

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SUDBURY & DISTRICT GROUP



Update

June 2018

TONIGHT'S SPEAKER

We welcome May Berkouwer, this evening's speaker with her talk entitled *A Stitch in Time (May's history in the textile conservation business and references to her work)*.

OUR LIBRARY

We have a large number of books in our library which we are happy to loan out to members. We have set up a book for you to fill in the details of the book/s you are borrowing; Name; Tel No; Membership Number. Just return them at the next meeting.

THE UNKNOWN SAILOR

Taken from Wikipedia, suggested by Robin Drury

The Unknown Sailor was an anonymous seafarer murdered in September 1786 at Hindhead in Surrey, England. His murderers were hanged in chains on Gibbet Hill, Hindhead the following year.

The Unknown Sailor is first recorded as visiting the Red Lion Inn at Thursley as he was walking back from London to join his ship at Portsmouth on 24 September 1786. There he met three other seafarers, James Marshall, Michael Casey and Edward Lonegon. He generously paid for their drinks and food and was last seen leaving for Hindhead Hill with them. The three seafarers murdered him and stripped him of his clothes. The three then made their way down the London to Portsmouth road (now the A3) and were arrested a few hours later trying to sell the murdered sailor's clothes at the Sun Inn in

The unknown sailor was buried in Thursley churchyard and the gravestone was paid for by the residents of the village

In memory of
A generous but unfortunate Sailor
Who was barbarously murder'd on Hindhead
On September 24th 1786
By three Villains
After he had liberally treated them
And promised them his farther assistance
On the road to Portsmouth.

Sailor's Stone:

The Sailor's Stone was erected by James Stillwell of nearby Cosford Mill soon after the murder. It was sited on the Old Coaching Road from London to Portsmouth close to the site of the murder. The inscription on the front of the stone reads:

ERECTED

In detestation of a barbarous Murder
Committed here on an unknown Sailor
On Sep, 24th 1786

By Edwd. Longon, Mich. Casey & Jas. Marshall
Who were all taken the same day
And hung in Chains near this place
Whoso sheddeth Man's Blood by Man shall his
Blood be shed. Gen Chap 9 Ver 6

[NB the following part of the inscription was clearly added at a later date]

See the back of this stone
THIS STONE WAS ERECTED
A.D. 1786 BY JAMES STILLWELL ESQRE. OF COSFORD
AND WAS RENOVATED SEP 24TH 1889 BY
JAMES JOHN RUSSELL STILLWELL ESQRE OF KILLINGHURST
THE DESCENDANT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STILLWELLS
OF COSFORD AND MOUSHILL

The inscription on the back of the
stone reads:

THIS STONE
was Erected
by order and at
the cost of
James Stilwell Esqr.
of
Cosford
1786

Cursed be the Man who injureth
or removeth this Stone

When the London to Portsmouth road
was realigned in 1826 the stone was
removed and placed alongside the
Punch Bowl bend. It was then removed
back to its original location (and the
curse on the back of the stone added).
The stone was then returned down to
the Punch Bowl road. Finally the stone
was moved again in 1932 back to its
original location when the main road
was widened



SUFFOLK RECORD OFFICE

If you would like to spend an afternoon or even all day researching your local
ancestors I suggest going to the Record Office in Bury and taking a look through
the local paper of that time. Remember with cuts to all services, if we don't use it
we will lose it!

DIRECTORY SNIPPETS

The following is extracted from 'Epitome of Events, relating to Westerham Dec 1903 – Dec 1904' from 'Hookers Almanack & Directory 1905':-
1903:

Dec 2nd – Smoking Concert at the King's Arms Hotel, presided over by Mr I. White, of Warwick.

Dec 3rd – Lecture in the Congregational Schoolroom by Mr Keeble, of Tatsfield – "The Balkans", with lantern illustrations.

Dec 17th – Funeral of Olive Mary, aged 8, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Townsend.

Dec 26th – "Boxing night entertainment".

1904:

Jan 8th – Fire at Park View Laundry. New boiler house destroyed.

Jan 14th – Heavy thunderstorm passed over the district.

Jan 16th – Death of Mrs Fielding Clark, Tunbridge Wells, from typhoid, (Second daughter of the late Joseph Robinson, Lewins, Crockham Hill).

Jan 28th – Annual General Meeting of the Fanciers' Society in the Hall. Election of officers.

Feb 6th – Death of Florence Victoria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Hawker.

Feb 7th – Death of Mrs Adams, wife of Mr. Thomas Adams, whilst on a visit to her son-in-law, at Chelmsford.

Feb 22nd – Fire Brigade called to a fire at Biggin Hill. Hillcrest Cottage and contents destroyed.

Feb 25th – "Anti-Vivisection" Meeting in the Hall. Lecture by Mr W. Scott-Scott, ex-Mayor of Camberwell.

Mar 3rd – Gardeners' meeting. Paper by Mr. Thatcher, on Brassica.

Apr 4th – Marriage of Gertrude, second daughter of Mr F. Kimber, with Arthur, son of Mr. Cole, Westerham Hill.

Apr 20th – Death of A. E. Bacon, aged 29, late butler at "Farley."

May 4th – The Rev. W. C. Streatfield gave a "rearing feast" to the men employed in the erection of his new house: "Honeyrigge."

Jun 15th – Gathering at Westwood Farm, as a farewell to Mr and Mrs Pyle (18 years residence at the farm).

Jul 5th – At the Kent Assizes, Wm. Bartholomew, postman, was sentenced to six months hard labour for stealing letters containing Postal Orders.

Jul 13th – Mr and Mrs John Watkins entertained the inmates of the Almshouses and other old people.

Aug 13th – Inquest at the Grasshopper Inn, on the body of Wm. Aylward, aged 45, who was found dead in a field the previous day.

Aug 29th – Post Office Telephone Exchange opened at Westerham.

Sep 7th – Auction sale, under distress for rent, at Mr J. Westbrook's, South Street Farm.

Sep 20th – Anniversary of the death of General Wolfe, who fell at the battle of Quebec in 1759.

Oct 6th – Apple Congress at the King's Arms Hotel, in connection with the Gardeners' Society.

Oct 29th – Navy Mission Society. Meeting at Squerryes Court. Address by Mr Henry Warde, secretary. Collection £25 9s 6d.

Nov 15th – Mr and Mrs George West, old inhabitants of Westerham, aged respectively 65 and 72, sailed for the Cape.

Nov 17th – Gardeners' meeting. Paper by Mr W. Gurnell: "Tobacco."

Karl Knights

