

# Kiss My Past Hello!

Uncovering my hidden family history

Keith Howard

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I suspect that, if asked, members of my family will readily point out how hopeless I am at keeping records – and keeping in touch. Not surprisingly, then, I indebted to many for help in uncovering much of what follows: Charlotte Howard, my longsuffering wife, for painstaking work online, with ancestry.com, and for tracking down birth, marriage, and death records; Sue Egerton, my sister, for making a stab at our family tree and for correcting some of my many mistakes, and Martyn Egerton, my brother-in-law, for giving me access to his files of photographs; my cousins Mick Stringer, Pat Godfrey, and Margaret Waller, for telling me about their own respective families and for letting me copy their photographs; Jonathan and Joan Foster, and members of Pirbright Historians, for the immense amounts of primary research on village history that they have conducted, including on members of my father's family. There are others, too. Also, my mother's mother, Hilda May Varns (née Sutton), left hundreds of postcards and an archive of photographs and other personal documents which, although they required considerable deciphering, have proved invaluable.

Keith Howard ©2024

# **1. The family of my father, Wilfred Leonard Howard**

## **Preamble**

Until the class system began to break down in the 1930s, and then with the abrupt changes that World War II brought, the social history of England was not kind to the poor. The poor trod lightly on the earth and left few records. They worked as labourers and domestic servants. At times they benefitted from the poor laws and at times they suffered the misfortune to start or end their days within workhouses. Or, they simply lived and died, oblivious to the outside world just as the outside world knew little about them. Menfolk tended to remain close to where they were born. They found spouses locally, or they might venture to a neighbouring village or town. They worked in much the same jobs as their parents did, as farm workers, servants, or general labourers. Some served trades such as blacksmithing, milling, building, or printing, taking on general roles or, if they were lucky, landing an apprenticeship. Womenfolk often became domestic servants, from which they would be sacked if they became pregnant, and when married they were reduced, as census records have it, to carrying out 'unpaid domestic duties,' or perhaps taking in laundry, or darning, or other piecemeal work. Going into service might, though, enable a woman to move away from where one had been born.

Village life changed slowly, and what industry existed tended to be small and localised. Travelling any further than one could walk had, broadly speaking, to wait until cheap railway tickets became available. Enlisting in the military, or working for one of the railway companies, might open a wider world. During the Victorian era, schooling began to impact village life; it brought potentials to challenge one's allotted place. Industrialisation impoverished rural communities, hence Sherlock Holmes – or rather the writer Conan Doyle – lamented how swathes of the countryside had become deserted by the late nineteenth century. But industrialisation allowed the poor to gravitate to towns and cities in search of work. Still, those born poor tended to remain caught within low-skilled jobs, wherever they chose to live. They might move if a friend or family member heard of a job outside the immediate locale, or if the head of a family one worked for introduced a friend or family member who needed a trusted worker. But dreams of a better future hardly impacted the drudgery of daily life.

Among those with poor ancestors, family stories are commonly distant and opaque. My family history is obscured further because I hardly knew my grandfather, Leonard Howard (1892–1967). I recall visiting him with his son and my father, Wilfred Leonard Howard, shortly before he died. For virtually all his life, Leonard lived in Pirbright – as had generations of Howards before him. Hence, and as confirmed by the report of his death carried in the Surrey Advertiser on 28 January 1967, when he died in hospital in Aldershot on 17 January, he was buried three days later (on the tenth anniversary of Clara Ellen's – my grandmother's – death) back in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels, Pirbright. Generations of my relatives on my father's side had been baptised, married, and buried in the same church. Leonard had been baptised there on 20 May 1892, two months after his birth on 28 March 1892. When I was too young to remember, my sister Susan had visited Pirbright and met Leonard (and his wife, Clara Ellen) several times, and we even adopted a kitten – Sandy – from the family. But when I visited Leonard with my father, he had moved into sheltered accommodation at 18

Longacre, Ash, for what turned out to be his last two years of life, and the lasting impression I came away with was that my father had no respect for him. My father told us Leonard was one of 12 boys – not too far from the truth but not completely accurate. He was indeed the ninth child of 12 born to Henry Howard (1854–1921) and Mary Howard (née Parsons; 1857–1928), but among the 12 were two girls. I never knowingly met any of Leonard’s siblings, even though some were still alive when I was young. And somehow, Pirbright seemed a long way away, even though it could easily be reached by two short bus rides from where my family lived. Bluntly put, my father was not close to his family.

Some may countenance against returning – as Amor Towles puts it in *A Gentleman in Moscow*, ‘If one has been absent for decades from a place once held dear, the wise would generally counsel that one should never return there again’ (221, 461) – but that is hardly possible if one wants to explore the family tree. So, first, let me turn my attention to Pirbright, the village where so many from my father’s family were born and lived. Situated within the Borough of Guildford in Surrey’s southwestern district, the parish covers some 4711 acres. The main settlement fans out around The Green, stretching across heathland to Fox Corner on the main road to Guildford, and to Stanford and West Heath westwards. The village name was recorded in 1155 as Perifrith, from *pyr ridge* (pear tree) and *fryth* (wooded area), and it formed part of the Royal Hunting Forest of Windsor for several centuries. The first comprehensive village history, issued in 1931 by long-term village resident Mary Cawthorn (1852–1940) and Henry Jones Curtis (1866–1944), a pathologist and writer who in 1907 married the neoclassical artist Dorothy Tennant (1855–1926) – the widow of Pirbright’s most famous resident, Henry Morton Stanley – has it that the land was gifted to Richard, the son of Henry I, and was then inherited by the De Clares, the Earls of Gloucester, passing ‘along the lines of kinship, broken at times by reversion to the Crown’ (1931, xi). The manor house and nearby mill date from the thirteenth century, although the present house is largely sixteenth century, timber framed and partially clad in red and blue brick. It was part of Catherine of Aragon’s dowry when she married Henry VIII. The eighteenth century saw both brick cottages and larger houses built, and building or rebuilding has continued ever since, but for many centuries Pirbright was little more than an isolated agricultural community. In 1794, the Basingstoke Canal opened to the north of the main settlement, dividing the parish into two separate areas, and 1839 saw the mainline railway arrive, built along the same corridor as the canal. The railway splits as it passes the village, a branch going to Aldershot and Farnham while the mainline continues to Basingstoke and Southampton. Beginning in the 1870s, much of the heathland surrounding the village was purchased by the Ministry of Defence. Pirbright Camp, the major army barracks, was built to the north of the canal and railway, and today restricted land known as Pirbright Ranges still lies to the west. To the east is Brookwood cemetery, the major cemetery for the British war dead, divided by Cemetery Pales into the graves of those from the established church on one side from other faiths (and non-Church of England) on the other side. The village hall, Lord Pirbright’s Hall, was built in 1899 by Baron Henri de Worms. He, as Lord Pirbright, lived at Henley Park just outside the parish boundary and employed many locals, though not without controversy, in building many of the more modest houses that still stand.





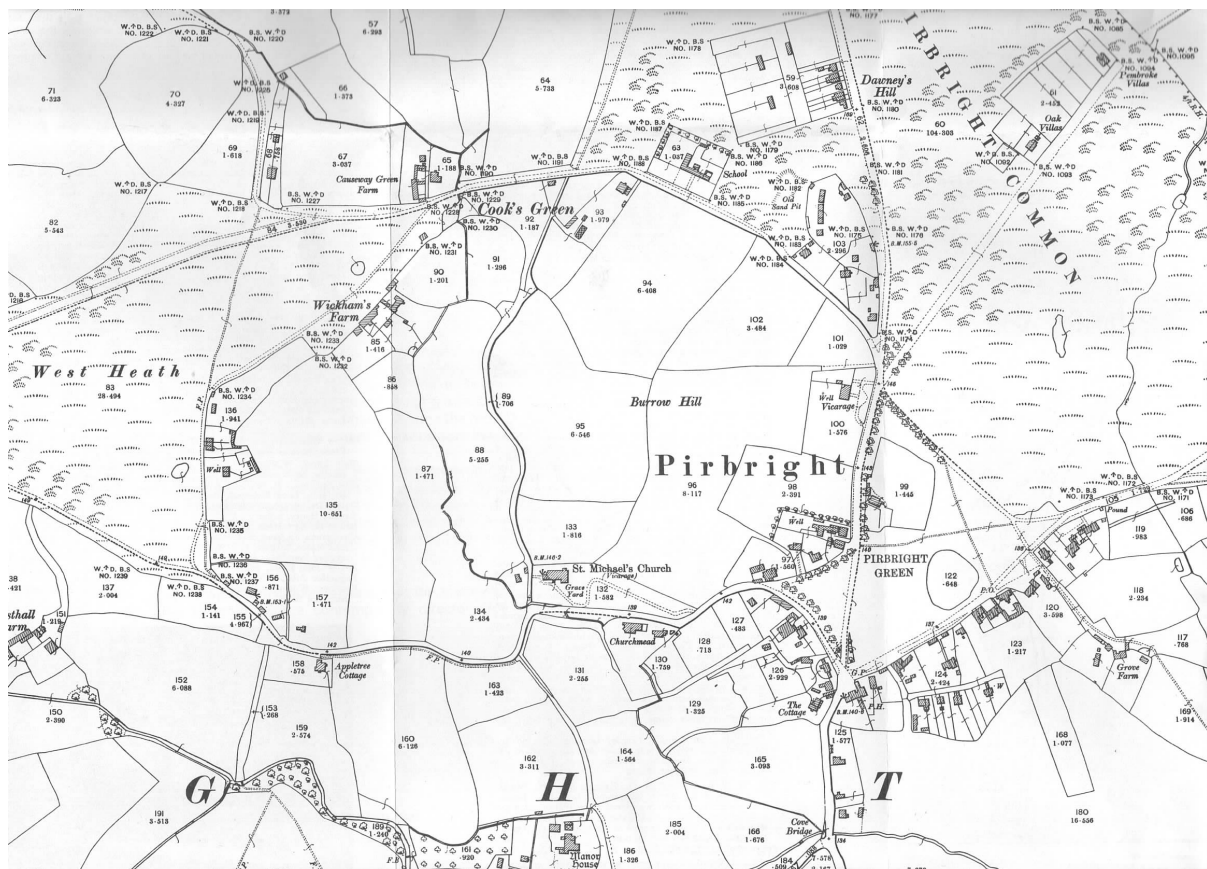
From the past: harvest time, and 'The Hounds' at Pirbright...

The main road through the village is the A324, running southwest to Ash and thence to Aldershot and Farnham, and to the north taking a sharp right after passing under the railway through an arch barely wide enough for a single line of traffic to pass through to become Connaught Road, Brookwood, then running to Knaphill and Woking. The A322 from Guildford passes to the east of the village at Fox Corner, meets Cemetery Pales then crosses the A324 at the end of Connaught Road near where Brookwood Hospital, completed in 1867 as a lunatic asylum, once stood, and then goes north to Bagshot and beyond. The B3405, School Lane, which becomes Grange Road, runs west to Mytchett and Farnborough. East from The Green, Cemetery Pales begins as White Hart Corner, with its old and well-established hostelry and public house. Chief among Pirbright's substantial properties is Furzehill Place (formerly Furze Hill and Twyn Hill), on what today is named Stanley Hill. This is a Grade II listed Victorian house with 12 bedrooms that was built in 1899 for Henry Morton Stanley (1841–1904), the explorer and founder of the Congo Free State who became famous when he found David Livingstone at Lake Tanganyika in 1871 ('Dr Livingstone, I presume'). Stanley is in many ways Pirbright's most celebrated resident, although his sojourn in the village was brief. He was born far away as John Reynolds in Denbeighshire but was abandoned by his mother. Escaping the workhouse, he travelled to America, where he took his name (and American citizenship) from a wealthy trader, Henry Hope Stanley, who had always wanted a son. He only took British citizenship as he entered parliament as the member for Lambeth in 1895, and four years later, when he built the Pirbright residence, he was already ailing; Pirbright was a place where he could escape the pollution of London. One photo shows him in the grounds of Furzehill Place, already an invalid, and he was usually wheeled around in a large wheelchair; the wheelchair was found not long ago in Pirbright Manor and has been gifted to the Rural Life Living Museum in Tilford, near Farnham. Stanley died at his home in Whitehall in 1904 but was refused a grave at Westminster Abbey, and thus he was brought back to Pirbright to be buried. His grave is in St Michaels and All Angels churchyard, marked by a stone monolith quarried on Dartmoor, and the church contains a bronze memorial plaque to him. My father, of course, boasted of the Stanley connection to Pirbright, wanting to sprinkle gold dust on the place of his own birth. He never, though, mentioned another famed resident – although proof of the association is difficult to find – Admiral John Byron, the grandfather of the poet, who having been shipwrecked in Patagonia, on his return passed through Pirbright. Finding it amenable, he built part of what today is Pirbright Lodge (the main part of the lodge was built by Captain James Stirling, who had led an exploration of the Swan River from what is now Fremantle in Western Australia). Byron is said to have planted a row of pines, creating

what is still today known as Admiral's Walk, although the pines have long since gone, replaced by birch and chestnut.



Above: Furzehill Place. Below: Pirbright, 1894 (OS Map).



There has been a church in the village for at least 800 years, and possibly from earlier still. The first record of a chapel dates to 1210 and to the reign of King John, although the current building dates only from 1785 and was built to replace an earlier building that had fallen into serious disrepair and was considered unsafe. Lacking funds, the village looked to public subscription. As the overseers' account has it: '1785: Att a public vestry call, this thirteenth day of September at the Wyte Hart to impower Thomas Woods and John Collins Churchwardens' [to] 'Bori mony towards the Bilden of the Church...' The village poor were relieved some of their duty when fortune shone on the village: King George III was travelling through the village when his coach had an accident. Villagers gave the king hospitality and repaired his coach, and a grateful monarch duly issued a petition for all churches in England to contribute to Pirbright church's rebuilding. Within the walls of the new church, music was provided by a motley band of wind instruments occupying a gallery until around 1870, when



a harmonium was purchased. 1896 saw the installation of a pipe organ, donated by Lord and Lady Pirbright. They also paid for the rehangings of the six bells, and the dedication service for both was reported in a long account published in the Surrey Advertiser on 13 June 1896.

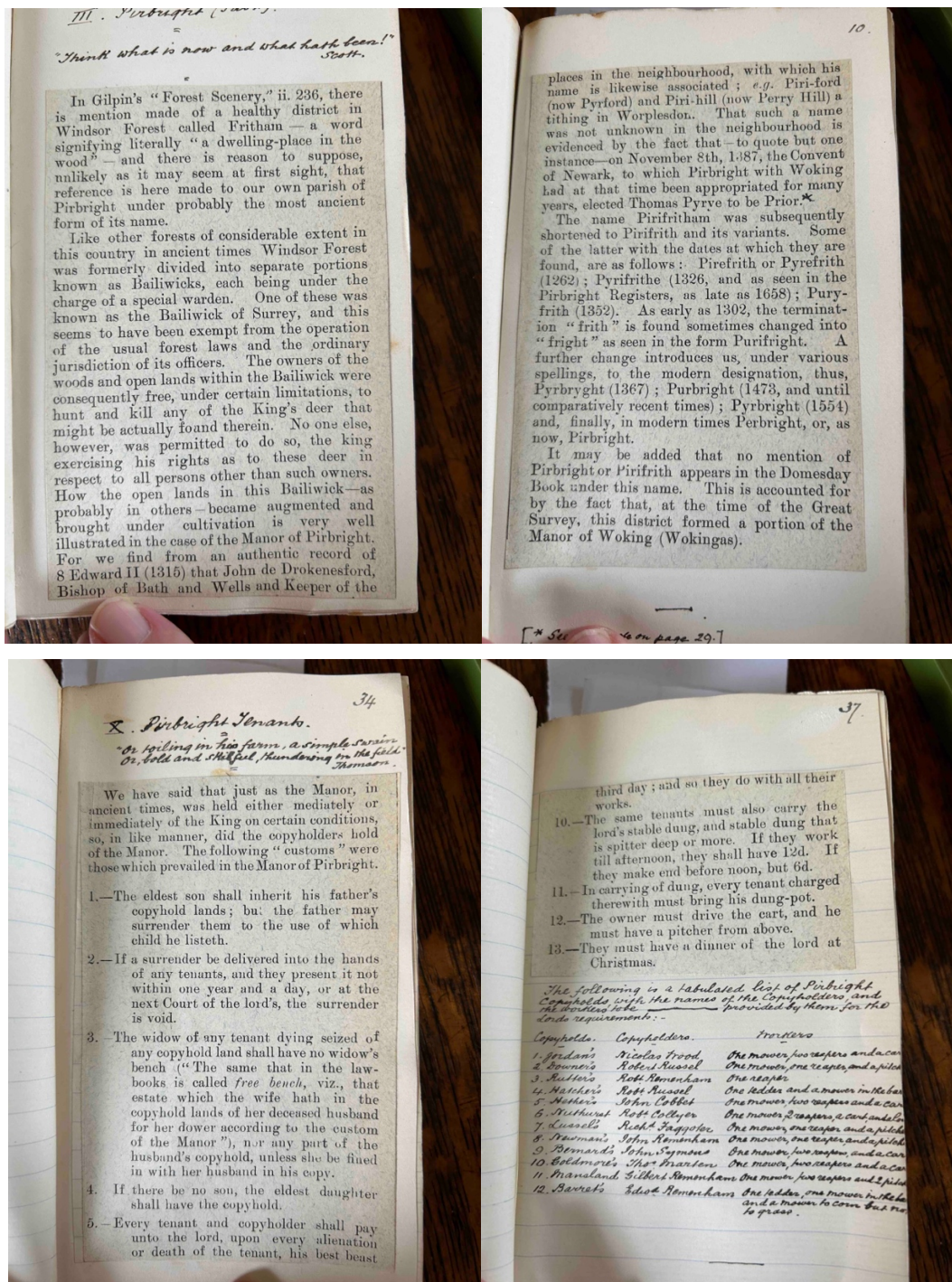


Pirbright church, Stanley's grave, and the invalid Stanley with his wife at Furzehill Place; Pirbright Manor and Mill today, and the former Pirbright School, now used by the Woodland Trust

It was a long-serving vicar, the Revd. Francis Owston, who compiled the earliest written historical account of the village, and below I reproduce two pages of his history section, and two pages of village tenancy rules, the latter including a list of 'copyholders' – the owners of tenanted land. Owston was incumbent from 1851 to 1888. The more substantial history and account of daily life by Mary Cawthorn and Henry Jones Curtis, *History of Pirbright*, issued in 1931, offers a more thorough account than Owston's, based on village life during the time when my great-grandparents and grandparents were living. Curtis's



contribution to this, of course, was less significant than that of Cawthorn, since he maintained his practice in Harley Street, London, after marrying Stanley's widow; Cawthorn is the author remembered and celebrated in the village. More recently, *Pirbright Then and Now*, compiled and published by The Pirbright Historians – Shirley Forster, Jonathan and Joan Foster – in 2012, provides an informative and valuable account, and includes much photographic evidence of former times. I am particularly reliant on this last, and on additional work done by these three historians, including that uploaded to the website [www.pirbrightinfo](http://www.pirbrightinfo). I here record my thanks to Joan and Jonathan for helping me in so many ways in preparing this account.



While my memories of my grandfather are vague, I have no memories of my grandmother, Clara Ellen Howard (née North; 1899–1957): she died on 20 January 1957 when



I was just seven months old. She was buried after four days in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels. The story told within the family is that Clara Ellen felt unwell one afternoon and retired to bed to rest. Her daughter Dorothy (Dot) took her a cup of tea but found Clara Ellen dead on the bed: she had died of a heart attack. In the churchyard, the headstone to her grave memorializes her, and inscriptions along the raised stone edges of the grave record other family members buried with her:

In loving memory of CLARA ELLEN HOWARD died 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 1957 aged 57. PHYLLIS JOAN HOWARD her daughter died 16 Mar 1950 aged 21 ... HARRIETT MARIA NORTH her mother died 30 Dec 1929 aged 72. LUCY MARY NORTH her sister died 16 Jan 1962 aged 67.

When he died three days short of the tenth anniversary of Clara Ellen's death, Leonard, her husband (my grandfather), was buried alongside her, unmarked, but to the left of the grave.



Clara Ellen was born on 27 November 1899, the tenth child of eleven, and was baptised on 14 January 1900. My father would quip that she was one of twelve girls, not too



far from the truth but not completely accurate, since she was one of 11 siblings, eight girls and three boys. Her parents were John North (1846–1908) and Harriet Maria North (née Woods; 1857–1929). They married on 31 December 1884, and lived at Lower Westfield, a farm at the northern end of the small village of Sutton Green. Sutton Place and its park, to the southeast of Sutton Green, is the landmark;<sup>1</sup> its mansion was built by Sir Richard Weston in 1521, and Henry VIII visited in 1533. The Weston connection to the royal court was somewhat diminished when Richard Weston's son was executed, suspected of having an affair with Anne Boleyn. However, Elizabeth I also visited, in 1591, staying three days. To the east of the village are flood plains for the river Wey, and a later Weston introduced canal technology and developed the Wey Navigation, allowing barges to ply from Guildford (and later further south) upstream to join the Thames. Sutton Place was famously bought by the oil tycoon John Paul Getty in 1959, and it features, but rather less famously, in a novel trilogy by Deryn Lake (<http://derynlake.com/sutton.php>). But enough of this. Returning to my family, not only did I never know my grandmother, but I was told nothing about the family's connection to Sutton Green. The village sits between Burpham, Jacobs Well, Mayford, and Woking – only a few miles from where I grew up in Merrow and, indeed, I spent my first five years of secondary school at George Abbot School in Burpham. I recall cycling with my father, aged perhaps 11 or 12, to the River Wey in Jacob's Well on a fishing expedition, and sometime later I cycled with my mother around the eastern perimeter of Sutton Place. No family connection to Sutton Green was ever mentioned. Again, in 1979, my parents and I attended the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party of the sister-in-law of my maternal grandmother, Emily May Rutter (1890–1990), in Jacob's Well, but nobody mentioned any connection to Sutton Green. Truth be told, I did know one of Clara Ellen's siblings, Amy Maud (1903–1983), who lived with her husband Paddy at the end of the 436 London Transport/London Country bus route from Guildford to Walton-on-Thames, but not the two others who were still alive when I was a toddler.



Above: Sutton Place; Below: St Peter's church, Woking, and All Souls church, Sutton Green, churches relevant to the North side of the family

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<sup>1</sup> Information taken from <http://suttongreenet.wordpress.com/home/past>.



## Travelling back in time

So, my father's family goes back several generations in Pirbright. The first grave to a Howard in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels is to Jane Howard, who died 17 April 1777, aged 42, and to her husband William Howard, who died 7 February 1817, aged 84. William would have been born around 1733, and he hailed from Chobham, to the northeast of Pirbright and north of Woking. Jane was born to John and Jane Huntingford and baptised in Worplesdon to the southeast of Pirbright. Her family at some point appear to have moved to Pirbright, since that is where, on 21 October 1759, William married Jane. William and Jane had four sons and a daughter. If these were my ancestors, they would be five-times great grandparents. But, the relationship is not proven. There is also a record of another William Howard, married to Sarah, who baptised James, their son, at St Mary's, Worplesdon, on 15 January 1766. Again, unlikely a direct ancestor, though it is worth noting that the challenge to identify records is made more difficult because, from the 'x' marks in marriage registers and other documents, few of the early Howards were educated and could write.

One useful source of information is the ledgers of the Pirbright Overseers of the Poor. The surviving records cover the period 1810–1819 (with additional entries for 1832 in respect to payments of the church rate) and they were found secreted away in the church vestry in 2008.<sup>2</sup> They include receipts for payments to a Thomas Howard dated 1815, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1825 and 1834. Was this one or several of my ancestors, and was Thomas (or more than one Thomas) a descendant of Jane and William? There were several Thomas Howards living in Pirbright, and one is buried in the churchyard with a headstone: 'In memory of Thomas HOWARD who died 20 December 1831, aged 17.' Another, Thomas William, was the son of my great-grandparents Henry and Mary Howard (see below), who died, aged 21, in 1899. But the first of these is not the Thomas in the first and last of the poor records, since he would have been three years dead by 1834 and just two years old in 1815 (and the records are from well before my ancestor Thomas was born). The poor records also have receipts for payments for a William Howard, dated 1825 and 1839, and William is on the pauper's list in 1850 and 1859. Again, William was a common name for Howard boys. However, and as will become clearer below, the William the records pertain to was my great-great-grandfather. He would,

<sup>2</sup> As noted on <http://www.pirbright.info/Pirbright%20Poor%20Law%20Index.html>, the book plate states, 'This collection of Parochial Documents and Overseers' accounts, 1705–1859, found in the Chapel in the old oak parish chest, which is mentioned in the church inventory, made on 26 August 1712 ...[w]as a gift to the parish from Lady STANLEY and Henry CURTIS, F.R.C.S. of Furze Hill, Pirbright.' The surviving records are now in the Surrey History Centre in Woking (ref.8370/1).

though, have been just 10 in 1825, reflecting the struggles he faced growing up (as discussed below). Three other Howards – John, Henry, and Elizabeth – all have receipts, with Elizabeth's receipts going back to 1814, and the others dating to the 1820s and 1830s. Among these three, John was born in 1808 or earlier – a John Howard was baptised in Pirbright on 4 December 1808 – and married Ann Loveland. He lived in Pirbright until he died in 1852, aged 43. He and Ann had two known children: Mary, baptised on 11 February 1838, who went on to marry Charles Boylett, to give birth to nine children, and to die in Bisley a couple of miles north in 1878, aged 40; and Phoebe, born on 10 March 1843, baptised in April, but who disappears after the 1861 census, presumably having succumbed to an early death. Henry, the second of the three with receipts, was baptised in St Peter's, Woking, on 3 April 1803, and seems to have lived away from Pirbright for most of his life.

Elizabeth Howard, born, based on later census records, between 1794 and 1796 in Horsell, Woking, is far more important to me: she is my earliest ancestor I can trace with reasonable certainty – my great great great-grandmother. Horsell is just a mile or two from Chobham, so it is tempting to double back to the William Howard born around 1733 and buried in Pirbright in 1817 and ponder, even though Howard was such a common surname, whether they were related; if so, that William was Elizabeth's grandfather. It is certainly possible, since we do know Elizabeth's father was a William, as was his grandfather, and their birth dates seem appropriate.

Anyhow, Elizabeth gave birth to her son William in Pirbright, and he was baptised there on 26 February 1815. The baptismal record only gives William's mother, and his mother's surname, sure signs that he was illegitimate. Now, the first receipt in the ledger of the poor records relating to Elizabeth dates to October 1814, which makes it likely that by then, aged between 18 and 20 and between five and six months pregnant, she was unable to continue with her duties as a servant. She would have lost her job, and the receipt for seven shillings is for the cost of lodgings, when lodgings would not have been needed if she was still working in service. A grocer's account for Elizabeth, dated February and March 1815, also survives, and this provides further evidence that she was no longer in service but was living in penury, around the time she gave birth to her son. The account is quite extensive: butter, salt, sugar, bread, a candle, and cheese on 2 February; bread, salt, tea, and a candle on 7 February; nutmeg, sugar, and a candle on 11 February; and so on. The overseer's records record payments in March 1815 for her maternity care, as 'nursing' and 'laying', while in September she was given seven shillings and six pence for turf (peat, for fuel) and in January 1816 a further six shillings and six pence for shoes. In March 1816 she received a further one pound seven shillings, marked in the ledger with '& D Alderton'; 'D' was for 'dame', that is, an elderly woman, so by that time she was boarding with – and looking after – the family of James Alderton and his elderly mother.

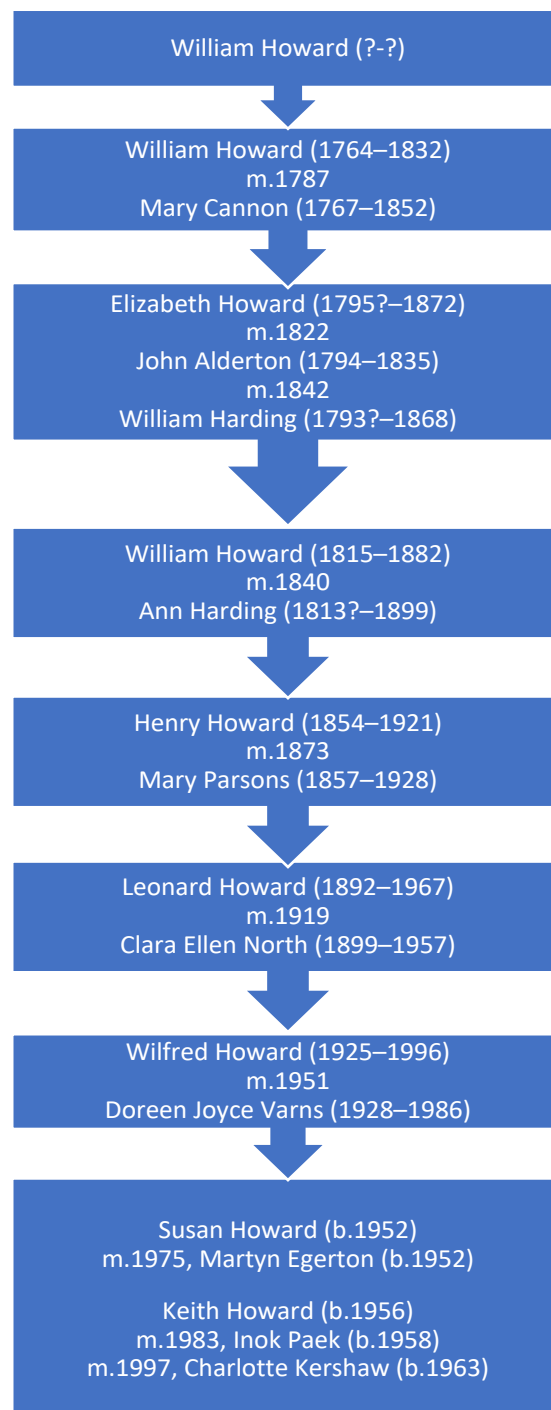
There is more about Elizabeth. The Alderton connection was to prove significant, since on 10 August 1822 Elizabeth married James Alderton's son, John. John had been born in December 1794, and the couple went on to have four children: John, Henry, Jane, and Martha, all of whom were baptised in Pirbright on, respectively, 29 December 1822, 20 January 1828, 13 December 1831, and 7 November 1833. John died in 1835 and was buried in the churchyard on 18 September of that year. Fate intervened further, since the 1841 census records Elizabeth as a widow living in Upper Green (today's Chapel Lane). She was with her daughter Martha and son Henry, and Henry was working as a servant at the White Hart. A year later, though, on 11 June 1842, Elizabeth remarried. Her second husband was William



1815 Feb 21. Howard's Bot of		
Feb 21		
2 1/2 lb	Fresh Butter	00 9 1/4
2 1/2 lb	Sage	00 6
1 lb	Salt	00 1 1/2
1	Candle	00 1 1/4
2 1/2 lb	Lafe Bread	00 5 1/2
1 lb	Maiz Sugar	01 1
2 1/2 lb	Chees	00 5
1 lb	Lafe Bread	00 11 1/4
2 1/2 lb	Chees Sage	00 6
1 3/4	Tea Mix	00 6
1	Candle	00 1 1/4
1	Butter	00 2 1/2
1 lb	Maiz sugar	01 1
1	Candle	00 1 1/4
1 3/4	Tea Mix	00 6
2 1/2 lb	Lafe	00 6
1	Candle	00 1 1/4
2 1/2 lb	Gallan Wood shes	00 6 1/2
1	print flower	00 2 1/2
1 1/2	Lafe Bread	00 6
1	Candle	00 1 1/4
2 1/2 lb	Lafe Bread	00 6
2 1/2 lb	Maiz sugar	00 6 1/2
1 1/2	Tea	00 6
1	Lafe Bread	01 0
1 1/2 lb	Salt Butter	00 4 1/2
1	Lafe Bread	01 0
2 1/2 lb	Sage	00 6
2 1/2 lb	Maiz sugar	00 6 1/2
2 1/2 lb	Chees	00 4 1/2
1	Candle	00 1 1/4
1	print Blue	00 1
2 1/2 lb	Maiz sugar	00 6 1/2
2 1/2 lb	Lafe Bread	01 0
March 5		15 11 1/2
1 1/2 lb	hurd	01 0
1 1/2 lb	pank	00 1 1/2
1 1/2 lb	Tea	00 6 1/2
1 1/2 lb	Tea	00 6 1/2

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So, having now established my great great great-grandmother's identity and her parents and grandfather, an overview of the family tree on my father's side would look like this:



Elizabeth's son, William, married Ann Harding (1813?–1899) at St Michael and All Angels, Pirbright on 6 June 1840. These are my great great-grandparents, and their marriage certificate gives William's father as James Harding. Harding was, of course, another common surname, so although two years later Elizabeth would take a Harding as her second husband that husband is unlikely to have been related. It might seem something of a slip of the pen to write 'Harding' against William's father, but the evidence suggests otherwise. To demonstrate, I return to William's baptismal record, where the very next entry is for the baptism of a James

Harding, born to James and Milly Mary Harding.<sup>3</sup> This suggests something more than a coincidence:

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Pirbright</i>						
in the County of <i>Surrey</i> in the Year 1815						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1815. Feb 26. No. 33.	James	James	Harding	Pirbright.	Potter.	J. B. Platt. Curate
Feb 26. No. 34.	William	Elizabeth	Howard	Pirbright.	Servant.	J. B. Platt. Curate.


The senior James was a potter, working, presumably, at the pottery opposite Providence Chapel along Chapel Lane. James junior died in August, having barely reached six months of age, but the possibility of a relationship to William Howard is thrown up by entries in the Pirbright overseers' records. In June 1815, the records include a payment of 14 shillings for Milly's nursing, and in November 1815, a payment for her coffin and shroud. So, she and her son had both died within a few months. Then, however, the overseers' records report that in April 1816 a shilling was paid to Elizabeth for an oath. The oath has been lost, but it probably stated who William's father was. And that, probably, was James Harding senior. This becomes more and more likely as we find later entries in the overseers' volume: in March 1816, a warrant was issued and paid for, to bring James back to Pirbright. He had fled, as another entry in the same month, for the princely sum of four pounds, demonstrates: 'Expenses in going after J<sup>s</sup> Harding.' He proved elusive, since a summons was issued on two occasions, in April 1819 and August 1820. It appears that debts were to be recovered, and if the oath had indeed named him, these would have included debts for the payments to Elizabeth relating to her illegitimate son and the time she had spent unable to work.

Jumping forward again to William's marriage to Ann Harding, there are questions about her age and parentage which throw up the very real possibility – perhaps likelihood – that she was William's half-sister. First, her age: she was reported in the 1841 census as being 25, so born in 1815 or 1816, but the 1851 census revises this, indicating she had been born around 1820 (that is, she was 31 in 1851). In both the 1861 and 1871 census her birth date was recorded as having been around 1814, but the 1881 census revises this backwards, indicating she was born around 1811. And in 1891, 1810 was given for the year of her birth. Second, her birthplace, which changed from census to census: Worplesdon in 1851, Guildford in 1861, Worplesdon in 1871, Guildford in 1891. When she died at the beginning of 1899, the burial register gave her age as 88, thus backdating her birth date to a 'safe' but unlikely 1810 or 1811. Further, the marriage entry for William and Ann gives Ann's father as Benjamin Harding, but the only Ann Harding born in Pirbright with a father named Benjamin was baptised in 1826, so would have been too young for our Ann, while two other known Ann

<sup>3</sup> The baptism registration for Ann (spelt 'Anne') gives 'Millimary', but the two entries in 1815 in the overseers' records clearly write her name as 'Milly'.



Hardings born around this time in the area do not fit with Benjamin as a father – one was born in Horsell to a Daniel in 1816 and the other baptised on 2 May 1813 in Pirbright to a James. Is that the same James Harding? It appears likely, and if it is then it explains why her background was disguised or invented, steering those who might want to know away from who her real father was (though it would be reasonable to assume that many in Pirbright would have gossiped...). William and Ann's marriage certificate is below:



**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE**      **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**

Application Number **COL221052**

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1840. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Pirbright in the County of Surge

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
20	1 <sup>st</sup> June 1840	William Howard	24	Bachelor	Labourer	Pirbright	James Harding	Labourer
		Ann Harding	24	Spinster	—	Pirbright	Benjamin Harding	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me, J. H. Parnham

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Howard in the Presence of us, Henry Howard  
Ann Harding the Parson of Ann Howard

William worked until he died as a farm labourer in Pirbright. Although labouring was what so many did, it was seasonal, uncertain, work. In the 1841 census the couple were living at the 'lower part of the Green', presumably on the south side between the Cricketers and White Hart. In 1850, he was excused from paying the church rate, and in the 1851 and 1861 censuses he was living at 6 and then 5 Almshouses – tiny houses in which to bring up a family. The Almshouses were situated at the edge of the village along Mill Lane, beyond the Manor House and Pirbright Lodge; they were torn down and replaced around the turn of the twentieth century with a set of part-tiled houses known as the Longhouses. No photographs survive of the earlier hovels, although Cawthorn discusses how dilapidated and basic they were. Also in 1851, the census has ten-year-old son William John already working as a day labourer. Adding things together the conclusion must be that the family were in a precarious financial condition, and since William senior was on the pauper's list in 1859, financial security proved to be elusive over an extended period of many years. The family did, however, move to 8 The Row by the time of the 1871 census, into a new bungalow built at the top of Chapel Lane; Ann was taking in laundry to help keep afloat. By 1881, they were living at the Old Pottery, also on Chapel Lane. Their daughter Ann had died, and William and Ann senior were looking after her child, Stephen John Chewter (sometimes spelt Chuter), who was five. But William died in spring 1882 and was buried in the churchyard. Ann continued to struggle. At the time of the 1891 census she was still taking in laundry and looking after her grandson, who, aged 15, was a general labourer. She had a lodger, Samuel Hockley, and had moved to Creper Cottage, Chapel Lane. In 1895, she was admitted to the Guildford Union Workhouse, ill or poor, and she died there in 1899. She was buried on 1 February back in Pirbright.


By the middle of the nineteenth century the Howards dutifully baptised their children. Henry, my great grandfather and one of the sons of William and Ann, was baptised at St Michael and All Angels on 7 May 1854. His siblings were William John (John; 1841–1918?),

James (1843–1852), Ann (1846–1878), and Ellen (b.1850). William John was born on 23 May 1841 and baptised in Pirbright on 20 June. He was working in Pirbright in 1871, but a year later, in October 1872, his employer John Faggetter sold up as a publican and builder, which presumably gave William John the impetus to move. He settled briefly in Chertsey before moving to Weybridge. He married twice, first to Rachel Edwards (1839–1887) in August 1873 and second to Ellen Ridgeway (1841–1916) in 1888. With Rachel, he had three children: Rosa Emily (1874–1908), Edith Agnes (b.1879), and Amy Annie (1880–1896). The 1881 census records that the family were employing a domestic servant, suggesting William John had secured a steady income. His second marriage came very soon after his first wife died, presumably to assist with raising the children, and his second wife was a widow just as he was a widower. There is a record of an Ellen marrying a Ridgeway in Whitechapel in 1881, although, and assuming this is the Ellen who became William John's second wife, we have no indication of how she came to move to Weybridge. William John was in the Chertsey Workhouse in Ottershaw, described as a 'former labourer', by 1911, while his second wife, Ellen, served as housekeeper for the elderly Frederick Clinch in Windlesham, Bagshot (northwest of Woking and north of Pirbright, a settlement associated with other members of the Howard family). When William John died is uncertain, although there is a record of a William Howard who died in Chertsey in 1918; Ellen died, aged 65, in spring 1916.

In 1861, the census records that William and Ann's then 15-year-old first daughter, also named Ann, was working in Aldershot as a servant to a butcher, George Landridge. She was back home when the 1871 census was taken, and in 1876 she married Stephen John Chewter in Pirbright. He had been born in Aldershot in 1821, hence would have been 24 years older than Ann. The marriage register omits his father's name, but while this might otherwise suggest illegitimacy his 1821 baptism registration gives his parents as Stephen and Jane, and his father is known to have later worked as a potter in Pirbright. The junior Stephen and junior Ann had one known child, also named Stephen, who was baptised on 13 February 1876. Ann died just two years later, and her husband returned to live with his mother, Jane (he would die in 1896), while the youngest Stephen went to live with Ann's parents. Like so many, the youngest Stephen worked as a general labourer once he left school in 1888, but in 1899 he joined the Fifteenth Kings' Hussars. All his service was in India, where he is known to have married three times, to Emily Jahans, Stella Dagma Halden, and Inez Muriel Halden – the second and third of these were presumably sisters, and he married the older Inez just 18 months after marrying the younger Stella. The records of his service, and evidence of his various medals, continue until 1930, although he and Inez must have divorced before this since she remarried in 1926. Finally, William and Ann's youngest daughter, Ellen, married John Chandler (1841–1890) in 1870. They had six sons and four daughters, the first three born in Pirbright and the rest in Addlestone where the family settled and where John worked for the London and South-Western Railway. Ellen was left to raise the family when John died, but by then the older children were already working, so could contribute to the rent payments. Ten years later, the 1901 census records five of the children still with her, William (aged 25) working for the railway, John (23) working as a labourer, George (21) a bricklayer, Charles (12) a stable boy, and Peter (10) still at school.

I have detoured away from my closest relatives too much, so must return to my great-grandfather, Henry. When the 1871 census was taken, he had joined his father and like so many others was working as an agricultural labourer. He married Mary Parsons (1857–1928) at Aldershot Parish Church on 18 August 1873 when he was 19 and she 16 (although the

marriage registration gives their ages as 20 and 17, respectively). Mary had also been baptised at St Michael and All Angels in Pirbright, and her baptism registration records her father Thomas as, simply, a labourer. We do not know why the couple married in Aldershot rather than Pirbright, although the possibility that the parents disapproved when Mary was still underage appears to be disproved by the fact that the parents of both are listed as witnesses on the marriage registration.



**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE**      **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**

Application Number    COL428569

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Mar. reg.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
1873	August 19th	Henry Howard	20	Bachelor	Labourer	Aldershot	William Howard	Labourer
87	1873	Mary Parsons	17	Spinster	-	Aldershot	Thomas Parsons	Labourer

Married in the St Michael Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by \_\_\_\_\_ or after Revens by me, Henry J. Webb Esq.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Henry Howard his mark + Mary Parsons his mark +  
 in the Presence of us, Thomas Parsons his mark + William Howard his mark +

When the 1861 census was taken, the Parsons were living at Church Cottages, Pirbright, with Mary and her two younger siblings, Ellen and Catherine, aged 1 and six months respectively. By 1871, Mary was working as a servant at Lower Mill House, Pirbright, where John Frost Sherman, a 39-year-old miller originally from Lincolnshire, was head of the family (with Sarah, his wife, children John Peter, Isabella, Henry George, and a niece, Bertha). The 1881 census records the now married Henry and Mary living at Boro Hill Cottages (later, Sandpit Cottages), next to the village sand pit and the schoolhouse. This was a small, single-story two-bedroom cottage recently built and rented to them by William Roots. As the family grew, however, they needed to move, and they were at the top end of Chapel Lane near The Green by the time of the 1891 census, living in a cottage built in the 1870s that in 1886 had been purchased by the postmaster, Henry Searle (now demolished and replaced). When the census was taken, Henry was not at home, but by then the couple had seven children.



Boro Hill Cottages 100 years ago, and the three that remain today as Sandpit Cottages. Henry likely rented the right-hand property when the 1881 census was taken

One of the children was the Thomas William already mentioned. He was employed as a cowboy, but he died in 1899, and somewhat unexpectedly given the family penury, a



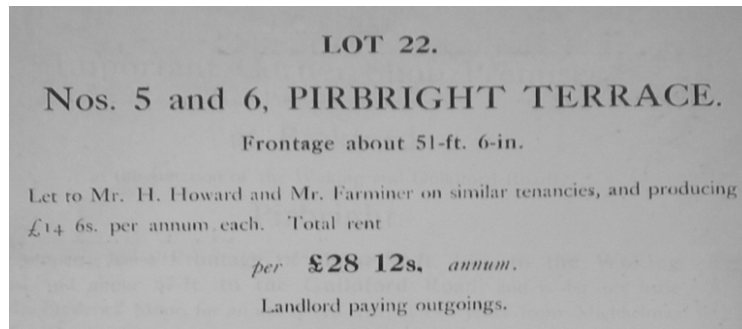
headstone to his grave survives in the churchyard: 'In loving memory of Thomas William HOWARD, second son of Henry and Mary Howard, who fell asleep April 7<sup>th</sup> 1899 in his 21<sup>st</sup> year. Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on his gentle breast. There by his love o'ershade, sweetly my soul shall rest.' The headstone is below:



Henry took work as a bricklayer, and in 1904 the family moved to 5 The Terrace, Pirbright (also known as Pirbright Terrace). This was one of a terrace of well-constructed houses built by Lord Pirbright in 1897 and served as their home for the rest of their lives. It is seen in the photos below. The rent was made more manageable because the older children were already working. When Lord Pirbright's widow died, in 1916, the nine cottages in the terrace were auctioned, by which time, as an advert for the auction by John D. Wood of Woking confirms, Henry was paying an annual rent of 14 pounds and six shillings (five shillings and five pence per week), an amount estimated by Pirbright historian Jonathan Foster to be something of a bargain, since it would equate to around £20.00 a week today.



5 The Terrace today (left), and at the back of 6 The Terrace (with an iron bathtub hanging outside the back door to No. 5), during the 1920s. My grandmother Clara Ellen is to the right, with Isabel Kate her sister next to her, and the tenant of No.6, Mr. Farminer, sits on the fence between the properties.



The 1916 auction notice for Numbers 5 and 6, Pirbright Terrace

Sadly, by the time the 1921 census was taken Henry had been admitted to the Brookwood Mental Hospital (this is the name for the hospital as written on his death registration, as shown below), and he died there from a cerebral haemorrhage on 8 September 1921. The informant for his death registration was his son Frederick. Henry was buried in the church where he had been baptised, on 12 September 1921, while Mary lived on for a further seven years; she was buried in the same churchyard on 18 September 1928, with the funeral report published in the Surrey Advertiser on 22 September (below).

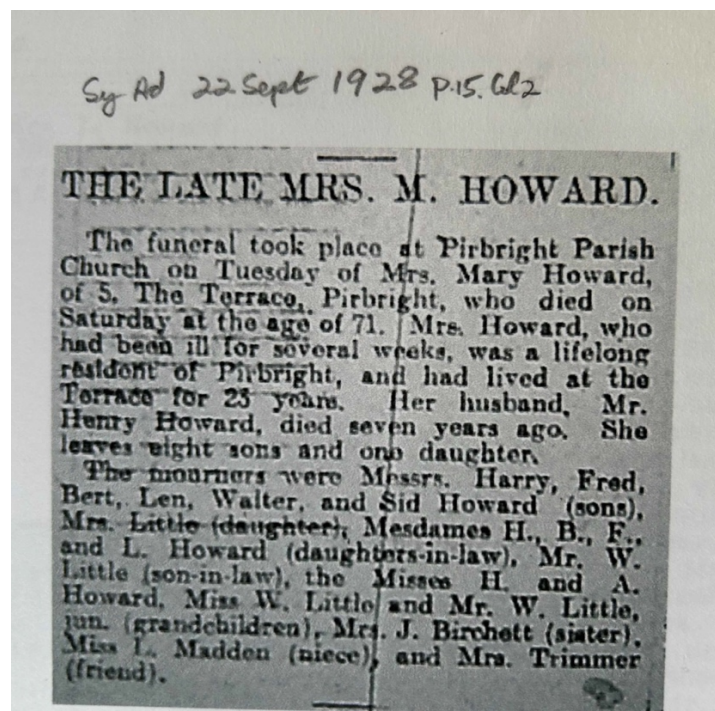
CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE  
Application Number COL 622215

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Guildford

1921 DEATH in the Sub-district of Woking in the County of Surrey

Columns—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
3118	8th September 1921 Mental Hospital Brookwood Woking U.D.	Henry Howard	Male	67 years	5 The Terrace Pirbright R.D. Farm Labourer	Cerebral Haemorrhage 5 days Certified by R. H. B. M.C. & C.S. M. R. C. S.	Frederick Howard Son 2 Hollybrook Cottages Pirbright Road Woking	10 2/	Joseph John Martin Interim Registrar






Mary, Henry's wife and my great-grandmother, was the eldest of five children born to Thomas Parsons, the other four being Ellen (b.1859), Catherine (b.1861), Fanny (b.1863), and Mercy (b.1866). Her father had been baptised at St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold, on 6 June 1830, so was 27 when Mary was born. Dunsfold, known during World War II for its airfield (and more recently as the home for BBC TV's *Top Gear*), lies to Guildford's south on the road linking Godalming and Cranleigh. Thomas's parents were (another) Thomas and Elizabeth. When the 1841 census was taken, and at the time when younger Thomas would have been 11, he was already working, living with William White, a farmer who was likely his employer. By 1851, he had moved to Pirbright, and was working as a servant and labourer for Henry Collyer. There are poor law receipts for a Henry Collyer in 1833 and 1834, and assuming that this is the same Collyer, his fortunes had improved, since the 1851 census records he also employed a female servant to look after his wife Anna and their children Jane, William, and Anna. That servant was Esther Smith, whose age in the 1851 census was given as 16, some four years younger than Thomas, and the two duly married on 12 October 1853, at the Pirbright parish church. By the time of the 1861 census, they were living at Church Cottages, Pirbright, together with their first three children, Catherine, Fanny, and Mercy. Thomas's occupation was given, as with so many others, as a farm labourer. By 1871 they had moved to The Row (also known as Blatchford Row), and Thomas was working as a carter. The three children were still at home but working as domestic servants for others when the 1881 census was taken, but all flew the nest by 1891, by which time Thomas and Esther lived in a house on The Green. There, two lodgers helped pay the rent, William Saunders and Charles Francis. And, by 1901 they had moved next door to Henry and Ann in Searles Cottages. Thomas died early the next year and was buried on 15 February 1902 at the same church where he had married. His widow survived a further nine years; she was with her daughter Ellen and family at 16 Pirbright Gardens when the 1911 census was taken on 2 April 1911, but died later the same year; she was buried on 30 October.


My grandmother Clara Ellen Howard's forebears take us away from Pirbright. Her parents were John North and Harriett Maria (née Woods). John's parents, in turn, were George and Jane North. John's birth was recorded in Chertsey, but he was born on 8 March 1846 in Pyrford. In the 1851 census, there is no mention of his father, and so it may be assumed that he had already died. On his marriage registration, John gave his father's name as Noah, but I surmise, because of family illiteracy but also since his father died when John would have been too young to remember him, that his father is more likely to have been George. No record has been found of a Noah North, but there are two death registrations for George Norths from the time that point to his likely father: the first George died in the Guildford workhouse on 11 March 1847, and the second died from consumption in Chertsey, aged 39, on 31 October 1848. The latter George is, given where John's birth registration was made, the most likely candidate for his father. The 1851 census records Jane had moved and, aged 30, was working as housekeeper to William Dewberry at Pyle Hill, southwest of Woking. Pyle Hill is a road running west from Sutton Green – where John would later settle, and where his daughter and my grandmother Clara Ellen would grow up – to the main road between Guildford and Woking south of Mayford. Jane had her two children with her: Bertha was seven and was recorded as a scholar, and John was not yet old enough to go to school. On 15 February 1852, Jane married William Dewberry, at St John the Baptist Church in Woking. By the time of the 1861 census, she and her second husband, William, already had three children together, Toysey (?), Fanny, and Alfred, aged five, four, and one respectively. William is recorded as John North's stepfather, and John lived at home but worked as an agricultural

labourer. Bertha was absent and had presumably gone into domestic service. The Dewberrys were next recorded living in the neighbouring settlement of Mayford, but John had left home to enlist as a soldier. So, at the time of the 1871 census he was in Aldershot with the Cheshire Regiment (Second Battalion, Second Regiment) and when the 1881 census was taken he was at Chester Castle Barracks, still serving as a private in the regiment. His discharge soon came, since his occupation was given as a labourer when he married Harriett Maria (a.k.a. Harriet), at the time a domestic servant, on 31 December 1884 at St Paul's Church, Farncombe. He remained a farm worker, at times working as a carter, but was destined to die in penury at the Union Workhouse, Guildford, aged 64, in 1908. He was buried on 9 December back at what had become the family church, St Peter's, Woking. John's birth and marriage certificates are below.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH**  **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**  
Application Number COL 463362

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Chertsey  
1846 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Chertsey in the County of Surrey

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
166	28th March 1846 12 of High Street Pyrford	John	Boy	George North	Jane North formerly Mount	Officer of the Militia	The X Mark of Jane North formerly Pyrford	second of April 1846	William Jackson Lovett Registrar	

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE**  **GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**  
Application Number COL 352453

1884... Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Farncombe in the County of Surrey

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
424	December 31st 1884	John North	35	Bachelor	Labourer	Farncombe	North North	(Deceased)
		Harriett Maria Woods	27	Spinster	Domestic Servant	Farncombe	John Woods	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Henry Russell Minister, by me, Henry Russell Rector

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John North in the presence of us, John Woods Clara Sabina Woods

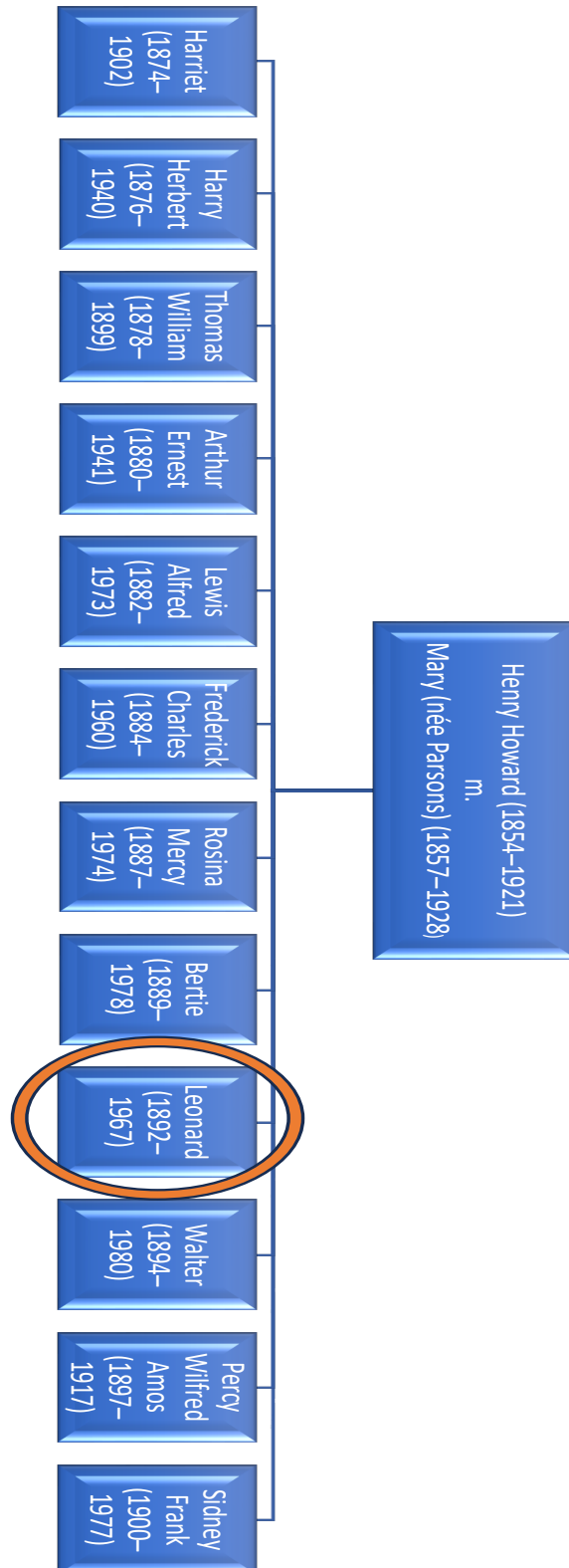
Harriett Maria, Clara Ellen's mother, was the third child of John Woods and Eliza Pickett. Her father had been baptised in Godalming on 18 March 1827, and was the son of a baker, Richard Woods, and his wife, Maria. Maria's mother, Eliza, had been born in or around 1830 in Compton, a settlement between Guildford and Godalming that today is known for the Watts Gallery (set up to display the work of the Victorian-era painter and sculptor George Frederic Watts but now an artists' village). She worked in domestic service before marrying John at St Peter and St Paul, Godalming, on 10 July 1852. John and Eliza had ten children among whom Harriett Maria was the third eldest: William Charles (1853–1910), George (b.1855), Harriett Maria (b.1857), Rosina (b.1858), Jane (1860–1862), Mary Katherine (b.1862), Elizabeth (Bessie; b.1864), Francis (b.1866), Clara Sabina (b.1869) and John Pickett

(1870–1924). They initially settled in Catteshall, Farncombe, where the 1861 census has John working on the River Wey Navigation, but moved to Church Road, Farncombe by the time of the 1871 census, when he was working as a ‘regular labourer’. Still living in Church Road, he was a tanner when the 1881 census was taken but was back to general labouring by the 1891 census. He died in 1894, and for a while Eliza stayed on in Church Road. She was living there when the 1901 census was taken, but in the 1911 census she was recorded living alongside her daughter and son-in-law at Hatch Cottage, Thursley, a few miles to the southwest. She died in 1915. Harriett presumably met John North near where he was living and working, since in the 1881 census, aged 23, she was working as a general servant at Sutton Manor House (today, Sutton Place). After her husband John died, Harriett stayed for some years in Sutton Green before moving in with her daughter Gertrude at 5 The Terrace, Pirbright. She moved six doors down to 11 The Terrace, where she died at the end of 1929. She was buried at St Michael and All Angels on 2 January 1930.

### **My grandparents and their siblings: the Howards and the Norths**

At the time of the 1891 census, shortly before my grandfather Leonard was born, Henry and Mary Howard were living with their children at The Green, Pirbright. Leonard’s birth registration, a year later, gives their address as Bletchfords Row, and when the 1901 census was taken they were at Searles Cottages, at the end of Chapel Lane by the Green. From there, they had moved to 5 The Terrace (or 5 Pirbright Terrace) by the time the 1911 census was taken. In their return for the census, Henry reported that he and Mary had had 12 children, two of whom had died. The 12 were Harriet (1874–1902), Harry Herbert (1876–1940), Thomas William (1878–1899), Arthur Ernest (1880–1941), Lewis Alfred (1882–1973), Frederick Charles (1884–1960), Rosina Mercy (1887–1974), Bertie (1889–1978), Leonard (1892–1967; my grandfather), Walter (1894–1980), Percy Wilfred Amos (1897–1917) and Sidney Frank (1900–1977) – not quite the 12 boys my father quipped about, but ten boys and two girls. Twenty-six years separated the births of the eldest, Harriet, and the youngest, Sidney, and all 12 were baptised in St Michael and All Angels.

Harriet, the eldest child, was born on 24 November 1874 and baptised on 25 December. Her baptism registration states that Henry was then, as he remained in subsequent records, a labourer. The 1891 census reports that Harriet was living at home, but working as a domestic servant, presumably, given the lack of ready transport, for a family in the village. Sometime after 1891 she moved to Surbiton, where the 1901 census has her as a live-in domestic servant for the Newell family. Thomas Newell was a newsagent, and Harriet was one of two servants who along with an employee at the shop lived with his family at 3 Brighton Road – near Surbiton station, on the road which becomes The Broadway as it goes southwards towards Tolworth. She married Frank James Streeter that winter. But she died in 1902, possibly in childbirth, since the couple did have a child, Grace Mary, who died before her first birthday. Harriet’s death was registered in Wandsworth, a few stations up the mainline from Surbiton, and she was taken back to Pirbright to be buried on 14 November 1902.



Harry Herbert (1876–1940) was the second child. He was born on 16 September 1876 and baptised on 22 October. He was not at home when the 1891 census was taken; by then he would have been 15, so would have left school for work. At some point, he moved to the southern suburbs of London, perhaps following his sister Harriet, and on 24 December 1898 he married Elizabeth Caroline Jane (née Cripps) in Lewisham. Elizabeth had been baptised on

11 June 1876 at St Mary's Battersea – Battersea at that time included Wandsworth, and I wonder whether there might have been a connection between Harriet and the Cripps. Curiously, the 1901 census records that Elizabeth's place of birth was Brighton, but her parents, David Edmund Cripps and Elizabeth Anne Cripps, had settled in Battersea, where her father was a painter. At the very least, Harry and Harriet would have been in contact with each other and, because Harry was not in Pirbright when the 1891 census was taken, it is even possible that he moved to London before Harriet. Battersea and Lewisham are a few stations apart on the railway line out of Victoria, and by 1901, the census taken that year reported that Harry and Elizabeth were living at 6 Bowness Road, Lewisham; he was working as a bricklayer. By 1905 his growing family moved to nearby Catford, and to 72 Davenport Road. By the time of the 1911 census, they had moved to 122 Laleham Road, Catford, and had five daughters living with them: Hester Elizabeth (aged 9), Grace Louisa (7), Kate Rosina (5), Lilian Jane (3) and Doris Irene (1). A sixth child had already died, and it appears that Doris died in 1913. A seventh child, David, was born in early 1918 but died the same October. Harry was still a bricklayer by the time of the 1939 Register. By then, he was living in 12 Blagdon Road, Lewisham with his wife and two daughters – Hester, who was working as a cashier, and their eighth child, Joyce (born in early 1920), who was a duplicating clerk. Tragedy, though, struck on 22 October 1940: all four were killed, presumably when a bomb hit where they were sheltering, at 15 Beacon Road. This was during the early months of The Blitz. Harry's estate went to his daughter, Grace, who had in 1928 married John Gaunt; she had one child and was still living in Lewisham when the 1939 Register was taken at the outbreak of war. Harry and Elizabeth remained close to his family back in Pirbright, since Kate Rosina, their third daughter, was baptised at St Michaels and All Angels on 6 August 1905. She had been born three months earlier, on 28 May, and married somewhat late, in summer 1937, to Albert Frank Chidwick (b.1908). The couple settled in Woking, surviving the war, and had one known child, Derek Howard Chidwick. Kate died on 14 May 1984 and Albert on 7 November 1989; the couple are buried together in Brookwood Cemetery, on the corner of St Barnabas Avenue and St Cyprian Avenue – just a stone's throw away from Pirbright.



Henry and Mary's third child was Thomas William. He was baptised on 25 August 1878, and by the time of the 1891 census he had left school and was working as a cowboy. But he died on 7 April 1899, shy of his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. The fourth and fifth children, Arthur Ernest, born on 18 May 1880 and baptised on 13 June, and Lewis Alfred, born on 30 July 1882 and baptised on 22 September, were destined to remain close into later life. Arthur was still at home at the time of the 1901 census, working as a groom in domestic service, but Lewis had left home and was working as a labourer to a blacksmith at a now demolished site at the end of Eagle Road in the parish of Stoke St John,



Guildford. Arthur married Florence Ada (née Kew) of Whitmore Lodge, Worplesdon, in Pirbright on 22 May 1907. She was a year older than him, and was the daughter of Alfred Kew, a labourer in nearby Worplesdon. A year before, though, Lewis emigrated to Ontario, Canada. Arthur soon followed him, and both settled, with their respective families, in Chatham, Kent County, Ontario, for the remainder of their lives, although Arthur was back in England during World War I, serving in the Fourth Reserve Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (he signed his attestation paper, No.880711, on 15 April 1916, and was approved for service on 22 April). Arthur and Florence's three children were Florence Grace (b.1909), Marjorie Phyllis (1911–1983) and Harold Ernest (b.1913). Florence Ada died in 1941; Arthur Ernest died in the same year. Lewis Alfred, meanwhile, had married in Ontario. His bride was Annie Victoria Jane Osterhout, and their marriage took place at the Methodist Parsonage in Chatham on 4 January 1913. They had one daughter, Mary Elizabeth (1915–2001), and Annie died in 1963, leaving Lewis to soldier on until his own death, aged 91, ten years later in 1973.

Henry and Mary's sixth child was Frederick Charles, born on 3 November 1884 and baptised on 5 December. He went on to marry Ruth Woods, five years his junior, on 13 November 1909 in St Paul's Church, Woking – a stone's throw from where the marriage register states Ruth and her parents lived, at 2 Hollyhock Cottages, Princess Road. Her father, Thomas, was a gardener, and Frederick lived in the same cottage at least until the time of the 1939 Register. During World War I he served as a lieutenant colonel in The Queen's Regiment. He was a postman when the 1911 census was taken, by which time he had a five-month-old daughter, Agnes Mary. Thomas had died, but his widow, Agnes Woods, continued to live with the family. Agnes Mary was with her parents in the same house in 1939, but without her husband, Ian Jones, who she had married at St Paul's Church on 1 October 1932. She was listed as a factory hand on the marriage register. In 1939, there was one more person living in the house, the gardener Mark Coyt, born in 1886. Frederick continued to live in the same part of Woking (that is, Maybury) until his death, aged 76, in October 1960.

Thirty months younger than Frederick Charles, Rosina Mercy was born on 4 July 1889 and baptised on 29 July. She was Henry and Mary's seventh child, with the record reporting that Henry was working as a carter. In due course, Rosina married William Richard Little (b.1888), in Pirbright, on 12 June 1907. Her husband had been born in Rotherhithe, London, but the couple settled in Pirbright, living on The Green. The 1911 census gives his occupation as a 'gentleman's hairdresser', and living at 1 The Terrace, four doors away from Rosina's parents. The couple already had two children by 1911, William Henry Thomas, and Winifred Mary Rose. William was born on 27 September 1907 and lived until November 2002, while Winifred was born on 23 June 1910. By 1911, the family had a lodger with them, the retired, 69-year-old widower Francis Light, when the census was taken. They went on to have more children: Edward Albert (born 14 June 1912), Edith Annie Dorris (born 18 February 1914), Leslie Leonard Alfred (born 16 August 1916), Ronald Arthur Percy (born 16 April 1919), and Gilbert Sidney Maurice (born 21 June 1921). The 1939 Register has William, Leslie, Ronald, and Gilbert all still living with their parents, but at 2 Forge View, Bagshot, a few miles to the north of Pirbright. Rosina died in March 1974, aged 86, in Chertsey.

Bertie, Henry and Mary's eighth child, was born on 22 January 1889. He was baptised on 25 April, and his school registration gave his name as Albert. The 1911 census has him living and working in Compton, between Guildford and Godalming, and on 21 June 1913 he married Clara Ellen (née Miliam) in East Horsley, six miles to the northeast of Guildford. Her family lived at Manor Farm, Horsley, where her father was a carter, but Clara had been born

on 9 November 1889 in Windlesham near Bagshot. She already had a child, Albert Edward, who had been born in Marylebone, London, on 16 November 1911. Was he the result of an affair when she was in domestic service? The marriage appears to have been urgently arranged, because four months after marrying Bertie, on 23 October 1914, Clara Ellen gave birth to their first child together, Henry James Vernon. A daughter arrived on 21 September 1916, Rosina Ellen Mary. In the marriage register, Bertie's employment was listed as gardener. The couple moved, presumably for his work, shortly after marrying, since by the end of the year they were living at Brookside, Windlesham. However, when Bertie enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in 1915, he gave his address as Little Lascombe (misspelt 'Lasscombe'), Puttenham – Puttenham is the neighbouring settlement to Compton on the south side of the Hog's Back, where, infamously, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* concludes. In 1921, the family were back in Windlesham, but by the time of the 1939 Register, they had moved to 3 Headley Road, Liphook, Petersfield. Bertie died in Liphook in March 1978, aged 89. Meanwhile, his son Henry married and by 1939 was working as a road labourer, and living at 3 Oak Tree Villas, Liphook. He enlisted on 13 June 1940 in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, and survived the war, dying in 1991. Rosina, meanwhile, married Albert Long in 1951, and died in May 1992.

Leonard was the ninth child. He was born on 28 March 1892 and baptised on 20 May. The 1911 census records him living at home and working as a gardener, but the 1921 census, completed less than two years after his marriage to Clara Ellen, has him working as a painter for Lovett and Company and living at 129 Duke Road, Chiswick, Middlesex. This job doesn't appear to have lasted long, since he returned to Pirbright before the end of that year, where all the couple's children (excepting Clara Ellen's first born, Millicent) were born. The 1939 Register lists his occupation as a nursery propagator and gives the family's address as the home he lived in for all but a brief period at the end of his life: 15 Council Houses, Pirbright. Later he became a range warden. And, during World War I he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Leonard's birth certificate is below.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL377463

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Guildford

1892 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Woking in the County of Surrey

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
127	Twenty-eighth March 1892 Blatchford's Row Pirbright R. S. D.	Leonard	Boy	Henry Howard	Mary Howard formerly Parsons	Farmer Labourer	Mary Howard Mother Blatchford's Row Pirbright	Twenty-eighth April 1892	Peter McDonalds Registrar	

The tenth child, Walter, was born on 16 June 1894. He was baptised 12 days later, and at the time of the 1911 census was still at home but working elsewhere as a house boy. He enlisted and was serving as a soldier, as a driver with the Royal Army Service Corps, when he married Florence Emily (née Etheridge; born 5 May 1899 in Chobham) at St Paul's Church, Woking, on 18 August 1915. Her father, George, was a gardener, and lived at 67 Arnold Road

– the adjacent street, although separated by the main railway line, to Princess Road, where Walter's elder brother, Frederick, lived. Given that St Paul's was where Frederick had married, the connection is hard to ignore. Their first child was Florence Mary, born on 13 February 1916 – six months after the couple married – followed by Doris May, born on 8 February 1917. The 1939 Register has Walter living with Florence at 1 Chemole Cottages, Lightwater, to the south of Bagshot – the third sibling in the family to have a Bagshot connection – and working as a labourer for the public works department. They had four more children, and these were all living with them in 1939, Leonard G. (born 31 July 1923), Walter S. (born in spring 1925), Ronald T. (1929–2001) and Sylvia A. (born 1938). Also with them was his wife's mother, Clara. Walter was 86 when he died in 1980.

Percy Wilfred Amos was Henry and Mary's eleventh child. He was born on 28 February 1897 and baptised three months later, on 14 May. He briefly worked at the Friary Brewery, Guildford, but in October 1914 he enlisted and after training with the Tenth Battalion of the Queens was posted to the Second Battalion (Seventh, Royal West Surrey) Regiment (G/22327). He saw action in the Somme Offensive, until the fighting moved to Arras, and that was where he died in action on 13 May 1917 at Bullecourt, pitted against the enemy's Hindenberg Line. His body was never found; his name is given on the Arras Memorial and he is listed on both the Pirbright war memorial and on the church memorial plaque (see below). The Surrey Advertiser, the newspaper published in Guildford, carried two notes of his death, first in May and then in June 1917:<sup>4</sup> The first of the cuttings here informs us that four additional boys of Henry and Mary were serving: Frederick (the sixth child) was with the Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment and Leonard (the ninth child, my grandfather – pictured below, in uniform) was with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Both were serving at the front. Away from the front in England, Arthur (the fourth child) was with the 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and Walter (the tenth) was with the Royal Army Service Corps.

**PIRBRIGHT.**  
(See also Page 6).

**PTE. PERCY HOWARD KILLED.**  
Pte. Percy W. A. Howard, of the 2nd Queen's, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Howard, 5, The Terrace, Pirbright, was killed in action on May 12. In a letter to deceased's mother, an officer of the battalion stated that he was killed instantaneously. He added: "Pte. Howard was always a good lad—always cheerful and popular among his comrades." Deceased, who was 20, joined the Army in October, 1914, and went to the front at the beginning of January last. Before the war he was employed at the Friary Brewery, Guildford. He has four brothers serving, two of whom, Lance-Corpl. F. Howard, The Queen's, and Pte. L. Howard, of the R.A.M.C., are now at the front. The other two, Pte. Arthur Howard, 4th Reserve Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and Driver Walter Howard, of the A.S.C., are at present in England.

**HOW PTE. HOWARD WAS KILLED.**  
Last week we reported the death in action of Pte. Percy W. A. Howard, The Queen's, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Howard. In a letter to parents a comrade of deceased says:—We were attacking a certain position in which we had to establish a strong point after we had taken the objective. Just before reaching our objective we had to take cover in a shell hole, as the shells were whizzing round making it perfect hell. As we lay in this hole waiting for the moment to spring forward your son must have thought we had gone on ahead, for after a while we saw him running towards us still holding his Lewis gun, which it was his last thought to save. Eventually we won our objective, and commenced to dig ourselves in. . . . We were resting for a short spell, when a big shell alighted right on top of the trench where your son, myself and two others were, killing the other three. His death was instantaneous."

<sup>4</sup> From <https://www.pirbright.info/War%20Memorial.html>.





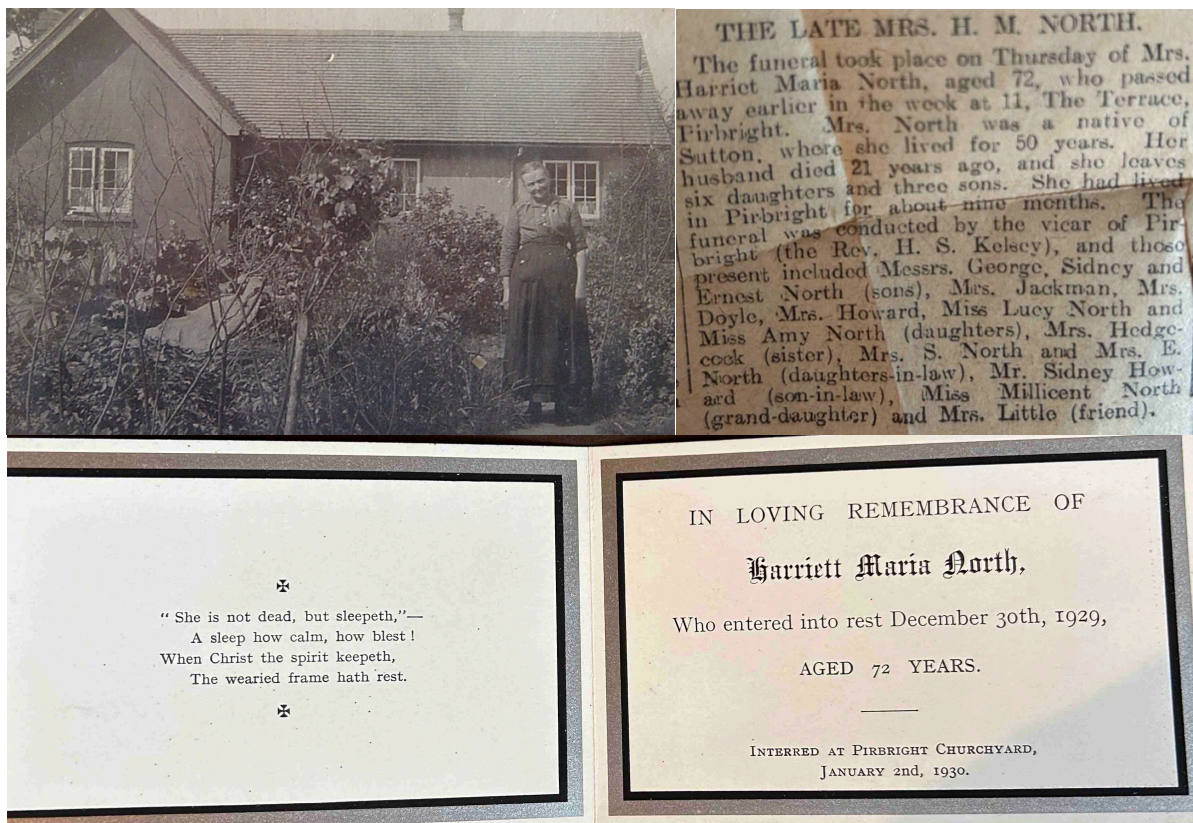
The twelfth and youngest child was Sidney Frank, born on 22 February 1900 and baptised on 27 April. He also enlisted during World War I, but, fortunately, only as the conflict wound down in 1918. He enlisted as a private in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (63209). He, Frederick, Leonard, Arthur, and Walter, all survived the war. Sidney returned to the family home in Pirbright where, according to the 1921 census, he worked as a farm labourer at Furze Hill. This remained the home of the English neoclassical artist Dorothy Tennant (1855–1926), the widowed Lady Stanley – although within two years of Henry Morton’s death she had remarried, to the 11-year-younger pathologist and writer Henry Jones Curtis (1866–1944). Anyhow, in the same year as Lady Stanley died, Sidney married Gertrude Bessie North (26 April 1893 – March 1959), seven years his senior and the elder sister of Clara Ellen, his elder brother Leonard’s wife. Like Clara, Gertrude had been baptised in St Peter’s Church, Woking, and this was where Sidney married her. The couple settled back in Pirbright, taking over Sidney’s parents’ (Henry and Mary’s) house at 5 The Terrace after his father died. They lived with his mother until she died, and the 1939 Register reports the couple still living there, Sidney working as a general labourer. Sidney Howard died on 17 April 1977, aged 77, and was buried in the churchyard on 28 April. Sidney and Bessie had one daughter, Mary Bessie Rosina, born in 1928. She, in due course in 1948, married James Francis Bloor Oxford (b.1919; Bloor was his mother’s maiden name), who was in turn the son of a Cooks Green, Pirbright resident, James Francis Oxford, and had been brought up in the village, and the couple settled in 6 Gibbs Acre – a lane to the east of the White Hart public house, off The Green, where, as the marriage announcement in the Surrey Advertiser on 16 November 1948 notes, James’s parents lived. Mary and James had two children, Margaret (b.1950) and Richard (b.1952).



Sidney Frank Howard, with his wife Gertrude Bessie, and Gertrude’s sister, Isabel Kate in later life

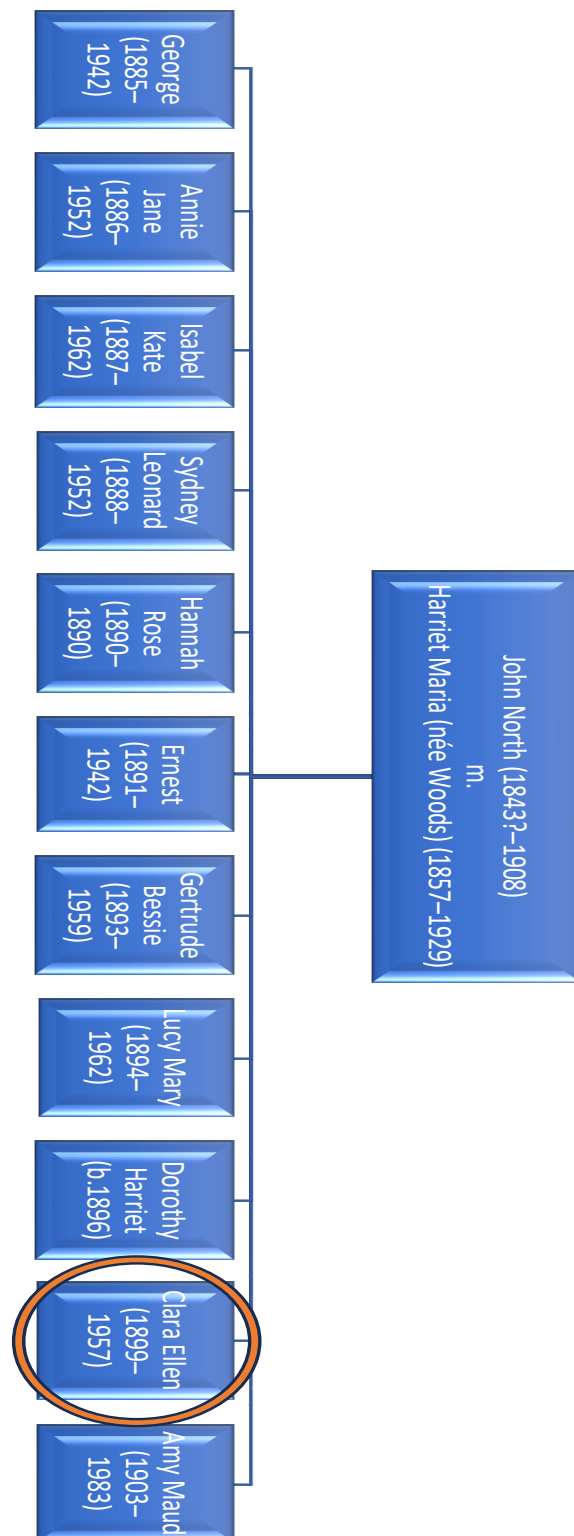


My sister recalls meeting our grandmother, Clara Ellen, but I was too young when she died to have any memory of her. She was the tenth of 11 children born to John North (1843?–1908) and Harriet Maria (née Woods, 1857–1929): George (1885–1942), Annie Jane (1886–1952), Isabel Kate (1887–1962), Sydney Leonard (1888–1952), Hannah Rose (b. 1890), Ernest (1891–1942), Gertrude Bessie (1893–1959), Lucy Mary (1894–1962), Dorothy Harriet (b.1896), Clara Ellen (1899–1957), and Amy Maud (1903–1983). So, eight girls and three boys in total – so, my father’s comment about 12 girls was not entirely correct. Their father was John North, who at the time of his marriage he lived at Lower Westfield Farm, at the northern end of Sutton Green, Woking. Sutton Green was in the parish of St Peter’s, although the church itself was in Old Woking, a couple of miles away by footpath across the river Wey flood plain, or slightly further if approached by road via Westfield. Sutton Green only got its own permanent church in 1921 – All Souls – built as a memorial to those who lost their lives in World War I, although prior to this a building made from corrugated iron had served the community. St Peter’s remained the family church. After John died, Harriet spent her last days living with her daughter Gertrude Bessie and Sidney Frank Howard at 11 The Terrace, Pirbright. Below, she is pictured in Sutton Green; to the right is the newspaper report of her death, and the card is the memorial distributed when she died:



Below are the 11 children of John and Harriet North. Their eldest North son, George, was born on 15 October 1885, and was baptised at St Peter’s on 14 February 1886. However, when the 1891 census was taken, George was not at home but was with Harriet’s parents in Church Street, Farncombe, on the north-eastern fringe of Godalming. For the 1901 census ten years later, George was safely back with his parents and siblings in Sutton Green and was working as a compositor in a printing works. The 1911 census has him still at home and still single, although by then he was working as a farm carter. He married Sarah Ann, a year his junior, and by the 1939 Register the couple were living, without children, at Imphams

Bungalows, Holdfast Lane, Haslemere. He was still a farm carter but died shortly after the Register was taken, aged 56. He was buried in an unmarked grave at All Saints, Grayswood (Holdfast Lane is between Haslemere and Grayswood).



The second child of John and Harriet was Annie Jane, born just shy of a year after George on 12 October 1886. She was baptised on 5 June 1887. The 1901 census lists her as a 14-year-old house girl, in domestic service but still living at home. She married Alfred Hugh

Jackman (1884–1962) in 1909. Her husband had been born in Worplesdon, the neighbouring village to Pirbright on the road to Guildford, and the 1911 census reports the couple living at 61 Drummond Road, Guildford – in the parish of Stoke St John's, a few hundred yards from where Arthur Howard had been living a few years earlier. They were living with Annie's sister and John and Harriet's third child, Isabel Kate. Alfred was working as a stoker for the London and South-Western Railway, and by the time that the 1939 Register was taken they had moved to 68 Crusoe Road, Mitcham. Alfred was still working for the railway, known after amalgamation on 1 January 1923 as the Southern, and they were living with two others, one a girl born in 1905 (that is, four years before they had married) who shared the family name. We surmise that this girl may not have been the child of either of them, since when Alfred died on 23 January 1962, ten years after Annie, his estate went to Annie's youngest sister, Amy Maud, and to Amy's husband Patrick, rather than to a Jackman.

Isabel Kate (Kate; pictured above in Pirbright in later life), the third North child, was born on 10 November 1887 and baptised eight months later, on 10 June 1888. She was working at a printing works in Guildford when the census was taken in 1911, lodging with her sister Annie. On 9 May 1913, she gave birth to an illegitimate son, Charles William. He was baptised back at St Peter's Church on 26 May but died within a month. Isabel married Patrick Joseph Doyle on 11 August 1924, in the then newly consecrated All Souls Church, Sutton Green. She was 36 and he was 45. Patrick lived in Farnham, and that was where the couple settled. By 1926, Isabel was listed on the electoral role, living at 10 Factory Yard, West Street, Farnham. The couple were at the same address when the 1939 Register was recorded, living with a domestic servant, Sarah Grant (b.1919). Isabel continued to live in Farnham until her death in early 1962.

The fourth North child was Sydney Leonard (Sid), born on 10 December 1888 and baptised on 14 January 1889. He was still at home in 1911, when the census records him working as a stockman, but he married at St Andrew's Church, Farnham, on 14 September 1918. His bride was Ada Ellen Rogers (1886–1973); he was 29, and she 33. Ada's father, Harry, had died, and Ada had been living with her mother, Edith, at 23 Church Lane, Wrecclesham, Farnham. Church Lane was where Patrick Doyle was living when he married Isabel in 1924, suggesting the two North siblings had a close relationship and had friends in common. Ada had been born in Woking, and by the time of the 1901 census she was recorded as a domestic servant working for Emily Lutham at 72 Castle Street, Farnham; in the 1911 census she and her younger sister Edith were domestic servants working for the Allan family at St Martins, Lower Green, Esher – around 30 miles away from Farnham, but only a few miles from Woking. By 1921, Sydney and Ada were living at Shoeland Farm, Puttenham; Sydney was a cowman working for the farmer, Mr Gish, and Ada Ellen was working nearby as a housekeeper. Jumping forward to the 1939 Register, Sydney and Ada were living in Pillarbox Cottage, Killinghurst Park, between Chiddingfold and Haslemere, around a mile from where Sydney's brother George lived and worked in Holdfast Lane; Sydney was still working as a cowman. Somebody appears to be with them, but they have now been blacked out in the register: was this a child, whose family has subsequently requested their entry be removed? (I will return to this question in respect to Clara Ellen's first child, Millicent (Millie) below.) Sydney died on 25 May 1952, and was buried in an unmarked grave in St Mary's churchyard, Chiddingfold; Ada survived until 21 October 1973, by which time she had returned to Woking, near where she had been brought up. Suffering from dementia, she had been admitted to a retirement home: Heathside in Coley Avenue.

The fifth North child was Hannah Rose, who lived for just six months. She was baptised on 16 March 1890 and buried on 28 August, both at St Peter's church in Old Woking. Ernest was next. He was born on 8 August 1891, baptised on 10 February 1892, and still lived at home when the 1911 census was taken. By then, he was working as a printer's labourer. He married Edith Rogers, Ada's sister, and like Sydney and Ada married at St Andrew's Church, Farnham. Edith had been born on 9 June 1893 and was baptised in August at St Peter's, Wrecclesham. In the 1911 census she was listed as a servant. The marriage was on 30 July 1927, when Edith was 34 and Ernest 35. There is much missing from our knowledge of their lives, although Ernest progressed to 'printer machine feeder' by the time of the 1939 Register, when the couple were back in Woking, living with a daughter, Joan. Joan, though, had been born in spring 1927, that is, several months before the couple married, and her birth was registered in Havant. The intimation, then, is that Edith was sent away from home and from service to give birth. Ernest died during the war, in 1942.

The seventh North child was Gertrude Bessie (Bess), born on 26 April 1893 and baptised on 14 May. The second of two Norths to marry into the Howard family, she married Sidney Frank, seven years her junior, in spring 1926. Like Clara, Gertrude had been baptised in St Peter's Church, Woking, and this was where Sidney married her. But she married very late. What happened after she came of age, and before she married? While we do not know for sure, there is a record in the 1911 census of a Bessie North that may well be Gertrude (and has been assumed to be by previous researchers). This has Bessie as an inmate in a small women's institution at 36 Sekforde Street, Clerkenwell, London, working (as all able inmates were) as an artificial florist. Her age, 17, is correct, but she is reported to be suffering partial paralysis. Accepting that, as with many unmarried women, she would have left home to work in service, one question that arises is whether she had fallen out with her employer or had been injured in some form of accident. It is tempting to see this record, and the comments she would later make to family members about being lucky to have survived the 1910s (with, we should remember, the disastrous influenza epidemic), to justify her late marriage. After marrying, she settled with Sidney Frank at 5 The Terrace, Pirbright (pictured above), where she lived until she died in 1959. Children of her sister, Clara Ellen, remember going into the garden to admire her fishpond whenever they visited. Her grave is in the churchyard of St Michaels and All Angels and has a low stone border inscribed 'In loving memory of Gertrude Bessie HOWARD, died 4<sup>th</sup> April 1959, aged 65 years' (pictured below):



Lucy Mary (known as Luce) was the eighth North child, born in 1894 and baptised on 7 October. By the time the 1911 census was taken, she was working as a domestic servant for the Salsbury family and living with them at Birchwood, Sydney Road, Guildford. The electoral



role indicates she had moved to Farnham by 1939, and when she died her address was given as that of her sister Isabel and husband Patrick at 10 Factory Yard, Farnham – she was bedridden, in Green Lane Hospital, for the last few years of her life, and that was where she died, shortly before Isabel. The ninth North child was Dorothy Harriet, who was baptised on 9 February 1896 but who appears to have died an infant, since she vanishes by the time of the 1901 census. And, to support this supposition, the 1911 census records that two of the 11 North children had already died, that is, Hannah Rose and Dorothy Harriet.

Clara Ellen, my grandmother, was John and Harriet's tenth child. She was born on 27 November 1899, baptised on 14 January 1900 at St Peter's in Woking, and buried on 24 January 1957 at St Michael and All Angels, Pirbright. The final, eleventh, North child was Amy Maud, born on 2 April 1903 and baptised on 31 May in St Peter's. Known in the family as Sis, she would in 1938 become the second wife of Patrick Dowling (1908–1978), known in the family and to his friends as Paddy. He had two daughters from his first marriage to Mary Ann Lizzie Daborn:<sup>5</sup> Patricia, born in autumn 1931 but who died aged three in May 1935, and Eileen, born in 1935, who later migrated to Australia (where she had a reunion with my father when he went there after the death of my mother). In 1931, when Paddy and Mary married, he was a soldier at Pirbright Camp and Mary was living at 11 The Terrace – six doors down from where Sis's sister, Gertrude, lived with her husband Sidney Frank Howard. Sis's mother moved in with Gertrude when her husband (and Sis's father) died, which may explain how Sis met Paddy. Paddy's first wife, Mary, was buried in St Michael and All Angels' churchyard on 28 May 1937, and shortly after their marriage, Sis and Paddy left Pirbright, since the 1939 Register gives their address as 9 Manor Place, Walton-on-Thames. Paddy by then worked for the Southern Railway as a lengthman, responsible for maintaining a section of track. I remember a couple of outings in my pre-teen years to Walton-on-Thames to meet Paddy and Sis; I recall somewhat excitedly once meeting them on the bank of the river Thames near their house. Sis outlived Paddy by five years, living at 33 Vicarage Fields, Walton-on-Thames, until 11 November 1983; she died from a heart attack and was found, dead, by her neighbour. Paddy and Sis are pictured below, at an earlier picnic with Peg, the daughter of Leonard and Clara Ellen, her daughters Pat and Pam, their neighbour Jenny (a transvestite), and another couple, and then individually, in front of their A40 car in 1969.



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<sup>5</sup> The Daborns were a well-established Pirbright family. See <http://www.pirbright.info>, which lists 77 Daborns born from 1756 onwards.