

# 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.