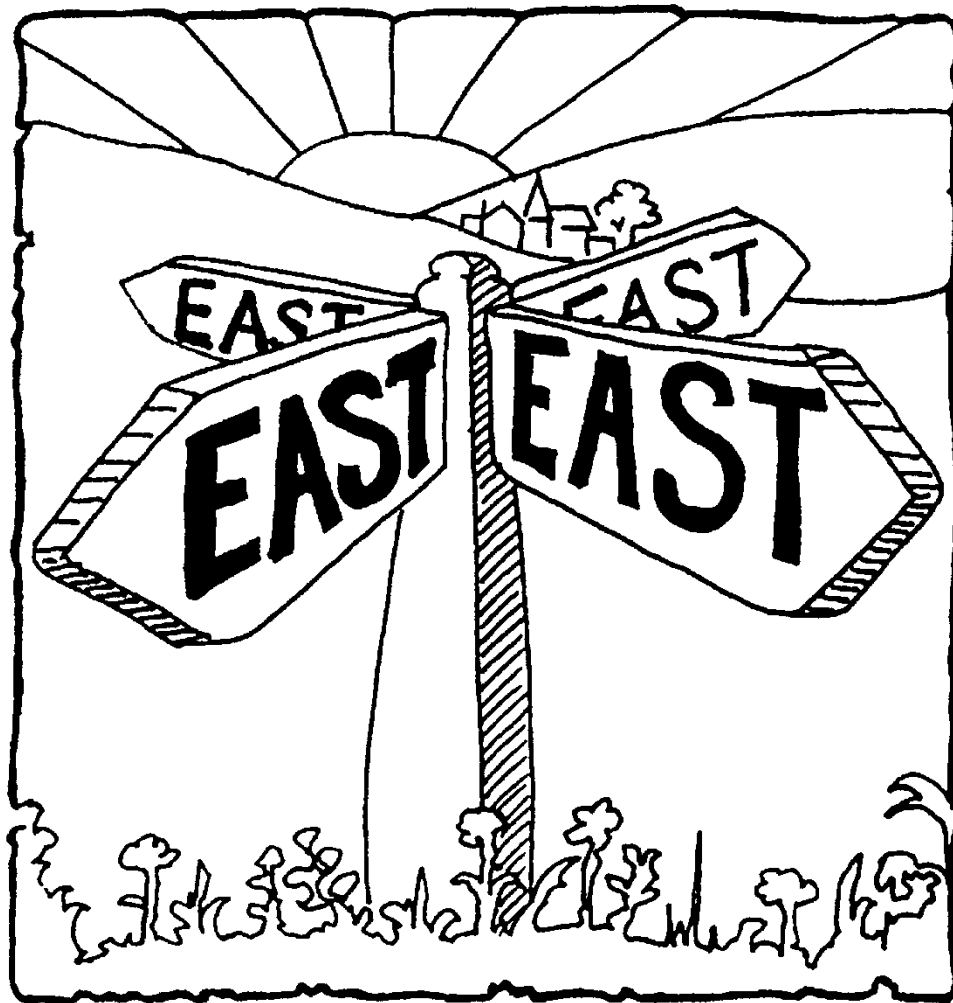


POINTS EAST

The Journal of the East Family History Society

Issue 53

ISSN 1461-2860



SPRING 2020

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Co-opted members	Dr Lionel East, Miss June Lines & Mr David Lewin	

Contents

<i>Bomber Crew in the Battle of Britain</i>	2
<i>Minutes of the 2019 AGM</i>	4
<i>Jack East by Pam Pearce</i>	9
<i>Arthur Ernest East by Adrian Pearson.....</i>	12
<i>Mr and Mrs George Rustell East by Dorothy Morgan</i>	19
<i>Memories of old Winchester by Doris Mary Carter.....</i>	21
<i>The Missing Grave Stone by Tim East.....</i>	24
<i>A Snippet by Margaret East.....</i>	25
<i>Estes' Trails</i>	26
<i>An example Genealogical Codicil</i>	27
<i>Next time in Points East.....</i>	28
<i>New Members</i>	28
<i>Society aims & Source data.....</i>	Back Cover

Chairman's Message

Happy New Year everyone.

Yet again in October, our AGM, meal and talk by genealogist and local historian, Raymond Wheeler, were all excellent.

We were sorry to say 'Goodbye' to Ron and Anne East, who after many years of working as Secretary / DNA Project Manager and Research Manager / committee member, have stepped down from these positions. They both did an enormous amount of work for the society. We wish them well and hope to see them at future AGMs.

At first the secretarial duties were shared, but now Peter East has taken on this position which we hope he will enjoy.

I hope that none of our members or their families have been affected by the bush fires in Australia. My brother and his family live in Sydney and, fortunately, only have the smell and dust to contend with.

Ros Hipkin ♦

Editorial

The observant among you will have noticed from the previous page that I have now moved house...and it's lovely! We settled in over Christmas and New Year and enjoyed the pleasure of lots of friends and family to visit. All the trials and tribulations of buying the house were swiftly forgotten.

Whilst the house and garden are perfect for us, the weather has not been! Hobbies of golf and kayaking have been severely curtailed – the wind and rain in the UK has been relentless over the last six months! Even our East FHS Committee meeting had to be postponed due to one of the named storms, 'Dennis' I think it was. And now, just as everyone was eager for Spring to arrive, the whole world is being 'locked down' due to the Coronavirus.

I do hope that all members have managed to stay safe and have not been too affected by either the flooding, the storms or the virus. Please keep well and enjoy reading this latest issue of Points East. ♦

Bomber Crew in the Battle of Britain *by Angela Waterfall*

2020 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, which will be celebrated on 15th September. The Battle of Britain was fought between 10th July 1940 and 31st October 1940, when Hitler tried to invade Britain.

There is much written about the role of RAF fighter pilots during that time but Winston Churchill remarked, in September 1940, that “the fighters are our salvation but the bombers alone provide the means of victory.”



Articles from the Imperial War Museum showed that the main objective of the Bomber Crews were to reduce the threat from the German Air Force, firstly by attacking German Aircraft Factories and assembly plants and, later, when German ships were amassing for invasion, attacking German ports.

Statistics show that Bomber Command suffered heavier casualties than any other RAF Command during the Battle of Britain. 718 personnel were lost.



Kenneth Francis East

The average age of a Bomber Crew was 22 years. For every 100 Bomber Crew: 51 were killed on operations, 9 were killed on active service, 3 were seriously injured, 12 were taken prisoner of war, 1 was shot down and evaded capture and 24 survived.

My father, **Kenneth Francis East** (1918 - 2004), served in RAF Bomber Command as a wireless operator during World War 2 and parts of his memoirs, *Ken's War*, have been published in Points East. In 1940, he received the Distinguished Flying Medal as did another member of his crew, Flight Sergeant **Louis Frank East** (-1940). That two people with the same surname served in the same crew was pure coincidence. Although they became good friends, Ken and Frank do not seem to have

shared ancestry. Ken's family have strong roots in Buckinghamshire. Frank was born in East Sussex.

Ken and Frank were members of 78 Squadron and flew together from August 1939 to August 1940. For the latter part of the Battle of Britain, Ken was posted to 19 OUT in Kinloss and Frank went to 10 OUT in Abingdon.

In his book, Ken recalls his memories of activities during the period of the Battle of Britain. He was 22 years old.

“On the 3rd August the target was the oil refinery at Monheim from 10,000 feet. On return we had to land at Linton. This time we had a new bomb aimer, PO Wagland.

RAF Topcliffe was being brought into use and for the next week we only ferried aircraft back and forth to this new airfield. Back to bombing again on the 12th August with a trip to the aluminium works at Heringen, ten miles south of Eisenach in the Ruhr. On the 15th we went to an oil refinery at Bordeaux bombing from 2,800 feet with direct hits observed and large fires started. On the 16th we returned to Germany attacking an oil refinery at Bonlen, near Leipzig from 8,999 feet. On the 19th the target was a power station at Grafenhausen bombing from 8,000 feet. Direct hits were observed but the flak was intense. On the return leg we shot down a barrage balloon, but we lost ourselves. Landing at base we found over 200 holes in the skin of our aircraft, all caused by flak.

Back to Germany on the 25th August but with PO Surtees as captain and in response to the German bombing of London we flew to the Siemens-Schuckert factory in Berlin. Owing to low cloud at 2,000 feet we failed to identify the target and had to return home. This was a long trip of ten hours ten minutes, almost the total duration for the aircraft caused by a mistake in navigation, pilot error in setting the compass. This was the first RAF raid on Berlin.”

Ken moved to Kinloss to support trainee wireless operators, flying with them on training trips in preparation for operations. It was not until 1943 that he was required to be on active service again and, in June 1943, he was shot down over Germany and taken as a prisoner-of-war.

Frank moved to Abingdon. Points East Issue 36 has an article about Frank, which includes an account of an event in September 1940 when Frank gave up his parachute to another airman, thus saving his life.

Very sadly, Frank was killed on October 11th 1940 when the plane in which he was flying crashed near Akeman Street Landing Field near Abingdon. He is buried in Townshend, Cornwall.



Battle of Britain Monument

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
East Family History Society
Saturday 12th October at Bishopshalt School, Hillingdon
12.00 noon**

The meeting was chaired by Ros Hipkin. 21 members attended the meeting that was the 26th Annual General Meeting of the East Family History Society.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from John East, Dr Lionel East, David William East, Caroline Foster, Edward East, Dorothy Morgan, David and Susan Crane, John Waring, Clive Norris, Paul East and Ray Roberts.

David William East said “many thanks to the committee - I avidly read the EAST magazine from cover to cover on its arrival. I am now 88 years old.”

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were accepted.

Proposed: Peter East

Seconded: Pam Pearce

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's report: Ros Hipkin

Members were welcomed to the meeting. Thanks were expressed to all the members of the committee for their work. The present secretary is stepping down but there have been no offers to take up the post. Welcome was also extended to Raymond Wheeler, who will give a talk after the AGM and lunch about the history of parish registers.

5. Secretary's report: Ron East

Twenty-seven of the fifty binders that were purchased several years ago have been sold.

GDPR requires that contact details of all members who have not renewed within the 6 months from 1st May renewal date will be deleted. Membership renewal letters and accompanying e-mails were sent out to 29 members on 1st May. There were 25 members in the UK and 4 overseas. A reminder e-mail was sent out one month later. The committee agreed in 2018 to a 6-month period following 1st May in which members may renew their membership. The contact details of members who fail to do so will be erased from the records on 1 November.

Membership renewals as at the AGM:

May 2019	6 (not renewed as of 12 October 2019)
May 2020	21
May 2021	17
May 2022	11
May 2023	1
Life members	13

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 63

6. Treasurer's report: Brian East

This year's expenditure is very much in line with the previous year with no major changes. However the income from subscriptions is significantly down probably caused by the 3 year cycle of £25 rather than the £10 per annum and also the numbers of members. I have included the costs for 2 issues of Points East as per last year. I have shown all the postage costs as a separate item under expenditure and this also includes the secretarial postage costs. We are indebted to Pam and Ken for covering the cost of the hire of the room here at Bishopshalt for our committee meeting in March. The fee for the cost of holding the AGM was also waived by the school.

The net movement of our funds are a minus figure of £181.68. If we continue with this trend we can manage with our current expenditure for at least another 2 years before we need to increase the subscriptions.

The treasurer offered to take the binders which are listed as an asset for the Society.

Year 2018-2019

Opening Bank Balance 01-Aug-2018 **1207.89**

Income

Membership Subscriptions	350.00
Sale of extra copies of Points East	0.00
Sale of binders	0.00
Donations	20.00

Total Income **370.00**

Expenses

Committee Meeting expenses	0.00
Committee Expenses	0.00
A.G.M. Expenses	68.00
Points East costs	285.00
Points East Article Prize	50.00
Website	0.00
Postage	148.68

Total Expense **-551.68**

Closing Bank Balance 31-Jul-2019

1026.21

Note
1

Opening stock of binders 113.40

Sale of binders 0.00

Closing Stock of Binders 113.40

Total assets **1139.61**

(Bank accounts + stock of binders)

Net movements **-181.68**

Notes

1

Closing balance taken at 8-Aug-2019 as shown on
Bank Statement

7. Journal Editor's Report: Amanda Gostelow

It was appropriate that many of the articles in the latest edition of Points East were about WWII. Articles, pictures and trees are still required for the next issue.

8. Social Secretary's report: Pam Pearce

The members confirmed that they wish to continue holding meetings at Bishopshalt school. The caterers, Judy and Chris, have kindly offered to continue to cater for the Society even though now retired. The cost is £6 but may increase in future years.

9. Research Manager's report: Angela Waterfall

The Society's 'big tree' now has 13611 names linked to more than 3000 individual locations. It is available as guest access to members - only for information about deceased members - but it does not appear in a search engine search.

Work has been done to link resources, such as on-line parish records - to the tree in order to keep the evidence. Many paper resources still remain and are also still being received. They, too, are being evaluated.

Thanks were expressed to June Lines for her work in continuing to index the journal.

Interests for the coming year that should generate interest in members:

- 400th anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower to America
- 140th anniversary of the founding of the RCMP
- 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain
- 120th anniversary of the unification of the states to form Australia
- 75th anniversary of VE Day

10. DNA Manager's report: Ron East

Y-DNA testing

There are 38 Y-DNA records in the EastFHS database.

Eighteen of the thirty-seven tests have shown matches that establish links to one of six familial lines.

The remaining nineteen tests have established nineteen further familial lines, each with one member.

There are, therefore, twenty five familial lines identified at the moment within the project. Dr Lionel East (former chairman and also a statistician) predicted on the Y-DNA data that there would be about fifty such families.

Autosomal DNA testing

Chris East had an autosomal test carried out by FamilyTreeDNA. Chris and the secretary are second cousins and are also distantly related to Kevin East through an unusual haplogroup. The secretary therefore decided to take an autosomal test with Ancestry. Anne East has taken over the management of the data and there have been some interesting results:

- The ethnicity estimate was remarkably accurate - Lancashire, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and links to Ireland (9% - one relative is named McQuorn).
- There are many hundreds of matches that are ranked on the centiMorgan and segment data provided. The best match (286 cM over 16 segments) was unknown in the tree but is a 1st cousin, once removed - the child of a cousin who emigrated to Australia many years ago.
- However, lesser matches should not be dismissed. For example, Chris East (68 cM over 5 segments) is known to be a 2nd cousin, once removed.
- There was a question in the family tree about whether or not a GGGGgrandmother had remarried. This would have generated two familial lines. The secretary had a match (only 13cM over 2 segments) with a Craig Carson in one of the lines but no match with any person in the second line. However, Craig Carson had a match (17 cM over 2 segments) with Judith Roberts, a person in the second line, so proving that the GGGGgrandmother had indeed married, as believed.
- Ancestry has a facility called 'through lines' in which matches are predicted from other trees. Allowing for the fact that some trees are not correctly researched, it could be seen that many matches were, indeed, correct.

DNA details can also be uploaded to other companies such as FamilyTreeDNA and My Heritage to find further matches in their databases.

11. Website Manager's report: Yvette East

The website has been viewed 1,229 times since the last AGM - down 406 hits on the previous year which had 1,635 hits during the same period. The lowest monthly hit was 112 and the highest 286.

Statistics

There have been no Hits from the 'The Hague' this year but 2 hits from Washington DC.

Guest Book Messages

There have been several messages left in the Guest Book during the past year including:

- In November last year, Marsha East from the USA asked if we had any information about her East family that she thought may have links to Easts from Henrico Co, Virginia who emigrated from England in the 1660's.
- Also in November, Peter Michael East (who was born and raised in Chelsea London and an ex-member of the City of London Police) was 'blown away' by the discovery of our website. Now living in New Zealand, he was interested in Edward East, a clock and watch maker in London in the 17th century.
- Also, Dougie East from Isle of Grain, Kent, wanted to 'put himself out there' and say hello to all people with the East surname.
- In January, Thomas Desmond East left a message to say he had been told about the site by his son John, His father was William Ernest East of Consett, Durham b1913 and his grandfather was Thomas Herbert originally from Blyth. He had found the site interesting and asked for pointers to start his research into his family tree. The research manager contacted him as there was information on his family in our files.
- In February, Xarifa Cooper was looking for relatives of her Hertfordshire East family on her maternal grandmother's side.
- In March John Cox, an owner of one of Sir Alfred East's pictures, was looking for information about the picture so he was directed to Barbara Lewis, the secretary of the Friends of Kettering Art Gallery.
- A few days ago, Austin Clay East from the USA said he had been curious about where his East ancestors originated before arriving in the USA. He is hoping that someone can help him. His details have been passed to the Research Manager.

Content

The 'From 25 years ago' item on the landing page currently has an article about Mary East who spent her adult life pretending to be a man.

On the 'From 25 years ago' page there are now three articles reproduced from early issues of the journal and once the current landing page article is replaced it will also appear on this page.

Finally, the domain name will not need to be renewed until 2024 but the website platform is due to be renewed on 21 October. A quotation has been received \$159.00 (£130 approx) for 2 years' service. In 2017, a discount was negotiated because the EastFHS is a non-profit organisation and an attempt will be made to do so again. However, Weebly was 'taken over' this year by a new management company so a discount is not assured.

12. Election of Officers

The officers for 2019-20 are:

Chairman: Ros Hipkin

Research Manager: Angela Waterfall

Treasurer: Brian East

Secretary: Responsibilities shared between:

- Brian East (Meetings secretary)
- Angela Waterfall (Membership secretary)
- Amanda Gostelow (Minute Secretary)

Social Secretary: Pam Pearce

DNA project manager: Ron East will remain in post to answer enquiries

Website Manager: Yvette East

Journal Editor: Amanda Gostelow

Member: Peter East

Member: Kevin East

The following remain as co-opted members of the committee:

Lionel East

June Lines

David Lewin

13. The John and Andrée East Founders Award for the best article published in the Journal

The award was given to Valerie Molyneaux for her article ' My East family at war' in Points East, issue 52. The award decision was unanimous.

14. Date of next AGM

The proposed date of the next AGM will be Saturday, 17 October 2020 (subject to confirmation).

15. AOB

The proposed date of the next committee meeting will be Saturday, 15 February (subject to confirmation).

Member Edward East's wife Marise died on 10th August 2019 after a 2-day illness.

The meeting closed at 13.22

RE

The Founders' Award

A prize of £50 will be awarded annually to the member of the EastFHS who submits the most interesting article for publishing in the Points East journal

The articles will be judged by members of the committee and the result announced at the autumn AGM

Please send all articles by 1 August to the Journal editor

Amanda Gostelow: amanda@goslow.demon.co.uk

In memory of John and Andrée East

Jack East b.1888 Hillingdon, d.1918 Egypt *by Pam Pearce*

In 2018 Ken, my husband, and I spent many days visiting St John's Church in Hillingdon Village as part of their End of World War One celebrations. During the course of the year we had asked for permission from the church authorities to add a new name to the church War Memorial. When we realised that a member of Ken's family had been missed off the War Memorial, we decided to get his name engraved. He had lived in a cottage, opposite the church, next to the Red Lion in Royal Lane, and had died in 1917 at the Battle of Jutland when his ship, HMS Queen Mary, had been blown up in the North Sea. He is remembered on the Royal Naval memorial on the seafront at Southsea.



St John's Church, Hillingdon

So all this brought our attention to looking in detail at the names on the War Memorial. One name stood out for me, that of John East, and I thought it would be interesting to find out how and where he died, and where he had lived in Hillingdon.

One of Ken's Local History research friends, Tanya Britton, had recently written and published a series of booklets about West Middlesex War Memorials and, as part of the First World War celebrations, had researched every name on every memorial in that part of Middlesex, which included Hillingdon church. I looked up Jack East's name in her booklet and read the following;

East Jack;

Born Hillingdon, enlisted at Mill Hill on 9th November 1906. T.F.292184, Lance Sergeant, 2/10th Middlesex Regiment. Son of Mrs Martha East of 5, Chapel Lane, Colham Green and of Royal Lane, Yiewsley. He had served several years with the Colours, in the 6th Middlesex Regiment, mainly in India and China and had suffered from malaria. When he came home in January 1914, he began employment as a gardener with Messrs Lowe and Shawyer of Uxbridge. On the outbreak of war he was called up in August 1914 to rejoin his old regiment. He was drafted to France in September 1914 and was invalided home in December with frozen feet. He remained in England until February 1916 when he was sent to Egypt to serve with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force to keep the Turks from the Suez Canal. He remained there until his death. He had been promoted in 1917 but relinquished the rank of Sergeant on 27th December 1917 and was dangerously wounded in the thorax and spine by gunshot in severe fighting at Jerusalem two days later. He died of his wounds in the 53rd Division Field Ambulance at Alexandria about 5 weeks later on 10th February 1918, aged 29.

He was buried at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel. He is commemorated on the memorial at St John's church, Hillingdon as John East.

I first looked at the Commonwealth War Graves website and found that John [or Jack, as he was baptised], was buried in the Jerusalem War Cemetery in Israel, as Tanya had found, and I was able to obtain his plot number and find where in the cemetery Jack was buried.

On reading this extract I noted the name of Jack's mother as Martha East and also that no father's name was mentioned. This gave me a place to start.

Colham Green, where the family lived was, in the 1800's, an extremely poor area in the enormous parish of Hillingdon. They lived in a slum cottage on the huge brickfields extending to Yiewsley parish, in what is now known as Chapel Lane. To the south the brickfields extended to what is now Stockley Park (a large commercial estate just north of, and close to Heathrow Airport). The brickfields were where the right type of clay was found to make 'Stock Bricks' hence the name Stockley Park, and in order to supplement a meagre wage some of the cottagers also worked as gardeners.

The land in that area is comparatively flat and very fertile and a large firm of market gardeners, called Lowe and Shawyer, were established in the Uxbridge area at that time, supplying salad produce and flowers for the London market. The women were also employed there during WW1 but before that would have been employed as domestic servants, laundresses or washerwomen.

The area where Jack was brought up was known then as Starveall; the inhabitants objected to this! The name was changed in the early 1900's. His family were very poor, but were good citizens and worked hard to support themselves.

Jack was the son of Martha Irons and Henry East and was one of nine children. He was born in 1888 in a cottage on the brickfield, and seems to be the only son who joined the army as soon as he was old enough. He probably wanted to earn more money to help his family. Three of his siblings died before 1911. His parents were unable to read and write and signed their marriage certificate with a cross. Jack's father died in the July quarter of 1892, aged 44, and Martha, who was pregnant with her ninth and last child, had a very hard struggle to bring up her children. She gave birth to Harry in January 1893. In 1901, she had her eldest son James and his new wife living with her, with her sons Jack aged 12 and Harry aged 7.

Martha Irons was born in North Hyde, between Hayes and Heston, Middlesex, in 1853, and married Henry East on 2nd April 1877, at Yiewsley parish church. When Henry married he was living at Iron Bridge near Hanwell. He is described as a brickfield labourer. The Irons family were also brickfield labourers. Martha had a sister Mary Ann, who married Henry East's brother, James. After Henry died, according to the census, Martha made a living as a laundry maid, and in 1911 she is described as a laundress.

Henry East's father was Thomas East who had married Ellen or Helen Stone in Heston on 20th May 1839. Helen was born on 26th September 1820 in Chinnor, near Stokenchurch in Bucks. Thomas was born in 1817 and baptised at Cowley church, Middlesex on 16th November 1817.

In 1841 Thomas East and Ellen Stone had been married a year and a half and were living at Iron Bridge fields, Hillingdon, where he was a brickmaker. In 1849 he is described as a labourer and licensed victualler or beer house keeper. Some enterprising poor people made a living, to supplement their income, by brewing beer, which they usually sold from their own cottages. In 1861 and 1881 he and Ellen are running a beer house in Starveall. His father-in-law Thomas Stone is living with them as a widower aged 85, as was also their grandson William Goodman. Ellen East died in 1888 in Yiewsley aged 67, and in 1891 Thomas was visiting his daughter Emily and her family in West's Cottages, Hillingdon. He was then 74. In 1901 he was visiting his brother-in-law Frederick Stone in Horton Bridge Road, Yiewsley. Thomas died at Cowley in 1907 aged 89.

It took quite a while to discover Thomas East's parents. I eventually discovered Thomas' baptism in Cowley, and as a result of that found that his father was also named Thomas East. I have not been able to prove it yet, but I believe that Thomas (junior) was not the eldest child, and that he must have had several older brothers and sisters who were born in London before 1802, when I found the family in Cowley. His first known sister was born and baptised in Hillingdon on 15th December 1802.

Thomas' father Thomas East had married Margaret Lynham in 1792 in Westminster [from notices of banns which ended in November 1792]. I know that Thomas East junior's mother's name was Margaret, so I believe I have the correct parents. I have been unable to find Thomas East senior's birth, but suspect it must have been circa 1770 in London.

It has been a revealing exercise to uncover Jack East's background. As far as I can discover up to the present day, there is only one descendant whose surname is East from Jack's family, and that is Harry East born 1914 in Hillingdon. He was the son of Jack's youngest brother Harry, and was a driver in 1939, and unmarried. Jack's uncles may have had sons, but that needs investigating.

It would be fascinating to know if anyone in the East FHS is descended from this family, and would be proud to know they are related to Jack East, whose name is on the St John's Hillingdon War Memorial.

**~ Please keep sending in your copies of Birth, Marriage and Death
Certificates ~**

ARTHUR ERNEST EAST

by Adrian Pearson

[Editor: East FHS member Adrian Pearson promised our research manager that he would send a copy of his research into Arthur E East, his grandmother's first husband.

An article mentioning Arthur included in Points East Issue 21 (Spring 2003) by Christine Bockett concluded "He left a wife and son, Arthur Derek...his wife remarried and had three daughters." Adrian's mother was the eldest daughter and half-brother to Arthur Derek. Christine was apparently told by researchers (prior to 2003) that Arthur Derek didn't wish to be contacted. He has since died and Adrian is not in touch with his daughter or sons.]

Flight Corporal Arthur Ernest East, my grandmother's first husband, was a parachute tester, instructor and display jumper in the years when parachutes were still unfamiliar to many early aeroplane pilots. At the age of just 25 he died when a jump went terribly wrong. This is the story of that tragedy.

Arthur was the son of George East, who was born in 1865. George had married on 6th October 1889 Alice Poole, born in 1871. They had six children: Albert Edward (who died an infant), Ethel, George Edward, Charles Frederick, Arthur Ernest (the subject of this study) and Henry Robert. Alice died in 1914 and on 3rd April 1915 George remarried: his new wife was Alice Maud Bond, born in 1879. Henry Robert died after being knocked down by a car at Petersham, also in 1915. George senior, who had been a Special Constable during WW1, by the time of Arthur's parachute jump in 1927 was living with his second wife at 76 Princes Road, Richmond.

Arthur Ernest was born on 4th July 1901 in Richmond and educated at Eton Street School under the headmastership of Councillor W. Bashford. He was also a member of the Vineyard Congregational Sunday School.

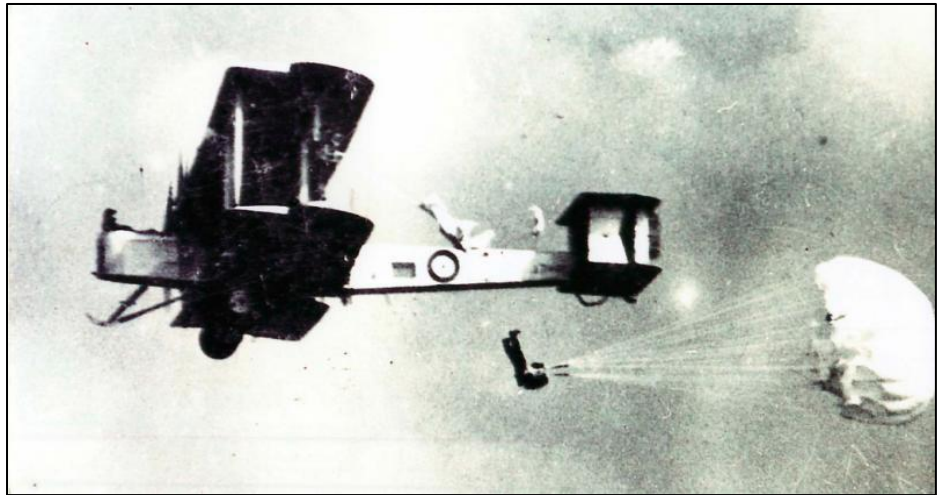
He joined the nation's embryonic air force, then known as the Royal Flying Corps, in December 1917 (Service No. 157816) when still aged just sixteen, initially as a rigger. In 1925, the RAF officially adopted the parachute for use in aeroplanes. East, by now a corporal, immediately seized the opportunity of making parachute descents himself, setting up a parachute section at R.A.F. Northolt. He and his group, who became known as "the Loonies," spent the next two years jumping from aeroplanes and demonstrating the capability of parachutes – for at that time pilots preferred to risk a crash landing rather than putting trust in the deployment of this new technology.

The *Richmond Herald* said of East's parachute expertise: "To him the accomplishment was an ordinary one: he saw nothing in it and he must have made sixty or seventy descents during his career." The aviation correspondent of the *Evening Standard* said, "There was no more remarkable parachutist in the RAF than Corporal East. He was at the time [of his death in 1927] one of the few

men who could claim to have jumped from an aeroplane in flight.” Other newspapers said he was “the most experienced parachutist in the Air Service”.

East was awarded the Air Force Medal in the 1927 New Year’s Honours list but was to be killed before he received it.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 9th March 1927, when he was 26, and living at Albert Road, Peckham, he made what was to be his final jump above Biggin Hill Aerodrome, about 10 miles north of London. The *Richmond Herald* sets the scene: “He had joined the 56th Fighting Squadron. East was one of the “star” men of the RAF on this particular parachute practice. He was one of a number of experts who were stationed at RAF Henlow and travelled around with their own special machine to give pilots instructions in parachute descent.”



RAF Henlow was a station in the Bedfordshire countryside,

equidistant from Bedford, Luton and Stevenage. In May 1920, RAF Henlow had been made the first parachute testing centre, later to be joined by the parachute unit from RAF Northolt. Parachute testing was undertaken using Vimy aircraft, the parachutist hanging off the wings and allowing the parachute to deploy.

However, for some time past, East had been refining what was known as the delayed descent, in which the parachutist fell as far as he possibly could before opening the parachute. According to the *Herald*, “No other man in the RAF had made so many descents of this kind. On one occasion at Duxford Aerodrome East stepped out of an aeroplane and fell for 3,200 ft before pulling the cord of the parachute. He had a narrow escape from serious injury for he had only just opened the parachute fully when he hit the ground. This experience didn’t terrify East, who was soon up again eager to beat this achievement. He was known for having a knack of controlling himself in the air, for although he might be tumbling over and over in somersaults as he fell, he had the ability to right himself at any moment with ease. ‘The great thing’, East had said on one occasion, ‘is that you should keep your head. You don’t get any sensation of falling at all if you don’t want it’”.

Flying Officer Grace, in charge of parachute training, said, at the inquest subsequent to East’s death, that he had known East to be an excellent parachutist.

“All the jumps are voluntary and nobody is ordered to do them. [On this occasion] East asked if he could make a delayed jump and it is usual to give one of these demonstrations at each place we visit. We discussed the jump which was to be made and East said he would leap from a height of about 6,000 ft. He promised not to make a longer delayed drop than 2,000 ft.”

When the inquest coroner asked Grace why East had made that promise he explained “He had been asking me if he could make a really long delayed drop of 3,000 ft or 4,000 ft, but I had refused to agree.” Grace continued, “For 3,000 ft East fell in a slow spin head downwards. That was usual. This movement then changed to a head-over-heels and somersaulting movement. For the rest of the descent East continued to somersault. When less than 100 ft. from the ground I saw him pull the ripcord. That released the pilot parachute and this dragged about 10 ft. or 12 ft. of the main parachute out before East disappeared behind the hedge against the road. The parachute was examined and found to be in perfect order.”

Despite East’s earlier reassurances to his senior officer to the contrary, later press reports suggested that he was in fact privately determined to try to beat the world “delayed drop” record of 4,300 feet then held by the Americans.

Questioned by the Coroner whether Grace thought the somersault interfered with East, he stated, “That is my opinion. He was used to coming down head first, when he could see the ground. When that movement changed to a somersault, obviously he would be looking now at the ground and then at the sky. I think that affected his judgement. Obviously, he misjudged the distance he was from the ground.”

Flight Sergeant Woods, the pilot of the machine from which East jumped, said later that when the plane was at a height of 6,200 ft he signalled to East that he was at a height of 5,000 ft, so that East would have more time than he thought. Woods stated, “He was in the best of spirits and waved his hand. He was a teetotaller and a non-smoker. He loved his work. The more he jumped the better he liked it.”

Corporal Lawrence Parrett, who had assisted East to pack the parachute, said that East had been perfectly satisfied with everything. “I watched East jump and when half-way between the plane and the ground he turned a somersault. After that he was continually somersaulting.”

Leading Aircraftsman Symons, also called to speak at the inquest, confirmed he “distinctly saw Corporal East pull the ripcord when only 60 ft. or 70 ft. from the ground.”

Parachute descents had been practised over Biggin Hill Aerodrome regularly prior to the occasion, attracting sightseers, and when the tragedy occurred there was a crowd of interested onlookers nearby. East crashed onto a main road in full view of a bus loaded with passengers, the driver having stopped so that they all could witness the descent. An eyewitness stated that he “heard the body whistling through the air.” Newspapers reported that “a motor cyclist, who failed to see the coming accident, only avoided the airman, who was descending at the rate of 300 miles an hour, by running his machine into a hedgerow.”

In the 2005 book, *Lost Voices of the Royal Air Force*, edited by Max Arthur, Leading Aircraftman Harold Andrews recalled what must have been East’s descent. “While I was at Biggin Hill we had a parachute display session given by an instructor from Henlow Parachute School. He attempted the world record delayed opening drop from 6,500 feet. He jumped backwards off the wings of a Vimy and we saw him coming down and down. We said to each other, ‘Why doesn’t he open his parachute? Why doesn’t he open his parachute?’ When he got about a hundred feet from the ground it suddenly opened, but it was too late to stop him from crashing on the road, right in front of a poor old chap on a motorbike. He was in a thick canvas Sidcot Suit which kept him together as he was just a lump of jelly inside. We had all volunteered for a parachute drop, but further practice drops were cancelled for the day.”



Had he fallen 24 yards further west East’s life might not have been lost. Eyewitnesses stated that “though his parachute actually opened, it did so too late to arrest his fall.” Twenty odd yards further west he would have descended a further 600 ft into the valley opposite the aerodrome. Some suggested it had been his intention to conclude the descent into this valley but by bad luck he had drifted over high ground: and with his chute only half deployed was killed instantly.

The inquest was held at Biggin Hill on Friday 11th March.

Alice, East’s widow and my grandmother, stated that his general health had been good, but that he had suffered from pains in the head and at times was depressed. The trouble, she said, was due to his having been hit by a piece of parachute

harness some time previously. When the Coroner asked “Was he fond of his work?” she replied, “Yes, he loved it. I sometimes asked him to give it up, as it was so dangerous and used to worry me a lot. His reply was ‘It is always safety first with me. Don’t be afraid. I never do anything without thinking it out first.’ ”

Dr. Frederick Gordon Smith of the R.A.F. Medical Service said that Corporal East fractured his skull and death was instantaneous.

A verdict of “Death from Misadventure” was returned.

News of the tragedy was widely reported in the newspapers across the country and across the empire. It was described the next day in the House of Commons. Hugh Dalton, then MP for Peckham and who later became Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in a speech: “May I be allowed to interpose a few words arising out of the speech made by the Prime Minister on the subject of accidents and the personal qualities of the personnel of our Air Force? I am sure that all of us, and certainly I for my part, pay a tribute to the personnel of the Air Force, and fully recognise the splendid human quality of that Force. I read only this morning of the death of an airman, who, unhappily, was a constituent of my own. I have not seen full accounts of the affair yet. He was Corporal East, who appears to have been killed through leaping from an aeroplane at a height of 6,000 feet and delaying too long before putting his parachute into action. I read in the Press that he was attempting to break a world record held by an American airman for the longest drop from an aeroplane before opening the parachute. I mourn, and I am sure we all mourn, the death of one more of these gallant pioneers in the cause of aerial science. We can, at any rate, say that attempts to break a world record are a form of international rivalry and competition for which no one will have anything but the keenest and warmest admiration. Like the Prime Minister, we all feel the fascination which the Air Service holds for the young and the adventurous and the brave, the best among our rising generation. Our hope is that the gallant service which they will do in the future will be done under conditions of peace, and not in the midst of the horrors of war.”

Arthur East’s funeral was conducted at Richmond Cemetery on Monday 14th March 1927 at 11.30 with military honours.

Councillor W. A. Bashford, late Headmaster of St Mary’s School, where East had been a pupil, said after hearing the news, “I can remember Corporal East quite well and I have several photographs of him. He was an excellent worker and was quite good at games. I am sure that all his schoolfellows will hear of his death with great regret. He was very popular with them.”

The following extract, from *"The Sky People, a History of Parachuting"* by Peter Heam (1990), recalls East and puts in useful perspective his place in parachuting history alongside a fellow parachute pioneer named Dobbs :

“In England, it was the men of the Parachute Test Unit who led the way. Amongst them were two jumpers called Dobbs and East, who made a largely unrecognized but significant contribution to British parachuting, and who would have contributed even more had they lived longer.

“‘Brainy’ Dobbs, they called him, for he had an inventive mind not entirely applied to the parachute, for he made a two-wheeled car, and an aquaplane, which he eventually crashed on the banks of the River Deben. Towards the parachute, he had the right attitude. ‘A parachute’, he would say to the men he trained, ‘must be so simple that even the highest officer in the Royal Air Force can understand it.’...

“Dobbs was a good parachutist, but East was said to have been even better. The two of them, with no guidance, had tackled the mysteries of free fall, and it had been East who had quickly discovered that the normally tumbling body could be stabilized by spreading out arms and legs, and that even though this caused a tendency for the body to rotate like a propeller, that too could be controlled by adjusting the relative positions of the limbs. He hadn't fully mastered it yet, but he was close. He would surely have been amongst the first of the world's controlled free fallers had his bravery and confidence not killed him at the age of twenty-five...

“Some said that he had been trying to dive into the valley and open his ‘chute out of sight of the aerodrome ‘to give them a real thrill’. What is more likely is that when that slow and not unpleasant somersaulting began, he became so intent on this novel sensation and on finding a means to control it, that despite the extra 1,000 feet that ‘Timber’ Woods had given him, he lost sense of time and of the looming earth until it was too late. He probably died as other free fallers have died since – from sheer preoccupation.

“Two days later, ‘Brainy’ Dobbs was practising ‘balloon hopping’ at Stag Lane aerodrome in North London. Harnessed to a small gas balloon, he was making gigantic leaps across the airfield, rising to over 100 feet, and then settling back to earth before propelling himself once more into the air and the gentle wind. It was great sport! At the end of the field he made one final bound. He sailed over a tree, and came down the other side onto electric power cables. He, like East, died instantly.”

Arthur had married Alice Elizabeth Weston in January 1926. At the time of the tragedy their son, Arthur Derek, was just ten weeks old.

Alice subsequently married in 1928 Frank Power, my grandfather. Alice and Frank had three daughters, Barbara (my mother), Sheila and Maureen.

Arthur Derek in 1951 married Kathleen.

George, Arthur Ernest’s father, died at Richmond on 28th May 1936. Alice Maud, Arthur Ernest’s stepmother, died in 1960. His eldest surviving brother, George Edward, died at Christchurch on 20th November 1968.

Genealogical notes

George East b 1865 d 28/5/1936 m firstly 6/10/1889 Alice Poole b 1871 d 1914.

The children of George and Alice East

- i) Albert Edward (1890-1891)
- ii) Ethel
- iii) George Edward (1895-20/11/1968) m 1923 Hilda Rose Lee (1897-1984) and bore Donald John East
- iv) Charles Frederick
- v) Arthur Ernest (4/7/1901-9/3/1927) m Alice Elizabeth Weston 1/1926 and bore Arthur Derek (b 30/12/1926 d 4/6/2016) who married 1951 Kathleen Keegan and bore Martina, Derek and Gerald
- vi) Henry Robert d 1915

George East m secondly 3/4/1915 Alice Maud Bond (1879-1960)

The children of George and Alice Maud East

- i) Henry George b. 1916
- ii) Alice Adelaide (1918-2002) who bore Christine m – Bockett



(Left) Arthur Ernest East when he joined the Royal Flying Corps as a boy entrant in 1917

(Right) Arthur Ernest East standing by a Vickers Vimy, the 'plane he used to jump from

Mr and Mrs George Rustell East

Editorial Introduction (from information given by East FHS member Dorothy Morgan): *'The article 'Memories of old Winchester' is believed to have appeared in 'Hampshire Life' magazine probably around the 1970s. A paper copy of a couple of pages of the article was given to Dorothy Morgan by Tessa East, wife of Andrew East who owns the 'East Brothers' sawmills in West Dean, Salisbury, Wiltshire. The copy was handed on, at the AGM in 2013, to Ann East, then research manager, who passed it to me. I recently contacted the magazine editor to ask for permission to use the article, only to then find out that the article was incomplete (with sizeable gaps!) and the full article could not be found in the magazine archives. Having gained the necessary permissions anyway, I decided to continue to include some snippets of the article in this issue of Points East as a way of introduction to the story of Mr and Mrs George Rustell East. I intend to visit the Winchester record offices as soon as possible to try to find the 'whole' story which I can then publish in a later issue. My thanks to Dorothy and also member Valerie Molyneux for the family history details.*

Hampshire Life Introduction :

Duncan Hall (acting editor of Hampshire Life) says 'Judging by the quality of the paper, the typeface and the images it is much older (than first thought). There is a reference in the article to the sawmills being pulled down 20 years ago. I can't find anything concrete online about when they would have gone in Winchester, but I would imagine it would have been in the 1950s when a lot of Winchester was pulled down, putting the article in the 1970s. The format of the article would certainly suggest it was from the 1970s or early 1980s, before the magazine was printed in colour.

The Hampshire Life stamp at the bottom of the pdf suggests it originally came from our magazine (and the mobile phone number suggests in the past 20 years), but unfortunately I don't have access to the original magazine archive here in Worthing. It may be that they are kept in Cheltenham, where we still have an office. Without a date to work from it would be almost impossible to find without going through each bound copy of the magazine individually. I very much doubt they have a dedicated archivist any more unfortunately.

I'm happy for you to include the article as it is in your magazine. If you have connections to anyone based in Winchester they may be able to find back copies of the magazine in the record office - but again without a date to work from it can be a bit like looking for a needle in a haystack.'

And an introduction from Dorothy Morgan : *Following the East FHS meeting in 2013, I contacted Tessa East, who had given me this partial article/story when we met, to see if she could find the other half of it. Sadly Tessa didn't manage to*

unearth it. I am fine that this very interesting story written by Doris Mary Carter (about her grandparents George Rustell East and Mary Godwin) should be submitted to the forthcoming East FH journal. I just wish that we had the complete article.

Mary Doris Carter was my half cousin x1 removed. She was born on 25 July 1912 in Winchester, Hampshire [Ref: July/Aug/Sept Qtr 1912 Winchester, Hampshire. Vol:2c p.273 Source: FreeBMD]. She died at The Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester on 10 March 2001 aged 88 years; she did not marry. Doris qualified as a State Registered Nurse on 27 November 1936 (Number on Register 85341) [Female SRN Staff Nurse Schedule 2 188 Ref: RG10/2390G/007/4 Letter code: EDVY Find my past Ltd.] She later qualified as a Registered Midwife. She was buried in Magdalen Hill Cemetery Winchester, number of Internment 14632 A4/57 on 20 March 2001.

Her father, Elijah Tom Carter was born Sept qtr 1871 in Winchester [Vol:2c p.93 Source: FreeBMD]. He married Lillie (Lily) Mary East in Dec qtr 1909 Winchester [Vol:2c p.302 Source: FreeBMD]. Tom Carter, as he was known, died in March qtr 1937 aged 65 years [Ref: Winchester Vol:2c p.176 Source: FreeBMD].

Doris' mother, Lillie Mary East (20/7/1876-1961), was living at 31, Hyde Close, Winchester with her sister Florence D East (b 12/12/1883) and (possibly) her sister-in-law Myra E Carter (b 30/09/1874), at the time of the 1939 Register (Doris was living at this address at the time of her death).

Doris' grandparents were George Rustell East, born November 1849 in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, (died 12 September 1934 in Winchester), and Mary Ann Godwin, born Apr qtr 1853, died 31 Jan 1936 Winchester. George and Mary were married in Oct qtr 1872 near Andover, Hampshire.

George Rustell East (my 2nd half Gt Uncle) is the son of George East (my 2nd Gt Grandfather) born 12 September 1828 Chesham, Buckinghamshire, and his 1st wife Sophia Horwood. Valerie Molyneux is a direct descendant from this marriage. I am directly descended from George East and his 2nd wife Mary Eames, born 1834 in Frithsden, Hertfordshire, died 18 February 1867 in West Dean, Wiltshire.

Valerie added : 'George Rustell East was my grandad James Joseph East's uncle. He had a secondhand furniture shop in Winchester's High Street which I understand my grandad used to visit. He had 7 children. I will be very interested to read their memories about Winchester as we used to visit it often when I was a child.'



High Street, Winchester

Memories of old Winchester

(Mary Carter remembers the East family, and the colourful days of Winchester's not-too-distant past)

By Doris Mary Carter

With kind permission of the Hampshire Life magazine

“There must have been few people living in Winchester at the turn of the century who did not know my grandparents, Mr and Mrs George Rustell East. Their antique business, in Eastgate Street, which was known to so many Wintonians and surrounding country folk alike, was started almost by accident.

My great grandfather owned sawmills at King's Worthy and in King Alfred Place, the tall chimney of the latter being demolished only about 20 years ago. The sawmill stood behind the row of attractive cottages, opposite Alswitha Terrace, and several were occupied by the millhands.

Considering themselves rather well-to-do, my great grandparents were horrified when their eldest son – my grandfather – started courting a country girl, who was actually in service! Finally, great-grandfather issued an ultimatum – either George gave up the girl or he would be disinherited! George chose the girl, and what a wise choice it turned out to be, for theirs was one of those idyllic marriages that lasted 63 years in perfect harmony, and which produced nine children.

They were 18 and 22 when they married and practically penniless. When we were children grandma often told us of her wedding day. They were married, in the little church at Barton Stacey, in 1872. It was a bitterly cold day and snowing hard. There was nobody at the wedding but themselves, the vicar and a friendly chimney sweep who was called in as witness, and grandmother's father.

They had no means of getting back to Winchester, where they had rented a small cottage in Chesil Street, and had intended to walk, but the kindly sweep offered to take them free of charge ‘as a wedding present’. So they clambered up into his horse-drawn waggon, and arrived at their new home among the rods, brushes and bags of soot!

The house was a poor little place from all accounts, with a leaky roof and a front door hanging off its hinges. The best thing about it, grandmother used to say, was the garden, which was long and narrow and ran right down to the river weirs at the back, where there was a plentiful supply of rainbow trout

.... Grandfather was fond of his mother-in-law, although when he was courting grandmother, and had walked the eight miles to Barton Stacey, she is reputed to have said “I don't mind you coming to court Mary, George, but in future you must bring your own tea!” However, grandfather never held it against her, saying philosophically, in later years, “After all, tea WAS sixpence a pound!”.....

.... About 1876, the year their second child was born, business had increased so much that they were able to move to a larger premises in Folkstone Place. Here,

grandfather rented a sizeable house from a Mr Willison, and within a few years had taken the adjoining house as a store room. This property adjoined St John's Almshouses and extended across the area now occupied by the Abbey Grounds. The small stream which still runs there was crossed in several places by rough wooden plank bridges giving rather precarious access to the shop!

Folkstone Place was demolished about the turn of the century, but a small plaque can still be seen let into the river wall and marking its site.

It was while my grandparents were living at Folkstone Place that the notorious Russian gun riots occurred in 1884, and I well remember my mother relating how she and her brother watched the excitement from their bedroom window, only a stone's throw away from the gun which was sited at the southern end of Eastgate Street. The gun was brought from Sebastopol, and given to Winchester by Lord Panmure to commemorate the Crimean War....

.... [*The Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated on 20 June 1887 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession*] My grandparents lived at that time at Folkstone Place, so were at the heart of the frivolities. The entire city was decorated with bunting, flags and mottoes. Long tables were set up in the Broadway and some 3,000 citizens sat down to an elaborate meal. It was a beautiful day, the Cathedral bells pealed out and a massive procession assembled in the barrack square and proceeded through the city. A thanksgiving service was held in the Cathedral, sports were arranged, military bands played and a massive torchlight procession with numerous tableaux started from Hyde Street and encircled the city and concluded with a grand display of fireworks on Oram's Arbour. The next day 2,000 children were given tea in the High Street, and each child was given a souvenir cup and saucer. (I still have the one given to my mother, who was a child of 10 at the time). The celebrations went on most of the week and were rounded off by a great ball in the Guildhall given by the Mayor, Capt. William Budden.

... It was about 1893 that Mr and Mrs East moved from Folkstone Place to the High Street..... When my grandparents lived at 164 High Street there was a stream running the whole length of the garden, and a small, wooden bridge gave access to 'the privvy'. The stream disappeared under the house to join another at the opposite side of the High Street. (Doubtless, it is still there now flowing undisturbed beneath the roadway).

The stream was a natural breeding place for fresh water trout, and I have often heard my uncles complain that the trout were killed by pollution of the river by products of the wool staplers yard higher up stream. A large tannery shed could be seen from the bottom of their garden with animal skins hanging up to dry having first been washed in the river. Unfortunately, the tannery business was owned by an affluent citizen – no other than a some time Mayor, Alderman Forder – so the inconvenience had to be suffered....”

To be continued....

And finally, some notes on the West Dean sawmills (extracted from their website <https://eastbros.co.uk/>) : ‘East Brothers is a Timber merchant and a sawmill supplying both trade and the general public with hardwood and softwood products. They have built up fabulous relationships with the forestry commission and local estates in the years since it was established in 1886, which enables them to have supplies of beautiful locally sourced timber.

George and Mary East were the original owners of West Dean sawmills, which is now owned by Andrew and Tessa East. George East moved to West Dean in 1886 and began running the Norman Court Estate Sawmill. The Mill was powered by steam and the logs were hauled into the sawmill by horse and pole wagon.

The twentieth century saw horses being replaced by lorries and steam power was first replaced by diesel and then eventually by electricity as the modern sawmill came into being.

Both the products being manufactured and the timber species have evolved and expanded. The staff have also changed – they no longer wear waistcoats and bowler hats to work and the improvements in health and safety also mean they have all their fingers unlike a great many of their predecessors who more often than not had lost at least a finger.’



Workers at sawmills

Local Research Assistants

We know that it can be difficult to get to record offices if you work during the day or don't live close to the office you need to visit; therefore some of our members have offered to make visits to record offices to assist those who cannot go themselves. Please see the East FHS website, www.eastfhs.org, for details of Local Research Assistants or contact Peter, Pam or June (committee members) for their help with your research.

The Missing Grave Stone *by Tim East*

Some years ago myself and Margaret looked at a number of Oxfordshire churches as part of her genealogical studies.

One of these was St Thomas of Canterbury at Elsfield, where we found the grave of my mother's great aunt, Miriam.

My mother, Mrs M S East, never knew her maternal grandmother's family, although she had located her grandmother, Eunice's grave in Waterstock, where luckily the stone had been protected by trees and was still in good condition. Last December my mother stayed with us at Longwick and she asked to visit Miriam's grave at Elsfield.

The village is very small and located about 4 miles East of Oxford. Its main claim to fame is that John Buchan lived in the large Manor House in the centre of the village.



Although known for writing 'The Thirty Nine Steps' he also held important official posts including Governor General of Canada. There is a large circular memorial stone in the churchyard to commemorate him, which we saw on our original visit, whilst finding Miriam's grave, which was on the north side of the church.

Another interesting feature is that there is no West door to the church, the only entrance being on the South side. I drove with Mum to the church and I had a vague memory of where to look, but we searched and could not find Miriam's grave. There was a fairly new extension built on the north side and I feared that maybe the site was lost.

We gave up and later I contacted the vicar of that group of parishes, a lady called Skye. She didn't know much but she didn't think any graves had been moved. Weeks later we remembered that there were photos on Margaret's laptop from



years ago so we checked them and I could see exactly where to find Miriam. I returned recently armed with water, scrubbing brushes and a bucket and found the stone easily. Of course, the reason we failed earlier was obvious - the inscription was completely covered in lichen and hence illegible. After a good cleaning all was revealed and the mystery solved.



On Mum's next visit I can now show her the grave at last.

Photos are The Manor House, John Buchan's memorial, Miriam's grave and the West End of the Church with no door.



A Snippet from Margaret East

(married to Timothy East son of Raymond George East and Millicent):

“After the AGM I gave a bit of thought to DNA testing, then went ahead with it. The surprising thing is that on the first bunch of 3rd to 4th cousins one turned out to be connected to both Tim my husband and myself.

Tim is connected because Daniel Aldridge (1732) got Sarah East (1744) pregnant and a Bastardy Bond was issued in the sum of £40.00 to indemnify the parish against expenses with regard to the child.

For myself, I cannot find the DNA connection yet, but will keep looking.”

Larry D. Duke, 'Estes Trails'

I have again received the two latest issues of the newsletter of the Estes family called 'Estes Trails', via email, for Sept '19 and Dec '19. It is usual for us to exchange electronic (pdf) copies of our respective journals with the Estes Family Society in America. It is published about 4 times a year.

The September issue is full of American Estes family research, but the December issue contains a few articles on English history, and that of Deal, Kent in particular (from where the extended Estes family descend). The history extends to an article on 'The Black Death' of the 1340s and 50s.

I'm sure that Larry won't mind if I include here an interesting piece on a 'Genealogical Codicil to my last will and testament' from his December issue –

'As readers can tell from the number of obituaries in ET, we continue losing many of our longtime researchers. While we mourn these losses, we know this is a natural process and that new researchers are coming into the network. But these losses of people should not mean the loss of information. It seems that all too often, those who have been researchers have their genealogical papers thrown out following their deaths because no one in their family was interested in the subject at the moment. Making previous arrangements would be a way to prevent this.

Over the years, several researchers have forwarded their files to me, hoping they could be of use to future researchers. I have tried my best to use some of this material whenever time permits. It would be so much better if we all made previous arrangements to have some relative take our collected material. Even if that person does not have an interest in genealogy, they could pass on the material when someone else in the family begins to ask about genealogy, and someone else always does. Take the time to preserve your hard work, your descendants will appreciate it!'

An example 'Genealogical Codicil' is on the next page.

Here is also a small snippet on 'The Estes Surname' taken from the work of James Hillyer Estes :

'The English printer, Thomas East (1540-1608) used the names East, Est, Este and Easte and hinted at a connection with the d'Este family, although his motivations were much too obvious. Thomas East made his fame publishing Italian music in England and suggesting a connection to the d'Este would certainly not have adversely affected his sales. Thomas' son, Michael (1580-1680) who was a composer in his own right, also used the names East, Est, Este and Easte. Later is the case of Sir Augustus d'Este (1794-1848) who in spite of his surname was fully English. Augustus was the son of the Duke of Sussex and the daughter of the Earl of Dunmore. That marriage of his parents was without the King's consent and he (George III at the time) subsequently annulled the marriage, thus making Augustus illegitimate "after" the birth. After that annulment, Augustus and his sister were given the name of d'Este by their father, a name that was "anciently belonging to the House of Brunswick." Several other English aristocrats named Este or East

changed their name to d'Este, including one family in the 1800's that changed their name from East and claimed the non-existent title of “Baron d’Este”.’

GENEALOGICAL CODICIL TO MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs and files for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to: (List names, addresses and phone numbers if known)

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. Genealogical organizations that may be willing to accept these materials: (List organizations, addresses and phone numbers)

Please remember that my genealogical endeavours consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavours be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

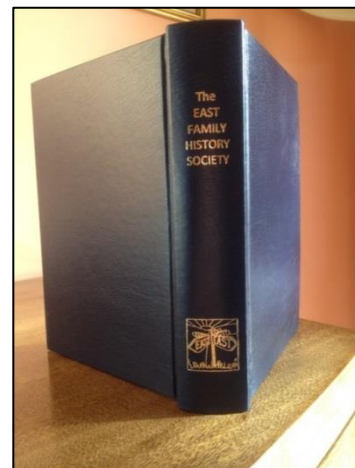
Signature _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Binders for Points East journals

These blue Cordex binders are capable of holding 12 copies of Points East, with the spine blocked in gold with the Society's name and logo. Each comes in its own 'large letter' postal box. Please let a member of the Committee know if you might be interested in buying one or more binders. The cost for one binder (including postage) is £7. The cost for two binders (including postage together) is £13. Cheques to be sent to Brian (at his address on the inside front cover) but made payable to the 'East Family History Society'.



Next Time in Points East....

I need to ask permission from The Daily Telegraph to use an article entitled 'Our Island Story is told in DNA'. Having received permission from 'Hampshire Life' to use their article 'Memories of old Winchester' about Mr and Mrs George Rustell East, I now need to visit the Winchester archives to attempt to find the complete article! More of Samuel East's story from the book by Sir Ronald East will be told in a future issue, continuing with the colonisation of South Australia. Aside from those, I have no unused submissions! Please do continue writing your East-related stories, or any other facts about Easts, family trees, family photos, certificates etc and send them to me via post (my new address is on the inside front cover) or email for future publication.

I look forward to being inundated by new material!!

Welcome to new members - We extend a warm welcome to the following new members :

New Members	Email address
296 ~ Mr Richard Boyles	richard@boyles.co.uk

Points East

The committee decided that to achieve production and distribution of the journal to members on the dates proposed:

All future contributions need to be received by the 1st February for the spring edition and 1st August for the autumn edition

The preparation of the final draft by the 15th of the month for printing

Distribution of copies to members 1st March and 1st September

Please keep sending in your articles for publication, but do bear in mind copyright law. We cannot publish any picture or writing that is copyright without permission. Send us family pictures, research successes, tree excerpts, bits of found information or family stories that will give variety to Points East. Large or small items - all are welcome. If you have any suggestions to improve it please do let us know. Material will be held over for a future issue if it cannot be included in the current one.

Annual Subscription Renewal

An annual subscription (including a Family Membership) is £10. A three-year subscription at £25 is available. Sterling or its currency equivalent may be enclosed with an application form which you can download from the East FHS website.

Find the EAST FHS Website at ‘www.eastfhs.org’

Cheques should be drawn on a UK bank and be made payable to the **East Family History Society**.

It would greatly assist the Society if members could set up a Standing Order with their bank for the subscription. Our account is :

Bank: The NatWest **Account Name:** The East Family History Society

Sort Code: 60-02-23 **Account number:** 65499727

Alternatively, you could pay online to the above bank account and advise the secretary by email, but please put a reference with your payment so that we can recognise who has renewed.

Applications and subscriptions to the Secretary (see inside the front cover).

All subscriptions are due on 1st May.

Although subscriptions can cover a member and nominated partner, only one copy of the newsletter will be provided per full member.

The aims of the Society shall be:

- To collect all references to the EAST/ESTE(S) name and all variations, to collate and store these records and to make them available to all members.
- To produce a Newsletter at least twice per year to be distributed to all members, the cost of which to be covered by subscriptions.
- To advertise the Society's existence, thus bringing as many researchers of the names EAST/ESTE(S) etc. as possible into contact with each other.

Source Data

The Society's Research Manager holds the following data. Much of it is on computer and all of it is available, on request, to members for their personal use.

- GRO index of all EAST births from 1837 to 2005; marriages from 1837 to 2005 and deaths from 1837 to 2006. The index is regularly updated with new information. The index has been sent by email to all members and will be sent to new members when they join.
- On computer over 18,100 baptism, marriage and burial Parish records. These are taken from actual records, transcripts or indexes. Many are not on the IGI.
- On computer over 2,400 probate records extracted from the National Calendar from 1858 to 1967, together with some earlier probate records. These give exact dates, names and places of death, and sometimes additional information such as names of executors. We have paper or digital copies of over 100 EAST wills.
- A growing collection of over 2,800 birth, marriage and death certificates. A note of the certificates held is made on the GRO indexes. A list is available on the website.
- On computer, using 'Family Tree Maker', a large collection of EAST family trees with over 12,000 individuals and more than 135 trees.
- A genealogical index, in book form, of all mentions of the EAST surname from the first 14 issues of Points East, together with a separate index of other surnames. An index on computer of all mentions of the EAST surname in issues 1 to 39 of Points EAST. All the indexes are available on the website
- On computer, Civil registration indexes for EASTs in New Zealand (1840 to 1990) and Western Australia (1841 to 1905)
- An extensive collection of non-digitised information, documents etc contained within 'County' and 'Correspondence' files. This is partially indexed on cards and a computer index of all 'Miscellaneous Data' is continually updated.
- The UK National Burial Index (3rd Edition)

February 2018