

**SURREY: HIGHWAYS,
BYWAYS,
AND WATERWAYS**

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Surrey: Highways, Byways, and Waterways by C. R. B. Barrett

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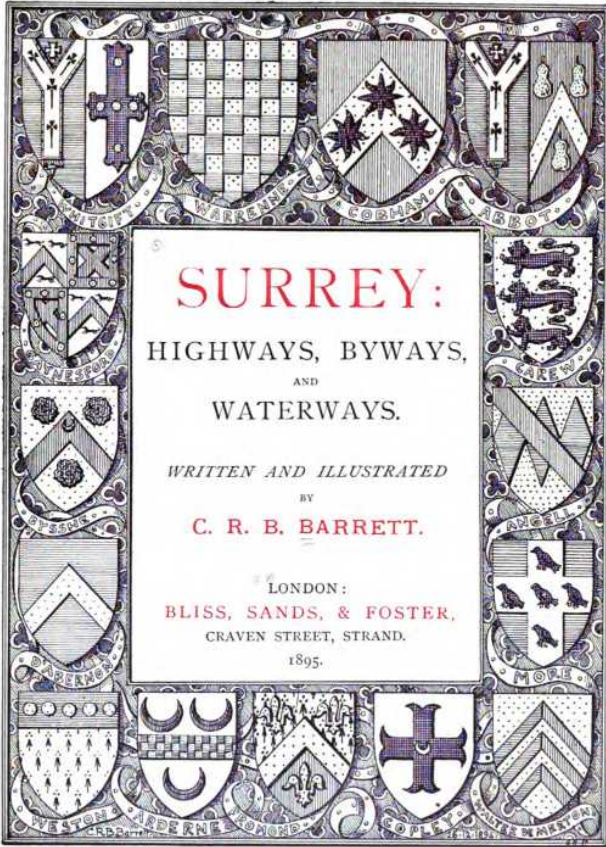
C. R. B. BARRETT

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SURREY.



Staircase, Plyfield.



PREFACE.



HAVE endeavoured in the present volume to describe and illustrate the County of Surrey. My wanderings begin at the mouth of the river Wandle, and I trace that stream to its sources at Carshalton and Croydon. Wandsworth, unromantic though it appears in these days, has yet associations worthy of record. Merton, once noted for its famous Priory, not to mention other more modern causes of renown, will not be omitted; while of Carshalton in the past I shall, I hope, be able to adduce one or two fresh facts. Beddington, it is needless to add, will pass under review; and Croydon, the quondam home of Archbishops, with the relics of its now diverted Palace, and the interesting Hospital of the Holy Trinity, will furnish me both with sketches and descriptive matter.

Elsewhere in the County I shall wander from village to village and town to town, seeking subjects picturesque and antiquarian. At one time, making Reigate my headquarters, I shall explore the district thereabouts, extending my rambles on one side so as to join on to my previous excursions on the other till I reach the Sussex border. The picturesque series of villages which lie at the foot of the straight high ridge between Reigate and Guildford will of course be visited. Guildford, as is to be expected, will occupy a chapter to itself, and here it may be remarked that this ancient borough is the most interesting spot in the County, seeing that it teems with architectural relics of the past. Here I shall again establish my headquarters,

and treat the district around in the same method that I employed while at Reigate.

From Guildford I shall move on to Farnham, and similarly explore the south-western corner of the County. Returning to my starting-point at Wandsworth I shall then in detail, as far as possible, cover the ground which lies to the north of the straight high ridge. I shall wander through Wimbledon, Ewell, Cheam, Epsom, and Leatherhead, etc. From Thames Ditton and Long Ditton I shall explore the country to Guildford, concluding my survey by a prolonged tramp through Woking and Chobham, during which I shall deviate from my path on either side. In my preface I find it impossible to give a complete list of villages and isolated manor houses which I intend to visit, but I hope to omit no place either of importance or of interest. From an antiquarian point of view the County presents many peculiarities, and indeed the points of difference between Surrey and other counties is most marked. The village churches have a type of their own; they are mostly small in size. The lack of piscinæ and absence of sedilia is striking, but the tombs and brasses are good. The manor houses, despite the fact that the great majority of them are small in size, are rich in the possession of staircases of beauty, notably at Smallfields, Slyfield, and Leigh Place. For purely domestic interiors of another kind can anything be found more excellent than the woodwork of the Hospitals at Croydon and Guildford, or that in the house of Mr. Bull at the latter place? Sutton Place and Loseley are well known, and I need not further allude to them in my preface; nor is it requisite for me to discourse on the picturesque beauties of the scenery of the County. Finally, I have but to add that my sketches are original, and that I have personally visited every place to which I make allusion in my book.

C. R. B. BARRETT.

TOWYN, WANDSWORTH, S.W.,
Xmas Eve, 1894.

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