



September 2020

TADS Newsletter

Website - www.tadshistory.com

**Easing the lock-down seems
to have gone too far!**

A TADS Talk via Zoom on Wednesday 16th July at 8 pm



‘Never had it so good - London 1957 - 1963’

By Colin Oakes

Colin is an archaeologist and a London guide. This talk promises to be a trip down memory lane when he will discuss cultural changes in London from 1957 to 1963.

Use the link below to join Zoom Meeting just before 8pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89752150211?pwd=UIZsWm9KVWdobFMzNURGWGJUS3hjZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 5215 0211

Passcode: 228667

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
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www.tadshistory.com

Future TADS talks

All talks at St. Paul's Hall have been cancelled for the rest of the year. Meanwhile we will continue using Zoom, provided we can find speakers willing to use it. I will let you have details of talks as soon as I can.

Zoom talk October 21st at 8pm - **“London Underground’s Architecture”**
by Mike Grundy

If you need help using Zoom the TADS Website has information and a contact number.

TADS Zoom Talk on 15th July 2020.

The Colin Spickett Experiment -Tracing a family tree from first principles By Mark Bowman

Mark has been working on his own family history since 1968, and now has over 16,000 people on his family tree. He has been helping others trace their ancestry at the Reading Family History Centre since 2009. Mark went to school with Colin Spickett at Mitcham, County Grammar, Surrey, from 1964 to 1969. Mark particularly remembers Colin as it was he that infected Mark with a virulent vomiting bug which then ruined the Bowman parents' 25th Wedding anniversary party at a local pub and infected many of the guests. Mark has not seen Colin since leaving school.

In this talk he demonstrated how, despite knowing only a single name and roughly when a person was born, he was able to trace the Spickett family back in time mostly using free websites. The fact that Spickett is an unusual name made things a lot easier. (*Yours truly has the surname Brown for two of his four Grandparents and they were not related.*)

Free BMD is very good for finding Births, Marriages and Deaths and covers 1837 to 1996. The Censuses from 1911 back to 1841 confirm family relationships, ages, and places of birth. They are not free but can be accessed for free through libraries and most Family History Societies. The General Register Office online index gives the Mother's Maiden Name which is not recorded on

the BMD records. Family Search has many Parish Records from before 1837 when compulsory Civil Registration commenced. Another recent source of very useful information is the 1939 Register which was hastily compiled at the start of World War II to provide a census of the population for war purposes.

Mark warned that care must be taken in accepting the information on Death Certificates in particular, the details are only as good as the knowledge of the person registering the death.

Mark was able to show how with only a few slight problems he traced the Spickett family back, generation by generation, as far as a baptism in 1770. As for Colin Spickett, social media has shown that he is alive and well, a keen angler, and living in the Midlands quite unaware that he has been the subject of a family history experiment.

Thanks Mark for showing us the principles of tracing a family tree. The discussions after the talk continued for over half an hour.

Richard Brown

Website information:

FreeBMD gives free access to the records of Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales back to the start of General Registration in 1837.

GRO Online Index gives free access to similar information to that given on FreeBMD, but gives extra detail, particularly the mother's maiden name of children born from 1911 back to 1837.

UK censuses give a snapshot of households every ten years from 1911 back to 1841. Subscription needed.

FamilySearch gives free access to (some of the surviving) parish records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

1939 Register gives information about households at the outbreak of WW2. Subscription needed.

Jane Austen and the Military

By Rupert Matthews

Rupert had come up with what might seem a very strange slant on the writings of Jane Austen the famous Hampshire author, but when she was writing during the years 1795 to 1815 the country was in the midst of about 22 years of war. Britain had an army of 160,000 men (twice today's number), 300 ships, all for a population of only 14 million versus today's 66 million. It is therefore not in the least surprising that her books have military figures in them. Rupert gave us many examples.

Sense and Sensibility (1797) has Colonel Brandon who exchanges a commission with another officer in order to go abroad. Quite possible.

Pride and Prejudice (approx 1800). George Wickham is in the Militia. The Militia were not regular army and were paid by the day when on duty. The officers generally lost money as they had to provide expensive uniforms and their own horses, so they generally came from the big houses. Wickham was an outsider and had to live on credit. He is depicted as a charming person, but Austen gives enough clues for the reader to realise that he is a bounder. Colonel Fitzwilliam is a friend of Darcy and on leave from the regular army. He is only 30 years old, which was very young to be a colonel even in those days, but as the younger son of an Earl he would have gained promotion by purchase of commissions. It was £4500 for a colonel after a total of £6150 to rise through the lower ranks. A great deal of money.

Mansfield Park (1812). William Price the older brother of Fanny Price (impoverished) is trying to get promotion from Midshipman (board and uniform but no pay). Promotion was by a 4 hour interview board in front of 3 very senior officers. The Price father is a disabled ex-marine on half pay. – Promotion in the marines was on merit.

Emma (1814). Mr Weston is a yeoman farmer/estate owner in Surrey (poor farm lands). He had left the army which was a step down in society. Army Officers in the foremost regiments came from the cream of society, the officers in the county regiments came from land owners and the gentry.

Persuasion (1815) Frederick Weston and prize money. (Jane had a brother in the Navy).

The book features the naval battle of St. Domingo in 1806 at which the British captured 65 cargo ships as prizes. The prize money was split top to bottom – the Fleet Admiral got $\frac{1}{4}$, Captains $\frac{1}{4}$, and so on down to the lowest sailors. All the officers were promoted one rank. Wentworth got £25,000, so it is assumed Jane's brother got something similar. There are other Naval references in the book probably relating to her brother's life.

Rupert's conclusions

Jane Austen's writings on military matters are on the whole accurate and give a good portrayal of the presence of the military in the society of the time.

Thank you Rupert for a very interesting talk about a great author and approaching her work in a very novel way.

Richard Brown

If you missed the talk, it is available to view on a memory stick. Please contact me if you want to borrow it.

The Portway, our local Roman Road

In the Spring of 2017 the TADS Committee were presented with a Planning Application for a new house at Tadley Place. In considering the implications of the application, it was realised that Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show the Roman Road called the Portway passes right through the site of Tadley Place and its buildings. Thus it was quite possible that the new building could be on top of the Roman road. The Portway went from Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum) to Old Sarum, nr. Salisbury.

The road is shown as a straight line which crosses Pamber Forest from the Calleva West Gate and passes south of St. Peter's Church before going to Tadley Place and onward. We did not know of any physical evidence of its route despite having explored the area around the church and having aerial photographs taken as part of the hunt for Medieval Tadley.

So where does it go? After a lot of reading and looking at many maps, old and new, the evidence gradually stacked up. Physical evidence has mostly been

swept away after more than 1,500 years, but astonishingly a short section is visible as a long ridge in a field near Honey Mill Bridge on the Baughurst side of the A340. Also a cross section of the road was seen when a new ditch was cut near Skates Farm.

Alex Flahive, a former TADS Project Group member, provided some composite LiDAR scans (see last page) on which it can be seen crossing Pamber Forest.

As a result, we are now certain that the Roman road does indeed closely follow the line shown on the modern OS maps.

RB

George Roller's Grave

Ian Burn asked if I had any photographs of George Roller's grave. I didn't and couldn't remember seeing it. As Ian was in his other home on the Isle of Skye, I went to St Peter's graveyard and had a look where it is shown on a map of the graves. I could see a large stone cross buried in waist high brambles. Through a gap in the brambles I could just about see an inscription on one side but it was only to his wife May and their daughter Miriam. With Ian back from Skye we went to the graveyard armed with suitable tools and cut our way to and then around the cross. There was no inscription other than the one I had seen before, so we started looking at other stones in the vicinity. Half satisfied, we decided to finish by cutting more stuff in the area and so found a nearly buried stone kerb around the next plot. Rubbing away the moss and other crud I found an inscription on one side - George Conrad Roller DCM. Bingo! A very modest grave compared to the 7ft stone cross of his first wife. A case of seek and ye shall find?

(Ian gave a talk to TADS on George Roller last year).

Mrs Roller's cross as found. Buried in brambles and with a fallen tree branch across it.





Jan examining a buried headstone or is he praying for success?



George Roller's modest grave next to his wife and daughter's cross.

What's on? Events which may be of interest.

Milestones Museum. For coming events tel. 01256 477766 or see <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/milestones-museum>

Milestones re-opened on the 4th July.

Willis Museum - The museum has also re-opened *For information tel. 01256 465902 or see*

<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>

The museum has a new free exhibition from 15th July to 17th September showcasing the magical and vibrant world of Ladybird art, where every picture tells a story and unlocks a thousand childhood memories. Ladybird books have been a familiar fixture on children's bookshelves since the 1950s, but few people are aware that they date back to the early days of the Second World War. Told through an unparalleled collection of books, original artwork and artefacts, this exhibition shows how the many talented Ladybird illustrators played such an enormous role in the company's success during the 20th century.

The **Museum of Army Flying** at Middle Wallop has re-opened. Undoubtedly restrictions apply.

With the ever changing Coronavirus regulations please check with any venue before making a special journey to visit it.

LiDAR is a technology which uses laser light to create a 3D representation of the earth's surface. It can be used to find archaeological features which are not immediately visible from the ground or through traditional satellite images. The surveys are carried out from aircraft and can be processed to remove all the trees leaving just the ground contours in fine detail.

STAY SAFE, STAY WELL.

***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.
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