

Effingham and South Africa

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This article explores various connections between Effingham and events in South Africa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, especially relating to the 2nd Boer War. Several Effingham men served in this conflict, two being killed in action. Notable Effingham figures such as Admiral Frederick Augustus Maxse and George Craig Saunders Pauling also became entangled in it. Finally, an Effingham horse reputedly served in the war and entered our village's written folklore.

Introduction

It is not news that famous individuals may, over time, lose their former reputation for honour or success and become figures of calumny. When they do, public statues can be an outlet for their disgrace: the focus of vandalism or even of complete destruction. Cecil Rhodes is a recent and well-known example. How the public now views him, and men like him, from Britain's colonial, imperial and mercantile past is often with distaste if not worse. Evaluation of the bitterly hard lives and efforts of unknown masses who facilitated the achievements and often the personal wealth of these notable figures, largely airbrushed out of the historical narrative so far, is underway. We who are studying Effingham's local history have cause to reflect on what this means for the village.

There are more connections between the histories of Effingham and South Africa than one might once have suspected. For instance, a recollection by local resident Jo Bray has brought to light that, for a time, Meadow Cottage on Effingham Common Road was lived in by the broadcaster Michael Morris (1946-2012), main anchorman for TV-AM's *Good Morning Britain* programme. In February 1990 Morris conducted the first live British television interview with Nelson Mandela no less, only 8 days after the ANC leader's release from prison. It took place during a time of literally global celebration over what Mandela's release meant for the ending of apartheid. The interview was conducted via a link to Mandela's home in Soweto. Part of it is shown on *YouTube* – see the References; alternatively, Google 'Michael Morris interview Nelson Mandela'. The film clip is about 3 minutes long. Michael Morris explores the truly remarkable aspect of Mandela's mindset: that he had come out of 27 years of imprisonment with no sense of bitterness, only optimism.

Other connections between Effingham and South Africa, to be described further in this article, are in the more distant past and associated with the second Boer War.

The first Boer War took place in 1880-81, arising from smouldering hostility between British and Dutch settlers. An uneasy peace followed during which the rapidly developing diamond and gold resources of the region (principally at Kimberley in Cape Colony, and Witwatersrand in Transvaal respectively) were eyed with desire by the governors and settlers of the then four colonial governments – Cape Colony controlled by and for the British under Cecil Rhodes; Natal, also British; the Transvaal (also known as the South African Republic) controlled by and for Dutch Boers under Paul Kruger; and the Orange Free State, also a Boer colony.



Figure 1 The 1911 statue of Cecil Rhodes on the façade of the Rhodes Building, Oriel College, Oxford. This is just one of several statues of Rhodes worldwide which have come in for attack.

In 1895 the peace was very severely dented by the provocative and embarrassingly unsuccessful 'Jameson Raid'. The 'Raid' was led by Dr, later Sir, Leander Starr Jameson, who with Rhodes was a leading figure in the government of Cape Colony. Claiming that legitimate British settlers in the Transvaal were being unfairly harassed by their Boer governors, not protected as they should be, on 29 December 1895 Jameson led 600 men armed largely with rifles but also some machine guns and even artillery over the border from Cape Colony into Transvaal. The intention was to capture Johannesburg and spark a 'spontaneous' general rising by the British in the Transvaal. Thus the Transvaal would fall to British control as if by a natural result of its own citizens' actions, not of outside interference. Jameson crossed the border and raced for Johannesburg hoping to get there before Boer troops could become aware of his movements and organise themselves to repel him, but they had known about his intentions from the moment of his arrival, and they attacked his column several times. On 2 January 1896 the invaders surrendered and were jailed in Pretoria.

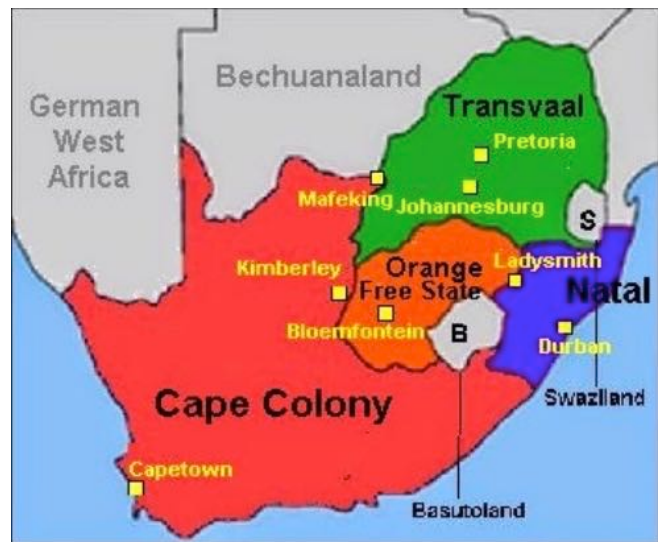


Figure 2 This map of the political geography c1900 indicates the four South African colonies involved in the 2nd Boer War, and sites of some of the major battles.



Figure 3 Leander Starr Jameson (left) and Cecil Rhodes; detail of a photograph of administrators of the British South Africa Company taken in Kimberley 5 April 1902, later published in this cropped form in a 1908 biography of Jameson.

The burning question was, *who had authorized* this outrageous hostile raid? At that time, Cape Colony was largely controlled by a private company operating under a charter from the British Government. This was the British South Africa Company (BSAC) with Cecil Rhodes at the helm. BSAC was rather like a later

equivalent of the East India Company. Under the charter it had powers to rule, police, and develop vast tracts of southern Africa. It wanted to keep and defend what it had, and it wanted to acquire more. Rhodes was not only a Director of the company but also Prime Minister of Cape Colony's legislative assembly. At the time of the Jameson Raid therefore, the British Government was in the embarrassing position of being held responsible for aggressive action in South Africa without necessarily having either knowledge or control of what had been done in Britain's name – although, it was alleged that certain British government ministers and officials certainly *had* known of the plan and even that they were the originators; that Rhodes and Jameson were just the fall-guys. Either way, Rhodes had to step down as Prime Minister and the Board of BSAC was culled.

After a period of further tension, the Second Boer War broke out in October 1899. The British expected to win fairly comfortably but had some very nasty defeats and experiences, both in pitched battles and at the hands of the Boers using guerilla tactics. Peace was achieved with the Treaty of Vereeniging (31 May 1902).

Here are the stories of five known Effingham men who were present in South Africa during the Second Boer War. Two died, three survived.

John Longhurst

In *The Bulletin*, No 5, September 2014 produced by Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) is the article *Bugler John Longhurst* by Bryan Sherwood. John, born in 1865, was the first of seven children in a farm labourer's family who eventually lived at Effingham Hill. After trying out life as a farm labourer himself, John enlisted with the Royal West Surrey Regiment at Guildford in 1885. His service number was 1278. He signed up for a three-year tour of duty and served in Ireland, Malta and India. Decorated with the Indian Medal and two clasps, after 13 years he returned home in 1898 but signed up again with the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, service number 5560, aiming to achieve 21 years service in total. He was posted again initially to Ireland but, from there, on to South Africa as bugler and lance-corporal to fight in the Second Boer War. Bitter conflict was already underway. Official records confirming what happened next are often not in 100% agreement as to the timings, but an account written by a fellow soldier lays out the sequence; see the Appendix. In summary, on 3 April 1900 as the Battalion was crossing the veld making its way to Reddersburg, at an engagement known as Mostert's Hoek (Mostert's Farm; the location is often stated to have been at Reddersburg itself, which it was not) the small force of 600 Royal Irish was surrounded by a

Form B. 265. **SHORT SERVICE. ATTESTATION OF**

No. 1278 Name John Longhurst
 Corps Royal West Surrey Regiment
 Joined Guildford on 2nd July 1885

Questions to be asked to the recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your Name? John Longhurst
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? Effingham Hill, Surrey
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes
4. What is your Age? 17 Months.
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Shipper
6. Are you, or have you been, an apprentice? No
7. Have you resided with your parents for three years continuously in the same place? No
8. Are you married? No
9. Have you ever been sentenced to penal servitude? No
10. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment from the part of Her Majesty's Forces, with or without the forfeiture of pay, or on account of desertion, or for any offence connected with the Army or the Navy? No
11. Do you now belong to any other service? No
12. Do you now belong to any other service? No
13. Do you now belong to any other service? No
14. Do you now belong to any other service? No
15. Do you now belong to any other service? No
16. Have you ever been a Volunteer, or to the Naval or Army Reserve? No
17. Have you ever been a member of any other force? No
18. Are you willing to be enlisted, or are you? Yes
19. For what term are you willing to be enlisted, or are you? For the Royal West Surrey
20. Did you receive a wage, and do you understand its meaning? Yes
21. Who gave you your wage? C. D. Sanders, Capt. R. West Surrey Regt.
22. Are you willing to serve for the term of twelve years, provided that the first seven years shall be in the first class of the Army Reserve? Yes
23. Are you willing to serve for the term of twelve years, provided that the first seven years shall be in the first class of the Army Reserve? Yes
24. Are you willing to serve for the term of twelve years, provided that the first seven years shall be in the first class of the Army Reserve? Yes
25. Are you willing to serve for the term of twelve years, provided that the first seven years shall be in the first class of the Army Reserve? Yes

I, John Longhurst, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true and that I am willing to make the engagements made.

Signature of Recruit John Longhurst Signature of Witness John Longhurst

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT

I, John Longhurst, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and of the Government, and of the Officers and Sergeants set over me. So help me God.

Witness my hand. Signature of Recruit John Longhurst Signature of Witness John Longhurst

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTATION OFFICER

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the recruit in my presence, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and oath before me at Guildford on this 2nd day of July 1885.

Signature of the Justice of the Peace John Longhurst

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under section 89 (6), Army Act, 1881.

The Recruit should, if he requires it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form B. 95.

Figure 4 The first page of John Longhurst's surviving military record marked up very bluntly with what happened to him.

much larger number of heavily armed Boers. On the morning of 4 April the British surrendered. Two officers of the Fusiliers and 9 men had been killed; two officers and about 35 men were wounded, and amongst the latter was John. The remaining men were temporarily taken prisoner but later released on the open veld to fend for themselves as best they could. This was to be the last Boer 'battle' victory however – following this, they turned to guerilla warfare and successfully kept the war going for many hard months.

On 6 April John died of his wounds at Reddersburg and on 9 April was interred at the cemetery there (not a military cemetery as such). His name is recorded on a marble cross at the site [*In memoriam: roll of honour, Imperial Forces Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902*, publ University of Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, 2000].

The South Africa Medal has a profile head of Queen Victoria and the inscription, 'Victoria Regina et Imperatrix' (Victoria, Queen and Empress). On the reverse is the figure of Britannia holding a Union Flag and a laurel wreath, the words 'South Africa', and marching troops and warships in the background. The ribbon is red, yellow and dark blue and is shown here with the 'Cape Colony' clasp.



Figure 5 The South Africa Medal with Cape Colony clasp as posthumously awarded to John Longhurst for his part in the war.

Frederick Andrew Jeffrey

Only a month after Longhurst's death, on 10 May 1900 Frederick Andrew Jeffrey was killed at Kronstadt (Kronstadt, Kroonstad, Kroonstadt etc but not to be confused with Kronstadt near St Petersburg in Russia) aged 31. He is the subject of an article in ELHG's *The Bulletin*, No 21, September 2022.

Frederick was the only son of bricklayer Andrew Jeffrey. The story of the Jeffreys is an interesting one in that one can speculate about Frederick's reason for leaving Effingham to join the army and hence, sadly, ultimately the cause of his death in war so far from home.

Frederick represented the third generation of Jeffreys in Effingham. His grandparents Thomas Jeffrey and Bethia née Hampton of East Horsley married in Southwark in 1820 and came to live in Effingham. Their third son Andrew (the father of our Frederick) was baptised on 29 November 1829.

According to the 1841 Census Thomas, born at Albury, was a bricklayer in Effingham. He seems to have been successful. In 1841 the family was living in what we now know as Crossways House on Crossways (just west of the almshouses). In the 1851 Census they were still there, Thomas employing three bricklayers and a labourer. Two sons James and Andrew were also described as bricklayers. In 1861 Thomas and Bethia were still living at 'Crossways', Thomas still employing 3 men. Thomas died aged 75 in June 1863 and was buried at St Lawrence. When in 1872 Bethia died she was also interred there, and the subsequent inscription on their headstone records the memory of 'Thomas and James, sons of the above'. If James had died early it is possibly why it was Andrew who continued the family business in the next generation.

Initially, outwardly, Andrew appeared successful. According to *The History of Effingham in Surrey* [by Monica Mercy O'Connor, publ Effingham Women's Institute, 1973], on 24 October 1868 William Balchin sold to Andrew Jeffrey, 'Brickmaker' of Effingham (given thus ie not 'bricklayer' which is how he is more frequently described), two connecting pieces of garden ground originally part of 'Ruffinshaw': loosely, what we now know as Church Cottages. Andrew built here the house which today is called 'White Cottage' but by 1913 and for some years subsequently was known as 'Fir Cottage' or 'Fir Tree Cottage'.

Shortly after this transaction with Balchin, on 12 January 1869 Andrew married Eliza Court in Lambeth. She too was the child of a bricklayer. Their son Frederick Andrew the future soldier was born and baptised on 31 October 1869 at St Lawrence. Seemingly their only child, he came relatively late in their lives when Andrew was about 40 and Eliza 37.



Figure 6 An early 20th century postcard view of Fir Tree Cottage, today's White Cottage, on Chapel Hill.

By the time of the 1881 Census Frederick Andrew was still only 11 while his father was 51 and his mother 48. This age difference may have had repercussions for his father's ability to hand on the family business, and eventually something went amiss. In 1888 Andrew Jeffrey mortgaged the family home, Fir Tree Cottage, to John Marmaduke Teesdale of The Lodge for £200, perhaps implying he needed ready cash. In July 1889 he took a case to the County Court against Edward Kershaw of The Hollies (Kershaw is the subject of an article in *The Bulletin*, No 8, March 2016 by Daniel Shepherd). Jeffrey had been contracted to build an engine house to pump water up to Effingham Hill House for Mr Czarnikow of Effingham Hill. Although it is not now clear where the engine house would have been located, it was in the village centre and near The Hollies. Kershaw insisted it must be built lower, ie the ground on which it would sit had to be excavated, or it would obstruct his view. Jeffrey's understanding was that Kershaw agreed to pay for this extra work which he then carried out. In the event Kershaw refused to pay and he claimed that every time the engine was used his house filled with smoke anyway. The judge found against Kershaw and Jeffrey was awarded the £3 he had claimed.

Unfortunately, a few months later, on 12 March 1890 Andrew was declared bankrupt. Fir Tree Cottage was conveyed back to Mr Balchin – and the Jeffrey household broke up. By the 1891 Census, Andrew was a lodger living at The Plough whilst Eliza, 'Dressmaker', was with her younger unmarried sister Sarah Court described as a deaf 'Pauper', in Vidler's Cottages, Clewer, Berkshire.

On 13 August 1891, young Frederick by now 21 years 11 months, was seemingly living in Dorking, a 'bricklayer's apprentice'. We know this because it is the date on his Attestation papers filled in at Aldershot, where he joined the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards. Dragoon Guards were mounted infantry, in other words, a lower class than Horse Guards and paid less. They were never part of the Household Guards. Frederick's service number was 3877. The number is vital because he is sometimes named 'Jeffreys' in military accounts and databases.

Other than joining up there may have been few options open to him. He enrolled for a 'short service' term, ie 7 years 'on the colours' and 5 years in reserve. Of these he spent 3 years in India on the north west frontier, and still in the rank of Private was back in England on 4 February 1899. He had already transferred into the reserve when, within a few months, on 13 November 1899 he was recalled under special regulations to join the army in South Africa. The 4th Dragoon Guards were not present in the Boer War as a complete unit but some men were attached to other units.

Only five months later he was killed in action at the battle of Zand River (Sand River) in the northern Orange Free State on 10 May 1900. The conflict at this time was typified by a scorched earth policy on the part of the British. The grim tactics included the destruction of farms and homesteads – about 30,000 – and

the slaughter of livestock, whilst over 100,000 Boer civilians mostly women and children were forced into concentration camps. Some 26,000 died of starvation and disease. Black Africans were interned separately, resulting in a further 20,000 deaths. Frederick was part of military columns being led by Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener urgently making their way northwards from Bloemfontein in Transvaal to the capital at Pretoria, and to relieve Mafeking. This was famously achieved on 17-18 May and, as will be recounted later, Effingham-connected personnel were very significantly amongst the besieged.

Crossing the Zand River just before they reached the settlement of Kronstadt, various units of the army were ambushed and some soldiers killed, including Private 'Jeffreys'. He is recorded as having been killed in action and interred at 'Osfontein', although without citing any source or supporting evidence for this burial place [*In memoriam: roll of honour, Imperial Forces Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902*, publ University of Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, 2000]. Since the 4th Dragoon Guards were not present as a defined unit, no official memorial site for their casualties was set up in this region either at the time or afterwards, whilst for other regiments they were.

The British advance was held up by this skirmish but was able to press on and reached Kronstadt on 12 May. It is sobering to note that this means Jeffrey took no part in the dreadful scenes which transpired at Kronstadt when the British arrived. The settlement was captured and the women and children interned in a concentration camp on the dry and unshaded veldt, where effectively they were left to be decimated by epidemics. Two thousand died. Today this episode is very little remembered. A lonely memorial isolated in a semi-industrial area out of town records the camp cemetery.



Figure 7 This photograph entitled *The British Transport on the way to Kronstadt* gives an indication of the terrain in the area where Pte Jeffrey met his death. Open and fairly arid, many low hills and gullies provided cover for the Boers.

Did his parents get to hear? These ten years after Andrew's bankruptcy he and Eliza were still living separately. In 1901 Eliza was still in Clewer, by now in the household of a nephew, whilst Andrew was a boarder at the Victoria Coffee Tavern, Great Bookham, a 'retired builder'. Perhaps Andrew heard about the conclusion of peace on 31 May 1902, before his death in Great Bookham on 27 June. In 1929 a record was made of the inscriptions on gravestones in St Lawrence Churchyard, and amongst them is this:

'Frederick Andrew Jeffrey killed at Kroonstadt 10 May 1900 aged 31. Son of Andrew Jeffrey who died 27 June 1902 in his 73rd year.'



Figure 8 The gravestone at St Lawrence commemorating Frederick Jeffrey's death, presumably raised by Eliza (who died in 1905) or other relatives. This photograph taken by David Ayling in June 2020 is part of Frederick's record within the Imperial War Museum's register of memorials of the Boer war dead, where he is number 100217.

Thomas Dench

Two Effingham men also fighting in the same conflict both made it back home to the village alive.

Thomas Dench, baptised on 18 March 1869 to parents living in Little Bookham, was another career soldier. He was just six months older than Frederick Jeffrey, although he was to sign up two years earlier.

One feels that they might have known each other as children: Thomas's family were seemingly resident here by mid-1873 when he was 4. In the 1881 Census when he was 12, Thomas was already a 'Farm Labourer'. The Denches were a large family of mostly agricultural labourers one branch of which was based in Orestan Lane. Thomas was eventually to live with his own family at Orestan Lodge, the now virtually vanished Lodge Cottage in the woods off the old London Road, a former gatehouse to the Horsley Towers estate.

Thomas was a 19-year-old stableman when he joined up at Guildford in July 1889 and was assigned to the Liverpool Regiment. He remained in the UK from July 1889 to February 1891, then served in Bermuda until March 1893, Nova Scotia until December 1895, and finally Jamaica until December 1897. When he was discharged his conduct was 'Exemplary'. This was not the end of his soldiering however. Within a couple of years, aged about 30, he was recalled from the reserve under the Special Army Order of 20 December 1899 and posted to South Africa in March 1900. He was discharged on 31 May 1902 on the termination of his period of engagement, and was awarded the Queen's South Africa medal with three clasps: for service in Cape Colony and for the specific conflicts of Laing's Nek (2-9 June 1900) and Belfast (26-27 August 1900).

Shortly after his return in September 1902 Thomas married Mary Frances née Howlett at Effingham. The couple had two children but Mary died in 1913, and on 8 August 1916 Thomas, now about 47, married again, to Emily Ada née Whiteman aged 45, formerly a housekeeper. It is thought-provoking to note that two years after this, as we have seen in his late forties and a family man, on 1 August 1918 'with his wife's permission' Thomas enlisted yet again 'for the duration of the war' (World War I) with Service Number 279859. He understated his age by a year, claiming to be 48 and born in 1870. He gave his occupation as 'Groom' on his papers. However this time he was to serve not with the army but with the infant RAF, as a batman ie in charge of the equipment and baggage of an officer. He was transferred to the RAF Reserve on 2 March 1919, and his 'Deemed Discharge' was on 30 January 1920. His character was 'VG' and his degree of proficiency 'Satisfactory'. He received one of the Parish Council's commemorative walking sticks for surviving WWI ex-servicemen. He died in 1944.

John Whittington

When Thomas Dench was recalled and sent to South Africa, (whether he actually encountered him there or not) he would be fighting alongside an immediate neighbour from Orestan Lane, and a relative by marriage, who was also a serving soldier. This was John Whittington, eldest of the 13 children of Charles and Ellen Maria (née Brush) Whittington of Old Westmoor Cottage, Orestan Lane where Ellen ran the laundry. John was born in 1878 so was some nine years younger than Thomas (and indeed much the youngest of the five fighting men described here) but was doubtless fully aware from Thomas about the soldiering life. The families were very close, as we shall see.

John came back to Old Westmoor Cottage after his discharge. Ellen had been widowed shortly after he first left on active service. In the photograph opposite she is seen with John's youngest Bob who had also chosen a career in the army – here Bob is home on leave in 1915; he was awarded the Military Medal in 1916.

In 1897 John signed up for three years with the Coldstream Guards aged 18 years and 8 months. In the event, he stayed for over 4 years, being eventually discharged for health reasons. Just under a year of his service was in South Africa, in 1900-01. He served in Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal and was wounded. He gained the Queen's South Africa Medal and was discharged as medically unfit on 29 March 1902, still in the rank of Private but with a Good Conduct badge.



Figure 9 Ellen Whittington at Old Westmoor Cottage with John's brother Bob.

Back in Effingham, it is interesting to wonder whether, after the war, The Plough Inn in Orestan Lane saw evenings where these two swapped campaign stories over a pint or two, or entertained the bar-room with their tales. This is sheer speculation, but there is no doubt about Thomas and John both being together for one very pleasant recorded event. In September 1902 in St Lawrence Church, John Whittington and his older sister Kate witnessed the marriage mentioned above of Thomas Dench with Mary Frances Howlett. Thomas's brother William Dench had already married John's older sister Elizabeth Whittington (in 1899) and another brother, Arthur Dench, was later to marry Kate Whittington (in 1905). As we have seen, Thomas and his family stayed in Effingham. John however did not. He married Ada Chitty from Brockham. By 1911 his family was living in Essex and John was working in the Metropolitan Police Force. When World War I broke out he had ceased to be on the reserve but he too re-enlisted, and served in the Military Provost Staff Corps (the Military Police).

George Marshman Brown

George Brown also made it out of the war alive, but he probably deliberately avoided coming back to Effingham. The full details of his service are not known, but at first sight it certainly looks as if George Brown went off to escape a life which had become increasingly sticky for him. He was not a career soldier like the others.

Born on 11 May 1866, his parents were Samuel Brown and Emma (née Marshman) Brown. Samuel had come to Effingham to farm High Barn Farm for Lady Caroline Fitzgerald (née Berkeley) Maxse, but from about 1888 he was in charge of Manor (Upper) Farm occupying the house known today as Browns on Church Street. Samuel was immensely respectable and a pillar of the community. He was elected to the first Effingham Parish Council in 1894, and when he died in 1897 the Council recorded in the Minutes their 'desire to express their sense of the loss which this Council and the Parish has sustained thereby, and their sympathy with Mrs. Brown and Family'.

Samuel's son George had not gone into farming after his father. In 1892 aged 25 he married Annie Elizabeth (née) Gates, a girl he would have known in Effingham since childhood and by then a teacher. Her family lived close by at Ruffinshaw (Church Cottages). At the time of their marriage George was a commercial clerk. The new couple lived in Islington, but the marriage failed: in July 1893 George deserted Annie shortly before their son, Wilfred Eric, was born on 11 September in Great Bookham. He then got into trouble with the law essentially for forgery, handling stolen and falsely signed cheques. On 8 May 1894 he was apprehended by Inspector Frederick Downes of the Metropolitan Police who had come specifically to Effingham to make the arrest:

'... about seven p.m. on 8th May I saw Brown at his father's house, Effingham, Surrey – I said, "I am a police officer from London, and you will be charged, with a man in custody who has given the name of George Trist, otherwise Barrett or Fitzgerald, with forging and uttering a cheque for £40 on the City Bank on 3rd April" – he said, "I know nothing about it; at least I do. Mr. Elam told me about it, and said I should very likely get into trouble as my name was upon the cheque. Beyond that I know nothing. Who says I did this?" – I said, "A commissioner has pointed you out to me" – he said, "But he could point out anyone. Has he given you a description of me?" – I said, "Yes; he says at the time he believes you were wearing a beard, and I know at that time you had a dark beard" – I had seen him with it – he said, "That is quite right, I took it off because my friends said it made me look old, but I know nothing about it, and I shall be able to prove an *alibi*" – at this time he was clean shaved about the chin – I brought him to London, and he was charged – he said in answer, "I am entirely innocent" – among Brown's effects I found an envelope containing four pawntickets relating to articles of clothing and jewellery; one was for a coat and pair of trousers – I have seen the coat; it is an overcoat – I have sent the duplicate for it to the pawnbroker's – the tickets relate to things pledged at the end of March and beginning of April.'

At the end of his trial on 29 May George was sentenced to 12 months hard labour in Pentonville. His accomplice, a more hardened criminal, was given 10 years penal servitude. The record of the trial, practically verbatim, is at <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?div=t18940528-493>.

From 1895, when George was presumably released, until the 1901 Census there is a gap in direct sightings of him, but it looks as if he ran away to be a soldier. The Census taken on 31 March 1901 captures him aged 34, a hospital nurse living near the Royal Victoria Hotel in Hound, near Southampton, where his entry is marked 'Sick'. Before that, however, he had participated in the Boer conflict. We know this, although not the specific dates, because he later emigrated to the USA and in due course (1917) was obliged to fill in a US Federal Military Census. In this he states that he had done 3 years service as a Medical Volunteer in the Special Volunteer Services, earning the Cape Colony and Orange Free State clasps. Royal Army Medical Corps documentation may confirm this, although not in a 100% copper-bottomed way.

Private 9754 G. Brown served in Cape Colony, South Africa during the Boer War – ie October 1899 to May 1902 – earning the South Africa Medal with the Cape Colony and Orange Free State clasps. At ‘3 General Hospital, Kronstadt’ on 7 August 1901 an official certified him as having earned them. These particular clasps were awarded for ‘being there’ rather than taking part in a specific action or battle:

- the Cape Colony clasp related to the period 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902;
- the Orange Free State clasp related to the period 28 February 1900 to 31 May 1902.

If George really had completed 3 full years service, however, it could not all have been in the Boer War. The conflict lasted only two and a half years and evidently, given the date of the 1901 Census, he was back in Britain quite some time before the end.

Southampton was a convenient place for taking ship. At what point George moved to the Connecticut area of the USA where he was to settle for the rest of his life is unclear. In the 1910 US Census he says he immigrated in 1897, and is a clerk in a railroad office. He has attempted naturalisation and is at the ‘Papers’ stage. In the 1917 Federal Military Census referred to above he gave his present occupation as clerk, and his previous occupations included ‘Grad. Male Nurse’ and ‘Photographer’; he confirms he can ride a horse, handle a team and a boat, but he cannot drive or operate any machinery or wireless or telegraph. Paperwork viewable online shows that in May 1919 his application for naturalisation was stamped ‘DISMISSED Petitioner convicted of crime and serving jail sentence’. What the nature of this new misdemeanour was is unknown. In the 1920 Census he gives his immigration year as 1890, which is unlikely to be true, his immigration status as Alien, and he was an office clerk with the railroad. In 1930 he stated he had immigrated in 1894, is an accountant with the steam railroad, and is at the ‘First Papers’ stage of Naturalisation. By 1940, by now aged 73 and occupied in ‘Research’, he had succeeded in becoming naturalised.

What of Annie, deserted while pregnant in 1893? George seems never to have gone back to her. In the 1901 Census she and her child Wilfred were living with her parents in Lambeth, Annie employed as a School Board Teacher. In 1911, aged 42, she was still living with her mother and her brother in Lewisham, a teacher for the County Council. The space to record ‘Married’ or ‘Single’ has been left blank.

Meanwhile, on 9 January 1909 seemingly unbeknownst to her, in Milford, Connecticut George bigamously married Lilian Josephine Roberts. In 1912 Annie, then living at Belmont Hill in Lewisham, petitioned for divorce. She complained of ‘adultery coupled with desertion’ and cited Lilian Roberts of West Haven, Connecticut, but she does not appear to know that George had actually married Lilian. The divorce was uncontested and became final on 13 January 1913. What ultimately happened to Annie is not known.

At the time of the 1920 US Federal Census George was still married to Lilian, but by 1930, he had married for the third time, to Nellie previously Bushnell, aged 43 to George’s 64. Nellie had two daughters aged 14 and 8. He was still alive in the 1940 US Federal census, his ‘Industry’ described as ‘project surveyor, grave yard’.

We might also say, what of the Manor Farm? George’s younger brother, Ernest Edwin took on the tenancy after their father’s death. Ernest never married so no sons arrived to help him and it would have been a tough job. World War proved fatal to the viability of many farms in Effingham, including Manor Farm. In 1919/20 his tenancy there was ended, the farm was broken up, and the former farmhouse became a private residence.

The Maxse family

Perhaps not strictly Effingham men as such, but nevertheless undeniably connected with Effingham and also bearing arms within the same war-zone, were both Lord Edward Herbert Cecil (1867-1918), husband of Violet Maxse who was the youngest daughter of Admiral Frederick Augustus Maxse of Dunley Hill; and (Frederick) Ivor Maxse, the Admiral’s eldest son. Edward – a born army administrator who had already spent time in Egypt and the Sudan, on the South African campaign serving directly under Robert Baden-Powell as his Chief of Staff – and Ivor (1862-1958), Lieutenant Colonel, another career soldier who had also come from Egypt and the Sudan, were in the officer ranks and ended up in the very thick of extremely difficult military situations. Many details below of the Maxse family’s involvement with the Boer War are drawn from *Imperial Marriage - an Edwardian War and Peace* by Hugh and Mirabel Cecil, 2002.

Edward Cecil was among the civilians and soldiers besieged in Mafeking from the start of the 217 days from 30 October 1899 to the lifting of it on 17 May 1900 – in fact, he was largely in charge of keeping discipline within the town during that terrible time, having to order increasingly tough measures affecting both troops and civilians. One chivalrous act for which Edward became very well known was the trouble

he took to arrange the release into British protection at Mafeking of Lady Sarah Wilson who had been captured by the Boers. Lady Sarah, aunt of Winston Churchill, was an experienced and bold African adventuress. Coincidentally, she was already a friend of George Craig Saunders Pauling's equally fearless and vivacious wife Edith Kate (née Halliwell) Pauling, and in later years (1903) these two were some of the first white women to reach Victoria Falls.



Figure 10 Edward Herbert Cecil in full uniform, a photograph published in *The Sketch* of 1 November 1899, by which time he was trapped in the siege at Mafeking.



Figure 11 Ivor Maxse in 1917. His experience of active warfare made him focus on army rules, logistics and training in order to ensure that orders were carried out predictably and efficiently. He had a very long and successful career in the military. This 1917 portrait by Francis Dodd shows him in the rank of Lieutenant General.

Violet had accompanied her husband Edward to South Africa when he was originally posted there, disembarking in July 1899 at a time of tension but before the actual outbreak of war. On arrival they were invited to stay at the very pleasant Government House with the distinguished South African High Commissioner and Governor of the Cape Colony, Sir Alfred Milner. Milner, all of the Maxses and all of the Cecils (Edward's father Lord Salisbury was Prime Minister *and* Foreign Secretary) believed very strongly in the importance of empire and retention of the colonies – an ideology which the passage of time has caused to be completely re-evaluated.

On a personal level, that period in South Africa was to prove something of a turning point for Violet. She began not to enjoy the life of a soldier's wife or being away from her very young son who was back in England, and under these difficult circumstances the marriage slowly began to deteriorate. Violet and Milner had already met several times in England. They became extremely discreet lovers, and many years later, in 1921 after the death of Edward, they eventually married.

But that is to leap ahead. Shortly after arrival, Violet initially had spent some time accompanying her husband as he moved up-country. When war broke out, they were in fairly dangerous forward territory at Mafeking. Violet had to return to Cape Town without Edward. She and another officer's wife in a similar situation became house guests of Cecil Rhodes. Rhodes had originally made his immense fortune from the diamond mines at Kimberley. He had helped shape the 'new' country of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe and

Zambia). As previously mentioned, he had been Prime Minister of Cape Colony from 1890 to 1896, but had been forced to resign after the diplomatic disaster of the Jameson Raid.

Rhodes invited Violet to stay in his beautiful house and estate at Groote Schuur on the flank of Table Mountain near Cape Town, itself regarded as the most attractive town in the British Empire. Groote Schuur had been extensively remodelled and refurnished for Rhodes in 1896:

‘After initially furnishing with modern furniture from London, Rhodes, influenced by Baker [Herbert Baker, later Sir Herbert Baker, the architect of Groote Schuur, was recently from the firm of Ernest George & Harold Peto, the fashionable architectural practice which had also designed the Maxse’s home Dunley Hill in Effingham!], began a shift from the modern to more traditional Cape furniture. This would mark the beginning of Cecil Rhodes’ collection of colonial furnishings. The gardens of the house were as Rhodes demanded “masses of colour”. Surrounding the house was a mass of roses, hydrangeas, cannas, bougainvilleas and fuchsias. Farther away from the house on the slopes of Devil’s Peak, Rhodes kept antelopes, zebra, eland, wildebeest and ostriches. Rhodes was always a generous host while at Groote Schuur. He used the residence as much as a business and political headquarters as a home. His life at the time was one of dinner parties and meetings on the stoep [verandah], where he would be joined by as many as fifty people. From 1910 to 1984, it was the official Cape residence of the Prime Ministers of South Africa and continued as a presidential residence of P. W. Botha and F. W. De Klerk.’

[From *Diamonds, Gold and War* by Martin Meredith, 2007, p251]



Photo : S. B. Barnard, Cape Town.

Figure 12 Groote Schuur translates as ‘Great Shed’ and it began life in 1657 as a storage facility for the Dutch East India Company but this photograph from 1899 shows how it looked when Violet was a visitor there. ‘Mr. Rhodes, ... filled it with things of beauty and rare curiosities. It stands in a spacious park containing an uncommonly fine zoological collection, which includes almost every non-carnivorous animal belonging to South Africa, as well as many from other parts of the world.’

Violet stayed there for nine months. She was fully aware from her father the Admiral’s direct experience during the Crimean campaign of the shocking loss of men from illness, not battle. She did not simply languish therefore but threw herself with terrific energy into organising nursing facilities and supplies for the wounded. At New Year 1900 Violet’s eldest brother Ivor, his new wife with him, arrived to take up his

military post. Meanwhile, back in England in early January 1900 and staying at Dunley Hill while recuperating from ill health, Georges Clemenceau, Admiral Maxse's best friend, from Violet's own writing desk in her room, wrote letters of family news to her in South Africa, reassuring her especially that all was well with her son.



Figure 13 In happier pre-war times: (left) George Clemenceau, (right) his great friend Admiral Frederick Augustus Maxse, and Violet, riding in the Bois de Boulogne, Paris, 1888. More information about the friendship of the Maxses and Clemenceau can be found on the *Surrey In the Great War* website.

At the time Clemenceau was writing, Admiral Maxse himself was not in Effingham but on his way to South Africa too. After the 'Black Week' of military defeats of 10-17 December 1899, hearing and fearing the worst about military incompetence and lack of support by the home government (a re-run of the Crimea) he had decided to visit his children and see the campaign for himself. He arrived towards the end of January and took himself off on a tour. He got as far as meeting up with Ivor at Bloemfontein, where to the annoyance of Ivor and the military authorities, Violet and other wives then *also* came, before they were sent packing back to Cape Town.

Sadly, before the end of his trip in May 1900 and unsuspected by his family, Admiral Maxse caught typhoid. On 25 June, by then back in London, he succumbed to it. Violet was not able to be present at his funeral. Dreadfully torn about what to do, whether to stay near her husband in South Africa or return to England to help support her grieving sister and brother, she finally left in October 1900 (and Edward returned in December 1900, to recover his health). The consequence of the Admiral's death was very significant for Effingham – the ending of the Maxse family's occupation of the big house, the dispersal of the staff and the cessation of all the activities of an estate. It was divided up into smaller lets and its dignity as a great house slowly dwindled.

George Craig Saunders Pauling

A person one might confidently have expected to find in South Africa at this time, one who in later life wrote an autobiography in which he recorded details of his close association with Cecil Rhodes and interesting reflections on the latter's character, was in fact *not* there. This was civil engineer George Craig Saunders Pauling (1854-1919) who joined Effingham's history in 1897 when he bought The Lodge. At the time of the Second Boer War Pauling had plenty of other projects elsewhere on the globe to be getting on with and some sightseeing to do. As part of Firkbank, Pauling and Co, Pauling had won his first railway contract in South Africa in 1875. He went on to speculate in many businesses from ostrich farming, to building a Masonic temple, to running a hotel, to investment in the gold mines at Witwatersrand.

He simply could not resist a chance to make money, but his forte was the successful completion of enormous civil engineering projects. From the 1880s the firm bid successfully for many railway contracts but also bridges, harbours, tunnels and aqueducts not only in Africa but across the world.



Figure 14 George Pauling, here seen sitting at right in the middle row, with colleagues in 1894 developing the railway line running from Beira in Mozambique to Umtali in the new Rhodesia, a project promoted by Rhodes' Chartered British South Africa Company. The line took ten years to build, with hundreds of its construction workers dying in the challenging conditions. Standing behind George, with her hunting rifle and ammunition belt, is his second wife Edith Kate.

Pauling seemingly encountered Rhodes for the first time in Johannesburg in late December 1886, and Kruger in 1891. After 1891 he was successful in getting railway engineering contracts from both. In 1895 he was appointed Commissioner of Public Works to the first legislative assembly in Rhodesia (under Jameson). He also became Vice Chairman of the Rhodesian Chamber of Mines. In October 1895, he was a visitor to Groote Schuur, invited there to meet Rhodes about a contract, but Rhodes probed his views about the situation in the Transvaal which as we have seen BSAC was itching to find a way of taking over. In his autobiography *The Chronicles of a Contractor* [publ posthumously by Constable & Co Ltd, London, 1926] Pauling says he discerned that something was in the wind, and he left to return to Salisbury (Harare) before the 'bad mess' of the Jameson Raid. After it, Pauling's directors felt it wise to issue a statement saying they knew nothing of it, and Pauling also cabled London claiming that the Council of BSAC led by Rhodes knew nothing of it. Unfortunately, Mr Alfred Leonard Lawley, one of Pauling's key associates and described by him as 'one of the most forceful personalities I have met, ever ready at a moment's notice to proceed to any accessible part of the globe', was 'an active participant in it, was arrested and imprisoned in Johannesburg'. Pauling made an unsuccessful attempt to bail Lawley for £2,000 but the latter was not released until the following May. General unrest and tension continued to mount. Rhodes was called back to England to attend an inquiry and locally, matters worsened without his controlling presence.

When Rhodes eventually returned to Africa, he became Pauling's guest at the lovely Government House which Pauling had had built in Salisbury (Harare). Shortly afterwards Pauling was required to resign from the directorate of Pauling & Co in order to continue in his public role as Commissioner of Works without conflict of interests, which he did, his brother 'Harry' (Henry Richard Clarke) taking his place; but then

Harry's health began to give serious cause for concern. By the beginning of 1897 Pauling had to persuade Rhodes forcefully to let him leave:

'Mr Rhodes pressed me very hard to remain, and said that if it were a question of money he would undertake that I should make as much money by remaining as I could by going back to my firm, and he also promised that if I remained in Rhodesia he would give me the highest position in the country. This was an instance – and I do not think it was an isolated one – of Mr. Rhodes being ready to promise anything to attain his end. Whether he would afterwards be able or willing to carry out his promise would, I knew, be a matter controlled by expediency.'

[From *The Chronicles of a Contractor*, p159]

Early in April 1897, 'after two and a quarter years in Rhodesia', Pauling left for England to look after his brother, and while he was here he bought sight unseen (on Lawley's recommendation) The Lodge at Effingham. In connection with leaving South Africa, Pauling wrote:

'In view of my many associations with Mr Rhodes it might seem churlish to attempt any serious criticism of his character. While recognizing his many great qualities, which history will endorse, I cannot refrain from suggesting that, probably in common with all great personalities, he had his weaknesses. He was particularly susceptible to the plaudits of the public, which made him bumptious; and at times he seemed utterly heartless. But no criticism, however much of it may be justified, can challenge his right to the title of "Colossus," so far as the development of South Africa is concerned. As indicative of the peculiarities of great men I prefer to limit my observations to two more or less amusing incidents which came within my own knowledge.

Whenever Mr Rhodes became excited or intensely interested in anything he was apt to talk in a peculiarly high-pitched voice. On the occasion of his first meeting with Lawley ... the coach which conveyed Mr. Rhodes and his party, including Dr. Jameson, from Rhodesia arrived about three days later than had been expected, and whether the delay had affected the temper of Mr. Rhodes I cannot say, but without warning he proceeded to swear and to abuse Lawley in the presence of the whole railway camp, until by a gradual crescendo of unparliamentary language he reached his high falsetto tone. Lawley, who is usually able to provide a *quid pro quo* when it is a question of language, realising that, without any apparent reason, he was being stultified [made to look a fool] in the eyes of his subordinates, invited Mr. Rhodes to say who the h... he thought he was, and told him, in a flood of railway vernacular, that there was no necessity for him to squeal like a damned rabbit. Mr. Rhodes, obviously astonished at Mr. Lawley's unexpected daring, walked off to a neighbouring clump of trees. Lawley, acting on the instructions which had been telegraphed to him, gave orders for the luggage from the coach to be put on the waiting train, and then notified all concerned that the train would leave in five minutes, and all those who were not aboard within that time could reach their destinations as they chose. Mr. Rhodes entered his carriage just at the last moment – so much so that his carriage door was not closed when it moved off. On the journey a stoppage was made to take in water and Mr Rhodes sent Mr Jameson to Lawley with an invitation to join him in his compartment. Lawley did so, and Mr. Rhodes, who had calmed down, resumed his natural method of speech, expressed his deep regret at the occurrence and asked Lawley to shake hands with him. From that day Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Lawley remained the best of friends.'

[From *The Chronicles of a Contractor*, pp161-2]

Pauling goes on to relate a separate incident, in which Rhodes came to see him and shouted at him in the same falsetto voice, 'Pauling, I won't be bullied by your cousin Harold. He bullies me every time I see him'. Pauling simply offered to send Harold to work elsewhere, which he knew Rhodes would not want. As he expected, Rhodes backed down but stated that in future Harold would have to be civil when he spoke to him. Pauling replied 'I am sure that if you are civil to my cousin he will be civil to you as there is no one in the world towards whom he entertains so great admiration and respect.' and wrote 'After that they were always good friends'.

As noted above, Pauling returned to England, arriving in early May 1897, concerned by the health of his brother, who died in the following November. He did not go back to South Africa until August 1898. Shortly after that he returned from Africa to England again and spent his second Christmas, December 1898, at Effingham. He returned to Africa in May 1899, and at Bulawayo on 30 May 'was present at the cutting of the first sod' of the Bulawayo to Gwelo railway, completed 1902. During the following years the company won and completed other railway projects including several in Cape Colony Province. But Pauling was not present personally, at the outbreak of war or for the duration:

'The Boer War broke out in October 1899. During the whole period of this war I did not visit Africa. It was then that I made my trip round the world, and in any case the war, for a time, put an end to serious African activities on my part [*he does mean for him personally – many of his enterprises continued and new projects were started*]. I think, however, I may fairly claim that my firm, in an unostentatious fashion,

contributed to the ultimate success of Great Britain. We did not suspend our operations on the Beira Railway and Mr. Lawley did much useful work for the Carrington expeditionary force, sent to the relief of Mafeking, in landing troops, horses, and munitions of war at Beira for that force, and in forwarding them up the line. Mr Harold Pauling [*a first cousin once removed*] and his staff in Rhodesia also gave much help in the same direction.'

[From *The Chronicles of a Contractor*, p174]

One of the results of the Raid and the war was some serious reshaping of the Board of BSAC so that the British Government and the High Commissioner could feel a greater sense of confidence that it was being run more responsibly. This results in another connection between a subject of previous interest to ELHG and South Africa, although it is a more indirect link. The change of guard at BSAC included advancing one Philip Lyttelton Gell to a higher level of responsibility for supervising and regulating the company's affairs, and making sure that those in the UK knew what was going on in Africa. Gell was to be involved with BSAC as Director (1899–1917, 1923–1925), Chairman (1917–1920) and President (1920–1923). Gell had been a great friend of Sir Alfred Milner since youth. The Effingham connection comes from Gell's wife, Edith née Brodrick. Edith grew up at Peper Harrow near Godalming. She was one of the early founders of the Mothers' Union – and one of the main drivers of the initiative to send the 'Easter Dawn' postcards to serving WWI soldiers at Easter 1916; see the article by Anne Vallis and Mark Eller in ELHG's *The Bulletin*, No 14, March 2019 about the Easter Dawn postcard in Anne's family's possession.

John Carpenter's horse's nostril

And finally: whereas one might have expected Pauling to be in South Africa, an Effingham Common resident one would equally confidently *not* have expected to be there was ... a horse. He or she first came to light in an anecdote by Mrs Agnes Conisbee (1862–1945) who documented reminiscences of her life in East Horsley in *Memories of our Village and WI by an Old Inhabitant*:

'Another memory of long ago is of an old farmer who used to live on Effingham Common in my early days. We used to see him driving past on his way to Guildford Market in a big market cart, such as the small farmers used in those days; a cart big enough to bring home a calf, should he see one to suit his fancy. And then there would be room enough in the front for he and his wife to ride home quite comfortable, as he would say, without – I dare say – even a cushion on the seat, or rug for their knees.

The horse would be a stoutish cob, able to take half a plough if need be – a very different way of going to market to the present-day farmers. This said farmer always wore a smock and I never saw him in anything else. Although he has been dead only a few years I don't think he ever wore anything in the way of a coat. He was also the owner of a horse that had a bullet-hole through its nostril, a relic from the Boer War.'

The question was, *who was the farmer?* The answer is to be found in Carol Salter's book *East Horsley in Living Memory*, a compilation of memoirs from older residents. She wrote:

'... the road now called Old Lane was then Effingham Road. Bordered by Effingham Road and Cobham Road was a field rented by John Carpenter of Lee Brooke, Effingham Common. Farmer Carpenter still wore a farmer's smock and he owned a horse with a bullet hole in its muzzle acquired in the Boer War.'

[*East Horsley in Living Memory*, p13]

John Carpenter was written about by Bryan Sherwood in the material exhibited at Effingham's Commoners' Day in 2012. John was baptised in Cobham in 1844, his parents then living at Downside. He inherited the Lee Brook property beside Effingham Common (one of the four properties where commoner's rights were subsequently established) from his mother, Eliza, on her death in 1881 and continued to run it as a fruit farm until his death in 1931.

One can only wonder about the circumstances under which any horse had made it back from South Africa to Effingham. However, perhaps he/she travelled courtesy of the following local enterprise:

'In 1900 the chief freight carried on the line from Horsley had been horses. This had come about in the following manner: Mr Bertie Holland ... had two Cornish uncles. When the Boer War started in 1899, they secured a government contract to supply horses. One uncle moved to Pound Farm (near the "Black Swan" at Hatchford) and took over many stables in the area, including those at the "Railway Tavern", for horses awaiting entrainment. Before each horse was led up a ramp in the siding to the wagon it was tested for wind by a veterinary colonel. It was galloped in a paddock (where Station Parade is now) and graded for use in the conflict, e.g. for the cavalry or for pulling gun carriages. Three consignments went weekly and thousands of horses were sent from Horsley during the three-year

period. It is interesting that Horsley during this time was the transit place for horses, since the name Horsley is derived from “horse lea” which means horse clearing.’
[*East Horsley in Living Memory*, p14]

In conclusion

What we as historians *can* find out about alters all the time. One day, we might discover where this horse fought, where it was wounded, and even its name! Meanwhile, what people *want* to know about also alters all the time. Thus any historical narrative will continue to evolve, a process which cannot be halted. This means that we are destined to learn some things that make us smile – but also some unpleasant truths. Currently, big and painful issues are under intense debate globally. These have an impact on our contemplation of Effingham’s local history just as much as they affect the history of the wider world.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1: photograph by Astacopsis Gouldi, *Wikimedia Commons*, public domain
 Figure 2: from The Kipling Society website: https://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/readers-guide/rg_burgher1.htm
 Figure 3: from *Dr Jameson* by George Seymour Fort, publ Hurst and Blackett (London), 1908
 Figure 4: from The National Archives via *Ancestry*
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 Figure 6: original postcard held in ELHG archives
 Figure 7: Boer War print from *eBay*
 Figure 8: Imperial War Museum: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/100217>
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 Figure 14: from *The Chronicles of a Contractor* by George Pauling, publ Books of Rhodesia, 1969 (2nd edition)
 Figure 15: from AngloBoerWar.com
 Figure 16: © British Library Board

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In memoriam: roll of honour, Imperial Forces Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902, compiled by Steve Watt and published by University of Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, 2000. This commemorative volume covers over 25,000 people who died serving with the Imperial forces in the Anglo-Boer war including the unit they were attached to, where and how they died, and where they are buried. It mistakenly lists John Longhurst as ‘W S’ Longhurst, but with correct service number 5560 and other details.

Casualties: South African Field Force 1899-1902, The National Archives, WO 108/360

Online resources

The 2nd Boer War is very fully covered by online resources, even including snippets of film. A written account called *Two Years on Trek* (1907) by Lt Col Du Moulin of the Royal Sussex Regiment who was also at the Zand River engagement (chapter IV) can be read at:

<https://www.angloboerwar.com/books/129-du-moulin-two-years-on-trek/2730-du-moulin-chapter-iv-the-fight-at-zand-river>

Rural and Urban Exploration: Exploring the rural and urban areas of South Africa

This online resource, curated by Horst Müller, includes information and photographs of the cemeteries and Boer War graves at Reddersburg (including the grave of Capt W P Dimsdale, leader of the mounted cavalry section in which John Longhurst was serving; see Appendix) and also Kronstadt, and the concentration camp at the latter. See:

<https://www.ruralexploration.co.za/Reddersburg.html> and <https://www.ruralexploration.co.za/Kroonstad.html>

An informative account by Louis Creswicke, *South Africa and the Transvaal War* Vol V, *From the Disaster at Koorn Spruit to Lord Roberts's entry into Pretoria* can be read at:

https://www.gutenberg.org/files/41017/41017-h/41017-h.htm#Page_101

Interview of Nelson Mandela by Michael Morris – this can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIV3kV4aQxA>

APPENDIX

The engagement at Mostert's Hoek

Lance Cpl Robert Cunningham of the Irish Rifles was at the battle of Mostert's Hoek with John Longhurst. The information about Cunningham's life and career below is quoted from research by Dr David Biggins presented on his website:

<https://www.angloboerwar.com/forum/5-medals-and-awards/33550-robert-cunningham-a-royal-irish-regiment-pow-at-mostert-s-hoek>

See also:

<https://www.angloboerwar.com/unit-information/imperial-units/651-royal-irish-rifles>

This is followed by information on the engagement as a whole quoted from a contemporary weekly periodical:

‘... The battalion, strengthened by drafts from home, remained with General Gatacre in the Queenstown-Molteno district of the Eastern Cape until Lord Roberts' advance from Modder River to Bloemfontein scared the Boers out of Cape Colony. General Gatacre then moved north via Stormberg and Burghersdorp, and crossed the Orange River about the middle of March 1900. The general's headquarters were at Springfontein, and in accordance with Lord Roberts' desires columns were sent out from the line to distribute proclamations. The enemy, taking heart at the halt which had to be made after the occupation of Bloemfontein, swooped down first on Broadwood at Sannah's Post and then farther south to Reddersburg.

It was in this vicinity that the engagement took place that Cunningham would be least likely to forget – it is also where the aforementioned Lady Luck turned her back on him and many of his comrades. On 2 April 1900 three companies of the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles (424 men) and two companies of mounted infantry (167 men under Captain W.P. Dimsdale, Royal Irish Rifles) left Dewetsdorp in the Orange Free State for Reddersburg under Captain W.J. McWhinnie of the Royal Irish Rifles. In heavy rain the column made slow progress, the horses were not fit and needed resting. The column halted at 5:45 p.m.

Early the next morning they started out, at about 10 a.m. the advance scouts reached a ridge on the farm Mostert's Hoek (Mostertshoek) and came under fire. McWhinnie occupied three kopjes, a front of 3/4 mile which was too long for his force. Immediately, Commandant C.R. de Wet called on McWhinnie to surrender because he was seriously outnumbered; this was turned down. Four guns were brought into action to shell the British troops. Surrounded and without water the British positions were rushed on the morning of 4 April, the Boers had crept to within 30 yards of the Mounted Infantry.

As McWhinnie consulted with his officers one infantry company on a kopje waved white handkerchiefs and two men near McWhinnie did likewise. McWhinnie was compelled to surrender; losses were ten killed, 35 wounded and 540 taken prisoner. Lt-Gen Sir W.F. Gatacre was sent to assist, but arrived too late and after a short occupation of Reddersburg retired to Bethanie. Courts of Inquiry into the conduct of Captain W.J. McWhinnie and other officers and a number of NCOs and soldiers exonerated all concerned.

... Cunningham was “in the bag” – one of those taken Prisoner of War. Perhaps fortunately for him the Boers lacked both the resources and the enthusiasm to entertain prisoners. As it was they were now largely living off the veld and battling to keep themselves and their mounts fed. As a result prisoners were normally stripped of their equipment, denuded of their clothing and set free on the open veld to find their way back to friendly lines. Such would have been the lot of Cunningham and his compatriots.’

The following is from *With the flag to Pretoria. A history of the Boer War 1899-1900* by Herbert Wrigley Wilson. This was a weekly periodical published by Harmsworth Brothers Limited, 1900-01. Later volumes continued this detailed coverage of the war.

'The Boer Commando seen towards Dewetsdorp, moving south, was 1400 strong and intended, in co-operation with another commando, 800 strong with 6 guns, to attack a small British force which had been receiving surrenders in the Dewetsdorp district (these would have been surrenders from Boer farmers wishing to return to the land.) The British detachment consisted of three companies of the Royal Irish Rifles, which had left Smithfield on 29 March, and two companies of Mounted Infantry. The latter joined the Royal Irish Rifles unexpectedly on the evening of April 1, and were at first taken for Boers, and all but fired upon by the Infantry. The detachment belonged to General Gatacre's division, it had with it no guns, was outside the reach of prompt support, and is said to have received no orders as to what it was to do. In command was Captain McWhinnie.

On April 1 the British had entered Dewetsdorp and received from the Landrost the keys of the public buildings. Several of the inhabitants took the oath of neutrality, Captain McWhinnie received the order to retreat at 3.30 p.m. of April 2, and without any delay began to move towards Reddersburg and Bethanie. The weather was most unfavourable; rain fell in sheets; and on the muddy roads the teams and horses began to show signs of exhaustion. Slow progress was made, and the force was compelled to camp at Kelly's farm east of Reddersburg, that night.

It was followed by De Wet and the Boers, who kept touch with it. Though themselves out of sight. On the morning of the 3rd the retreat was resumed, when, while passing to the south of a long line of kopjes at Mostert's Hoek, an ominous cloud of dust was seen to the north-east. Fire, too, was suddenly opened from the south on the Mounted Infantry. On this Captain McWhinnie ordered his men to seize the long line of kopjes, at either end of which was a spur. The western spur was occupied by the Mounted Infantry, the eastern spur and the ridge connecting the two by the Royal Irish Rifles.

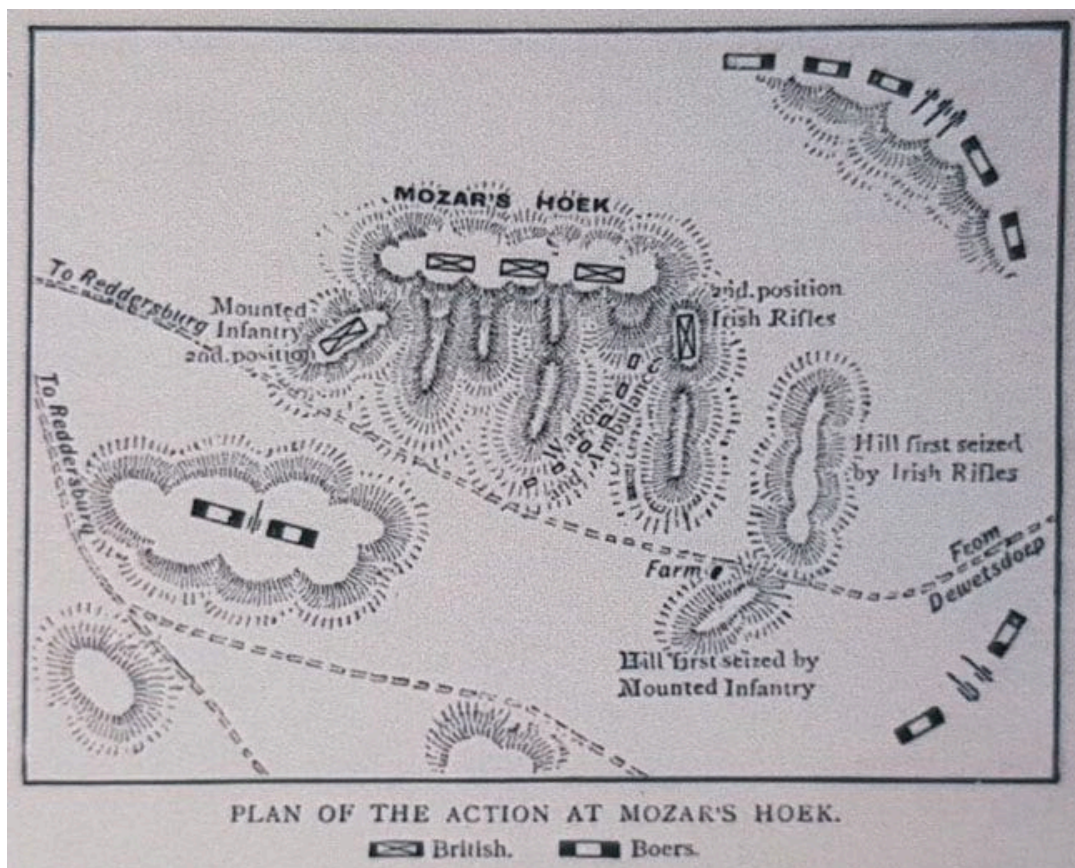


Figure 15 Battle plan of Mostert's Hoek.

Under the eastern spur were parked the six ox-wagons, the water cart, the two ammunition carts, and the three ambulances which formed the baggage of the little column. Almost as soon as this had been done the Boer attack began. A rifle fire was opened by the enemy upon the eastern and western spurs, and about noon a cannon arrived and began to bombard the kopjes. It was clear from the first that the position was hopeless unless reinforcements should arrive. There was no water except that in the carts and in the men's drinking bottles, the enemy were on all sides in superior force, and they had artillery.

De Wet sent in a letter by a flag of truce, stating that he had 2200 men and six guns – which seems to have been the truth – and urging surrender to prevent bloodshed. Captain McWhinnie very properly tore the missive to shreds and answered with indignant refusal.

On this a second gun began to shell the kopjes. All the afternoon fighting continued. There was good cover, and the men at the officers' orders made the best use of it, so that they exposed themselves but little to the enemy's projectiles. Neither side in fact could see the other. The British fire was cool, slow, and accurate under very trying conditions. Towards evening the Boer shells began to fall among the British transport and inflicted some loss. A third piece of artillery opened and the shrapnel threw up the stones and dust along the ridge, while the enemy crept closer and closer. Captain Casson and Lieutenant Barclay had already been killed; Captains Dimsdale and Kelly were severely wounded, but the losses otherwise were not serious.

Night fell, but no fire could be lighted, as the enemy shot freely whenever an Englishman showed himself, and the utmost vigilance was required to prevent the small force from being rushed. The men were greatly in want of food and water, but, worn out with the strain of a long day's fighting, they fell asleep where they lay. In the darkness the officers held a consultation. A proposal to cut their way out was considered and dismissed as impracticable – which it probably was – and it was decided to hold on another morning. A brave scout was sent through the enemy's lines to ask for reinforcements.

At 6 a.m. of April 4, after a bitterly cold and miserable night, the Boer fire recommenced. First the rifles opened and then came the shrapnel. A fourth Boer gun had now opened fire, and from all sides bullets and shells rained on the crest and spurs held by the British. The eminence held by the Mounted Infantry was especially singled out for concentrated fire, and the men on it were forced back. The Boers seized the summit, and from it could enfilade the long ridge held by the Irish Rifles. This marked the end. First one and then another white flag showed; the fire instantly ceased on both sides, and 405 unwounded British officers and men laid down their arms. It was the first time in the war that a British force had surrendered with such light casualties.'



Figure 16 The imagined scene just before the surrender at Mostert's Hoek: a double-page spread in an *Illustrated War Special*. The caption reads 'The last cartridge: at Reddersburg the Royal Irish Rifles fought till their ammunition was exhausted'. This was putting the best gloss on what was at the time an unexpected and shocking defeat for the British.