillis. So if anyone is struggling to find a Phillis and there is a chance she was born in Sussex, check she is not actually a Philadelphia.

Sheila Brown was visiting a large civil cemetery Ohlsdore in Alsterdorfer, when she noted the details from a headstone there “Percival Strudwick Sgt. 19.8.1942 aged 22. In 1942 we were at war with Germany so how did a young English soldier come to be buried in alien soil?

**Help for Members:** In these difficult times we are continuing to provide a service to our members in the best way we can. The Help Register is still open and enquiries are responded to as far as possible although we can only make suggestions about possible lines of research. Jane Thomas would like to have a “knowledge pool” which she can dip into to have help when answering queries. If you have an in-depth knowledge of a particular branch of knowledge of family history records do get in touch.

**Monumental Inscriptions:** Tony Kelly gives an update on the continuing work on the Surrey MI Index. He reminds members that it is always worth checking inscriptions for any other information they may give more than just the basic details. He also notes that the Surrey Index of Names now includes over 85,000 names.

**Diary of Events around the UK:** News regarding museums, family history fairs and associated events that will interest both new and experienced genealogists. There are few events planned at the moment and those not online could be cancelled so please check websites nearer the date of the event.

**How Well Do You Know Surrey?** Tony Kelly poses two questions for members and gives the answers to the last quiz.

**News from Surrey Heritage:** Julian Pooley explains how the staff have worked tirelessly to prepare to reopen the search rooms to the public and notes that it will all look quite different at first. He gives details of the new opening hours and the arrangements in place for visitors. He gives an update on the Covid Journal Project and on the Photographic Record of lockdown.

Meanwhile staff working from home have been busy increasing the number of images now linked to document descriptions on our online catalogue. They have created new web pages on the Exploring Surrey's Past website, providing free online educational resources and links for all ages to a wide range of new activities.

Despite closing the building and running a remote service staff have been busier than ever dealing with public enquiries.

**Computer Corner:** Jeanne Bunting provides readers with an update about tracing her family connections with the actress Joan Sims, and discovering who 'Auntie Kate and Auntie Lil' were. She writes about "The Online Family History Show" planned for 26<sup>th</sup> September.

People often ask her which is the best web site for Family History. She always tries FindMyPast first as its transcriptions were more accurate in the past, but you often need to look at more than one site to get a complete picture. Look out for free weekends for online records which often coincide with National Anniversaries.

**Future Meetings of the Society:** Whilst the Centre meetings from September to December have been cancelled, arrangements are being made for Zoom meetings, see page 54. For times and full details please visit the WSFHS website [www.wsfhs.org](http://www.wsfhs.org) and go to the 'Meetings' tab

## Articles

Surrey Roman Catholic Records by Cliff Webb

Cliff Webb completes his series of Abinger PCC Wills pre 1700

"The British Home Child Emigrants" by Richard Nash

"The Author, the Artist and the Actress" by Steve Cranstone

Shirley Forster writes "Will the real George ELWICK stand up?"

"VJ Day" by Peter Spooner

"A real RIDDLE of a Family" by Keith Riddle

Jenny Mukerji continues her series of "Tales from Green Lane Cemetery" writing about Oscar James WHITE and his wife Annie Katherine nee SMYTH.