My interest in West Horsley Manor, Surrey, UK.
by Carol Herben.

During background research into the Weston family, who owned and occupied West Horsley Place (Horsley at Dapto, NSW), by chance I came across my ancestors' connection to the Surrey Manor House West Horsley, the origins of the Australian Weston family.

I have researched my family lineage back to the year 1329, when John de Oxenbregge residing in Iden was a juror on an Inquisition between Simon de Echyngham and John de la Beche. It was John's descendants who made Brede Place in Sussex the base of my Oxenbridge family who also had other land holdings in Surrey.

The later Oxenbridge families were courtiers to King Henry VII, King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I who bestowed titles on them for their services.

How did the name Oxenbridge became so well known from the 14th to the 16th centuries? The foundation was laid in Brede, Sussex, when Robert Oxenbridge Commissioner of Embankments from 1393 to 1398 married Marjorie Atte Ford, heiress of Joan Atte Forde of Forde Manor. Forde Manor or Fords Place was the early section of the manor house which eventually became known as Brede Place. Brede Place was nor far from a junction of two watercourses which was named Brede River and flows into the River Rother at Rye about 50km to the east.

Brede is not more than 50km north from Hastings as the crow flies.

Their grandson Robert Oxenbridge (died 9 March 1487), Commissioner of Embankments from 1458 to 1465, and his wife Anne Lyvelode (died 27 February 1492) produced a very large family.

Of these three brothers stand out for their service to the Royal Family. Sir Thomas born c1467 became a lawyer of some note 'who gave his adhesions to Henry VII' and was elected one of the 'Serjeants at law'. His brother John, born c1466, was appointed 'Canon of the chapel in Windsor Castle' in 1509 when the Royal family were still Roman Catholics. Then there was my own ancestor Sir Goddard Oxenbridge of Brede Place born c1459 died 10 February 1531, Sheriff of Sussex in
1506, 1512 and 1519 and owner of the White Horse Inn in Southwark, Surrey, who was knighted by King Henry VII in 1509. He was married three times, first to Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Etchingham of Kent, and the second time to Dame Anne Fiennes.

The Queen Mother's family, the Bowes-Lyons, can be traced back to Sir Thomas Etchingham. Sir Goddard Oxenbridge was the owner of Brede Place at Brede, Sussex. He was a giant of a man standing 7 foot 2 inches tall.

There is even a legend about the 'Giant of Brede'.

The legend goes that the 'Giant of Brede' liked to feast on small children. This legend even produced a solution of how the small children of Brede decided to finish the monster. The children of Brede set about placing a large barrel of mead in the local park and waited for Sir Goddard to drink it all and fall into a stupor after which the children attacked him sawing him in half at the waist with a wooden saw. The children ran away with the top half of his body and when they returned the lower half had turned into a tree stump. Just near the park on Stubb Lane is a stone bridge named the “Groaning bridge” where late at night one can hear Sir Goddard wandering the bridge groaning looking for the other half of his body.

Brede Place was a haunt for smugglers, no doubt to keep the inquisitive away. The legend was born and fuelled by locals based on noises coming from the manor by spreading the tale that a monster resided there who liked to devour little children, so ensuring the safety of their bootie.

Sir Goddard’s granddaughter Elizabeth (daughter of Sir Thomas) married Sir Robert Tyrwhitt. Both were in the court of King Henry VIII. Elizabeth was Governess to the young Princess Elizabeth I, whilst her husband, Robert Tyrwhitt, was Master of the horse for Queen Catherine Parr. They both remained in the household of Catherine Parr after the death of Henry VIII and her second marriage to Thomas Seymour.

Sir Goddard’s sister, Malyn Oxenbridge, born c1476, married for the second time Sir Richard Carew, born c1469. He was Sheriff of Surrey
in 1501 and Knight Banneret at the Battle of Blackheath. They had five children Nicholas, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary and Anne. Of interest are the children Nicholas and his sister Anne.

Nicholas Carew, born c1496, became known as Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington and advanced in the Royal Court of King Henry VIII. Nicholas married in December 1514 to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Bryan of Ashridge. In 1518-19 he was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex. Nicholas and Elizabeth's children were Anne, Francis, Mary, Elizabeth and Isabel. Of interest are the children Anne and Francis.

Nicholas Carew's sister Anne married c1542 to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton in Coughton Warwick. Children of interest of the Throckmorton's are Nicholas and his sister Elizabeth who became attached to Sir Walter Raleigh.

Strange as it may seem Sir Nicholas Carew and Anne Boleyn shared a common ancestor and like Anne he fell out of favour with the Royals and was placed on trial on 14 February 1539 for high treason, found guilty and beheaded at Tower Hill on 3 March 1539. His widow Elizabeth Carew (nee Bryan) was granted some of his land in August 1539. In the second session of Parliament of 1547 a private Bill (2 and 3 Edw. VI, no 42) was passed for the "restitution in blood" of Carew's son Francis and in 1554 it was Queen Mary who restored him to his inheritance.

It was Sir Francis Carew (1530-1611), although a bachelor, who adopted his sister's child Sir Nicholas Throckmorton (1562-1643) son of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton and Anne Carew and from then on the child's name changed from Throckmorton to Carew. Nicholas Throckmorton became known as Sir Nicholas Carew (1562-1643), married Mary More (sic) and they had eight children and from the second marriage to Susan Bright a further two children.

West Horsley Manor in Surrey was purchased by the Throckmorton son Sir Nicholas Carew in 1629. When he passed away he left his estate to his sister's son Carew Raleigh. Carew Raleigh the son of Elizabeth
Carew (Throckmorton) and the ill fated Sir Walter Raleigh the child was born on 15 February 1605 in the Tower during his father’s imprisonment. Prior to their imprisonment Elizabeth Carew (Throckmorton) was Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth I. Sir Walter Raleigh was beheaded on 29 October 1618 in Old Palace Yard, Westminster. It has been recorded in the Old and New London Vol 3-

"The head after being shown on either side of the scaffold was put in a leather bag, over which Sir Walter’s gown was thrown, and the whole conveyed away in a mourning coach by Lady Raleigh (Elizabeth Carew). It was preserved by her in a case during the 29 years which she survived her husband and afterwards with no less piety by their affectionate son Carew with whom it is supposed to have been buried at West Horsley in Surrey. Sir Walter Raleigh’s body minus the head was interred in the chancel near the altar of St. Margaret’s at Westminster”.

On 11 February 1626 before the House of Lords Carew Raleigh exhibited a Bill for the “restitution in blood”. It was mentioned in the House that Carew had not received Communion in over a month. A certificate was issued on 19th February by the Rector of King’s Chapel Whitehall that Carew had received communion and the following day the Bill was passed.

Young Carew Raleigh was introduced to the Royal Court by a relative, the Earl of Pembroke, although not accepted well by the reigning monarch King James. Soon after Carew Raleigh obtained restitution of the estate and castle of Sherborne in Dorsetshire which had belonged to his father. Carew Raleigh married Phillipa Ashley nee Weston the rich widow of Sir Anthony Ashley. Children born to the marriage were Philip born c1652, Walter born c1650, Carew born November 1654, Ann born June 1658, and Henrietta born May 1660.

In 1665 West Horsley estate was sold to Sir Edward Nicholas and he recorded in his journal

“On 2nd March, 1665, I paid Mr Carew Raleigh the sum of £9,750, being the full purchase money for the manor, lands, &c. of West Horsley, in the county of Surrey”.
Carew Raleigh died in 1666 aged 60 years.

The year 1665 with Sir Edward Nicholas purchasing West Horsley ends the connection with the Oxenbridge bloodline and begins the Weston’s association to the estate.

According to Manning & Bray study of manor houses, they claim that West Horsley Manor appeared to have been rebuilt some time in the 17th Century.

Sir Edward Nicholas of Winterbourne Earles in Wiltshire married Jane, daughter of Henry Jay of Holveston, Norfolk. They had 4 sons. Sir Edward was educated at Queens College and became a member of the Middle Temple. He was at one time Secretary from 1624-28 to Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, when he was Lord high admiral in August 1626. At the time of the purchase of West Horsley Sir Edward Nicholas was Secretary of State to King Charles, which position he resigned from on 2 October 1662. Knighted in 1665 he later retired to West Horsley where he lived a further 4 years until his passing on 1 September 1669 aged 77 years. He was the brother of Dr. Matthew Nicholas, Dean of Bristol, in 1639 and Dean of St Paul’s.

Upon the death of Sir Edward his eldest son John Nicholas inherited West Horsley. Sir John Nicholas attended King Charles II. He went into exile and was made Knight of Bath and appointed Clerk of the Privy Council. In 1689 he was one of the four clerks of the Signet. Aged eighty eight years Sir John Nicholas passed away on 9 January 1704. He was married to Penelope daughter of Spencer Compton Earl of Northampton. Lady Nicholas died during a stormy and tempest night on 26 and the morning of 27 November 1703 before a chimney collapsed on her bed.

The three sons Edward, John and William were the heirs to the Nicholas fortune. Edward married and died without any issue in 1726, John also married with no male issue to inherit the Manor and therefore bachelor William Nicholas was the inheritor of West Horsley. When William died in 1749 at the age of eighty one years he willed West Horsley Manor house to Henry Weston Esq., a relative. Despite a relationship to the
Weston family could not be found, nevertheless, it was recorded that Henry Weston’s wife, Anne Copperthwaite, was the illegitimate daughter of William Nicholas.

Henry Weston was baptised 21 November 1678 son of John Weston a Knight of the Shire of Surrey 1699, 1701 and his wife Frances Hall. Henry Weston was sixty nine years old when he married Anne Copperthwaite in March 1747. Two children born from the marriage were Ann Weston born June 1747 and Henry Perkins Weston born 30 June 1748. The mother Anne (Copperthwaite) Weston died in 1748 after giving birth to her second child. Henry Weston passed away in 1759 aged seventy nine years.

Just digressing from the West Horsley story for a moment to give some background to the Weston family and their ownership of Ockham Manor Surrey where the family had been based for generations.

Henry Weston's father John in April 1703 successfully petitioned for the post of Receiver-general of the Surrey land tax. However any hope of a financial bounty was quickly dashed as Weston’s fiscal dealings had plunged him deep into debt. As early as March 1706 he was some £13,000 in arrears to the Treasury and after a tough hearing before the Board, he was permitted to remain in the position until March 1710 when the total deficit was £20,000 outstanding in his accounts. Due to the crippling extent of Weston’s financial difficulties proceedings were under way by the end of the year in 1710 for John Weston to arrange the sale of Ockham Manor to Sir Peter King in order to pay off the bulk of his debt. John Weston only lived another two years before passing away in 1712 in London.

An Act of Parliament and the concurrence of Weston’s heirs, Henry Weston, the son, was required to break the entail on the property. This was swiftly achieved with a Bill receiving the Royal Ascent on 16 May 1711.

Henry Weston eventually re-established himself and the family name having a good fortune later in life to inherit the Manor of Chertsey from Sir William Perkins in 1740 as well as the West Horsley Manor in 1749.
Henry Weston only lived a further 10 years after inheriting West Horsley where he died in 1759 he was succeeded by his young son Henry Perkins Weston.

Henry Perkins Weston married in 1770 to Marianne Bergier, they had five children - Henry Benjamin John Weston baptised 28 June 1771 died as an infant in Switzerland, Ferdinand Fullerton Weston baptised 4 July 1772 died June 1835, Rev. Charles Henry Samuel Weston born c1773 died in 1849, Frederick Alexander Weston born c 1777 died 1844 and Mary Augusta Weston born 12 November 1786 died 1838. Their mother Marianne Weston died in March 1789.

Of the first family of Henry Perkins Weston the following was found. Ferdinand Fullerton Weston married Harriett Eliza Babington in May 1808, he also made a name for himself with the release of his poems into a book “Pleasures of Pity and other Poems”.

At the time of the death of his father Henry Perkins Weston Ferdinand was the sole beneficiary of West Horsley estate. Dying and buried at Lichfield in June 1835 leaving no male heirs the estate was then passed onto his younger brother the Rev. Charles Henry Samuel Weston.

Charles Henry Samuel Weston was rector of West Horsley Church between 2 October 1816 until 3 November 1841. He died some time prior to 1849 as his probate was granted on 15 May 1849 Co Canterbury. Frederick Alexander Weston, Lieutenant East India Company died abroad in 1837.

Mary Augusta Weston married in August 1809 at Croisettes, Switzerland to Charles Sigismond Cerjat of Switzerland. She died in 1828.

On 2 April 1790 Henry Perkins Weston married for the second time to his first wife’s cousin Jeanne Marie Bergier.

Children from the second marriage to Jeanne and Henry were John Samuel Henry Weston born 9 January 1791 died October 1850, William Francis Weston born on 20 March 1793 died 25 April 1826 at
West Horsley Place, Illawarra, George Horace Weston born 30 July 1794 died 1826, George Edward Nicholas Weston born 31 October 1796 died November 1856 at Horsley, NSW, John Finch Weston born 24 March 1799 died 1817 at West Horsley and Augustine Charles Weston born 27 May 1801 died 1811 in Switzerland.

What is known of the second family of Henry Perkins Weston and Jeanne Marie Bergier:
John Samuel Henry Weston born 9 January 1791 married Sarah, the illegitimate daughter of Major General James Murray McGregor of the Bengal Army. Sarah died 16 October 1825. John married for the second time on 22 November 1826 at Saugor to Margaret daughter of Rev. Patrick Nicolson. Margaret Weston was buried 17 November 1838 aged 38 years at Meerut. There were 4 children all born in India between 1829 and 1838. His third marriage took place on 29 April 1840 to Jessie daughter of George Playfair Superintendent of the Medical Establishment at Bengal.

Between 1829 and 1838 John Weston was a Captain in the 31st Regiment in Bengal. John Weston died on 8 October 1850 in Paris.

The Gentleman's Magazine of 1850 records an obituary:
October 8. At Paris Colonel John Samuel Henry Weston C.B. of West Horsley Surrey. He was of the Bengal service, attached to the 31st Native Infantry, and was formerly Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Meerut Division.

William Francis Weston was born on 20 March 1793 and baptised as Francis William Weston in 1793.
Two marriage dates can be found for a William Weston and Elizabeth Crouch. The first on 25 January 1809 at Berwick Saint Leonards, Wiltshire and a second on 24 January 1817 Old Church Saint Pancras, London. Whether he secretly married before leaving for India in 1809 and then again after his return in 1817 needs further research.

Elizabeth (Betty) Crouch was baptised on 22 July 1792 at West Horsley, Surrey, daughter of John and Ann Crouch.
The family of William Francis Weston and Elizabeth Crouch will continue at the end of the segment after the remainder of Henry Perkins Weston’s children.

George Horace Weston was born 30 July 1794 and had died in 1826. The probate on his estate was granted on 3 January 1827 in Co Canterbury.

George Edward Nicholas Weston was born on 31 October 1796. He departed from Ile de France Mauritius on 4 January 1829 on board the vessel “Vesper” and arrived at Sydney on 14 March 1829. He married in May 1829 at St James, Sydney, to Blanche, daughter of Lieut. George Johnston and Esther Abrahams.

John Finch Weston was born 24 March 1799 and died in 1817. Some information has been recorded that his death year as 1815, although his death can be found in “A Gentleman’s Magazine in 1817”-

“Aged 18 years John Finch Weston Esq. youngest son of Henry Perkins Weston Esq. of West Horsley-house”.
Being aged 18 years would give his accurate year of death as 1817.

Augustines Charles Weston born 27 May 1801 died 1811 in Switzerland.

Lieutenant William Francis Weston, his wife Elizabeth Crouch and son John arrived in Sydney on HMS Larkin in 1817. The son John was baptised as John Crouch on 17 November 1816 at West Horsley Surrey.

A promise of a grant of 500 acres at West Dapto was taken up by the family in 1818. By 1825 the family consisted of John Crouch, who was now known as John Weston, born 1816 died 30 January 1885, Augusta Sydney Weston born January 1818 died October 1894, William Henry Weston born 1820 buried on 9 August 1837, Mary Ann Weston born 1822 died October 1838 and Elizabeth Weston born c1825 died 6 August 1859 aged 34 years

William Francis Weston died on 26 April 1826 aged 33 years and was buried at West Horsley Place, Dapto.
His widow Elizabeth Weston gave birth to Sarah Matilda (baptised as Williams) in 1828. Widow Elizabeth Weston married Thomas Williamson in 1830 and in 1832 James Williamson was born. Thomas Williamson arrived in 1820 on the Prince Regent and had been sentenced to life. The 1828 census shows he was a tenant on Horsley, Dapto, holding 3 acres of land.

The 1828 Census shows that Elizabeth still addressed herself as Weston and in her household there were John Weston (Crouch) aged 13 years, Augusta Weston aged 11 years, William Henry Weston aged 8 years, Mary Ann Weston aged 6 years, Elizabeth Weston aged 3 years and Sarah Weston (Williamson) aged 3 months.

Of the children of William Francis Weston and Elizabeth Crouch; John (Crouch) Weston settled in the Monaro district where he married twice. He died at Berridale, NSW, in January 1885.

Augusta Sydney Weston was born in January 1818, she married Richard Brooks. In 1842 Augusta along with her sister Elizabeth were granted the land promised to their father. The Brooks owned 250 acres and Elizabeth Weston the other half of the estate. Augusta Sydney Brooks died 31 October 1894 at Berridale, NSW.

William Henry Western born 1820 was a midshipman on HMS Reliance. He died of cholera when only 16 years old and was buried on 9 August 1837 at Calcutta, India.

Mary Ann Weston born in 1822 died in October 1838.

Elizabeth Weston born c1825 married Andrew Thompson and she died on 16 August 1859 aged 34 years and is buried in St Luke’s Churchyard Dapto.

Elizabeth Williamson (formerly Weston nee Crouch) died on 24 March 1853 at West Horsley Place aged 59 years. At the same time William Francis Weston’s remains were exhumed from the gravesite at West Horsley and were buried along with Elizabeth Williamson at St Luke’s Churchyard on 27 March 1853. The church records show a service for both at the same time.
William Francis Weston left a will in NSW with probate granted in 1826. Also, English probate was granted on his estate at West Horsley, Surrey, which stated that

"William Francis Weston otherwise Francis William Weston Farmer of West Horsley Place Surrey" probate was granted on 23 November 1829.

The Weston lineage can be traced to Radulphus de Weston who goes back to the 20th year of the reign of William the Conquerer c1086. His son, Ralph Lord of Wistaneston, Changton, Chittington, Sultinges and Heene in the County of Sussex.

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In the late 1840s a large part of the Nicholas and Weston documents were held by Rev. Charles Henry Samuel Weston who permitted access for inclusion in a publication released in 1850 after his death which documents the history of West Horsley. Part of these documents were purchased for the British Museum in 1879.  
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