



William Blyth Gerish (1864-1921)

William Gerish was born in Islington and raised in East Anglia. He lived in Hertfordshire for about 20 years and his particular interest was researching local history.

He collected together Hertfordshire's monumental inscriptions (now at the British Library), encouraged Professor Skeat to write *The Place Names of Hertfordshire* and wrote a biography of the Hertfordshire historian Sir Henry Chauncy. Gerish also edited and heavily contributed to the *East Herts Archaeological Society Transactions* and the *Archaeological Notes and Queries* columns in *The Hertfordshire Mercury* and *Watford Observer*.

He wrote 19 pamphlets on Hertfordshire folklore, published between 1905-1921. These included tales of witchcraft, legends, murders and possessions by demons.

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies holds Gerish's collection of Hertfordshire material. It includes photographs, prints, notes, maps, newspaper cuttings, correspondence and brass rubbings. These cover subjects such as the general history of a parish, churches, historic buildings, biography and folklore.

