



Surrey Inhabitants' Lists

Compiled by Cliff Webb

Preface to the Sixth Edition

The genealogist is always looking for names in a context, and almost any record containing them may be of interest to him.

This brief guide is intended to describe some of the more important sources for the names of Surrey individuals from the Middle Ages to 1900, but omitting perhaps the most important source, the Census returns of the nineteenth century. These have been covered in a number of other WSFHS publications, eg, RAs 5 and 9, RSs 5, 14, 16 and 19, MSs 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 and CD 6

There is much variation in the periods covered by different sources, one may form a series covering many years while another may be limited to a single year. The bibliography in each section attempts to list both general works on the source concerned, and any editions of the Surrey records in that class.

Several readers have noted that the list is useful in their county of interest, not only in Surrey, as most of the classes are available in every county, though naturally there are some variations. For searchers interested in other counties, reference should be made to the appropriate Guide by J W Gibson (where one is listed). Alternatively, many editions of records have been printed over the years. E H Mullins has listed all those produced by local record societies up to 1982 in two volumes called Texts and Calendars; volume I covering the period up to 1957, and volume II, some items missed from the first volume and publications in the 1957-1982 period. These do not list records printed outside of the series, nor items appearing in journals. And, of course, much has been published since 1982. This is listed online at <History On-line>

In addition much work has been done in typescript or manuscript only, though the 'Gibson Guides' always attempt to list all such copies and indexes as are known. A much more detailed listing of sources can be found in my Guide to Surrey Genealogy and Records (WSFHS RA32, 2nd edition, 1997).

In this Sixth Edition the text has been up-dated to July 2007.

I should like to thank Dr David Robinson, former County Archivist, and Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker formerly of the Surrey Record Office (now the Surrey History Centre) for their very considerable assistance in compiling this Research Aid.

1 Subsidies, Clerical and Lay (13th-17th Centuries)

These returns contain the accounts of direct taxation for the county from the 13th century to the end of the 17th century, excluding the Hearth Tax Assessments which are described separately below. They are preserved at TNA where there are full lists of surviving records, which have been printed in the List and Index Society series. The lists note those records which preserve names (rather than just being accounts) - perhaps 250 of them for Surrey. WSFHS has printed lists of Surrey and Middlesex Lay Subsidies 1500-1645 (RA14 and RA21). The actual return for 1593/94 was printed

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at the beginning of the century. WSFHS has continued this work by printing six indexed calendars of various returns, mainly of West Surrey (RS4, MS22, RS12, RS31, RS37 and RS39). WSFHS has transcripts of many others, and hopes to produce them all eventually either in print or on microfiche.

The Subsidy of 1524/25 is a very full one, only the really poor being excluded from the tax. I am preparing an edition which will appear in the Surrey Record Society series.

- Willard, J F & Johnson, H C: Surrey Taxation Returns (SRS 11 [2 parts] 1922-1932) (Contains the 1332 assessment and lists of some subsequent documents to 1623)
- Bax, A R: The Lay Subsidy Assessments for the County of Surrey in 1593 or 1594 (SAC 18-19, 1903-04)
- Exchequer (K R) Lay Subsidy Rolls (E179) Part IV Staffs-Yorks, Wales (pp 58-88) (List and Index Society 75, 1972)
- Webb C R: Calendar of Lay Subsidies: Western Surrey 1603-1649 (WSFHS RS4, 1984)
 Calendar of Lay Subsidies: Western Surrey 1585-1603 (WSFHS RS7, 1985 - reprinted on microfiche as MS22, 1999)
 Calendar of Miscellaneous Elizabethan Lay Subsidies 1570-1600 (WSFHS RS12 1990)
 Calendar of Late Elizabethan & Stuart Lay Subsidies - Central and South-Eastern Surrey 1593-1641 (WSFHS RS31, 1999)
 Calendar of Surrey Lay Subsidies - 1543-1547 (WSFHS RS37, 2002)
 Calendar of Surrey Lay Subsidies - 1549-1561 (WSFHS RS39, 2002)

2 Hearth Tax (1662-1674)

These assessments were made annually, and Surrey returns survive for various years between 1662 and 1674, some of the years being undated and only dateable from internal evidence. They give all the householders assessed in each parish, the number of hearths in each house, and in a few cases a list of those people excused from paying the tax. The 1664 list is particularly full and has been printed (with some 1662 material for areas where the 1664 roll does not survive), and reprinted by WSFHS in its microfiche series. The introduction to the work provides a very full description and analysis of those Surrey returns which survive. Gibson gives a national guide. There is now a nationwide project under the aegis of the Roehampton Institute and the British Record Society to tackle the Hearth Tax returns and print at least one return for every county.

- Gibson, J S W: The Hearth Tax, other later Stuart Tax lists and the Association Oath Rolls (FFHS, 2nd edition, 1996)
- Howell, R: Short Guides to Records No. 7: Hearth Tax Returns
- Meekings, C A F: Surrey Hearth Tax 1664 (SRS 17, 1940, reprinted on microfiche as WSFHS MS7, 1992)

3 Musters and Militia Records (16th and 17th centuries)

These rolls often provide a list of all adult males between the ages of sixteen and sixty, and were compiled to give the government some idea of the strength of the country in the event of invasion. Returns listing names survive in the National Archives for eight of the years between 1569 and 1588, but they are very incomplete. Many other musters for this period and later survive amongst private muniments. There is a particularly important collection in the Loseley MSS preserved at the Surrey History Centre. Surrey is fortunate in that many of its early musters have been printed. With the rise of the regular army in the Civil War, musters change in form from local compilations to lists of given bodies of men, beyond the scope of this listing.

I discovered what appears to be an extremely large collection of militia documents of the Napoleonic era in the National Archives. At the moment the class (E 182) is not readily accessible, it is hoped that future editions of this guide will be able to treat this material in detail.

Many counties have good later lists of militia men, but Surrey is not very fortunate in this respect. These sources are fully listed in two 'Gibson Guides'.

- Bax, A R: Preparations by the County of Surrey to Resist the Spanish Armada (SAC 16, 1901)
 Craib, T: Surrey Musters (SRS 3 [4 parts], 1914-1920)
 Gibson, J S W and Dell, A: Tudor and Stuart Muster Rolls (FFHS, 1991)
 Gibson, J S W and Medlycott, M: Militia Lists and Musters 1757-1876 (FFHS, 4th edition, 2000)

4 Protestation Returns (1641/42)

This roll consists of a parish-by-parish list of all those who declared their abhorrence of the supposed designs of priests and Jesuits to 'subvert the fundamental laws of the kingdom'. Unfortunately the lists for Surrey survive for only twenty-five parishes in the south east, but these have been printed. Most of this material has now been printed, but some remains available only in the manuscripts which are all (apart from a few individual parochial strays in local record offices) at the Parliamentary Archives. There is a Gibson Guide including them.

A list of all parishes for which returns survive was printed in the Fifth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts (1876).

- Carter, H: Surrey Protestation Returns 1641/42 (SAC 59, 1962)
 Gibson, J.S.W.: Protestation Returns 1641-2 and other Contemporary Listings (FFHS, 1995)

5 Collection for Distressed Protestants (1642)

This much less well-known series of parish lists of the same date as the above, shows those prepared to contribute to the succour of those put in distress by the revolt of the indigenous Irish in 1641. Returns survive for sixty-one parishes in Surrey, of which I have produced a calendar, which has been printed on fiche (WSFHS, MS2). As with the Protestation Oath Rolls, the east of the county is better served than the west, but many more parishes survive. Although the contribution was voluntary, most people appear to have contributed in practice, at least amongst the better-off, and some women appear, missing, of course, from the Protestation Returns. A list of all parishes in England and Wales for which returns survive appears in the appropriate Gibson guide.

- FitzHugh, T: A Little Known 17th Century Locator Record (Root and Branch 5 p.44 1978)
 Gibson, J.S.W.: Protestation Returns 1641-2 and other Contemporary Listings (FFHS, 2004 update)
 Webb, C R: Collection for Distressed Protestants in Ireland: Surrey returns (WSFHS, MS2, 1989)
 The Collection for Distressed Protestants in Ireland, 1642 (GM 21:9, Nov 1985)

6 A Free and Voluntary Gift and Present to Charles II (1661-1662)

Charles II returned from his 'travels' with very heavy debts and Parliament agreed that people should be asked to contribute freely to a fund to settle these debts. The surviving records are with the Lay Subsidy Rolls. While these records contain, perhaps, only half the names in the contemporary Hearth Tax Assessments, they are extremely useful in that very often the occupation of the donor is given. The Surrey returns (apart from Southwark and Brixton Hundred) have been printed by WSFHS. Gibson lists surviving returns (and editions thereof) in one of his 'Guides'.

- Webb, C R: Calendar of the Surrey Portion of the Free and Voluntary Present to Charles II (1661-2) (WSFHS RS2, 1982, reprinted on microfiche as MS8, 1992)
 Gibson, J S W: The Hearth Tax, other later Stuart Tax lists and the Association Oath Rolls (FFHS, 2nd edition 1996)

7 Apprenticeship Records and Borough Records (16th-20th centuries)

Apprenticeship records are extremely important as a source, especially for the early and mid-eighteenth century when other name lists are rather sparse. Apprenticeship could vary between that of the poor by the parish, often into little more than a state of servitude, to a means of entry into proper trades, where, with luck and hard work, the apprentice could in time accumulate great wealth.

From 1710 there was a tax on apprenticeship (except for apprenticeships arranged by parishes for poor children and children apprenticed to their own parents) and records of all indentures were kept (until 1802). There seems to have been very widespread evasion, and perhaps only a fifth of apprenticeships are recorded there. The records are preserved at TNA. There are typescript indexes to these at the SG up to 1774, and the Surrey entries for the first twenty years were printed by SRS. The 1731-49 period has been printed by WSFHS and reissued on microfiche. Parish collections of indentures are really poor law records, and have been dealt with in that section.

Borough records sometimes contain apprenticeship records, and two Surrey examples have been printed. There are some rolls of admissions to the freedom of the town of Kingston, so far unprinted.

Surrey's proximity to London led to many people moving from one to the other, and thus many Surrey men became free of the city of London, and many freemen of London moved to Surrey on building up their fortunes. Most of the London Livery Companies have deposited their records at the Guildhall Library, London. There is a central index to all livery company grants of freedom from the late 17th century to date, and of apprenticeships from 1786 at the Corporation of London Record Office of which there is a film at the Guildhall, Library. A very large number of apprentices never took up the freedom, and it is necessary to search apprenticeship registers as well as freedom registers.

SG has launched a substantial series of indexes to Livery company apprenticeships under my editorship; forty five volumes have appeared to date. A current list of volumes in print is available from the SG. A few others have appeared in print at other times, and a few more are in typescript or manuscript at SG.

Boyd, P: Typescript Indexes to Apprenticeship Indentures at the PRO (SG Library, Guildhall Library)

Carter, H: Guildford Freeman's Book 1655-1933 (1963)

Daly, A: Kingston upon Thames Register of Apprentices 1563-1713 (SRS 23, 1974)

Jenkinson, H: Surrey Apprenticeships from the Registers at the PRO 1711-1731 (SRS 10, 1921)*

Webb, C R: Index of Surrey Apprenticeships 1731-1749 (WSFHS RS6, 1985)*

Surrey Apprentices III Being An Index of Apprenticeships of Surrey Interest In
Some London Livery Company Records 1563-1928, (WSFHS RS33, 2000)

*(reprinted on microfiche and issued together by WSFHS as MS12, 1996)

8 Freeholders Books (1696-1824)

These list those qualified to serve as jurors in the Quarter Sessions, and are preserved with those records at the Surrey History Centre. Only men between 21 and 70 qualified, and only those with freehold property. The first return (1696) lists 1,783 people. Returns survive for the years 1696, 1698, 1699, 1701, 1702, 1703 and annually from 1762 to 1824, and they form a useful directory of the (generally) more substantial inhabitants of the county. I have a typescript index to the 1696-1703 books (which will probably appear in WSFHS Microfiche series); there is a copy at the Surrey History Centre.

9 Association Oath Rolls (1696)

These were signed by all persons holding office, together with the gentry and clergy, who agreed to defend the person of William III 'against all plots and conspiracies'. In practice, the signing of the oath appears to have been extended to a large proportion of the male population, and this is, therefore, a

much more important source than might be expected. Also noted are those refusing to sign the oath, presumably Catholics and Jacobites. I have produced a countrywide list of rolls which has been printed in the Genealogists Magazine and incorporated into a 'Gibson Guide'.

The returns for Walton-upon-Thames and Weybridge were printed in the newsletter of their local history society. WSFHS has produced a complete indexed transcript on microfiche to the Surrey rolls and a printed edition of the City of London rolls.

- Blackman, M E: Association Oath Rolls, 1696 (Walton and Weybridge Local History Society Monograph No. 15)
 Gibson, J S W: (op. cit. under Hearth Tax)
 Webb, C R: The Association Oath Rolls of 1695 (GM 21:4, Dec 1983)
 An Index To The Association Oath Rolls For City Of London, 1696 (WSFHS RS 40, 2006)
 Webb, C R and Wilcock, T: The Surrey Association Oath Roll (WSFHS MS3, 1989)

10 Poll Books (18th century to 1872)

Prior to the 1832 Reform Bill, voting was restricted to a very small proportion of the population. In addition the distribution of seats had barely altered since the Middle Ages, leading to a gross maldistribution. Until 1872, voting was conducted openly, with all the accompanying opportunities for bribery and intimidation. Also, until that date, it was common practice to print a list of those entitled to vote (often with their qualification), and noting those who had actually voted, and the candidate or candidates they had voted for. These poll books are of great interest, but are very rare. The earliest known surviving Poll Book for Surrey is the county poll of 1705 (copies at the Guildhall Library, the Bodleian Library and Guildford Public, Library). The Guildhall Library, Surrey History Centre, Minet Library, SG and the British Museum all have good collections of poll books, and others are scattered in various libraries. It must, however, be remembered that, throughout their history, the franchise was on an extremely limited basis.

A 'Gibson Guide' has listed all known poll books. WSFHS has produced a facsimile version of the 1775 poll book on microfiche, with a printed index. I am currently editing the 1705 Surrey Poll Book for publication.

- Guildhall Library: Handlist of poll books and registers of electors (1970)
 Edwards, L W L: Directories and Poll Books in the Library of the Society of Genealogists (SG, 1989)
 Cannon, J: Poll Books (Short Guides to Records, No 2)
 Gibson, J S W and Rogers, C: Poll Books c1696-1872 A Directory to Holdings in Great Britain (FFHS, 3rd edition 1994)
 WSFHS: Surrey 1775 Poll Book (WSFHS RS15, 1992)

11 Electoral Registers (1832-date)

By a series of reform acts from 1832, the suffrage has been widened until it is now enjoyed by virtually everyone over 18. Registers of those entitled to vote have been produced regularly since 1832, copies of the earlier ones being preserved in the Quarter Sessions Records. Electoral registers give very little information and are very rarely indexed. However they are a very useful source, particularly in later years, of movement, and are easier to search (as they contain many fewer people) than the census returns. Good runs are held by some local libraries for their areas, especially from the late 19th century. The Southwark collection at the Southwark Local History Library is particularly fine.

A 'Gibson Guide' lists all known collections of Electoral Registers.

- Gibson, J S W and Rogers, C: Electoral Registers since 1832; and Burgess Rolls (FFHS, 2nd edition 1990)
 Guildhall Library: Handlist of poll books and registers of electors (1970)
 Powell, D L: Surrey Quarter Sessions Records (1932)

12 Rate Books and Land Tax Assessments (18th century-date)

It has always been the duty of the whole community to care for the destitute, to maintain the highways and, until recently, to keep the local church fabric in repair. For these purposes assessments were made on the populace. Later on, rates were raised for other purposes such as lighting, sewers etc. They are found in parochial collections (either civil or ecclesiastical parishes) though some emanate from other authorities, and some have strayed out of official custody altogether.

A particularly important series of these records are the Land Tax Assessments. From 1780 to 1831 copies were returned annually to the Clerk of the Peace and survive in an almost complete series in the Quarter Sessions Records at the Surrey History Centre. They are arranged by parish and detail the owner of each piece of property, the occupier, the rateable value and the assessment. The tax was imposed as early as 1693, and continued until the mid-twentieth century, and occasional returns earlier or later than those in the Quarter Sessions records appear in parochial and other accumulations. An index to Surrey Land Tax Assessments 1780-1832 (outside the Metropolitan area) has been published on fiche.

Surrey and Middlesex rate books are found listed in two WSFHS RAs.

- Neville, P: Surrey Land Tax Assessments 1780-1832 (East Surrey FHS RP M63-65, 1997)
 Powell, D L: Surrey Quarter Sessions Records (1932)
 Darlington, I: Short Guides to Records No. 1: Rate Books
 Hunt, H G: Short Guides to Records No. 16: Land Tax Assessments
 Powell, D L: Abstract of Parish Records Civil and Ecclesiastical (1928)
 Gibson, J S W and Mills D: Land & Window Tax Assessments c1690-c1950 (FFHS, 2nd edition, updated 2004)
 Webb, C R: A Guide to Surrey Parish Documents (WSFHS RA42 1999)
 A Guide to Middlesex Parish Documents (WSFHS RA33, 5th edition 2006)

13 Directories (18th century-date)

Directories, though beginning at the end of the 17th century are a major source only for the 19th century and later. As the 19th century progresses they become fuller and fuller, until by 1900 in some directories there are lists of virtually all householders. In contrast at the beginning of the 19th century, directories would list only the nobility, clergy, gentry and a few major tradesmen.

Directories, being after all basically commercial publications, give only very limited information in themselves, though this can be useful, especially about occupations. However, they are probably most useful, until 1901 at least, as a supplementary index to the census returns. They also, of course, provide a good general clue to location for the searcher, who can turn from there to other sources such as parish registers.

With the widening of coverage, the geographical spread of each directory (and their size) altered. The first directories were often national; gradually they became regional, and then county directories evolved, eventually developing into the familiar 'Kelly' pattern of large stout, county directories, with a series of separate directories for each of the towns in the county. The Surrey History Centre has a very good collection of directories, and most major local libraries have a collection for their area. The best and most accessible collection of directories nationwide is that held by the Guildhall Library, London.

It has been filmed, up to 1900, by the LDS church. The British Library, Bodleian Library and Cambridge University Library have excellent collections, particularly of earlier material, but there are substantial delays in production, especially at the British Library, and readers' tickets have to be obtained in advance. There is a very good, though not absolutely comprehensive bibliography (Shaw & Tipper, see below). I have produced a full list of the location of all known pre-1950 Surrey directories (WSFHS RA29).

It is worth saying that Directories are often unique, and new ones still turn up from time to time. I have had the pleasure of discovering several unique directories, including a Chichester directory ten years older than any previously known (\$5 in a Salt Lake City bookshop, where else!).

Mention should perhaps be made here of another source with 19th century beginnings, but which is of much greater use for the present century - the telephone directory. The first ones were very slight affairs, and are mainly of London. The first national directory was issued in 1899/1900. The best collection is at the Historical Telephone Directory Library, 7th Floor, 211 Old Street, London EC1. <Ancestry.com> have started providing online access to this collection.

- Atkins, P J: The Directories of London (1991)
 Guildhall Library: Handlist of Directories (Handlist at the Library)
 Edwards, L W L: Directories and Poll Books in the Library of the Society of Genealogists (SG, 1989)
 Drinkall, P & Maggs, K: A Guide to the Croydon Street Directories (North Downs Press, 1984)
 Ensing, R J: Directories (Wandsworth Historical Society, 1985)
 Shaw, G & Tipper, A: British Directories: A Bibliography and Guide (1850-1950) (Leicester University Press, 1988)
 Webb, C R : A List of Surrey Directories and their locations (WSFHS RA29, 2nd edition, 1994)

14 Marriage Indexes (1538-1837)

Although not intended as lists of inhabitants as such, the Surrey Marriage Indexes, which are now complete for all the parishes in the county as far into London as Camberwell, contain the names of the majority of inhabitants of that area for the period in question, unfortunately, the indexes are arranged by males only, so female searches are not possible. This defect is not present in the electronic index. This has been published on CD Rom. A new edition will soon be available.

Gibson, J S W & Hampson, E: Marriage and Census Indexes for Family Historians (FFHS 8th edition 2000)

Webb, C R: Various articles in Root and Branch, which periodically update the list of coverage.

Wilcock, T: Various articles in Root and Branch, which periodically update the list of coverage of the electronic index.

15 Poor Law Records (17th-20th centuries)

Poor Law records contain some lists of people, mainly paupers and workhouse inhabitants. The records contain a very large number of names, mainly of people who (prior to the census returns) were apt to be missing in other sources. The vast majority of the parochial Poor Law records which survive in the Surrey History Centre have been calendared and are available on a WSFHS CD Rom. One volume of Surrey settlement examinations has appeared in print. Poor Law records may also sometimes be found in undeposited parish accumulations, and in local libraries and museums, where they have either been deposited as part of civil parish collections, or have strayed from official custody altogether. Later Poor Law records (after 1834) are generally to be found in Boards of Guardians or workhouse records.

WSFHS has published lists of the City of London Parochial Poor Law records and a list of all London, Middlesex and Surrey Boards of Guardians and Workhouse records

- Berryman, B: Mitcham Settlement Examinations 1784-1814 (SRS Vol 27, 1973)
 Powell, D L: Abstract of Parish Records Civil and Ecclesiastical (1928)
 Webb, C R: A Guide to Surrey Parish Documents (WSFHS RA42 1999)
 City of London Poor Law Records (WSFHS RA28, 1992)
 A Guide to Middlesex Parish Documents (WSFHS RA33, 5th edition 2006)
 London, Middlesex and Surrey Workhouse Records (WSFHS RA31, 1991, reprinted 2005)

16 Tithe Maps and Apportionments (1838-1852)

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 necessitated the drawing up of large-scale maps of all areas where tithes were paid. Some areas were freed of tithes, either because of an earlier enclosure or because the land had been tithe-free since medieval times (usually land originally belonging to a monastic house). However, for most parts of most Surrey parishes there is a tithe apportionment made between 1838 and 1852. The apportionment gives the names of landowner and tenant, description number, and tithe payable, and has with it a map on which the plots are identified by number.

Three copies were made of both map and schedule. One was retained by the parish (though often missing, where this copy survives it has often now been deposited with the rest of the parish records), one with the Diocesan Registry (now at the Diocesan Record Office in Surrey's case, the Surrey History Centre) and one with the Tithe Commissioners (now at TNA). A copy of Dorking Tithe Apportionments has been printed by Allan Brigham and Mary Day (£5.00 + p&p £1.20 from Mrs Mary Day, Kingswell, 72 The Street, Capel, Surrey RH5 5LE).

Munby, L M: Short Guides to Records No. 20: Tithe Apportionments and Maps

17 Return of Owners of Land (1873)

A list of all owners of more than an acre of land was collected and printed for all non-Metropolitan England and Wales, and similar volumes appeared for Scotland and Ireland. WSFHS has reprinted the Surrey and Middlesex Sections.

WSFHS: The Return of Owners of Land 1873: Surrey (RS10, 1989 - reprinted 1995)

WSFHS: The Return of Owners of Land 1873: Middlesex (RS13, 1991 - reprinted 1995)

ABBREVIATIONS

ESFHS	= East Surrey Family History
FFHS	= Federation of Family History Societies
GM	= Genealogists' Magazine
MS	= Microfiche Series
RA	= Research Aid
RS	= Record Series
SAC	= Surrey Archaeological Collections
SG	= Society of Genealogists
SRS	= Surrey Record Society
TNA	= The National Archives
WSFHS	= West Surrey Family History Society