



Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 – January 2014 Editor: Sue Tatham

Chairman's Report 2013

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group has had an encouraging first year. We had an initial meeting in November 2012 which demonstrated considerable support for such a group. We met again on 18th March 2013 when we adopted a constitution and elected a committee and officers. The committee has met seven times since March.

Our membership now stands at 83 and our finances are sound. We have been granted charitable status by HMRC (who deal with groups with an income less than £5,000 per year) and we can now collect Gift Aid tax refunds starting from 18th March 2013.

In addition to our subscription revenue our income was augmented by a donation from the Mickleham Parish Magazine to buy archiving material and a grant from Surrey County Council specifically for the purchase of a laptop computer and recording equipment for our oral history project. And we are most grateful to Jo Brown who produced a revue 'Time and Tide' which raised just over £777 for the group.

The committee agreed that there should be a quarterly meeting or event. Speakers were engaged for the April and October meetings. A Village Walk took place at the end of June and in January there was a guided tour of the Surrey History Centre in Woking. Full accounts of these events are included in the newsletter. Many thanks to Judith Long who arranged these very successful events. In addition to the group's social events, a number of task

groups have been set up to research matters of interest and to catalogue material which we already have. These task groups include:

- The War Memorial
- St Michael's Churchyard
- Oral Histories
- Mickleham Parish Magazine
- Existing Village Archives
- Mickleham Choral Society
- Railways in the Mole Gap

We are also making a scrapbook of relevant current newspaper cuttings. And we are assembling a collection of photographs of the recent floods.

Progress reports from some of the task groups are included in the newsletter. Special thanks to Mari Ottridge who spearheaded the Rose's Stores oral history project and secured the SCC grant to buy the equipment. Unfortunately Mari has resigned from the committee for family reasons, so we now have a vacancy on the committee.

At the present time only a small proportion of our membership is actively involved in task group work – we need more helpers. The newsletter lists contact details for the groups – please do let us know if you would like to get involved or join the committee.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee and members for their enthusiasm, help and support in getting the M&WLHG started and carrying it forward.

Ben Tatham
31 January 2014

M&WLHG Contact Information

Committee

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MWLHG73



A photograph from our archives: The Mickleham Donkey & his friends 1885.

Policing 19th Century Surrey and the Origins of the Surrey Constabulary

8th April 2013

At our spring meeting Robert Bartlett, former Chief Superintendent in the Surrey Police and founder of the national Police History Society, gave an informative and entertaining talk about the challenges involved in policing 19th century Surrey which led to the formation of the Surrey Constabulary in 1851. We learned that police forces were established to prevent crime rather than to solve it (something the Chief Inspector of Constabulary for England and Wales has since reiterated!).

Prior to 1851, there was no county police force in Surrey. Although some towns, such as Dorking and Godalming, had established their own small police forces, many rural communities relied on a Parish Constable to maintain law and order. The Parish Constable was generally appointed for a year, was often unpaid and could be fined if he failed to fulfil his duties! He had no uniform, relying instead on a staff of office as his symbol of authority. He was supervised by local magistrates who were usually wealthy landowners or members of the clergy and wielded great power in their communities.

Most crimes in the area were of a fairly minor nature, such as drunkenness, vagrancy or petty theft, and were dealt with locally. For example, in 1781 Sarah Liversuch was arrested as a 'rogue and vagrant' by T.R. Filewood who was Rector of Mickleham at the time. In 1871 Charles Evans was given the choice of prison or the army after stealing iron from David Jenkinson of Juniper Hill. Following more serious crimes local magistrates could seek assistance from the Metropolitan Police and the Bow Street Runners. One such case in 1834 involved the murder of a Mr Richardson, found shot by the roadside in Epsom. Henry Goddard, an experienced Bow Street Runner, was called in to help. Despite information from several witnesses and the arrest of two brothers (one of whom had blood stained clothes in his possession), the case fell through. As was customary, the costs were borne entirely by the magistrates! The

Do you have any
photographs we could copy
to add to our archives?

Early photographs of Mickleham and Westhumble would be great, but we are also interested in more recent pictures –especially of people, places and events.

Please get in touch with our Librarian,
Judy Kinloch 01372 375358
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100 GUINEAS REWARD.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
16th July, 1827.

WHEREAS on the night of Thursday the 12th Instant, about a Quarter-past Ten o'clock, the Driver with the Mail between Leatherhead and Dorking, was feloniously stopped by two Men on the King's Highway, between Leatherhead and Dorking, opposite Givon's Grove, when the Men fired two Pistols at the Driver and severely wounded him.

The Men are stated to have been dressed in dark clothes. Whoever will come forward and give such information as may lead to the apprehension and conviction of the Offenders shall receive a Reward of

ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS.

A Ramrod was found near the spot, and is supposed to have dropped from the Pistol of one of the Offenders.

murderer was only identified when a man waiting to be hanged for an unrelated robbery confessed to the crime. Although handbills containing details of a crime could be circulated within a few hours of its occurrence, thereby facilitating the arrest of a suspect, securing a conviction was hampered by lack of forensic techniques. It was not even possible to differentiate between human and animal bloodstains.

Sentences were not always as harsh as we might have thought. Unwed mothers (often young servant girls) who killed their babies were frequently charged, not with murder, but with the lesser offence of 'concealment of birth', and sometimes escaped punishment altogether. Almost all criminals sentenced to hang had their sentences commuted to transportation to the colonies. However, minor crimes could result in a sentence of weeks of hard labour, conveniently providing a source of cheap manpower to build roads. The Surrey Constabulary was formed as a response to the crimes of the Isaacs' Gang, a group of at least sixteen men who lived on the heaths and had committed numerous violent crimes. The final straw was the murder of the Reverend George Hollest in Frimley in 1850 by gang members, two of whom were hanged for the crime. Superintendent Biddlecombe (soon to become one of the first Superintendents of the new Surrey force) had to be called in from Godalming as there was no local police force. It was realised that a central police force covering the whole county would be a much more efficient and effective way to police the area. Thus the new Constabulary came into being in 1851. The new Police Constables were required to be honest and sober, at least five feet seven inches tall and less than thirty years of age, although there was no minimum age. They needed a strong constitution to walk twenty miles a day seven days a week, with one Sunday off every six weeks. More than forty years would elapse before annual leave was introduced!

Judith Long

Our first Mickleham Village Walk 29th June 2013



'Mr Broadwood's Seat' - Archive photograph of watercolour of Juniper Hall by John Hassell 1823

Our Summer Event, a village walk, was held on a sunny June day. We assembled at Juniper Hall to be shown round by Cian, the tutor on duty. We saw the Templeton Room designed in the style of Robert Adam, all very ornate, as well as what is the current office and other rooms. A notable feature of these is the original fireplaces that have been restored. We had a look at one of the photograph albums dating back to the turn of the century when the house was a family home with children playing on the lawn. The Victorian interior was much more formal with table and chair legs discreetly covered for propriety! Outside we could see the remains of the original brewhouse from when the building was 'The Royal Oak' and the coach house now transformed into a classroom but with the arched doorways still visible in the brickwork.

We proceeded to the 'Running Horses' where Mo Chisman was waiting to show us around. Being such a fine day, it was very busy so we did not get inside to see where the coaches used to come in (now the restaurant). There have been many changes over the years, as to be expected in a 17th century building, but Mo took us around to the back and explained some of them. We looked at the old Post Office in Swanworth Lane which still has stamp machines outside and pondered when 'The Old Post Office' in the London Road was moved round the corner before moving again into the village shop under

Beryl Icke. Mo explained the layout as it used to be with Hall Cottages (pulled down to build the flats) and Hall Farm as well as the stables, coachman's house and coach house which was used for village occasions before the village hall was built. The bothy was occupied by Bar, the groom, a survivor from an earlier Afghan war, and hunters were in action twice weekly. There was a tack room with stove and a hay barn and the drive leading to Mickleham Hall can still be seen. This was necessary to turn the horses around after driving up to the house. To Dalewood, next on our list, with Marianne Sunter as our knowledgeable guide. Built in 1883 in the Gothic Revival style, with Tudor influences, the estate expanded. It was bought by David Evans, not D.H. but the owner of a company that produced hand-printed silks. When he died the house was left to his widow Sarah who with her daughter was responsible for building the Village Hall. Lucie inherited the house and married Captain Widenham Fosbery. It was she who around 1935 sold the land from the Weir Bridge to Swanworth Lane to the Surrey County Council for about £5,000 in order to build that part of the by-pass. (The cricket pitch used to be in front of The Bungalow at Swanworth Lane but had to be re-located.)

Inside, the house contains numerous examples of Victorian craftsmanship, particularly wood-panelling and fireplaces, as well as many stained glass windows



Undated archive photograph: Post Office and The Running Horses with churchyard wall in the foreground

depicting scenes such as the seasons, literary figures and Aesop's fables. Our last and very welcome call (tea and cakes!) was at Mickleham Cottage on the corner of the A24 and the Old London Road. The original building was demolished around 1920 but a second cottage was built on the land in 1650 at least part of which still survives. Extensive alterations were made during the 18th and 19th centuries and at one stage the plot was divided into two. The house, gardens and stables made up one entity, while the other plot consisted of gardens and racing stables where horses trained on Mickleham Downs were kept. The house has a huge variety of window styles but

the sandstone entrance gate, which looks so much part of the property, does not appear in photographs taken in 1920, so would appear to have been imported from somewhere else. The old brick walls which surround the property date to the 18th century.

Very many thanks to Judith Long for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable event and also for producing a relaxing end to the afternoon in her garden with delicious refreshments. Thank you also to all those who contributed to the event in any way. Judy Kinloch

Task Group Report: Mickleham Parish Magazine

The first issue of the Mickleham Parish Magazine in its present format was published in October 1984 - nearly 30 years ago. Both the Surrey History Centre and the Mickleham Archives hold a complete set of magazines. To make the contents more accessible to researchers we have set out to make a digital copy of each one so that it can be searched more easily. This format will be particularly useful for people doing genealogy research.

In addition we are setting about indexing the magazines. One of my aims in producing the magazine has been to record the social history of our parish. By providing an index it will be easier for researchers to access this material. The index will also help us find articles and accounts of previous events without having to leaf through countless copies.

I have now set up the index in a spreadsheet format and piloted it using the 2013 issues - only 29 years of magazines to go! Stephanie Randall has agreed to help with this.

In order to make the digital copies I am planning to get up working parties to do the scanning. Several members have offered to help with this, and I shall be getting in touch with them soon. If you would like to help with this, please do get in touch. Sue Tatham



The Pethick-Lawrences and the Fight for the Vote in the Surrey Hills

15th October 2013



Annie Kenny and Christabel Pankhurst

Mention the word 'suffragette' and the name that usually springs to mind is that of Emmeline Pankhurst. However, as we learned from Kathy Atherton's fascinating talk, about the women's suffrage campaign in this area, there was another Emmeline

who made invaluable contributions to the movement and, although once as well-known as Mrs Pankhurst, is now largely forgotten.

Emmeline Pethick was born into a large middle class family in Bristol in 1867. She became a socialist in her early twenties after witnessing the poverty endured by young working women in London. In 1895, with Mary Neal, she organised a club for these women and helped them set up a co-operative business to improve their situation.

In 1899 Emmeline fell in love with Frederick Lawrence, a wealthy lawyer, but only agreed to marry him after he embraced socialism. The couple married in 1901 and, well ahead of their time, adopted the hyphenated name Pethick-Lawrence. Their main home was The Mascot, a house in Holmwood designed by Edwin Lutyens (and still standing today), visited by notable political friends

such as Keir Hardie and Ramsay MacDonald and soon to become a refuge for suffragettes.

Mrs Pankhurst and her daughter Christabel founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1903, an organisation dedicated to 'deeds not words'. Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence agreed to be treasurer, bringing with her much needed organisational skills, many influential contacts and significant wealth. Frederick became involved and the couple launched and funded 'Votes for Women', the official journal of the WSPU. Their London apartment became the Union's official headquarters while The Mascot was dubbed the unofficial one as so many WSPU members stayed there.

Campaigners for women's suffrage had originally been fairly restrained in their protests, but by 1912 property damage was increasing and Mrs Pankhurst and the Pethick-Lawrences were arrested after numerous properties had their windows smashed by WSPU members. Charged with 'conspiracy to incite persons to commit malicious damage' they were found guilty, although the public and even the jury at their trial felt sympathy for them. They were sentenced to nine months in prison and, after starting a hunger strike, both Pethick-Lawrences were subjected to the gruesome practice of force feeding. On release Frederick was sued for £1,500 by the government and the owners of the broken windows, equivalent to the price of a large house and grounds. Returning to Holmwood they found The Mascot occupied by bailiffs and the contents about to be auctioned.

National Portrait Gallery

NSDK



On left: Christabel Pankhurst and Emmeline Pethick -Lawrence 1908
On right: Christabel Pankhurst and Emmeline Pethick -Lawrence



In protest the WSPU immediately organised the Dorking and Holmwood Campaign, holding rallies in the area. The campaign was run by Helen Gordon Liddle, whose book describing her imprisonment in *Strangeways* had caused a public outcry. Another campaigner was Marion Wallace Dunlop, the first to go on hunger strike. Fortunately, friends of the Pethick-Lawrences bought back most of their possessions and Emmeline's brother-in-law bought the house. Despite the favourable publicity generated during the campaign and the obvious popularity of the Pethick-Lawrences their involvement with the WSPU came to an abrupt end shortly afterwards.

The usual reason given for the rift with the Pankhursts is the Pethick-Lawrences' opposition to the increasing militancy of the WSPU. However Kathy believes that money was the real cause due to Mrs Pankhurst's concern that Frederick might need the WSPU's financial help if the government continued to sue him for future campaign costs. It was unthinkable that WSPU money might enrich the government and so the Pethick-Lawrences were forced out – a devastating blow. They ran *Votes for Women* as an independent publication and moved to Peaslake. Emmeline still campaigned for social justice and Frederick became a Labour MP and, in 1945, 1st Baron Pethick-Lawrence of Peaslake. He helped negotiate Indian independence as Secretary of State for India in Atlee's government.

Oxford DNB



Bain News Service



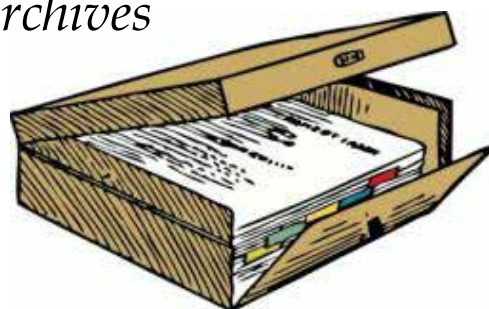
Emmeline and Frederick Pethick-Lawrence

Interestingly, not all women supported the suffrage movement, resulting in the formation of the National Anti-Suffrage League. Notable members included Mrs Leopold Salomons of Norbury Park and Miss MacAndrew of Juniper Hall!

Kathy's talk generated numerous questions from the audience and we eagerly await the publication of her book about the campaign for the vote in the Surrey Hills. Many thanks go to The Running Horses for kindly donating the use of their function room for the meeting. Judith Long

Task Group Report: The Village Archives

Judith Long and I are currently working on the archive material, with the help of Angela Ireland. And Rosemary Robinson has been indexing our collection of slides. We have set up a cataloguing system that covers all the documents we hold and are in the process of creating files for individual aspects such as the church bells, the clock, etc. The two chapels in Westhumble have separate files. These files are acid-free, as are the boxes that they are stored in. So, for example, there is now St. Michael's Box 1 and Box 2. We have also invested in acid free photographic sleeves for our collection of photographs. We think that our system will be user-friendly and it has been approved by the archivists at the Surrey History Centre. We have now sorted approximately three-quarters of the documents and should finish this initial process very shortly. Then we shall need to enter each individual document (under a catalogue heading) on to the Excel spreadsheet which we have designed. This will be a long task as each



document must have its own reference number and details entered.

Now we have our own computer and the oral project on Rose's Stores is completed, we shall soon be starting to enter data. This does not mean that material cannot be borrowed meanwhile for research purposes if there is an area that anyone is interested in pursuing.

We have acquired a number of documents, maps and photographs during the year. Thank you to all those who have donated material, whether original or for scanning. Judy Kinloch

Do you have any documents we could copy to add to our archives?

Please contact us if you have anything which might add to our knowledge of the two villages' history or build up our collection of material about local people and events.

Librarian, Judy Kinloch 01372 37535 mail@jkinloch.plus.com

Visit to the Surrey History Centre

15th January 2014

For the Winter Event of the Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group, twenty three members travelled to Woking for a 'Behind the Scenes Tour' at the Surrey History Centre. On arrival, we were able to view the original tithe map and apportionments for Mickleham and Westhumble, quite a privilege as only photocopies or digitised versions are normally available to the public. These tithe records, dating from the late 1830s, are invaluable to historians as they provide detailed information about buildings and land use, together with names of landowners and occupiers.

We then split into two groups, with Sally Jenkinson and Kate Stuart as our guides. The tour began with a look at the Surrey Tapestry, on display in the foyer. Designed by Philip Sanderson and woven at the West Dean Tapestry Studio, it depicts scenes from Surrey's history, including items as diverse as Magna Carta, a Gertrude Jekyll garden design and a plan of the Brooklands racetrack.

Next stop was the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) which carries out various fieldwork projects, often in response to plans for new building developments. The archaeologists first check if anything of archaeological interest has previously been found on the proposed site and then decide if they need to dig trial trenches to assess the archaeological potential. These studies help determine whether construction can go ahead as planned. The SCAU also carries out excavations at important archaeological sites, such as Woking Palace. Reports are published in Surrey's Historic Environment Record which also contains information about historic buildings and landscape features.

We then visited the Archive Section, beginning with the reception room where new items are stored. The archivist assigns each one a four digit number, enabling it to be tracked by the donor. In the cleaning area dust is brushed off, and mould spores removed, in an extractor hood. If insects or eggs are found, the item will be wrapped in cling film and then undergo two freeze-thaw cycles to kill them.

Books, documents and photos can all be damaged by light, atmospheric pollution and variations in temperature and humidity. In the packaging room we were shown how to store these items in order to minimise damage. Books are covered in acid-free manila wrappers or tied with unbleached cotton tape, photos are placed in archival quality polyester sleeves and documents are stored in acid-free folders. Brass paper clips are used instead of staples which will rust over time. It was reassuring to see that the storage material recently purchased by the M&WLHG Committee is very similar to that used by the SHC.

For many of us, the most fascinating part of the tour was the conservation room where books, documents and maps are repaired. We learned that paper often becomes acidic and stained over time, for reasons such as poor storage, mould growth or use of iron gall ink. The first step in the conservation process is usually to reduce this acidity and staining by soaking the individual pages of a document in a bath of tap water (after the ink is checked to make sure it is not water soluble!). Repairs can then be made using high quality Japanese plant-based papers and a wheat starch adhesive. The conservators have a

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Inspecting the 1841 Mickleham Tithe Map from left: Stephanie Randal, Sue Tatham, Anne Weaver, Roger Davis, Sue Lassen, Paul Brown, Brian Wilcox, Sarah Hammond, Mary Flint, Judith Long



Detail of the 1841 Mickleham Tithe Map showing buildings in Westhumble

wealth of other techniques at their disposal, depending on the individual item being repaired. We were all very impressed to see a book dating back to 1526, from the John Evelyn estate, undergoing conservation treatment. Our final stop was one of the two enormous strong rooms where all the original documents are stored in floor-to-ceiling rolling stacks. The temperature is kept at 16°C, to prevent mould growth, with a relative humidity of 55%. In case of fire there is a sprinkler system which

uses a 50/50 mixture of argon and nitrogen gases, but maintains sufficient oxygen levels to allow people to breathe. Despite the size of these rooms, they will soon be filled to capacity, which left us wondering where future acquisitions will be stored.

Following the tour, those of us not otherwise occupied in the afternoon (which sadly did not include me) were able to enjoy lunch in the Inn at Maybury.

Judith Long

Task Group Report: War Memorial

Mickleham War Memorial lists the local servicemen who died in either WWI or WWII. Fiona Taylor, Paul Brown, Caroline Freuler and I are researching the names with a view to producing an accessible record and biography of each man listed there. Wherever possible, we will highlight their connection to Mickleham.

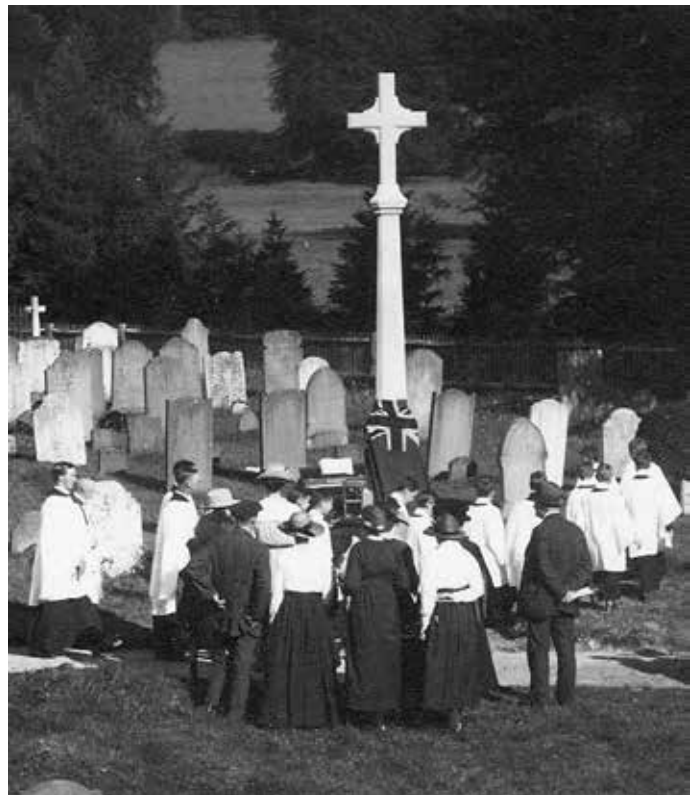
There are 21 names on the memorial. We have split the list among the group to research individually. Files are being built for each name. Some are naturally more detailed than others.

Our aim is to produce a laminated 'book' with digital copies that can be used as a reference. The basic format for the eventual book has been designed with the information about each man organised in an easily-followed sequence. The book will be kept in the church so that visitors can access it easily.

The centenary of the outbreak of WWI is being commemorated during the Heritage Open Days this coming September. We have agreed to arrange a display of our research findings in St Michael's Church for this event.

Phil Randles

MWLHG Archives 1920 24b



Dedication of the Mickleham War Memorial 1920

Task Group Report: Oral Histories

The main aims of the oral history projects are to collect, record and preserve the personal reminiscences of past and present village residents about a particular aspect of village life, and to provide a 'living history' of contemporary stories for future generations to access. For this first project, memories and present day stories about Mickleham village shop, 'Rose's Stores', were collected. For generations the shop has been at the heart of the community, providing a meeting place, a source of gossip and the everyday essentials of life.

We started off by drawing up a project plan outlining key objectives and target dates. Advice and information was sought from relevant bodies, appropriate supporting documentation was put in place and funding secured for the purchase of the necessary equipment.

Over a period of six months in 2013 some 20 people were interviewed, resulting in 17 digital recordings totalling more than 11 hours. Each recording has been given an index number as a unique identifier. In many cases photographs and other relevant documents were added to the individual recordings and these are available under the same index number.



MWLHP Archive photograph showing Mary Jenkins who worked at Rose's Stores during WWII

The Rose's Stores project has now been completed. The full and unedited recordings together with the images and summaries are available on the Group's computer. A copy is also being lodged with Surrey History Centre for archiving.

Grateful thanks to all those who very generously contributed to this project. Special thanks must be given to Surrey County Council for funding the purchase of specialist computing and recording equipment and to Surrey History Centre for the loan of equipment and for their invaluable professional advice. Mari Ottridge

Task Group Report: Mickleham Churchyard

Producing a plan of the churchyard to show who is buried where is proving to be a daunting task. So far most of our efforts have been concentrated on locating and obtaining copies of existing plans and records. We now have a large plan of the area and hope to start our survey of marked graves when the weather improves. It has been suggested that we set out a grid and muster a working party for a concentrated attack on this survey. If you would like to help with this please contact Brian Wilcox.



*MWLHG Archive photograph:
North side of Mickleham Church 1885*