

Send History Society

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(Formed January 1975)

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THE COURT ROLLS OF THE MANOR OF SEND & RIPLEY

In Newsletter No. 27 (July/August 1979), I wrote briefly about the work that the Society was starting on the translation and transcription of the Send & Ripley Court Rolls. The time has now arrived when it is possible to report more fully on the progress of the work and to provide an insight on some of our findings.

Firstly, perhaps, a little more on the background of the history of the Court Rolls. Basically they form a record of the happenings of the district so far as minor law breaking was concerned (known as the View of Frank-pledge), and of all transfers of land and property which was under the control of the Lord of the Manor (known as the Court Baron). The origins of these two systems go back to Norman and Saxon times and in the medieval period had become very much the private property of the Lord of the Manor. However the power of the Manorial System started to decline after the time of the Black Death, although it was not until after the Civil War that this was complete.

The View of Frank-pledge was originally an inspection held regularly to determine the existence of the Frank-pledge or Tithing System of making groups of men responsible for each other's behaviour.

The Court Baron was a legal process in which the Lord's tenants, copyholders, etc., made applications for transfer of property subject to payment of fines and heriots to the Lord.

It was usual for the two functions to be held once a year on the same day. From the records it would certainly seem that the proceedings were mainly for the levying of funds for the Lord's benefit. There was a requirement that all men over a certain age should attend, and failure to do so without good excuse resulted in a fine. It is probably true to say that many found it a chore, and because they could ill afford to lose time away from their land, found it easier to pay a small sum to the Lord's court.

For Send & Ripley the extant records start in 1533. So far the transcriptions being carried out for the Society by Maureen Roberts have reached 1631, and for the most part are continuous. All are in Latin and in fact continue this way up to the year 1732. It would seem that the area covered by the Send & Ripley Manor is quite random. It has been possible to identify land and farms in Ripley, Jury, Grove Heath, Burnt Common, Send Church, Send Heath, Broadmead, etc. Most of the place names mentioned, however, cannot yet be pinpointed. Patterns of ownership and occupation by various families are beginning to emerge. Some, such as the Boughtons, are already well known to us. There were, of course, two other manors within the parish, Dedswell and Papworth, or Papercourt. Eventually it is to be hoped that the Court Rolls for these will be transcribed to provide a more complete picture of places and people in the parish.

In the proceedings of the View of Frankpledge, the reports of the various officers came first, namely: the tithingman responsible for the behaviour of the men within his tithing, the constable responsible generally for law and order, the taster of ale and bread equivalent to our present day inspector of weights and measures, and finally the pinfolder or keeper of the village pound. Appointments were made to these posts annually, and since they were unpaid and took up a lot of time, they were none too popular. It was not unknown for some men, when their turn to be constable was due, to pay someone else to do it for them. A jury was also appointed to pass judgement and determine the fines. The whole affair was presided over by a Steward on behalf of the Lord. He would often be responsible for holding a number of different courts, held at different times, and would be accompanied by a clerk who recorded the proceedings on the Roll.

Generally the complaints recorded at the View were very repetitive with the same people being fined for the same thing year after year, for example (1562) "John Symon is ordered to scour his ditch between Hazelherst and Oke Ride before the feast of Philip & James under penalty of 12 pence per yard", (1552) "William Feilder, ale taster, presented that William Stanton, James Jackson and Bartholomew Bamlett are common innkeepers in Ripley and there sell victuals at too high prices, therefore in mercy" (in other words they were fined - Four pence each), (1625) "They presented also that Gregory Christmas threw his soyle on the highway within this view to the grave nuisance of the liegemen using the road, therefore he is in mercy three pence. And a penalty was imposed that he should put right the nuisance before the said feast of Pentecost next, under pain ten shillings".

Frequently there are reports of other happenings, usually of a "punch up" or something similar, for example (1565) "And they further presented that the wife of John Dawe junior has made an assault upon the wife of John Goodwyn and drawn blood. And that the wife of John Goodwyn has made an assault on the wife of John Dawe and drawn blood and therefore they are in mercy" (i.e. fined) "Twenty pence each", (1620) "They presented also that Humphrey Goddard since the last court, on 16 October last past made an attack and assault upon John Chapman, ale taster within this view, at Ripley, during the execution of his duty and struck the same John on the head with a certain weight, a fower ponde waighte, value eight pence and drew blood from his head, therefore he is in mercy, twenty shillings".

On the lighter side we find in 1621 that "Stephen Hunt since the last court was drunk at the time of divine service at Ripley within this view and carried his candlestick badly. Therefore he is in mercy five shillings", and in 1592 that "Millicent Dunston, wife of John Dunston, Juliana Dawe, daughter of Alice Dawe, widow and the said Alice Dawe are common scolds and disturbers of the peace of their neighbours, therefore each of them to undergo punishment at the tumbrel". The Oxford English Dictionary defines a tumbrel as an instrument of punishment, the nature and operation of which is uncertain, from 16C usually identified with a ducking stool. This in turn is defined as an instrument of punishment formerly in use for scolds consisting of a chair in which the offender was strapped and carried, to the jeers of bystanders, to be dumped in the local river or pond.

When the View of Frankpledge was completed the Court Baron was held. Excuses for absence (essoins) were heard and the jury or homage imposed fines upon the absentees. Since the proceedings of the court frequently depended upon memory for knowledge of ownership, boundaries etc., the members of the jury were probably chosen from senior citizens with good memories.

The court would hear various presentations from tenants and copyholders of the Lord for the transfer or subletting of property. The copyhold system was one in which the holder was a tenant of the Lord, but had a perpetual right to the property for him or herself and his or her heirs. Upon the death of a copyholder, however, it was necessary for the widow or the heir to apply to the court to be "admitted" to the property. This was invariably granted upon payment to the Lord of a heriot, originally the best beast belonging to the dead tenant, but later a sum of money. The court records give considerable detail about the tenants and their relations, and about the property involved. So far, however, relating the properties to the present day locations has in most cases proved difficult, and considerable research will be necessary to make further progress. Indeed because of the way in which names of property frequently changed with ownership, many may never be pinpointed.

Having given a very general picture of what the Court Rolls are about, I propose in the next issue of the Newsletter to reproduce one or two of the roll transcriptions, complete with, perhaps, some further explanation of the procedures and the terms used.

John Slatford

The above article is based on the talk given by John to the Society's open meeting on 18th September - Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mr N. McKenna, 116 Send Road, Send.

Mr & Mrs I. Gray, Corner Cottage, Send Marsh Green.

Mr J. Bishop, 61 Sundridge Road, Old Woking.

Total membership stands at 265 (101 double and 63 single subscriptions).

The Autumn Bazaar

The sale was planned with a view to raising as much money as possible in order that the bill of £1140 for the printing of the Church Guide might be paid without the Committee members who had guaranteed the debt having to dig too deeply into their pockets. The Sale Subcommittee, consisting of Alberta Giles, Gloria Henson, Flossie Oliver, Bette Slatford and Barbara Tinkler, did a great deal of preparatory work over a long period before the sale, and many others put in many hours nearer to and on the day of the sale. The result was that there was a vast quantity of goods set out very attractively for sale at the Red Cross Hall on 20th September. The total net proceeds, including cash received both before and after the day, amounted to just over £800. The draw promoted by John Slatford in conjunction with the bazaar raised a further £80 odd. The printers' bill has accordingly been able to be paid and the guarantors released. The Society has the value of the stock of Church Guides, there will hopefully be a small but steady income from sales of the booklet, and there is still a little left in the kitty.

The Society is deeply grateful to the members of the Subcommittee and other members who rallied round, to all of those who donated goods (including two well-known local artists who each gave one of their pictures), and of course to all of those who bought things.

It would be as undesirable as it would be impossible to attempt to compile a list of merit, but this account would do less than justice if it did not accord a special word of thanks to Bette and John Slatford for cracking the whip over us lesser mortals and for the countless hours they put in themselves.

The draw took place in front of about 50 members and friends at Cranleigh where Mr Pelling, our guide at the Swallow Tile Works, was invited to extract the winning numbers. The following is a list of the prize-winners:

Clock radio	- Mr Tuckwell of Puttenham
Brace of pheasants	- c/o Mr Henson, Send Road
A bottle of Whiskey	- Mrs Robinson, Kevan Drive
Rose bushes	- Mr Tinkler Send Barns Lane
- " -	- Miss Andrews, Send Marsh Road
Hairdo	- Mrs Colmer, Send Barns Lane
Basket of fruit	- Mr Hookins, Tuckey Grove
A bottle of wine	- " " "
Cake	- Mr Jarvis of Merrow
Shopping trolley	- c/o Mr Henson
Shawl	- Mrs Babbage, Potters Lane

Closing date for the submission of material for the next issue of the Newsletter is Monday, 5th January.

THE SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

"SPORT IN SURREY" - DORKING HALLS - 27/9/80

The morning speaker was Dr Robinson, the County Archivist, on "Sport in Surrey: the Documentary Approach". Among a wealth of other details he mentioned the earliest known reference to cricket (1598) in a book in the Royal Grammar School's Chained Library at Guildford, and the fact that hunting in the Royal forests largely determined the landscape of Surrey. The afternoon speaker was Mr H. Barty-King on "The Bat & Ball Makers and the Evolution of Cricket".

The local Society displays included the following:

The Banstead History Research Group and the Bourne Society on their famous cricketers; the Domestic Buildings Research Group on houses connected with hunting, including Boswells Farm, Okewood Hill, as to which see another page of this issue; Dorking's Shrove Tuesday football through the streets, which was ultimately stopped by the police in 1897; hunting, barefist-boxing, horse racing and regattas in Esher & District; county pub games and bull-baiting in Guildford, by Guildford Museum; and the early days of motor racing at Brooklands Race Track built by Hugh Locke-King in 1907, by the Walton & Weybridge society.

Send History Society's exhibit was devoted to the Ripley Road, and the early sporting cyclists' connection with it and the Anchor Hotel at Ripley. As the bicycle developed in about 1870 from the velocipede or "Boneshaker" of the 1860's into what later became known as the Ordinary and is now called a "Penny Farthing", social and competitive cycling grew up as a sport. The Ripley Road (as it was invariably called), from the Angel at Ditton to the Anchor at Ripley, soon became the favourite ride for "High Society" cyclists, attracted to this newest and fastest form of road transport. At a time when most innkeepers were at best chary of these men who contrived to propel themselves on wheels unattached to any horse or carriage, Mrs Harriet Dibble made them very welcome at the Anchor. The hospitality was such that this local inn soon became renowned throughout the cycling world. The tradition was carried on by her daughters, Annie and Harriet, by which time it had become virtually a place of pilgrimage, being known far and wide as "The Mecca of all good cyclists".

Included in the display were the following: -

- (1) A barometer loaned by Miss Joan Dibble of Ripley, inscribed "Presented to Mrs Dibble by a few members of the Temple B.C. as a slight recognition of kind attention received at the Anchor Inn, Ripley, Christmas 1882".
- (2) The "Anchor Shield", owned by the British Cycling Federation, and loaned to the Ripley Section of the Surrey Veteran-Cycle Club. The shield, consisting of a mounted ornate silver platter, was originally presented by Mrs Dibble to the committee of the Southern Counties Cyclists' Camp which was held at Shalford Park. It was first competed for in 1886 in a one mile fixed handicap race won by Harold Crooke of the Guildford C.C.
- (3) The Cyclists' Visitors' book for 1892 of the Anchor Hotel, kindly loaned by the licensee. In it are recorded the names and clubs of 4,404 visitors, including one only from Send, viz J. Hosking. The majority are from London clubs, but there are many from places as far away as Swansea and Liverpool, with a sprinkling of visitors from countries such as Bavaria, France, the USA and New Zealand.
- (4) Photographs by Ken Bourne of the stained glass window erected in St Mary's Church, Ripley, by "their cycling friends" to the memory of Annie Dibble

who died July 24th 1895 and Harriet Dibble, who died October 20th 1896, and of the brass plaque in Ripley Church in memory of the death in 1885 of Herbert Liddell Cortis, the first man to ride 20 miles in an hour on a bicycle (1882).

(5) A 50" Rudge Ordinary bicycle of 1880, owned and ridden regularly by R. French of the Weybridge Wheelers and Southern Veteran-Cycle Club, from whom it was on loan. As recently as 24th May this year, French rode it competitively on the Ripley Road in an open 10-Mile Time Trial in which he averaged approximately 18 m.p.h. Readers may have seen on 6th September this year the televised "Aspro Clear Speed Challenge", the first European attempt to find the world's fastest human-powered vehicle. This was a 200 metre time trial after a 650 metre flying start. The winner was a streamlined back-to-back tandem designed by an American mechanical and systems engineer and ridden by Olympic class racing cyclists with a speed of 47.44 m.p.h. French, aged 40, riding the 1880 Rudge, was credited with 25.44 m.p.h. (this represents almost three complete revolutions of the big wheel per second). 12 of the 44 entrants on the latest streamlined machines, with all the weight of modern science behind them, were slower!

Les Bowerman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 11th December ... Annual social evening in the Church Room, Send Road. Tickets, with the price held to last year's figure of £1.50 if bought in advance, available from officers, Committee members and Newsletter distributors. Tickets bought at the door will be £2.

Thursday, 15th January 1981 ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. at the Church Room, when Mr Bernard Pardoe will speak about the history of Chertsey. Those who met Mr Pardoe at Hardwick Court will know what an interesting speaker he is.

Thursday, 19th February ... Annual General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Church Room. Items for inclusion on the Agenda must be in writing and submitted to the Secretary by 22nd January.

Thursday, 9th April ... Open meeting at 8 p.m. at the Church Room, when Mr T. W. Holmes will give an illustrated talk on the semaphore system, with particular reference to the semaphore towers in West Surrey.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a new resident of Send, I haven't the advantage of writing about its history which we all enjoy so much. My earliest recollection was around 1958, when on our way to Guildford we used to pass a signpost on the old Portsmouth Road which read "Send Church 1¼" and which, much to my husband's amusement I always read as "send Church a penny farthing". I always felt an affinity with Send and although much later we travelled to Guildford on the A3, I always thought as we passed that way, of the poor little church that only received a penny farthing. However, when our house at Guildford was Compulsorily Purchased and Harold asked where I would like to live I said simply Send, never believing it would happen. Well some dreams do come true, don't they. Due to inflation I am expecting to see at any moment a signpost reading "Send Church 2½".

Marie Timmings

VISIT TO SWALLOW TILES LTD., CRANLEIGH

Surrey is renowned for its tile-hung cottages. Many of these were tile-hung in the 18th century to weather-proof the upper storey of timber-framed buildings. Tiles are still manufactured at the Swallow Tile Works near Cranleigh in a similar way to those made centuries ago and, being so made, blend perfectly with the old tiles.

An almost record number of over 50 History Society members were fortunate to visit the works on Saturday, 18th October, 1980, by kind permission of Mr Raymond Swallow and were shown around by Mr Pelling, now retired, who had worked for the company for some 50 years.

We were given a most interesting explanation of tile making in the traditional method, starting from the excavation of the Wealden clay and the mixing of the various layers to provide the right balanced consistency. We walked to the quarry where we were shown some clay with fossilised winkle shells which provided us with further interest since not many had seen this before. Whilst we were pleased to see the fossilisation, the tile makers are not, because should a fragment be left in the clay, the tile will be spoiled during firing.

After excavation the clay is loaded into skips which run to the mill on railway lines. Here the clay is pounded and turned and mixed to the right consistency by the addition of water. The clay is eventually squeezed out of a die like tooth-paste in a rectangular shape, cut in sections and transported by wheel barrow to the shed where the tiles are made. We were shown a very large piece of machinery which will shortly streamline this operation without detracting from the quality of the final product. The next stage was the drying shed with benches all around, on which the tiles were made. To each bench there was a pile of sand from the Albury sand pit and black manganese - the sand being used to dress the mould and the manganese added to adjust for colour of the tiles. Here we could see the origin of the term "hand made", since each tile was individually turned out without the aid of machinery. Slices of clay were pressed into a timber mould with the palm of the hand and any surplus rolled off with a beech roller similar to a pastry rolling pin. The two holes in the 6½ X 10½" tile are then punched through and the two nibs which support the tile pressed out from the surface. Tiles are then placed twenty to a board for drying. We were told that a skilled tile maker could make at least 160 per hour!

The tiles are flat when made, but given a camber by being dressed on a board. They are then stacked to dry in rows of some 4½ thousand, with air spaces. The top tiles are moved forward and during a period of 12-16 weeks reach a stage of "white" dryness and are then ready for burning. The warmth in the drying sheds is ducted from the waste heat of the kilns.

There are many types of tiles made: plain tiles, tile and half tiles, angle tiles, hip tiles, ridge tiles, and for vertical tile hanging varieties of shaped tiles to give a patterned effect. All these have special moulds.

After drying, the tiles are taken in barrows to the adjacent brick built kilns, some 26,000 to a kiln. The kiln floor is lined with bricks laid on edge in a zigzag pattern with air spaces between to allow the heat to circulate. The tiles are stacked in rows "nibbed up" to provide a gap between each tile. Fittings go on top of the tiles. When the kiln is full the arched openings are closed with bricks and sand mortar, leaving a spy hole opposite a central tunnel. It is possible to assess the progress of burning through this. Until recently the kilns were fired with steam coal, but now natural gas is blown in from the sides. The

heat is gradually applied with sufficient at first just to dry off any surplus water. The temperature is increased until, for two days, the full heat of 920-960 degrees centigrade is given. The firing period is a total of seven days. The kiln is then left to cool for four days before emptying.

After this it was interesting to see the finished product, three shades of tile, dark, medium and red. The character of the tiles is in the non-uniformity of shape, colour and surface texture which gives them an instant weathered appearance when fixed.

We felt we should view tiles and tile hanging with greater respect having been privileged to see the skill used in their making.

Jill Bromley

Editorial Notes: The tile size of $6\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{8}$ was laid down by a statute of Edward IV in 1477 and tiles have remained virtually the same ever since (L. F. Salzman "Building in England Down to 1540").

Those few members who were able to stay out completed a most absorbing day. In these days of vast brewing conglomerates with their uniform beer, small country town breweries seem few and far between. One of the latter is King & Barnes of Horsham, and it was a great pleasure to drink a glass of their delectable brew at lunchtime in the Scarlet Arms at Wallis Wood, an 18th century lobby entrance house.

The neighbouring village of Oakwood Hill is so remote that a standardised spelling of its name does not appear to have been agreed upon yet. By kind permission of Colonel Guy Cubitt, M.F.H., a visit was paid to Boswell's Farm, a timber-framed house with several stages of evolution, the earliest part being about 1500. It was not possible to inspect all of the house since it is inhabited by foxhounds belonging to the Surrey Union Hunt. The fact that it is no longer a human habitation means that its earlier appearance survives to give a picture of what such houses originally looked like.

It was our privilege to see the hounds being fed, and those of us unfamiliar with such matters could only marvel at the expert eye of the huntsman who not only knew each of sixty apparently look-alike hounds by name, but was also able, with a barely discernible command, to call off individual greedy eaters and admit the more timid.

A detour to Oakwood (or Okewood) Church in the depths of the Weald completed the day. As Pevsner writes, it "has an unforgettable situation. It is completely surrounded by thick woods, with no other building near, approached only by a lane from the N and footpaths from the S. The churchyard is just a rough clearing, and looking out from it can still give the impression of frontier uneasiness, a refreshing thing to find in Surrey." The original Chapel was built in about 1220 - the same time as the chancel of Send Church. It has an intriguing history, well told in the booklet for sale in the church.

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT - SEPT-OCT '80

September started well with a greenshank on the 1st at Ripley Sewage Farm. A visit to Send Churchyard on the 4th produced green woodpecker, ring necked parakeet, a flock of 48 mistle thrushes and an immature sparrowhawk which chased some bluetits. There was some evidence of passage on the 7th with a chiffchaff, a female blackcap, yellow wagtails and house martins at Papercourt Gravel Pits. The latter mobbed another immature sparrowhawk. A dunlin appeared on the spit of the South West pit at Papercourt and fed for some time with the gulls.

On the 20th mallard numbers reached 400 and there were also two shoveler and a little grebe. The following day a flock of 218 Canada geese flew into Papercourt with a feral greylag, barnacle, and lesser white fronted geese from Effingham Ponds. By the 24th shoveler were up to four, but there were only 135 Canadas.

October was fairly quiet; on the 12th two cormorants arrived at Papercourt. Shoveler were regular in twos and threes. Yellow wagtails and swallows were still passing on the 19th. The first redwings had arrived by the end of the month, as had a few bramblings.

David Nurney

VISIT TO CHURCH COTTAGES, OLD WOKING

While visiting Old Woking Church last summer, a number of our Building Group members showed an interest in the old properties of Church Street. Consequently we have paid a visit to three of these, being Nos. 1, 2 and 3. The cottages were very kindly shown to us by Mrs Pearson, Mrs Riches and Mr Stroud.

This is a very recent visit and the Buildings Group have not had a meeting to discuss their findings, so this report is an outline.

Looking face on at No. 1, the lefthand side is the oldest part of the house. Once inside, this is easily confirmed with many old exposed beams. There are positive signs of this property possibly being a Hall House with a very high ceiling where the staircase is now.

A very interesting basement room, now used as a dining room, could well have been a dairy because it is very cool and less refined than the rest of the house.

Adjoining is No. 2, again of two ages, much smaller, but very imaginatively utilised, possibly originally part of No. 1.

No. 3 has been built as a separate dwelling, although still timber-framed.

Hopefully we shall visit the remaining old properties in Church Street and give a much fuller report in a future Newsletter.

Gloria Henson