

Gypsy, Romany and Traveller history in Surrey: a full bibliography of published sources

Despite first being mentioned in the historical record at least 500 years ago, references to Surrey's travelling peoples are often difficult to find. Surrey History Centre holds a range of archives, photographs, and published works which illustrate the fact and fiction surrounding this community over the centuries.

This bibliography comprises the full range of published works held at Surrey History Centre, from newspapers and illustrations of fairs to articles on bare knuckle boxing and The Derby. Details of all books and articles can be found on the [Surrey Libraries Catalogue](#). Illustrations can be searched for using the [Exploring Surrey's Past](#) website.

Illustrations

Our holdings of photographs, postcards, prints and engravings are a good source of pictorial material relating to the history of travelling communities in the county.

Photographs taken for the Photographic Survey and Record of Surrey (SHC ref 7828) in the early part of the twentieth century include:

- Bletchingley Fair 1907, 1908 and 1909
- Haslemere Fair at Clay Hill, 1911
- Postcard albums (arranged by town) include images of:
- Bletchingley Fair
- Merstham Fair
- Mitcham Fair
- Gypsies at Cobham and Godstone
- Rodney 'Gypsy' Smith's evangelist mission at Guildford, 1907
- Other illustrations include photographs and prints of:
- Epsom Derby and Epsom Downs
- A circus procession in Farnham
- Travellers over the heath at Thursley
- St Catherine's Fair, Artington
- Castle Street Fair, Farnham
- Reigate Fair, 1912

Newspapers

Local newspapers are a good source of material (albeit biased) regarding Romany and Traveller interactions with settled communities. They often carry reports of legal proceedings, reports of land disputes, evictions, reports of sporting events such as prize fights, as well as reports of markets and fairs.

Surrey History Centre holds a number of local newspapers on microfilm including:

- Sussex Agricultural Express 1838-1903 (covers whole county)
- Surrey Advertiser 1864 to date (SW Surrey Guildford/Godalming area)
- Surrey Comet 1854-1981 (Kingston area)

Periodicals

- Romany Routes; journal of the Romany and Traveller Family History Society
- Platform - Fairground Society
- Fairground Heritage News – Friends of the Fairground Heritage Trust

More general family history publications have occasional articles of interest to researchers into Romany and Traveller heritage:

- Ancestors – National Archive
- Practical Family History – Armstrong, Boon and Marriot
- Root and Branch – West Surrey Family History Society

Books

Many articles are published in local history society magazines which can be searched on our periodicals database using [Exploring Surrey's Past](#) website. 'Romany Routes' the journal of the RTFHS is a good place to start and Surrey History centre holds a good run of this title.

General sources, family history and research guides

- McGowan, Alan; *The Winchester confessions 1615-1616 : depositions of travellers, Gypsies, fraudsters and makers of counterfeit documents, including a vocabulary of the Romany language*; Romany and Traveller Family History Society, 1996
- Edmonds, Jenifer A; *Gypsies, tramps and...strangers*, Vol 4, J A Edmonds, 2004
- Edmonds, Jenifer A; *Gypsies, tramps and... strangers*, Vol 5; Family History Shop, 2005
- Dawson, Robert; *Gypsy names for genealogists*, Vol 2, forenames; R Dawson, 2000
- Dawson, Robert; *Gypsy names for genealogists*, Vol 1, surnames; R Dawson, 2000
- McGowan, Alan; *On the gypsy trail : sources for the family history of gypsies*; Romany and Traveller Family History Society, 1998
- Chandler, Keith; *More Gypsies, Hawkers & other Travellers in the English South Midlands including East Anglia and the Home Counties*, 2007
- Keet-Black, Janet; *Some Travellers in the 1891 census*, vols 1, 2 & 4 (RTFHS, 2000 & 2002)
- Keet-Black, Janet; *Some travellers in the 1891 census*, 2; Romany & Traveller Family History Society, 2000

- Keet-Black, Janet; *Some travellers in the 1891 census*, 4; Romany & Traveller Family History Society, 2002
- Keet-Black, Janet and Horner, Mary; *Travellers remember: hopping time*, Romany and Traveller Family History Society, 2003
- Romany Traveller Family History Society; *An RTHFS south country family album*; RFTHS, 2007
- Kenrick, Donald; *The Romani world : a historical dictionary of the Gypsies*; University of Hertfordshire Press, 2004

Politics and policy

- Adams, Barbara; *Gypsies and government policy in England : a study of the travellers' way of life in relation to the policies and practices of central and local government*; Heinemann, 1975
- Mayall, David; *English Gypsies and state policies*; Hertfordshire U P, 1995
- Clarke, Noel; *Living on the edge of your town: a study of traveller provision and conditions in Outer London and Home Counties*; Bridge Housing Association, 1998
- *Malicious Prosecution and Procedure, Markets and Fairs, Master and Servant, Mayor's and City of London Court, Medicine and Pharmacy, Metropolis, Mines, Minerals and Quarries*; Halsbury's Laws Of England, Vol 22. 2nd ed, Butterworths, 1936

Communities

- Harvey, Denis; *The Gypsies: waggon-time & after*, 2nd ed, Waggon Time, 2000
- Boxall, Tony; *Gypsy camera*; Creative Monochrome, 1992
- Clay, Rachel; 'Gypsies of the Surrey Hills' *The Countryman*, Vol.45, no.2, 1952
- Winstedt, Eric Otto; 'The Norwood gypsies and their vocabulary'; *Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society*, New Series, Vol 9 nos.3-4, 1915-16
- Harvey, Denis; 'Little Egypt and the stillborn child' *The Countryman*, August/September, 1990
- *Bell's Weekly Messenger*. Monday October 17, 1803; John Bell, 1803; report of Surrey Quarter Sessions relating to Norwood. Gypsies.
- Chappell, Michael; *The history of Gypsy travellers in Britain*; RH7 History Group, 2003
- Dallas, D; *The travelling people*; Macmillan, 1971
- Clebert, J; *The Gypsies*; Vista, 1963
- Smith, Rosie and Marsh, Lindsey; *Old Ways, New Days: a family history of Gypsy Life in South London and Kent*, 2009. [Contains much of Surrey interest including the Cox Lane site at Epsom]
- Oakley, Judith; *The Traveller-Gypsies*, 1983
- Webb, G E C *Gypsies the secret people*, 1960
- Vesey-Fitzgerald, Brian *Gypsies of Britain*, 1973

Transport

- Ward-Jackson, C H; *English Gypsy Caravan : its origins, builders, technology and conservation*; David & C, 1972
- Olyslager Organisation; *Fairground & Circus Transport*; F Warne, 1973

Biography

- Barney, Phoebe; *Memories*; P Barney, 2000
- Reeve, Dominic ; *Smoke in the lanes*; 2nd ed, University of Hertfordshire Press, 2003
- Reeve, Dominic ; *No place like home*, foreword by Augustus John; drawings by Beshlie [Reeve]; Phoenix House, 1960
- Stockin, Jimmy; *On the cobbles : Jimmy Stockin, the life of a bare-knuckled gypsy warrior*; Mainstream, 2000
- *Travellers' tales: the hidden history of Surrey's gypsy and traveller community*; research by Jake Bowers; DVD, Gypsy Media Company Ltd, 2007
- Yates, Dora E; *My Gypsy Days recollections of a Romani Rawnie*, 1953
- Gypsy Petulengro *A Romany Life*: 3rd ed, 1948

Fairs

- Braithwaite, David; *Travelling fairs*; Shire, 1976
- Brown, Frances; *Fairfield Folk : A History Of The British Fairground*; 3rd ed, 1993
- Braithwaite, Paul; *Swings : swings, park swings, overboats and over-the-tops*; John Carter and Sons, 1996
- Braithwaite, Paul; *A palace on wheels : a history of travelling showmen's living vans with an A-Z of manufacturers 1860-1960 / with additional material by John Carter*; Fairground heritage, 4, Carters, 1999
- Cameron, David Kerr; *The English fair*; Sutton, 1998
- Raper, A C; *Weyhill Fair : The Greatest Fair In The Kingdom*; Barracuda, 1988
- Jerrome, Peter; *In the feast of St Edmund the King: Petworth Fair 1189-1993*; Window Press, 1994
- Ralton, Phyllis; *Funfairs at Fleet : a study of fairs and fairgrounds at Fleet, Hampshire*; Fleet and Crookham Local History Group, 2003
- Fogg, Nicholas; *Merrymaking and frolic! : a history of Stratford Mop and the town's other fairs*; Bob Wilson & Sons; Fairground Association of Great Britain, 1996
- Williams, Ned; *Fairs and circuses in the Black Country*; Uralia, 1994
- Loveridge, Pat; *A Calendar of fairs and markets held in the nineteenth century*; Romany & Traveller FHS, 2003
- Toulmin, Vanessa; *Pleasurelands : all the fun of the fair*; National Fairground Archive, 2003
- Baker, M; *Discovering English Fairs*; Shire, 1968

- Royal Commission on market rights and tolls; *XIX calendar of grants of markets and fairs from 1 John to 22 Edward IV*, 1889
- Kirk, Viv; *Memories of St Giles' Fair*, edited and introduced by Ran Hawthorne; National Traction Engine Club, 1975
- Carter, John; *Carter's the traditional steam fair : putting fun back into funfair*, Carter, c.1990
- Alexander, Sally; *St Giles' Fair 1830-1914 : popular culture and the Industrial Revolution in C19 Oxford*, History Workshop pamphlets, 2. History Workshop, 1970
- *Nottingham Goose Fair*, Nottingham Historical Film Unit, 1973
- Manning, Ian; *700 years of Goose Fair*, T Bailet Forman, 1994
- Miller, Denis; *Guide to a traditional English steam fair Blackbushe* Independent Shottesbrooke Press / John Carter, 1974
- Thames Valley Traction Engine Club; *The steam fair 1964* [Shotlesbrooke Park, White Waltham]; Thames Valley Traction Engine Club, 1964
- Maurice Willson; *Fairs, circuses and music halls*; William Collins, 1942
- Underwood, G H; *Guildford fairs*, notes, n.d
- *Charter of Merstham Fair, Surrey* [Typescript translation of C.53 (Charter Roll) 125 (12 Edward III) no.27]
- Morris, C C; *Merstham Fair*, typescript, n.d
- Carshalton Society; *Carshalton charter fair*, Carshalton Society, c1980

Horseracing and the Derby

- Mortimer, R; *Epsom Derby*, Joseph, 1984
- Church, Michael; *The Derby stakes 1780-1997*; Racing Post, 1997
- Mortimer, R; *History Of The Derby Stakes*; Cassell, 1962
- Newton, A Edward; *Derby day and other adventures*; Lovat Dickson & Thompson
- Connor, Patricia; *Derby Day 200* / selected and catalogued by P. Connor & L. Lambourne; Royal Academy of Arts, 1979
- *Famous sporting prints 3 : the Derby*; The Studio, 1927
- Bromhead, H B; *Derby anecdotes*, 1892
- Seth-Smith, M; *Derby 200 : The Official Story Of The Blue Riband Of The Turf*; Guinness, 1979
- Macey, Alan; *Romance of the Derby Stakes*; Hutchinson, c.1932
- Kirkby, Dick; *Derby Day; from Railways South East*, Summer 1993
- 'The Derby 1853' *Illustrated London News*, 1853
- Claridge, Heather; 'A postcard Derby : the background to Epsom's most famous race' *Picture Postcard Monthly*, 1984
- 'The Dukes and Lords of the Derby'; *Baily's Monthly Magazine of Sports and Pastimes*, June 1885
- Racing Post; *The legends of the Derby : a pictorial celebration of the world's greatest flat race*; Portfolio Editions, 2004
- Derby 200 : official souvenir; *Illustrated London News*, 1979
- Moorhouse, Edward; *The History and romance of the Derby : into which are woven the facts and figures a sportsman requires if he would*

be familiar with the long series of contests for the great prize that can be won by votaries of the Turf; Volumes 1 and 2, 2nd Ed, Biographical Press, 1911

- Holland, Anne; *Steeplechasing : a celebration of 250 years 1752-2002*; Silverdale Books, 2002
- Beavis, Jim; *The Croydon races*; Local History, 1999
- Fawcett, William; *Racing in the olden days : being Jockey Club and Epsom history with stories, anecdotes and memories of famous sportsmen, horses and racecourses in the days of yore*; Hutchinson, c.1933

Boxing

- Miles, Henry Downes; *Pugilistica : the history of British boxing*, Vol 1; Sporting Life, 1866
- Egan, Pierce; *Boxiana : or sketches of ancient and modern pugilism from the days of the renowned*; Folio Society, 1976 [first published 1813]
- Miles, Henry Downes; *Pugilistica : the history of British boxing*, Vol 1; John Grant, 1906
- Miles, Henry Downes; *Pugilistica : the history of British boxing*, Vol 2; John Grant, 1906
- Miles, Henry Downes; *Pugilistica : the history of British boxing*, Vol 3; John Grant, 1906
- Rawling, John; 'Dick Richardson : hard man of British boxing who left his mark on Henry Cooper' *Guardian*, 1999
- Clarke, Ken; *Heenan v. Sayers 1860 : prize-fighting on the Heath*; Surrey Heath Local History Club, 2003
- Gee, Tony; *Up to scratch: bareknuckle fighting and heroes of the prize-ring*; Queen Anne, 1998

Film

- Geraghty, Tom; *Wings of the Morning* / director - Harold D Schuster: producer - Robert T Kane; DVD, Twentieth Century-Fox, 1937. [Epsom Derby]
- *Le Gentleman D'Epsom* [Duke of the Derby], director - Gilles Grangier; dialogue in French with English subtitles; DVD, 1962
- *Travellers' tales: the hidden history of Surrey's gypsy and traveller community* (research by Jake Bowers), Gypsy Media Company, 2007
- Ambition (School of Dance); *Ambition at the movies*; Gypsy dance project in Epsom; DVD, 2012

Updated March 2015