

WORKING PHOTOGRAPHERS (1890-1950)

Trevor R Howard

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by

Trevor R Howard

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WOKING PHOTOGRAPHERS (1890-1950)

INTRODUCTION

The modern town of Woking grew up following the arrival of the railway in 1834 and the subsequent land development by the London Necropolis Society. The town's commercial centre had started to develop by about 1880.

From around 1890, a number of photographers were attracted to the town. The growth of the new town coincided with the hey-day of postcard sending (1910-1930).

ALBERT THOMAS GARLAND

Albert Thomas Garland was born in Plymouth, Devon in 1863. His mother, Louisa, died when he was three years old; his father was mate on a merchant ship. In the 1871 census, Albert was living with his paternal grandmother¹. His grandmother died when he was 16.

There is little evidence of Albert's movements in the next thirty years. He cannot be found in the 1881 census. In the 1891 census, he is described as being employed as a photographer; he is visiting a family in Salisbury.

In 1899, Albert married Mary Ann Roper in Kent, although she was originally from Blandford, Dorset. Albert and Mary lived in Blandford for about three years. Their son was born there in 1900 and the 1901 census shows Albert working there as a photographer, probably with William Hodges & Son.

Albert and Mary had moved to Woking, by 1903, and were living in 32 Walton Gardens, Walton Road. It must have been slightly galling for Albert to find that there was already a photographic studio in Woking called Garland's Studio² (see below).

Albert continued to work as a photographer but seems never to have had his own business. In the 1921 census, his employer is given as R L Baker, a stationer in Maybury Road.

Albert Thomas Garland died, in Woking, in 1933.

GARLAND'S STUDIO

Albert Edward Garland

Albert Edward Garland was born in Ottershaw in 1864. In 1881, he was living in London, aged 16 and was a brush-maker's apprentice.

Albert married Alice Agnes Dell in Camberwell in 1889.

¹ Albert was baptised, in Woodham church, in 1912, as an adult. His parents are given as 'Garland' and 'Garland', so he presumably did not know their names

² Even more so as it appears that the proprietor of the studio, Albert **Edward** Garland, was not himself a professional photographer

In 1891, Albert and his family were living in Hook Heath, Woking. In the census he describes himself as 'dairy farmer'.

In February 1891, Albert was shown as the owner of a house called *Ivy Croft* in Maybury Road (likely a mistake and he was actually renting it from a Mr Ernest Bonner Arthur Allen); he was also renting a 'house & shop' in the same road.³

Albert continued to live at Hook Heath for a couple of years, but then disappears from the records for two years. From 1896 until 1900 he was living in *Ivy Croft*.⁴

In 1898, Albert became Collector of the poor rates and Assistant overseer.



Figure 1. Albert E Garland 1864-1936

There is no evidence that Albert was a photographer however it appears that he was involved in the studio that bore his name.



Figure 2. Portrait of Harold Newman (Bedfordshire Archives)

The portrait in Figure 2 is held by Bedfordshire Archives; it is catalogued as being of Harold Albert Henry Newman. An inscription on the reverse reads '19 years of age 7th May 1895. Taken June'. The card advertises the *Wheatsheaf Studio* (presumed to be at or near the *Wheatsheaf Inn* in Chobham Road, but possibly was in Maybury Road).

By 1900, Garland's Studio had opened in Maybury Road.⁵ It is possible that the studio either changed its name or moved location at the time that Albert apparently started residing in *Ivy Croft*. *Ivy Croft* later became No. 42 Maybury Road, which was the address of the Garland's Studio.

³ SHC 6198/13/28 *Parish of Woking: Valuation, Rating & other Parish Records: Supplemental valuation lists (1891)*

⁴ SHC CC802/3/4 *Woking, Surrey, England; Surrey Electoral Registers*

⁵ COPY 1/447/272, Copyright applications, National Archives

John Thompson Whitaker was a photographer working at Garland's Studio in 1900.^{5,6}



Figure 3. Garden Party at Lavershot Hall, Windlesham, August 1900
Photograph by John Thompson Whitaker⁷



Figure 4. Child portrait by Garland's

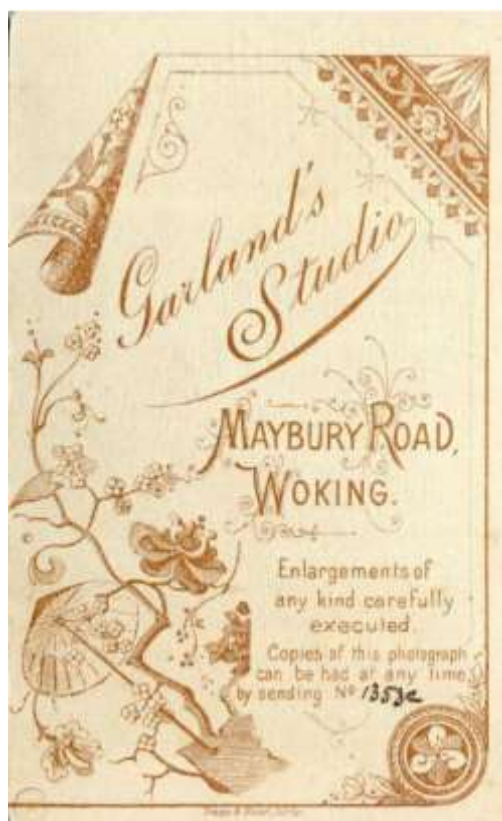


Figure 5. Garland's Studio reverse

⁶ In the 1901 census, John Whitaker was described as 'Baptist minister/photographer'; in the 1911 census he was in Leeds working as a clerk for a wool merchant

⁷ COPY 1/447/272, Copyright applications, National Archives

In 1900/1, Albert Garland moved to live in Claremont Avenue.

The advertisement shown in Figure 6 appeared in the local press, in December 1903 and January 1904. The implication is that John Whitaker had acquired the studio from Albert Garland and then, a few years later, sold it to Mess^{rs} Russell, and Bullingham, who had engaged a manager to run it.

James Averis Keenes

James Averis Keenes was born in Bethnal Green, Middlesex in 1867. Records of his early career are somewhat confusing.

In the 1891 census, James was described as 'Agent'; in the 1901 census (taken 1st April) he was employed as an attendant at Manor Asylum, Horton; yet when he married on 17th April 1901 his occupation was given as 'soldier'. It appears he enlisted in the King's Royal Rifles regiment in 1892.

When James's son was baptised (in Woking) in 1904, James gave his occupation as photographer.

James Keenes had taken over the studio, then The Garland Studio, by 1910, which was then trading as Keenes & Co.⁸

James Keenes had married Annie Lilian Bloom, daughter of William Bloom who lodged with Ernest Bonner Arthur Allen. Ernest Allen, lived in *Fair Light*, the house next door to the Garland Studio. He was one half of the Woking printing firm, Davis & Allen. Davis & Allen published a series of postcards from the photographs of James Keenes.

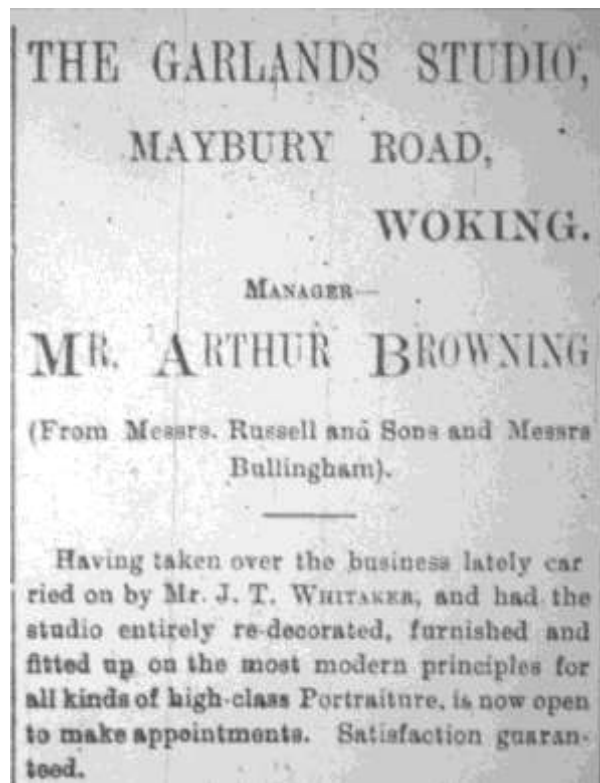


Figure 6. Woking News & Mail 8th January 1904



Figure 7. Keenes & Co. receipt 1915

⁸ Kelly's Directory of Surrey, 1911



Figure 8. Postcards produced from Keenes's photographs

James Keenes died in Woking on 21st June 1933.

HIGH STREET STUDIO

William Schuth

No. 26 High Street in Woking was built in about 1900. It was originally No. 18; in about 1911, it was renumbered as No. 20. Then, after No.s 15-20 were built in 1933, it became No. 26. From 1901, the building was used as Schuth's photographic studio.

Wilhelm 'William' Michael Schuth was German, being born in Bonn in 1871. He came to England in around 1890.

In the 1891 census, taken on 5th April, he was apparently working for George Emberson, photographer, in Chertsey⁹. On 26th April he married George's daughter, Elizabeth, in Pimlico, both giving their address as Wilton Street. It is possible that at this time he was working in George's London studio.

By 1893, he had his own studio in Fleet Street. An early photograph of William's appears in *Cycling* magazine in September 1893; it was credited in the following week's issue.

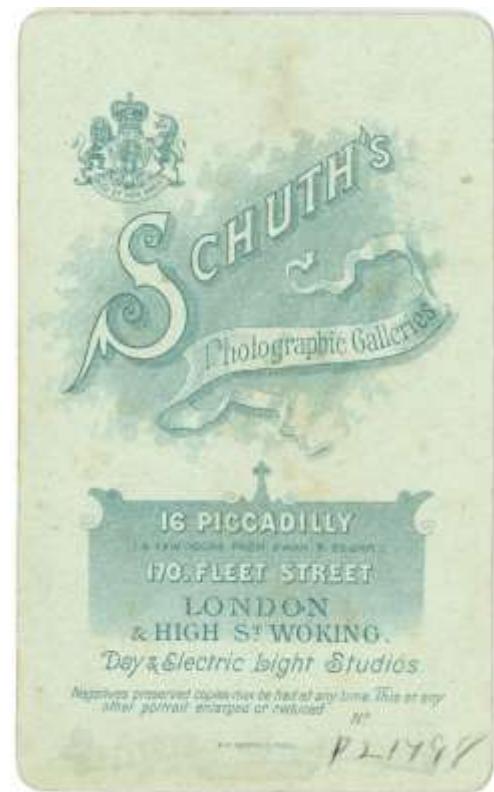


Figure 9. Schuth carte-de-visite reverse¹⁰

⁹ His entry gives his relationship to George as 'servant', his profession was photographer and he was employed, rather than an employer

¹⁰ Each photograph has a unique number written on the reverse. A working hypothesis is that photographs taken at the Fleet Street studio have a number with no prefix; those taken at Woking have a 'W' prefix, those at Pimlico a 'P' and those at Tottenham Court Road an 'O'

In 1895, William was living at Wimbledon (he gave a Wimbledon address when his daughter was baptised there), although there is no evidence that he had a studio there. By 1897, he also had a studio at Tottenham Court Road.



Figure 10. Schuth portrait of child



Figure 11. Schuth Portrait



Figure 12. Reverse of Emberson photograph, as a postcard

William and his family moved to Woking in about 1900. By this time, his parents had joined him in England. In 1902, he opened another studio in Piccadilly.

The Tottenham Court Road studio was closed in about 1905.

William ran his studio from No. 20 High Street for about 15 years. His father, Peter, died in 1913 and William seems to have retired shortly afterwards – being German, he would have found life difficult with the advent of the first world war¹¹.

¹¹ It is likely that William (and possibly Elizabeth) were interned. The British government was initially reluctant to impose widespread internment in the United Kingdom during the First World War, choosing instead to restrict the activities of nationals of enemy nations residing in the UK and interning only those suspected of being a threat to

At the end of the war, the studio was trading as 'Emberston & Sons'; Elizabeth's eldest sister, Emma (see Figure 13), was the resident photographer.

William Schuth died, in Woking, in 1934. Elizabeth was granted a British naturalisation certificate¹² in 1935 (presumably, having married a German, she was then considered a German citizen).

Emberston

George Emberston was a photographer who had a studio in Guildford Road, Chertsey. In 1891, his daughter, Elizabeth, married Wilhelm Schuth (also a photographer – see above) who went on to run a studio in Woking High Street.

At the end of the first world war, Schuth's studio was in the possession of Elizabeth's sister, Emma Emberston, who had probably taken it on in about 1915 - when Wilhelm (who was German) was almost certainly interned for the rest of the war.

In 1923, Emma Emberston moved the photographic business into *The Studio*, then considered to be in Church Path but later listed as 51 Chobham Road.

Emma died in 1934 and the studio was taken over by her younger brother, John. When John died in 1948 the studio passed to his son, also John.



Figure 13. Emma Emberston 1859-1934

The business traded as 'Emberston & Sons' throughout, which presumably referred to George Emberston and Emma's brothers.

national security. Public anti-German sentiment peaked with the sinking of the RMS Lusitania on 7 May 1915, and the subsequent rioting forced the government to implement a general program of internment.

¹² HO 334/136/5444, 1914 *British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act: Duplicate Certificates*

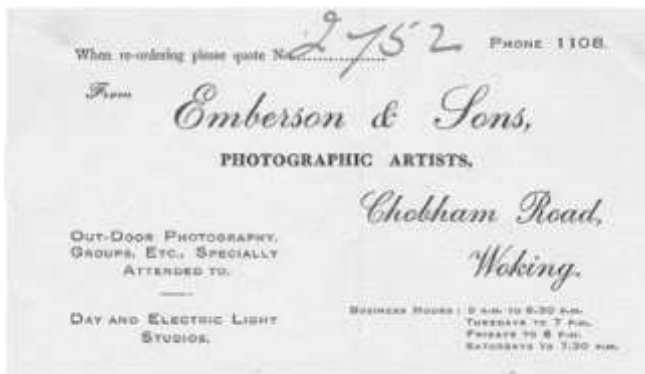


Figure 14. Reverse of Emberson photograph



Figure 15. Chertsey Road Peace Celebrations
19 July 1919



Figure 16. Emberson portrait 1928

The studio was demolished in about 1972, to allow for the construction of Victoria Way.

MAYBURY STUDIO

Alfred Wildman

Alfred Wildman was born in Woodford, Essex in 1867. His father died when he was 2 years old, but left his mother, Amelia, fairly well off. In the 1891 census Amelia was 'living on own means' in Portsea, Hampshire. Alfred was living with her and was described as a 'photographer's operator'.

In 1893, Alfred married; he moved to Woking, in 1898, and established the Maybury Studio, in Maybury Road.

On the day after his return from the Boer War, in 1901, Alfred photographed Major General Robert Stephenson Smythe Baden-Powell CB, at the Horsell home of Captain McLaren (Figure 17).

The Victoria & Albert Museum has, as part of the Pascoe collection, a photograph of Marion Pascoe, as a child, taken by Alfred in the mid-1910s.¹³

¹³ <https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1249133/photograph-a-wildman/>



Figure 17. Photographs of Major General Robert Baden-Powell CB 1901

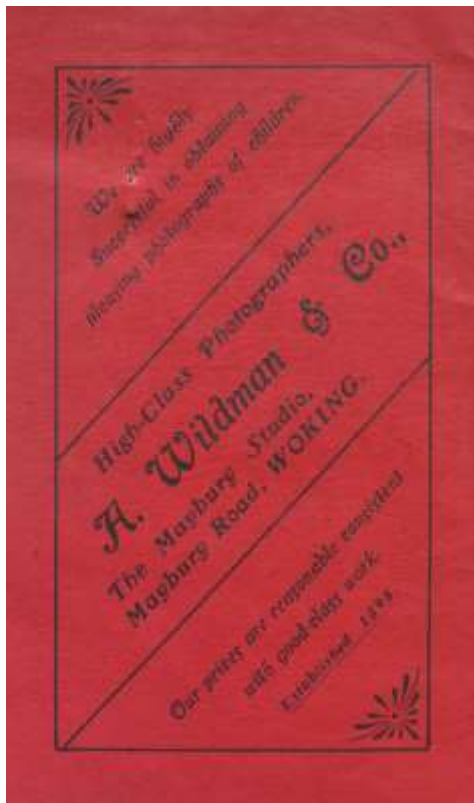


Figure 18. Wildman advertisement c1908



Figure 19. Reverse of Wildman photograph

As well as his studio work, Alfred also produced a number of street scenes which were published as postcards. Some of these were also used to illustrate the 1908 Woking Official Guide.

In June 1902, a search-light was mounted upon a tower on Bank Buildings, Chertsey Road, as part of the Coronation celebrations.¹⁴

Alfred Wildman took photographs from this tower, looking out over Woking - along High Street, Chertsey Road and Maybury Road, and towards Commercial Road.¹⁵ These photographs are our best record of how Woking looked in 1902.

¹⁴ *West Surrey Times* 13 June & 15 August 1902

¹⁵ TNA, Copy 1/456/283, *Four bird's-eye views of Woking* 8 August 1902



Figure 20. Wildman photo of a lightning strike



Figure 21. Wildman postcard

Alfred Wildman died in 1916, aged 48 and his widow, Emily, inherited the studio.

Marguerite Reed

Marguerite Reed was born Margaret Emma Reed in 1884, the youngest of three daughters of postal worker Thomas Reed and his wife Elizabeth.

Marguerite married Thomas Hendra, in 1917, at the Guildford Registry Office. Their professions were given as 'photographer' and 'Army pensioner' respectively. Marguerite took on the photographic studio formerly run by Alfred Wildman¹⁶ at 88 Maybury Road, in April 1917, renting it from his widow. She advertised in the *Woking News & Mail* that she specialised in photographing children.

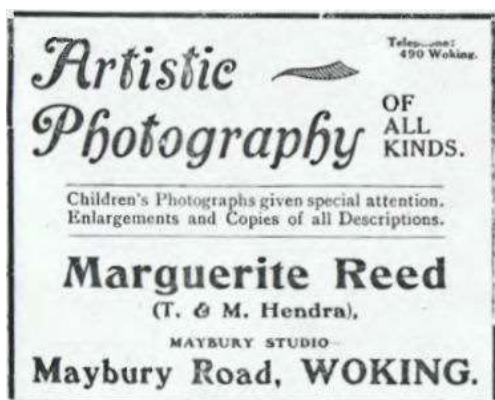


Figure 22. Marguerite Reed advertisement

Marguerite left the Maybury Road studio in 1922 and for two years had a studio in Bon Marché, Commercial Road before moving briefly to 56a Chertsey Road. Sidney Francis (see below) took over the Maybury Road and Commercial Road studios in 1924; it has been suggested that many of his credited photographs were actually taken by Marguerite.



Figure 23. Portrait by Marguerite Reed

From about 1927, until her retirement, Marguerite carried on her photography business from her parents' former home (Stone House, 2 Sandy Lane, Maybury), contributing photographs to the local newspapers for many years.

¹⁶ It is possible that Marguerite had been working at the studio with Alfred, learning her craft from him. Unfortunately, Marguerite and her family do not appear in the 1911 census (they may have been away) so there is no record of her occupation at that time.



Figure 24. Marguerite Reed photograph



Figure 25. Postcard produced from Marguerite Reed photograph

Sidney Francis

Sidney Francis was born Sidney Francis Patient in Southwark on 8 October 1891. His mother's father died when she was a child and his grandmother remarried. Patient was the name of his step-grandfather, which his mother had adopted. Sidney's mother never married and thus he never really had a connection to any surname.

In 1911, Sidney and his grandmother were living in Crawley, Sussex. Sidney, then 19, had dropped the name Patient and was going by simply Sidney Francis. He was working as an assistant photographer (possibly with George Parsons, who was listed in the High Street).

During the first World War, Sidney served with the Royal Flying Corps.

In 1920, Sidney married Edith Heaysman in Maidstone. The 1921 census shows Francis was working for Philip Sweatman Hedgeland in Maidstone – although on the night of the census, they were visiting his mother and grandmother who were then living in Woking.

Francis and Edith moved to Woking and, from 1923, they lived at 88 Maybury Road, from where he also initially ran his photography business, having taken over the studio from Marguerite Reed (see above). Francis also took over her studio at 30 Commercial Road.



Figure 26. The Maybury Studio

Sidney, like Marguerite before him, was renting the Maybury Studio from Alfred Wildman's widow.

In addition to his work as a portrait and wedding photographer, Sidney also undertook commercial projects for the local newspaper and local businesses. Some photographs that were previously attributed to Sidney Francis are now thought to be the work of others - likely Marguerite Reed - as they seem to date from prior to his arrival in Woking.



Figure 27. Sidney Francis 1891-1973

In 1932, Francis opened the Popular Studio at 56 Commercial Road (seen in Figure 28, beyond the Red House).

Sidney Francis died, in Woking, in 1973.



Figure 28. Popular Studio c.1955

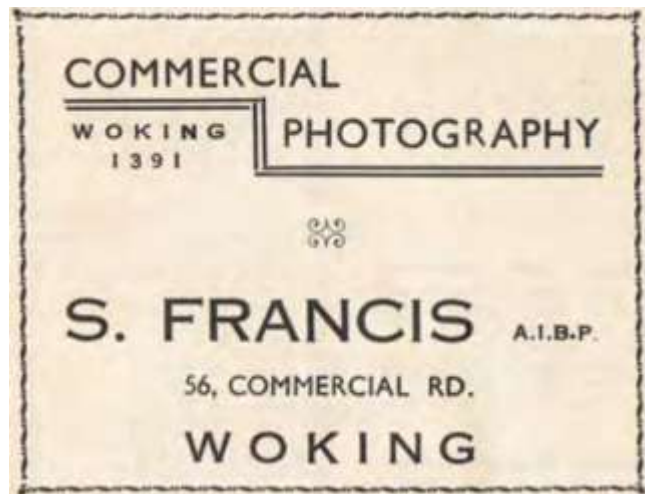


Figure 29. 1948 advertisement

OTHERS

Nehemiah Wheeler

Nehemiah Wheeler was a photographer working out of a studio at various locations in Guildford, from the mid-1860s.

Between 1890 and 1903, a studio was operated in Chertsey Road between Church Street and Beulah Cottages.

No.s 64 and 66 Chertsey Road seem never to have existed. No map or plan shows any building and no directory lists anyone occupying such building(s).

Between the production of the 1896 and 1914 Ordnance Survey plans, a number of buildings were constructed (circled in Figure 31) behind Beulah Cottages, No.s 68 & 70. This is the presumed location of the studio.

The 1900 and 1905 Woking directories list occupants between the entries for Church Street and Beulah Cottages:

1900	Nehemiah Wheeler, photographer	William Cobbett, florist
1905	Herbert Butt, butcher	Henry Davies, dairyman

From 1890 until 1893 Nehemiah's son, Nehemiah junior, was resident at the Woking, studio.

Nehemiah Wheeler senior died in 1905, by which time the Woking studio had closed.



Figure 30. Reverse of N Wheeler photograph



Figure 31. New buildings

Doris Archer Thomson

Doris Archer Thomson was born in Woking in 1903, the daughter of a draper.

Very little is known about Doris's photographic activities. She was listed in the 1934 Woking Directory as a photographer working out of the ground floor of Cambridge House in Commercial Road. Doris appears in the electoral registers as occupying Cambridge House from 1928 until 1935, so she was presumably working as a photographer for at least this period.

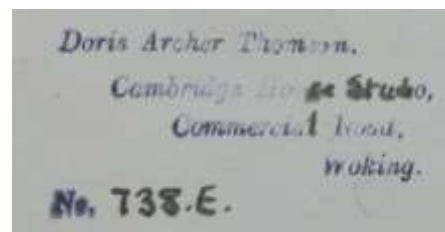


Figure 32. Reverse of Figure 33

Figure 33. Colman's furniture display

Figure 33 is a photograph taken by Doris of Colman's furniture display; it was probably taken at the Woking Trade Exhibition in October 1927. Figure 32 shows the reverse.

Doris is not listed in the 1937 Woking directory; in 1939, she was in Eastbourne, Sussex working as a school housekeeper.

Alfred Keith Dannatt FRPS

Alfred Keith Dannatt was born in Greenwich in 1883.

In the 1901 census, aged 17, he was described as a 'photographic dealer'. Still living in Greenwich in 1911, he was then described as a photographer. The 1911 edition of Kelly's Directory of Surrey lists him as working in Guildford Road, Woking.

Like other photographers in Woking, Alfred Dannatt undertook weddings, portraiture and landscape photography, to pay the bills, however he aspired to high art. He was a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society¹⁷ and he exhibited

¹⁷ The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, commonly known as the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), is one of the world's oldest photographic societies. It was founded in London, in 1853, as the Photographic Society of London with the objective of promoting the art and science of photography, and in 1853 received royal patronage from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. In 1874 it was renamed the Photographic Society of Great Britain, and only from 1894 did it become known as the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain.

four photographs there in 1912. Alfred dropped his first name and used 'Keith Dannatt' or 'A Keith Dannatt' as his professional name.



Figure 34. *Pastoral*, c1908

Throughout the 1920s, Keith Dannatt became known for a series of photographs of nudes.



Figure 35. *Le Modele*



Figure 36. *A slender maid*

In 1913, Dannatt also had a studio at Haslemere. Dannatt later moved to London and then to Surbiton. A World War II photograph of three servicemen is embossed 'Surbiton and Woking'. It seems he maintained the studio at 6 Guildford Road throughout his career.



Figure 37. *Souvenir de la guerre*



Figure 38. *Sensibility*, 1937

Dannatt's photographs of local weddings made regular appearances in the Woking local newspapers.



Figure 39. Woking wedding 1933

Alfred Keith Dannatt died at Charring Cross Hospital in 1961.

Claude Harry Orchard

Claude Harry Orchard was born at Ryde, Isle of Wight in 1866.

In 1884, a Frederick Orchard (also of Ryde but not a close relation), married Alice Annie Coombes. In 1895 they had a daughter, Winifred. By 1901, Frederick was living as husband and wife with another woman, Lily; in the 1911 census they claimed to have married in 1896/7, although they never actually married.

Claude Orchard, in 1901, was then apparently working as a photographer, living in Brighton as husband and wife with Alice; Winifred is with them, listed (presumably incorrectly) as Claude's daughter. In the 1911 census, they claimed to have married in 1894/5. Claude and Alice actually married in Portsmouth in 1930¹⁸.

Between 1903 and 1906, Claude was living in Kent (his youngest two children were born there). Claude appears to have moved around a lot between 1890 and 1910. He does not appear to have advertised his business in any of the county directories. Claude and Alice moved to Woking, in 1910, and took up residence at 251 Walton Road. He was listed as a photographer in directories from 1911-1921, but nothing is known of his work.

Claude Harry Orchard died in Horsell in 1933.

James John Mayger

James John Mayger was born in Twickenham in 1871, the son of Nathaniel Mayger, artist and photographer.

James and his family moved to Knaphill in about 1904. James Mayger took a number of photographs which were published as postcards of the local area.

Subjects he photographed included: the funeral procession in the churchyard at Pirbright of the late Sir Henry Morton Stanley, the African explorer, in 1904; the visit of HRH the Duchess of Albany to Knaphill to lay the foundation stone at Holy Trinity Church, in 1907.

In November 1911, James and his family emigrated to Western Australia, where he died in 1943.



Figure 40. James J Mayger 1871-1943

¹⁸ Having lived in Woking for 20 years, they presumably married in Portsmouth for secrecy. Alice was still legally married to Frederick.



Figure 41. Sir Henry Morton Stanley's funeral procession 1904



Figure 42. HRH Duchess of Albany visit to Knaphill 1907

James Fleming

James Fleming was born in Bayswater, Middlesex in 1860. His father, Thomas, died when he was 3 months old. His mother remarried and moved to Woking village.

James's step-father, Edmund Bullen a baker and grocer, died in 1879. James helped his mother run the bakery and shop, even after he married and had a family of his own.

The 1899 Kelly's Directory of Surrey shows James as a photographer in Woking village High Street. In the 1901 census he had his own business as a photographer and frame-maker.

By the time of the 1911 census, however, James's occupation was 'house decorator'. In the 1939 Register, James was shown as 'decorator, retired'; his career as a photographer was obviously short-lived.

Richard Venner

Richard Venner was born in St Helier, Jersey in the Channel Islands in 1861. In 1875, aged 14, Richard enlisted in the Royal Artillery and, in 1881 was in the garrison at Sheerness. The 1901 census shows him in Aldershot, as an agent – presumably to the army – for furniture and clothing.

By 1911, he was working as a photographer, on his own account from home, still in Aldershot – in Waterloo Road.

During the first world war, then in his 50s, Richard served as a driver with the Royal Engineers.

Richard was listed in the 1918 Kelly's Directory of Surrey as being a photographer, resident in St John's Road. The 1918 to 1920 electoral registers show that he was occupying a building near to the Rowbarge Inn in St John's.

His attempt to resurrect his photography business seems to have been short-lived. In the 1921 census, Richard states that he is out of work and that his previous employment was as a clerk with the Royal Army Medical Corps office in Oriental Road.

Claude de Neuville

Claude de Neuville was born in Clapham in 1860. In 1891 he was in Cowley, Oxfordshire; his daughter Ida Millicent was born in Woking in 1893, so he must have moved to Woking in around 1892. From 1993, Claude was running his hairdressing business from the premises of 21 High Street.

Claude de Neuville was also an accomplished artist and photographer. A pen and ink sketch of St John's College, Oxford was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1893¹⁹.

¹⁹ The Oxford Magazine of January 29th, in referring to an etching by Mr. Claude de Neuville, says that the "Magdalen Tower is deservedly the best-known bit of Oxford; it is the favourite of artists of all kinds, whether painters, etchers, or photographers." We quite agree with this, and hope Mr. de Neuville may succeed in giving us something out of the common. His pen-and-ink drawings of Oxford are, if anything, too careful and affected, but nevertheless dainty and refined.



Figure 43. Claude de Neuville's photographs of the fire at Ashby's bank 1899

Arthur Samuel Dark

Arthur Samuel Dark was born in Reading, Berkshire, in 1882.

Arthur moved to Woking in 1898 and established a hairdressing business in Chobham Road.

Almost the only evidence of Arthur's photographic activities are some photographs with his stamp on the reverse, held by the Surrey History Centre.

A Dark & Co. photograph appeared with a news story of a court case, in 1914.²⁰



Figure 44. Reverse of Dark & Co. photograph

²⁰ *West Surrey Times* 16 May 1914

William Beavan Baynham

William Beavan Baynham was born in Herefordshire in 1849. He moved to Woking in 1896 and from then until 1908 had a chemist shop at 3 Bon Marché (later No. 30), Commercial Road.

In March 1898 he copyrighted two photographs of a cat named 'Tresser' (Figure 45).²¹



Figure 45. 'Tresser'

Howard Nouaille Rudge

Howard Nouaille Rudge was born in Tunbridge Wells, Kent in 1867. In 1899 he was living in Woking at 'Rossmore' in Midhope Road and working as a solicitor.

In the 1901 census, living at the same address, he gave his occupation as 'retired solicitor'. That year he took a series of photographs of animals and birds.²² Copyright was registered for these so they were presumably intended for publication.

²¹ National Archives, COPY 1/ 435/308-309

²² National Archives, COPY 1/453/25-40



Figure 46. Pelicans and Monkeys

In November 1904 Howard Rudge entered photographs into *The Graphic's* Amateur Photographic Competition.²³ He was not one of the prize-winners.

²³ *The Graphic* 5 November 1904

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