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Welcome to the mid June 2020 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.

Yates and Smith families in Beckenham

Today's headline photo was kindly sent in by Andrea Davies who writes:

The above photo is of my Great Grandmother Minnie Florence **SMITH** nee **YATES** (**born 1889**) with her father John Yates, seated, and her brother Walter and half sister Mabel.



I'm researching this branch of my family who come from Beckenham.

My grandfather is Edmund James Smith (in the photo, right) , son of William Henry Smith and Minnie Florence Smith nee Yates.

Minnie (born in Elmers End) and William married in 1911 but William died in 1918.

In 1919 Minnie married Patrick **O'DONNELL** and they moved to Mansfield.

Minnie's parents were John Yates 1859-1919 (seated in the top photo) and Ellen Yates nee Smith 1860-1891

Recently, I drove to Beckenham Crematorium and found my great grandfather William Henry Smith's grave with other family members: Ellen Yates nee Smith and Elizabeth Smith (Ellen's mother).

It was covered in ivy but we found it, and it felt amazing, just want to say what a beautiful cemetery Beckenham has. I also paid a visit to the house where my grandfather was born in Churchfields Road, Beckenham.

If there are any members of this family reading this I would love to hear from you, especially if you have any photos of them. Any help would be much appreciated.

andrea.davies79@hotmail.com

I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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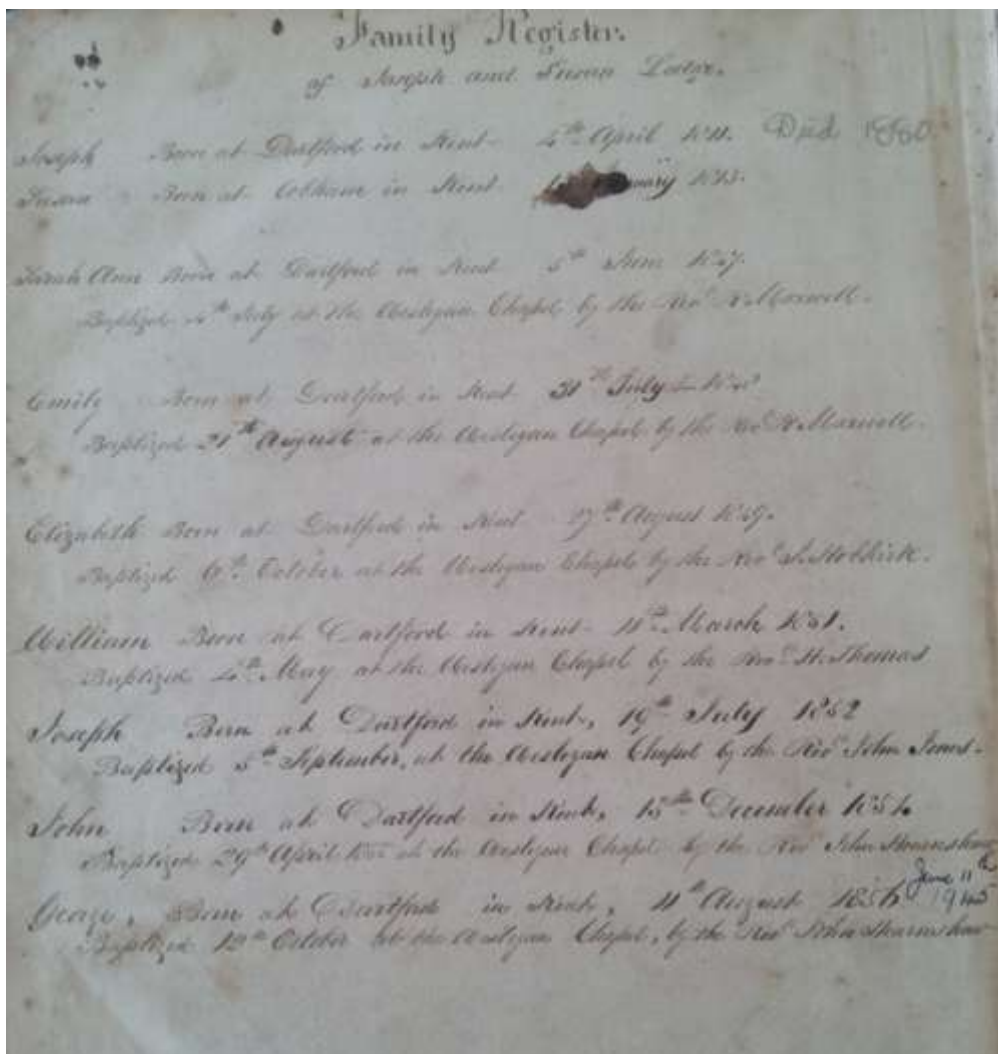
Family Bibles

I had appealed for readers to send in a scan and transcript of any Family Bibles in their possession. This type of material is not normally online and would be lost to fellow researchers if not publicised.

Society Members Pam Goodwin and Bob Digby have both kindly sent some information in:

Family Bible of Joseph and Susan LODGE

Pam Goodwin writes: *I have a family bible with family inscriptions in which I would be happy to share. The Bible belonged to my LODGE family and is the family register of Joseph and Susan LODGE, my great x 2 grandparents who lived in Dartford Kent.*



Transcript

Family Register of Joseph and Susan LODGE

Joseph Born at Dartford at Kent 4th April 1811 (Died 1880)

Susan Born at Cobham in Kent 13th January 1813

Sarah Ann born at Dartford in Kent 5th June 1847
Baptized 4th July at the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev R Maxwell

Emily born at Dartford in Kent 31st July 1848
 Baptized 21st August at the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev R Maxwell

Elizabeth Born at Dartford in Kent 27th August 1849
 Baptized 6th October at the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev J Hobkirk

William born at Dartford in Kent 11th March 1851
 Baptized 4th May at the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev H Thomas

Joseph born at Dartford in Kent 19th July 1852
 Baptized 5th September in the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev John Jones

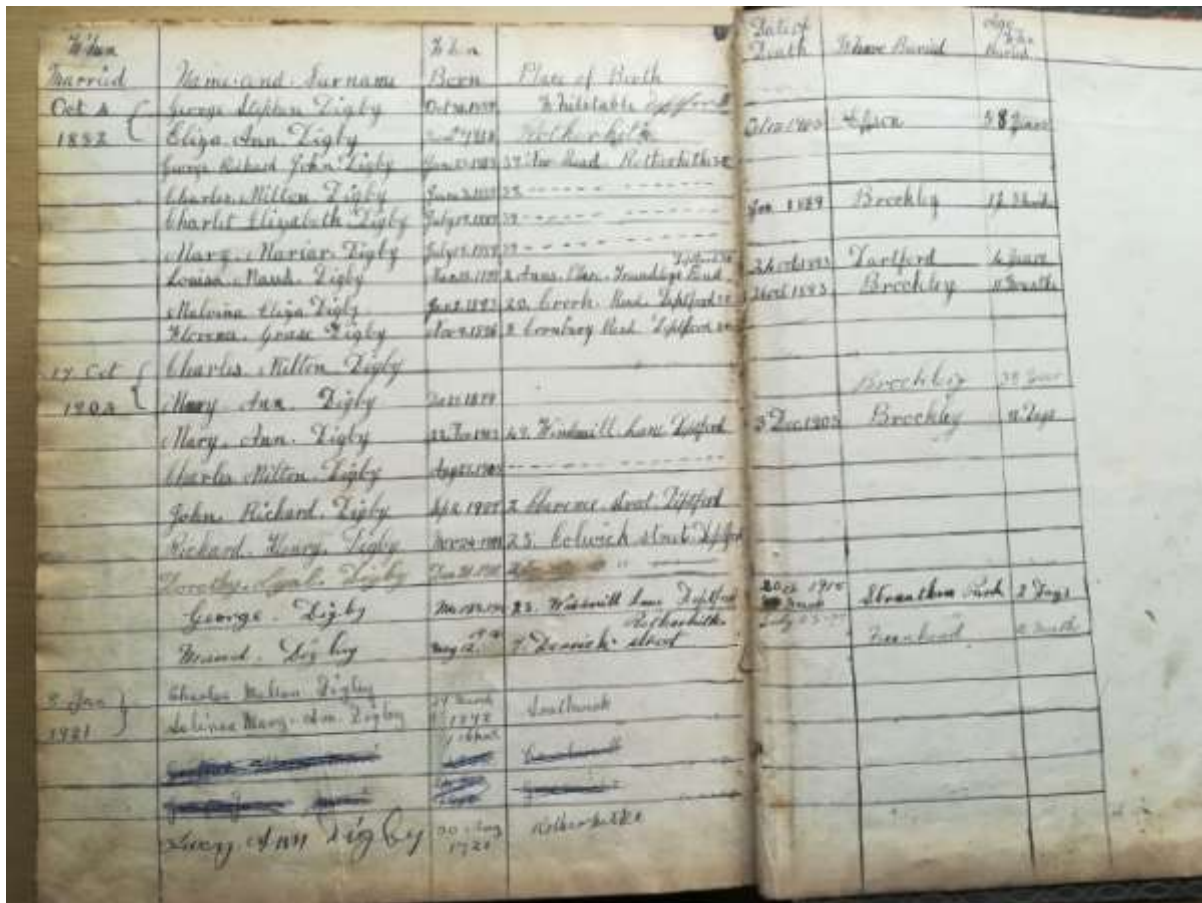
John born at Dartford in Kent 15th December 1854
 Baptized 29th April 1855 at the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev John Hearnshaw

George Born at Dartford in Kent 11th August 1856 (June 11th 1945)
 Baptized 12th October at the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev John Hearnshaw.

The last mentioned child, George, was my great grandfather.

Pam Goodwin

DIGBY Family Bible



Printed date of the Bible is 1816.

Inside of the front cover it is inscribed Charles Melton Digby. Born 25th August 1905.

Inside the back cover is as the attached image.

By comparing the hand writing of both the front and back I assume that is the hand of my grandfather C M Digby (1885).

C M Digby (1905) was my father and it appears that there could be 2 spellings of the name Melton/Milton. My father always spelt it Milton yet checking his birth certificate it was spelt Melton.

When it came to naming our son there was a choice to be made. We opted for Melton.

My grandfather C M Digby (1885) was widowed and married for a second time to a widow Selina M A **MORRIS**. Her children from her first marriage were added to the bible entry but subsequently crossed out because they were not 'Digbys'.

My aunt Lucy A Digby was therefore my father's half sister.

As a result of additional research, mainly by my wife Janet, we managed to go back a further 3 generations – John Edward Digby (1820), William Digby (1796), both of Faversham and master mariners, then James Digby (1771).

Bob Digby

The easyfundraising Refer to Win competition is back

Please help North West Kent Family History Society - Bexley WIN a £500 donation!

To enter, all you need to do is sign up to support the Society on easyfundraising. It's easy and completely free.

This donation would make a huge difference!

Sign up now and share this to increase their chances of winning: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkhfs/?invite=WYSGS7&referral-campaign=s2s>

So far 39 people have signed up and raised a total of £440.

Local History Societies

In the last emailinfo, I detailed some local history societies which had a rich store of information and local photos.

Just by chance, a few days ago, I came across the website of Leigh and District Historical Society

<http://www.leighhistorical.org.uk/>

Leigh is in Kent about 3 miles west of Tonbridge and 6 miles south of Sevenoaks, in the area covered by NWKFHS.

Do check out the website. It even has a Family History menu and information and some vintage photos on a few dozen local families.

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Read the next Journal as pre-paper publication (usually available mid-February, mid-May, mid-August and mid-November)

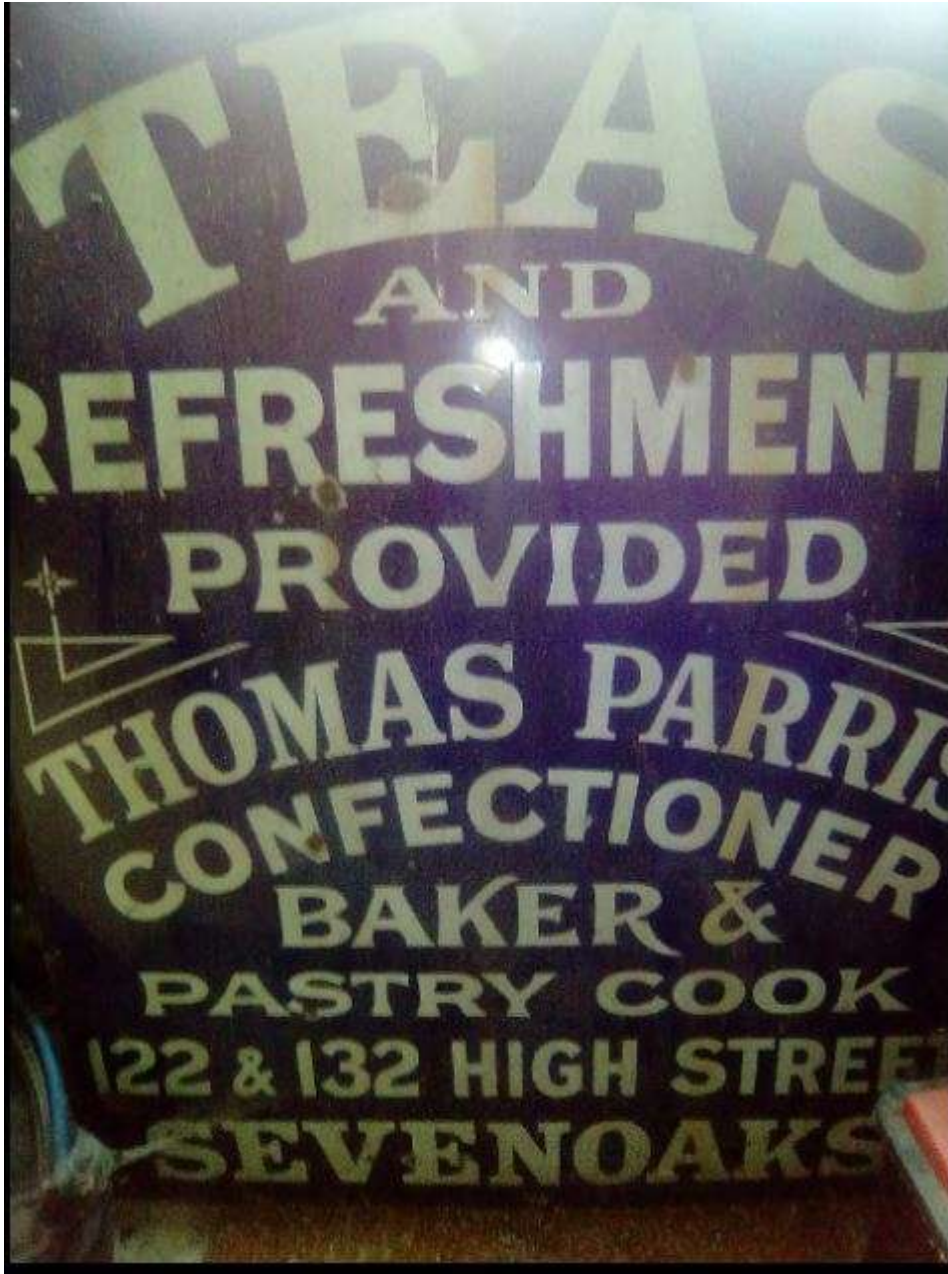
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Richard Flynn asked me to include the photo above.

Richard says "This appeared in the local Joydens Wood Residents Association Facebook page. Can you include this in the next email alert to see if anyone knows the family?"

This was the comment on Facebook:

*"Hi everyone , an elderly customer of mine has this enamel on metal sign stored. I'm sure it has some historical value to someone in Sevenoaks, a historical society or even a **PARRIS** relation . I've tried contacting a few people involved in that kind of thing from Sevenoaks but I've never really got anywhere . Does anyone have any ideas ?"*

If you have any ideas please let Richard Flynn know at therealchemist@virginmedia.com and he will relay the information or put you in touch with the original enquirer.

Ernest Parris was a Master Baker who ran his business from 122 High St Sevenoaks. It's believed he had the premises from 1901 - 1938.

I told you I was ill

Society Member Graham Jansen writes

"On the subject of inscriptions, the one that always tickles me is Spike Milligan's headstone in Saint Thomas the Martyr Churchyard, Winchelsea, East Sussex.

The headstone includes the inscription, in Gaelic, which translated means 'I told you I was ill.'

I thought this might rise a smile to those who weren't previously aware.



*Thank you very much to all the contributors for this edition.
I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next emailinfo.
I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area
or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.*

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfoservice, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.

Stella Eames, Editor

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

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