

The Spurgeon Name in Halstead, Essex

My connection with this old family name is through my maternal grandfather Samuel Garrad SPURGEON 1885 -1953.

There are excellent records available for the Halstead parishes and combined with those of the I G I and Essex RO the name can be traced back to the mid 1400's throughout Essex. Also note that tracing the name from then on is made very difficult by the number of variants that can be found. Where variants come in, I like to keep all of them, to then see when a variant becomes a line on its own.

According to the ancient Rolls of Edward IV the Spurgeons were located within a 5 miles radius of Halstead as far back as 1465. A deed dated 2 December 1465 was written at Gt Maplestead, some 3.5 miles north east from Halstead in which the names of John and Thomas SPIRJON were witnesses to a conveyance of land in that village. In the Patent Rolls of Edward VI for 1551, a grant of the Chantry called Bouchier's College to William PARR, Marquis of Northampton, dated 24 June of that year, "rent of one tenement and parcel of land, parcel of Fitzjohn's aforesaid in the tenure of Richard SPURGEON "...the yearly rent of 33s 4d" was recorded. A modern day value of less than £2 albeit avoiding inflation of course. From the earliest Court Roll of Dynes, dated 19 May 1575, in the Gt Maplestead parish, we find one Thomas SPURGEON was the tenant of the Manor.

Using the above as a start to the SPURGEON Family History of that area of North Essex, we can see how this family name developed through the genealogical table produced by W Miller HIGGS in 1906. One Clement SPURGEN, who died about 1733, was involved with the Independent Chapel and probably started the Spurgeon involvement with religion as his son became the Reverend Samuel SPURGEON, pastor of that church. There was at least seven Spurgeon with the address of 'Reverend' by 1856. These included the famous orator, Charles Haddon SPURGEON who died in 1892.

On the Internet there is more family history on the Spurgeon family name. This work, covering East Anglia, is a great achievement of the author.

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