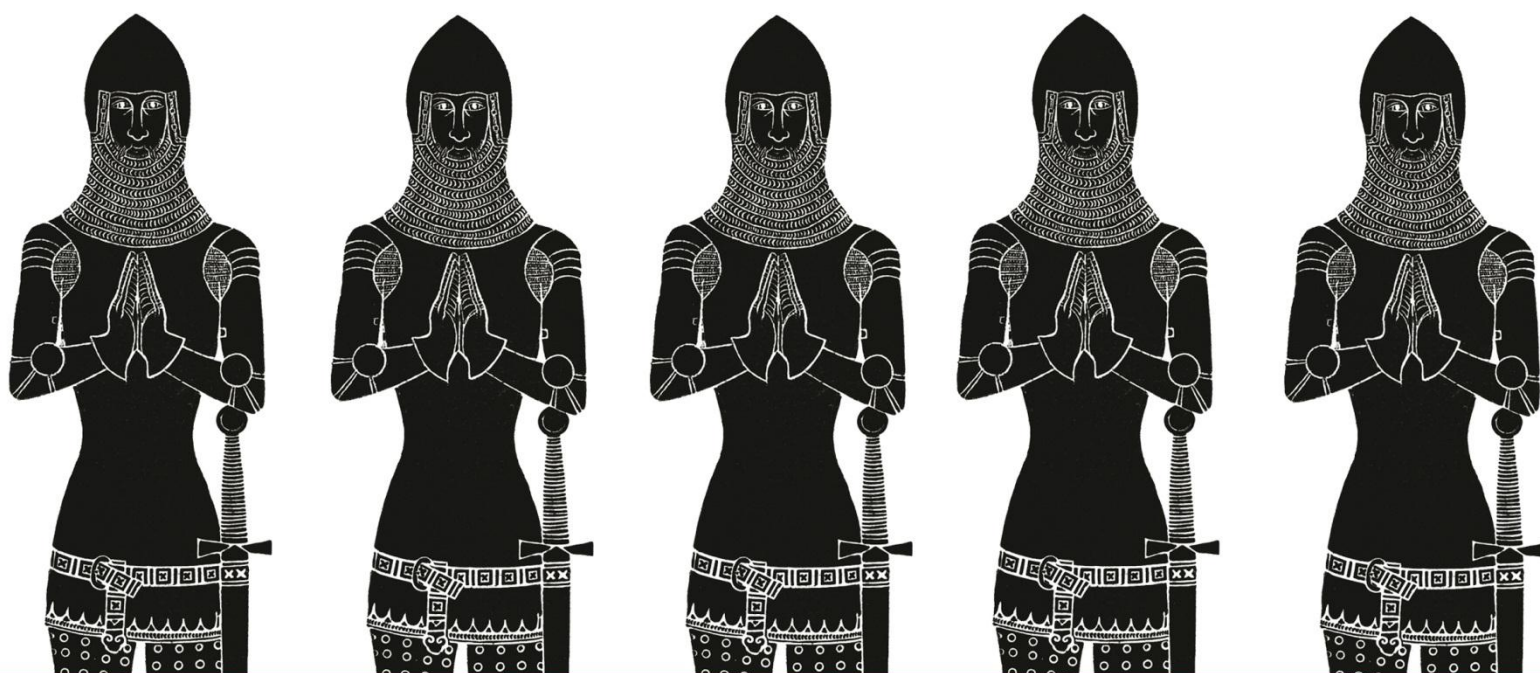


The Fighting Essex Soldier: Recruitment, War and Remembrance in the Fourteenth Century

Essex Record Office

Saturday 8 March 2014



Essex County Council

The Fighting Essex Soldier: Recruitment, War and Remembrance in the Fourteenth Century

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A one-day conference at the Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT

- 9.30 Registration, tea and coffee
- 9.55 Welcome – Neil Wiffen and Dr Chris Thornton
- 10.00 **Essex and the Hundred Years War: Taxation, Justice and County Families**
Dr Jennifer Ward
- 10.50 **The Essex Gentry and the Wars of the English Crown, from Edward I to Richard II, c.1277 – c.1400**
Dr David Simpkin
- 11.50 Break
- 12.05 **The Soldier in Later Medieval England Database: An Introduction for Researchers**
Dr David Simpkin
- 12.15 **Hugh de Badewe: Organised Crime in Fourteenth-Century Essex**
Gloria Harris
- 12.35 **The Fighting Men of Essex: Military Service and the Poll Tax**
Sam Gibbs
- 12.55 **Military Aspects of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381**
Dr Herbert Eiden
- 13.15 Lunch
Including medieval music performed by members of Gaudeamus and the chance to visit a document display guest-curated by Dr Jennifer Ward – see overleaf for details
- 14.15 **Shipping the Troops and Fighting at Sea: The Participation of Essex Maritime Communities in England's Wars, 1320 – 1400**
Dr Craig Lambert
- 15.05 **Remembering the Soldier: Fourteenth-Century Essex Brasses**
Martin Stuchfield
- 15.55 Summing up and close

Find details of other Essex Record Office talks and workshops at www.essex.gov.uk/EROevents



Lunchbreak activities, 13.15-14.15

- 13:15-14:15 The buffet lunch will be available in the Bamford Area (behind Reception) throughout the hour
- 13:30-14:00 Medieval music performed by members of Gaudeamus (see below for programme)
- 13:45-14:00 and
14:00-14:15 Tours to the Searchroom to see a display of fourteenth-century documents from ERO's collections, guest-curated by Dr Jennifer Ward. Meet outside the Searchroom on the first floor; limited places available, please book in advance with the registration desk. Please note that bags cannot be taken into the Searchroom – please leave them in the locker room on the first floor. The display will remain in the Searchroom until the end of March.

Medieval music performed by members of Gaudeamus, 13.30-14.00

Performers

Colin Gilmore	<i>tenor, counter-tenor</i>
Andy Giddings	<i>tenor, recorder</i>
Lawrence Barker	<i>bass, drum, keyboard</i>
Vivian Giddings	<i>alto, recorder</i>

Secular Music

L'homme armé – popular late 14th / early 15th century song 'The armed man'

Estampie – *Lamento di Tristan*, with Rotta / anon 14th century Italian dances

Sumer is icumen in / anon English c.1310, manuscript in the British Library, oldest surviving manuscript of an English secular work

Estampie – *La quinte estampie real* / anon 13th century French

Chanson – *Se je souspir* / Guillaume de Machaut (c.1300-1377), mid 14th century

2-part ballata – *Ecco la primavera* / Francesco Landini (c.1325-1397), Italian Trecento composer

Sacred Music

Plainchant – Hymn: *Veni creator Spiritus*

3-part polyphonic motet – *Alle psallite* / anon French c.1250

3-part conductus motet – *Beata viscera* / anon English late 13th century

4-part Kyrie, from *Messe de Nostre Dame* / Machaut – the most celebrated 14th century sacred polyphonic work

A little about our speakers

Dr Jennifer Ward spent most of her career teaching and researching medieval history at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Since retiring she has continued with her research interests on medieval women and medieval Essex and East Anglia. Jennifer's publications include: *The Medieval Essex Community: The Lay Subsidy of 1327* (ERO, 1983); *The Essex Gentry and the County Community in the Fourteenth Century* (ERO, 1991); *English Noblewomen in the Later Middle Ages* (London, 1992); and *Women in England in the Middle Ages* (London, 2006). *Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare (1295-1360): Household and Other Records* will be published by the Suffolk Records Society in 2014.

Essex and the Hundred Years War: Taxation, Justice, and County Families

The medieval king was expected to be a military leader, but fourteenth-century warfare necessitated careful preparation, and any campaign needed the support of the great men of the realm. Not only did armies have to be raised, but they had to be paid. Taxation was essential and it had to be consented to by the Commons in parliament; that is, by knights and burgesses from the counties. This paper will discuss how taxes were levied on Essex and the effects of the king's demands for money and men on Essex people. For taxation to be effective, it was important to maintain law and order while the king was abroad. This depended largely on the royal officials in Essex, notably the sheriff, and increasingly on the justices of the peace. Members of parliament and sheriffs and justices were recruited from the county gentry who came to prominence during the fourteenth century. All these developments will be set against their social background of a century of great military victories, but also of social and economic disasters, notably the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt.

Dr David Simpkin is originally from Wigan. He studied at Hull University for his three degrees (1999-2006), spent 4 years as a Research Assistant at the University of Reading (2006-10), one year working on the 2011 Census in Manchester (2011), one year training to teach in Post-Compulsory Education at Edge Hill University (2012-13) and currently teaches history to sixth formers. His publications include *The English Aristocracy at War: From the Welsh Wars of Edward I to the Battle of Bannockburn* (Woodbridge, 2008); 'Total War in the Middle Ages? The Contribution of English Landed Society to the Wars of Edward I and Edward II', in *The Soldier Experience in the Fourteenth Century* (Woodbridge, 2011); 'The Contribution of Essex Gentry to the Wars of Edward I and Edward II', *Essex Journal* (Spring 2011); *The Soldier in Later Medieval England* (Oxford, 2013), with A.R. Bell, A. Curry and A. King, as well as eight entries in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Medieval Warfare and Military Technology* (2010).

The Essex Gentry and the Wars of the English Crown, from Edward I to Richard II, c.1277 – c.1400

This paper will focus on the socio-military activities and culture of the English gentry during the late Middle Ages, incorporating the period of the Scottish Wars of Independence, the colonial wars in Wales and Scotland and, of course, the Hundred Years War. While research has primarily focussed on the English gentry at a national level, there are plenty of opportunities to focus more closely on local and regional samples. This paper focuses on a sample of Essex gentry families which were active throughout the period using rolls of arms, regional studies and lists of county returns. Questions asked will include: what proportion of Essex gentry were serving at the end of the study period compared with earlier on; can any trends be detected in terms of the professionalism of the

Essex soldiery; were any of the service connections in evidence during the earlier period of the paper still being maintained towards the final decades of the Hundred Years War; and do patterns of service for the county of Essex seem to conform to patterns of service found elsewhere, or do they differ in any interesting or peculiar ways?

The Soldier in Later Medieval England Database: An Introduction for Researchers

The Soldier in Later Medieval England Database is the result of a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which aimed to challenge assumptions about the emergence of professional soldiery between 1369 and 1453. The database is drawn from information available in the muster rolls, treaty rolls, Gascon rolls and Scottish rolls, and records of the Normandy Garrisons. The database is now available as an online searchable resource for public use, and will be of interest to genealogists as well as social, political and military historians. You can search the database at www.medievalsoldier.org/search.php

Gloria Harris was born in Romford and has lived and worked in Essex all her life. Her BA in History and Literature and MA in Local and Regional History were both taken at Essex University. A general interest in Essex local history, with particular reference to Great Baddow, has seen Gloria absorbed into researching the life and times of Hugh de Badewe.

Hugh de Badewe: Organised Crime in Fourteenth-Century Essex

This paper will introduce Sir Hugh de Badewe to a wider audience. It will focus on his role in criminal gang activity, especially in the context of fourteenth-century public disorder. Who were his knightly gang companions? Who were the targets? Possible motives and practicalities of organising an attack will be discussed along with the acceptance that former criminals were absorbed into local systems of justice and administration.

Sam Gibbs was born in Poole and grew up in Swindon. He completed his BA and MA at the University of Reading where he is currently undertaking a PhD. His research for this is focussing on the English archers of the Hundred Years War, their socio-economic position and the effects of military service on their lives.

The Fighting Men of Essex: Military Service and the Poll Tax

This paper stems from current PhD research into the military service of the men at the bottom of the social scale, the archers, and the impact that this service had on their socio-economic positions. By combining the military data from the *Soldier in Late Medieval England* database and the civilian data from the Poll Tax returns, the lives of these men will be illuminated in a manner not previously achieved. The county of Essex is an interesting case study in this area, as the available evidence is well distributed, but the county has a unique character that is not closely replicated elsewhere in England. Any conclusions taken from Essex can be tested against the wider population enabling the impact of local social, economic and political structures to be considered in a wider context

Dr Herbert Eiden studied history, philosophy and politics at Trier (Germany) and Stirling. He took his MA and PhD at Trier. His PhD on the English Peasants' Revolt of 1381 was published in 1995 (in German). Some of his findings on the Revolt in Essex and Norfolk have been presented to English speaking audiences in three articles published in *History* 83 (1998), in the *English Historical Review* 114 (1999), and in a volume of collected essays (*Festschrift* for Stuart Jenks, 2008). He assisted with the editing of VCH Essex Volume XI (2012). For Volume XII he is researching the history of the parishes of Great Holland and Little Holland.

Military Aspects of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381

The events of the summer of 1381 confronted the English government with a political and social crisis on a hitherto unknown scale. Essex, where it all began, witnessed outbursts of concerted violent protest which showed a high degree of coherence and organization. Once the rising collapsed Essex rebels fought a last battle against a hastily assembled royal army. This paper explores whether military expertise was behind some of the rebels' actions and how the military suppression of the rising in the county was conducted by the earl of Buckingham and Sir Thomas Percy.

Dr Craig Lambert is Lecturer in Maritime History at the University of Southampton. He has written a monograph on naval logistics during the Hundred Years War, *Shipping the Medieval Military* (Woodbridge, 2011) and numerous articles on maritime communities. He has recently completed an ESRC funded project at the University of Hull (under the management of Dr Andrew Ayton). He has an interest in the Cinque Ports and has recently published an article for *Archaeologia Cantiana* (vol. 134) on Kentish ports and shipmasters during the Hundred Years War. Craig has recently been awarded £250,000 by the AHRC to undertake a project entitled 'The Evolution of English Shipping Capacity and Shipboard Communities from the early 15th Century to Drake's Circumnavigation (1577)'. This is an innovative project involving linking archival research with marine archaeology and will transform our understanding of the evolution of English maritime capacity whilst undertaking a prosopographical investigation of shipboard communities over this same period.

Shipping the Troops and Fighting at Sea: The Participation of Essex Maritime Communities England's Wars, 1320 – 1400

In late medieval England the men of the shipboard community played a fundamentally important role in the life of the realm. They guided and manned the vessels that conducted England's maritime trade and they transported the armies, supplies and envoys that were the lifeblood of the crown's martial endeavours. Over the fourteenth century England's seafarers were regularly involved in naval operations. The 1370s, however, witnessed a dramatic change in English war strategy. Naval fleets were assembled more frequently, more manpower was required and the crown began to cast its recruitment net more widely across the populations of coastal communities. Drawing on a database that charts over 20,000 ship-voyages undertaken from over 240 ports and which records the names of 10,000 shipmasters and mariners, this paper will assess the naval contribution made by Essex ports, such as Maldon, Wivenhoe and Harwich, to the Hundred Years War. Using taxation data it will offer insights into the impact of naval recruitment on local populations and provide a socio-economic survey of the seafarers of Essex.

Martin Stuchfield is a trustee of numerous registered charities concerned with heritage, history and archaeology. He is the co-author of the *County Series* established in 1992 to publish a comprehensively illustrated list of monumental brasses, indents and lost brasses in the United Kingdom. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and President of the Monumental Brass Society. He is also the Society's Conservation Officer and is an adviser on monumental brasses to the Chelmsford, Norwich and St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan Advisory Committees. He was President of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History (2008-11) and President of Essex Congress (2001-4). He is currently Chairman of the Victoria County History of Essex Trust.

Remembering the Soldier: Fourteenth-Century Essex Brasses

Monumental brasses provided a convenient and attractive medium for the deceased to be commemorated for perpetuity. While many brasses have been lost over the centuries, a significant number have survived and can be appreciated today. We are fortunate that Essex contains seven fourteenth-century military brasses, several of national importance. Sir William Fitzralph (c.1331-8) at Pebmarsh is depicted in full-length armour while Sir John Gifford (1348?) at Bowers Gifford is shown in armour with a shield. In contrast, two small figures at Wimbish, commemorating Sir John de Wautone (1347) and his wife, have been placed within an octofoil cross. At Aveley, the brass of Ralph de Knevynnton (1370) is a curious mixture. The figure is of Flemish origin while the inscription was engraved in a London workshop. The significance of these brasses together with other examples will be discussed in this talk.

Your hosts today...

Chris Thornton studied history as an undergraduate at the University of Kent and obtained his PhD at the Department (now Centre) of English Local History, University of Leicester. He was later a research associate in the Leicester Department and a Junior Research Fellow at Hertford College, Oxford. He is currently the Consulting Editor of the Essex Victoria County History of Essex and has contributed to the last three volumes (IX, X & XI) and Associate Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. He is a holding trustee and officer of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History (and former President and Hon. Secretary), a member of the executive committee of the Friends of Historic Essex, and a primary school governor. In his spare time he enjoys fossil-collecting and reading military history.

Neil Wiffen gained his first degree in English and American History from the University of East Anglia. He stayed on in Norwich working for Norfolk Library Service before returning to Chelmsford where he has been employed at ERO since 2000, where he is now Public Service Team Manager. He undertook a MA in Local & regional History at the University of Essex in 2003-2006. Neil has a particular interest in the Hundred Years War and the United States Army Air Force presence in Essex during the Second World War. He is also the Honorary Editor of the Essex Journal.

About the Essex Record Office...

The Essex Record Office is the storehouse of Essex history, caring for documents, images, and sound and video recordings which together tell the story of nearly 1,000 years of Essex's people and places.

Visiting us

- The Searchroom is open to the public six days a week for researchers.
- In the Searchroom you can order original documents, seek advice from our friendly and expert staff, use our extensive reference library, and access our computers.
- Searchers need a County Archive Research Network (CARN) reader's ticket to order original documents; CARN tickets are free and you can register for one on the day of your visit, all you need to do is bring with you some ID with proof of your address and proof of your signature (a driving licence is the easiest thing as it has both).
- Because the documents we care for are unique and irreplaceable, we do have some basic rules in the Searchroom: no pens, mobile phones must be on silent, no food or drink, and bags (including handbags) must be left in our secure locker room.
- We are a short walk from Chelmsford High Street, with all its cafés and restaurants. There is an eating area in the ERO for you to eat your lunch in.

Seax – our online catalogue

- Seax contains catalogue entries for nearly our entire collection – it will tell you what we have, and you can use it to order the original documents to view in the Searchroom. You can search it online at <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/>
- This means that you can make sure before you visit us that we have the document you want to see. You may even find that the document you need has been digitised, and you can see photos of it online.
- Most things can be ordered on the day, but a small proportion of our holdings are in our stores and need to be ordered in advance. If in doubt drop us an e-mail.
- For some hints on how to use Seax you can watch our 'How to use Seax' tutorial on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/EssexRecordOffice

Copying documents

- We can make copies of documents for you and e-mail or post them to you, but often the most cost-effective thing to do is to bring your own digital camera to the Searchroom. For just £10 you can take as many pictures as you need to of non-copyrighted material to then continue your research at home.

When we are open

Monday	9.00am-8.30pm	Thursday	9.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-5.00pm	Friday	9.00am-4.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am-5.00pm	Saturday	9.00am-4.00pm

Contact us

Essex Record Office, Wharf Road,
Chelmsford, CM2 6YT
01245 244644
Ero.enquiry@essex.gov.uk
www.essex.gov.uk/ero

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