

1839 - PIGOT'S SURREY DIRECTORY & THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING RAILWAY

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RAILWAYS:—The first of these lines constructed in this county was the Surrey railway, projected and commenced in 1802; it proceeds from Wandsworth to Croydon, and southward to Merstham. We are not aware that this railway has ever been employed in the conveyance of passengers; the traffic on it consists in the transmission of coal, stone, agricultural produce and other commodities. The London and Southampton (the station for which is at Vauxhall) runs by Wandsworth and Kingston; passes between five and six miles to the north of Guildford, and about seven to the north of Farnham; and thence proceeds, by way of Basingstoke and Winchester, to Southampton. **A branch from the company's station at Woking is laid to Guildford.** The London and Greenwich railway (more particularly alluded to under Kent,) commences in Surrey, its station being close to the southern foot of London-bridge. In this locality, also, are the stations of the Brighton, the Dover, and the Croydon railways; the latter line, which forms a junction with the Greenwich one at New Cross, was opened on the 5th June, 1839. The London and Brighton, after passing near to Croydon, and nearly two miles to the east of Reigate, runs about two miles to the east of Crawley and Cuckfield to Brighton. The Dover, or South-Eastern railway, branches off at Croydon, pursues its route by Warlingham and Oxted, and shortly after enters the county of Sussex.

Looking through Pigot's Directory for Kent, Surrey & Sussex from 1839 recently, I discovered the above reference to the branch railway to Guildford. At first I didn't take much notice, and then I thought 'hang on a minute, this is 1839 - the Guildford branch wasn't opened by 1839'.

There were proposals as far back as March 1838 for a line to Guildford, but after a couple of years those plans were abandoned, and it wasn't until 1843 that a new scheme for a branch line was put forward, finally opening on the 1st May 1845 (see Impact of the Railway's article, first published in December 2014),

It appears that Pigot's, in an effort to be as 'up-to-date' as possible, obviously jumped the gun, although to be fair their entry in the directory for Guildford does note the town as being 'within six miles of the Woking station on the London & Southampton railway, from which there will be a branch to Guildford'.

Woking, as a town, is not recorded at all, the area apparently being just part of the 'neighbourhood' of Ripley.

It is there that the only 'nobility, gentry, and clergy' of Woking are recorded - the Rev Bowles, John Gates esq of Knap Hill and Mrs Wyndham at Sutton Place.

'Shopkeepers and traders' with a Woking address include Thomas Bensley, letter-press printer; with just the nurserymen, Robert Donald, George & Henry Jackman, and Michael Waterer at Knap hill, being the only other traders in Woking.

Interestingly the nurserymen are also listed under the entry for Chobham (although for some reason Henry Jackman is not recorded), with the Horsell nursery of Henry Cobbett also being listed there - the only inhabitant of that village apparently!

Byfleet was listed under Chertsey and appears to have had more people of note than Woking, with James Barnes, esq; John Freebairn, esq; Mr Garroway; Rev William Haggitt; Miss Shrapnell;

RIPLEY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

RIPLEY is a chapelry, in the parish of Send, and second division of the hundred of Woking, cheerfully situated on the main road from London to Guildford, distant from the former 23 miles south-west, and from the latter 6 north-east. It is a place of but little trade, and what it enjoys is mainly supported from its being a village of great thoroughfare. About a mile to the right of Ripley is Ockham, the seat of the Earl of Lovelace, and celebrated as the birth-place of William Ockham, a great scholar and philosopher, who obtained from the pope the name of the invincible doctor—he died in 1347. In this village was born, in the fifteenth century, the famous alchymist and Carmelite friar, George Ripley, who is said to have obtained for the knights of Rhodes £100,000, to carry on a war against the Turks. The places of worship are a chapel of ease to Send parish, and one for baptists. The Earl of Lovelace has lately established two schools at Ockham, for instructing poor children. The population of this chapelry is returned with Send parish, which, in 1831, amounted to 1,483.

POST OFFICE, James Gwinn, *Post Master.*—Letters from LONDON arrive every night at eleven, and are despatched every morning at three.—Letters from PORTSMOUTH, &c. arrive every morning at three, and are despatched every night at eleven.

NOBILITY, GENTRY, AND CLERGY.
 Balmain — esq. Send grove
 Boughton Robert, esq. Send
 Bowles Rev. —, Woking
 Currie Henry, esq. West Horsley
 Currie William, esq. East Horsley
 Dawes Captain John, Send barns
 Dear Rev. Robert, Send vicarage
 Farley Rev. William, Ockham
 Gates John, esq. Knap hill
 Harrison Mrs. Elizabeth, Ripley
 Lovelace the Earl of, Ockham park
 Onslow Rev. Arthur, Fell hill
 Onslow Rev. George Walton, Dunsborough house
 Perceval Rev. Arthur, East Horsley
 Perceval Spencer, esq. Wood hill
 Redshaw Caleb, esq. Ripley
 Reid John, esq. Ripley house
 Sergeant —, esq. Bush hill house
 Weston Rev. Charles, West Horsley
 Wyndham Mrs. —, Sutton place

PROFESSIONAL PERSONS.
 Bartlett James, schoolmaster
 Eager John King, surgeon
 Harbroe Edward, surgeon
 M'Pherson J. master of infants' school, Ockham

Wright William, master of the boys' school, Ockham

INNS AND PUBLIC HOUSES.
 Anchor, William Langrish
 Jovial Sailor, George Brown
 Ship, George Gwinn (& hair dresser)
 Talbot Inn (& posting), John Metcalfe
 White Hart, George Jackman
 White Horse Inn, Thomas Stammers

SHOPKEEPERS & TRADERS.
 Bensley Thomas, letter-press printer, Woking
 Bolton Henry, cattle and pig dealer
 Bowers George, carpenter
 Champion Elizabeth, farrier
 Colborn Thomas, fishmonger
 Dawes Philip, butcher
 Donald Robert, nurseryman, Woking
 Eager Edward & William, millers, Newark mills
 Ellis John, shoemaker
 Evans Jane, linen draper
 Goldsmith William, saddler
 Green Stephen, shoemaker
 Greenfield Thomas, grocer
 Gwinn James, stationer & postmaster
 Gwinn Thomas, watch maker
 Halliday William, tea dealer
 Hodd John, tailor

Hyde Jno. corn chandler & mealman
 Jackman George & Henry, nurserymen, Woking [smith
 Langrish Richard, wheelwright and
 Lee Thomas, cattle salesman
 Lynn John, bricklayer
 Parsons Kaye John, fire office agent
 Pledger Henry, blacksmith [agent
 Smallpiece Hy. saddler, & fire office
 Smith William, linen draper
 Symonds James, cattle salesman
 Taylor Thomas, blacksmith
 Thompson John, baker [hill
 Waterer Michael, nurseryman, Knap
 Webb Thomas, tailor
 West Mary, straw hat maker & milliner
 West Nathaniel, shoe maker
 White Henry, grocer (& registrar of births and deaths)
 White William, cooper
 Wright Samuel, baker

COACHES,
 To & from LONDON, PORTSMOUTH, GUILDFORD, CHICHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON, WINDSOR & BRIGHTON, pass through Ripley, daily, calling at the Inns.

CARRIER.
 To LONDON, — Steven's Waggon, from the White Horse Inn, every Sunday and Thursday, to the Spur Inn, Borough.

James Sparks, esq. of West lodge; and the Rev Charles Sumner being listed under that town's gentry - although in the case of Chertsey there was evidently far too many shopkeepers and traders in the town itself, to list any from its surrounding neighbourhood.

Pigot's 1839 entry for Ripley and Neighbourhood (above), with the directory entries for Chobham (below).

But as for the village of Pyrford, it obviously didn't exist in 1839 - at least not as far as Pigot's is concerned.

GENTRY AND CLERGY.
 Bainbridge the Misses
 Chitty Mr. James, Rose cottage
 Dyer Thomas, esq. Westcroft house
 Hewer Mr. Joseph (surgeon)
 Jerram Rev. James, Chobham house
 King Rev. John, rector of Bisley
 Mumford Samuel, esq.
 Potter Rev. —, baptist minister
 Satchel Richard, esq. Grove house
 Stevens Rev. William Henry, curate

INNS.
 Sun, James Squires
 White Hart, William Jones

SHOPKEEPERS & TRADERS.
 Barfoot John, baker
 Burchett John, bricklayer

Clark William, grocer and draper
 Cobbett Henry, nurseryman, Horsell
 Dodd Elijah & Joseph, druggists, stationers and oilmen
 Donald Robt. nurseryman, Woking
 East Edward, shoemaker
 Goodchild William, butcher
 Hone Stephen, grocer
 Howard Charles, grocer and draper
 Howard Edward, carpenter & wheelwright [builder
 Howard Jeremiah, carpenter and
 Hudson Thomas, jun. grocer, corn and coal dealer, and registrar of births and deaths
 Jackman Geo. nurseryman, Woking
 Luker William, butcher

Miller William, shoemaker
 Moir John, baker
 Mose John, blacksmith
 Mumford Samuel, maltster
 Ottaway James, blacksmith
 Percy George, brewer
 Rowland Richard, draper & tailor
 Soan William, baker
 Stevenson William, bricklayer
 Street George, blacksmith
 Street James, blacksmith
 Terry William, blacksmith
 Walterer Michael, nurseryman, Knap Hill

CARRIERS.
 To LONDON, Charles Still and Samuel Turner, every Monday and Thursday.