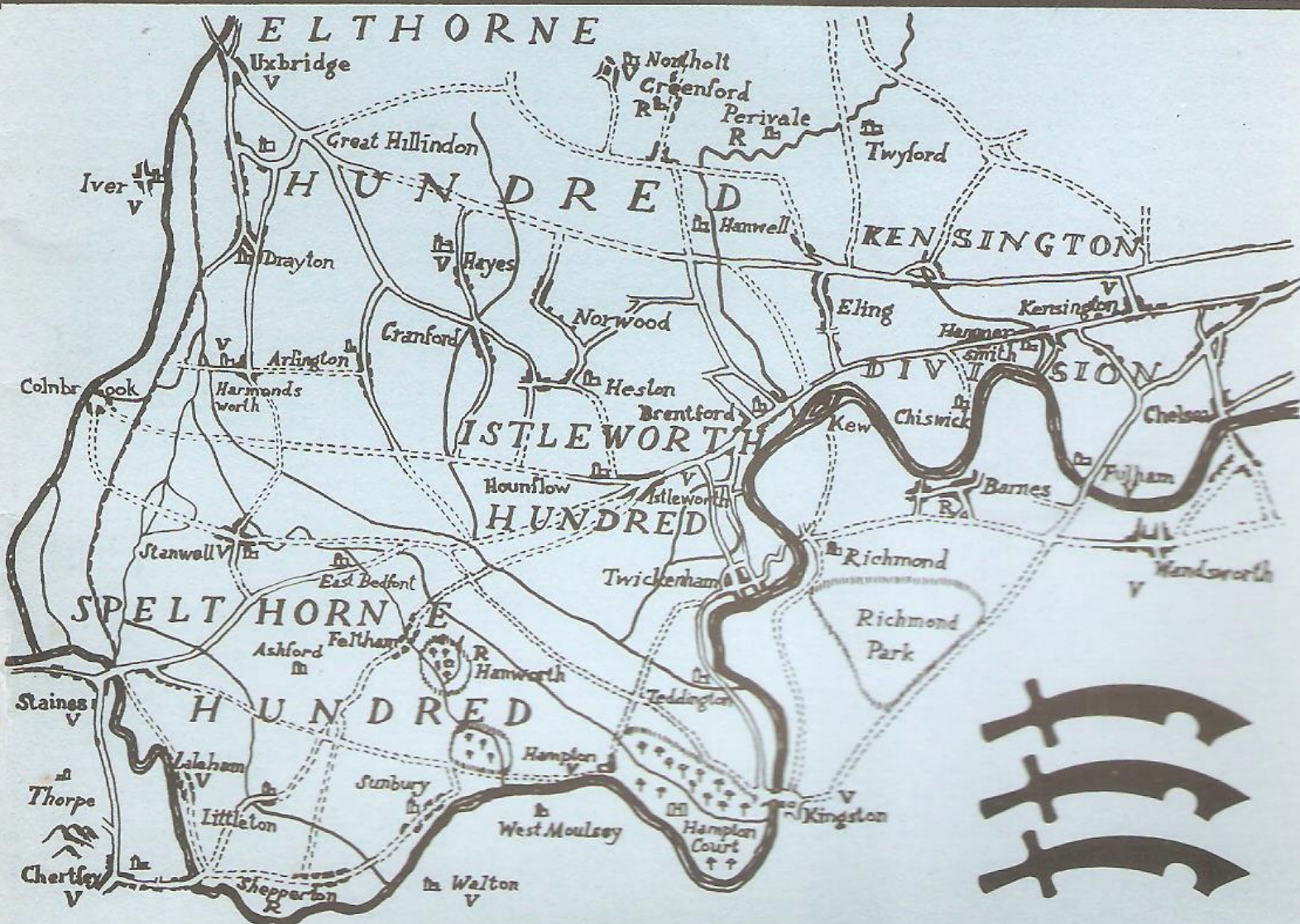


West Middlesex Family History Society Journal

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Autumn 1980



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The Society's Area of Interest

Parishes which are the particular concern of the Society:

Acton, Ashford, East Bedfont, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, West Drayton, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham, Greenford, Hampton, Hanwell with Brentford, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes with Norwood, Hammersmith, Heston with Hounslow, Hillingdon with Uxbridge, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, Perivale, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington and Twickenham.

Articles in the Journal do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor and the Committee, and must not be reproduced without permission.

From your Chairman

September 1980

At the end of our second year, it is pleasing to report, that although we have lost many members along the way our membership has now just reached one hundred.

We have continued to hold our monthly meetings and are well established now at Hounslow Town Hall, where we are able to supply coffee and biscuits during our meetings.

The wine and cheese party held on 20th June proved to be an outstanding success and it is planned to make this an annual event.

It is with great regret that we announce the loss of our Editor Robert Cook who has moved to Cardiff. Robert's endless efforts in producing our magazine cannot go unrecorded for without him there would have been no magazine and probably no Society. Thank you, Robert!

As an interim measure the magazine will be edited by a "Magazine Committee" headed by Sam Morton. Once again, I must appeal for material and articles. There must be some gem of research which you each have, worth publishing; and don't forget to let us have your own family history enquiries. It costs you nothing to have them published and who knows, that long standing problem may be answered by a distant relative you've never even heard of.

We urgently need to recruit an editor, is there someone prepared to take on this work?

Our meetings will continue to be held on the second Friday of each month at Hounslow Town Hall at 7.30 pm.

Future events:

1980

October 10 A.G.M. and Discussion Evening

November 14 Local History from newspapers Mr. A. Cox

December 12 Problems and Queries

1981

January 9 Lecture to be announced

February 13 Heraldry, a talk illustrated with slides Mr. G. Humphrey-Smith

News & Events

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due, the rates are shown on the back cover, and should be sent to the membership secretary:

Mrs. Rhona Ward, 29 Ernest Gardens, London W4

Members remitting from overseas are asked to add the equivalent of 75p to cover bank charges.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATE PROJECT

This project (under which unwanted certificates from St. Catherine's House can be filed with the organisers, for use by others) was first described in **Vol I, No 3**. We have been informed that an index of certificates on offer is now available (price 50p + 15p postage) from:

Mr. John Beach, 24 Hailstone Close, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands, B65 8LJ

Certificates should continue to be sent to:

Mrs. M. Johnson, 63 Brook Lane, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 7EJ

FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

A Family History weekend conference and half-yearly meeting of the Federation of Family History Societies is to be held in Birmingham from April 10-12 1981. It looks to be an interesting weekend, and further details may be obtained from the Editor.

UNSWORTH MEMENTOES

Patricia Lindegaard of the Bristol & Avon FHS has several photographs of members of the UNSWORTH family, and copies of documents relating to Thomas Unsworth of Ealing, 1882-1968 which she is prepared to give to anyone having an interest in this family. Members interested should write to:

Mrs. Lindegaard, 49 Clayfield Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 4NH

THE MANY USES OF PARISH REGISTERS

Raymond Grant, in "The Parliamentary History of Glamorgan 1542-1976" records the following poster issued during the Glamorgan election of 1820 by opponents of the candidate John Edwards, who was campaigning as "Edwards the Welshman"

"To the Freeholders of the County of Glamorgan -To show you what reliance is to be placed on Mr. Edwards' assertions, the following is a Copy of the Register of his Baptism":

Lambeth, Surrey, Baptisms 1772

-March 29, JOHN, son of JOHN EDWARDS & CATHERINE

The above is a true copy of the Register Book of Baptisms belonging to the Parish of St. Mary, Lambeth, Surrey: extracted this 8th day of February, 1820.

By me, ROBERT CLOWES, Curate

NAVAL ANCESTORS

The Naval Historical Library, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, Fulham, London SW16 1TR has proved to be a very useful source of information for those with naval ancestors.

PITY THE POOR GENEALOGIST

Noted in the Daily Telegraph for 21st April 1980 was a reference to a christening at which were present six godfathers. The reason for their presence was, according to the mother, the fact that any one of them could have been the child's real father - it seems that she could not be certain which of them it was!

Each of the godfathers contributed a forename for the child; for a surname he was given his maternal grandmother's maiden name - Help! - rather like those board games – “go back three spaces and start again”

FELTHAM PARISH REGISTERS

Miss Irene Foster writing about the parish registers of Feltham, Mddx., in the North Cheshire Family Historian, **Vol.7 No.2, May 1980**, states: “The marriage register for the period 1755-1770 was hardly kept at all. It has page after page of the marks of the people getting married and the signatures of any witnesses who could write - but nothing else filled in - no names of parties, places, occupations or dates - so unless the parties could write there is no record even for the later period (early 1800) the register is full of notes complaining that the previous vicar, Dr. KILGOM, “now dead” failed to record certain events.”

MARRIAGE BONDS

In an article entitled “Index to Berkshire Archdeaconry Marriage Bonds, 1616-1638, 1669-1846 by Colin Harris (Oxfordshire Family Historian **Vol 1, No 9, Aug 1979**) the author mentions that the Index includes many bonds for people outside Berkshire, from Oxfordshire, Hampshire, & Wiltshire and to a lesser extent from Buckinghamshire, Surrey & Middlesex.

Unfortunately, the place where the marriage was to take place was not recorded in the 19th century index which was made. (Original bonds were destroyed by the only bomb which fell on Reading) Copies of the Index are in Bodleian Library, Berkshire R.O. and Soc. of Genealogists. Often it would have been at the parish of the bride, or the bridegroom but before the 1754 (Hardwick Act) it was very common for marriages, especially those by licence, to take place elsewhere - the local market town was very popular. So, the index, though telling you that a marriage probably took place, does not necessarily guide you to it.

MONUMENTS

The Editor of “History Today” is planning a regular article entitled “Monuments”. Each month a leading historian will examine a monument which is being restored and will soon be open to the public, or which despite its historical interest is not generally well known. The term “monument” will be interpreted in the broadest possible way, and thus for example the open fields at Laxton would qualify.

Dr. David Starkey of the London School of Economics has been appointed consultant editor for the feature. Members of appropriate organisations are asked to keep the magazine informed of their plans and draw attention to monuments which they consider might be included in the series. Even if a monument is not selected for detailed study, it could be worth a mention in the News & Notes section. Any suggestions should be sent to:

The Editor, History Today, 5 Bentinck Street, London, W1M 5RN.

GREATER LONDON RECORD OFFICE

Opening times are now 10.00 am to 4.45pm, Monday to Friday, with a Tuesday late evening opening to 7.30 pm (by appointment only). It is advisable to phone beforehand just in case the record you want is stored in an out-repository. The staff are very helpful and the atmosphere is much less hectic than St. Catherine House of the PRO. Also worth a visit while you are in County Hall is the print and map room next door.

COMPUTER FILE INDEX

East of London FHS are hoping to acquire their own microfiche of this index shortly and it will be kept in one of the local libraries for members use. Non members will also be allowed access under certain conditions. This will be a useful addition to the local facilities. Tower Hamlets central library has an extensive range of family history archives too.

ST. LAWRENCE, BRENTFORD

Those of our members who spent a day on MIs at the church earlier this year will remember that it is planned to turn this redundant building into a theatre workshop. It seemed at the time to be a herculean task; a later inspection revealed that dry-rot is affecting the roof timbers quite badly. The work will go on but clearly much more time and effort is needed to see the project through.

BRENTFORD CENSUS 1810

One of our members has indexed this census from a document in Boston Manor library, we hope to be able to print this in a later magazine. In the meantime, if you have an interest in this area, the editor has the list of surnames. The index was prepared by Mrs. C. Zouch, and contains the address and number of males and females in the house. If you write for information, please enclose S.A.E. for reply:

Mrs. C. Zouch, 8 Sixth Avenue, Hayes, Middx. UB3 2ES

OUT OF AREA (STRAYS) INDEX

We have a further list of strays to hand from Vic Gale, but have held this over in favour of the index of non-conformist chapels. It is hoped that we can find room for more strays next time, but should you come across any in your own searches, do remember our lists and keep us informed.

Tracing London Ancestors

Cliff Webb

This article was originally published in “Root and Branch”, the journal of the West Surrey Family History Society in **December 1974 (Vol. 1 No. 2)**. It has now been updated by the author and is reproduced here with permission of that Society.

Perhaps the most common problem facing genealogists is that of movement. It is well-known and increasingly apparent as more research is done, that the old idea that people in pre-industrial England never went over that next hill is true only in a very small minority of cases. Genealogists descending from such people are lucky indeed!

The “loss” of an ancestor in London during this period presents, because of sheer size, a most difficult situation. It is unfortunately, an all-too-common problem and is one which I have encountered on several occasions in my own family researches. The problem, if combined with a common name and very rapid movement may be insoluble. However, it has been rightly observed that the genealogist’s motto should be “nil desperandum” because one can never have searched all the possible sources, nor indeed all those which might prove invaluable. It is my intention to briefly recount some under-used sources, and some points in the conventional sources which are often missed by the beginner.

Dr. Peter Spufford in articles in the Genealogist’s Magazine has given many hints on this matter, but he was mainly concerned with the situation pre-1700. Most genealogists working on London families would be very happy to get back to such a date. In addition, quite naturally many sources are either only available for later periods or are much fuller and more complete after that time. For example, there are the various papers concerning settlement, for which there must be ten volumes for 1700-1800 for every one there is before 1700 (at least in London).

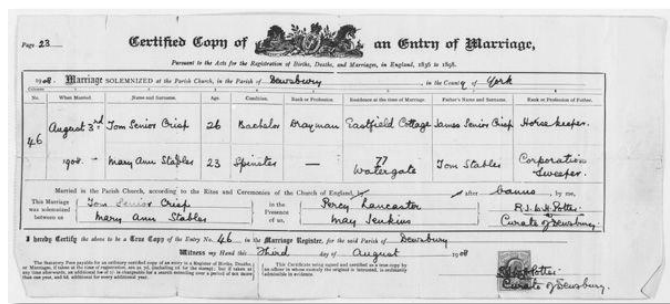
The typical situation for the relative beginner is that he has fairly well exhausted the resources of St. Catherine’s House for the line he is tracing. He has birth and/or marriage certificates in the 1837-60 range and with luck has found a census entry. Even with the 1851 or later censuses he has in all probability found in answer to “Where were you born?” the answer “Mx” or “London” or “Sy” and when the searcher finds that this can refer to 150 or more parishes it is hardly surprising that his reaction is often utter dismay. The situation is however, far from hopeless. The census will have given an approximate date of birth, and if this can be confirmed by a death certificate so much the better. As the beginner will have found, the pre-1865 indexes for deaths at St. Catherine’s House leave much to be desired, particularly in failing to give the age at death, but it is nevertheless worthwhile making the effort to find the certificate if at all possible.

If the first pre-1837 entry sought is a marriage, then there is an excellent and still too little-known source. This is Pallott’s Marriage Index housed at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Research, Northgate, Canterbury, Kent. For a fee of £5.75 (used to further the work) the people there will search any required entry

from the index, which covers virtually all London parishes from 1800-1837 and many from 1770 to 1780. It is gradually being completed with, hopefully, a view to eventual publication.

Failing Pallott, you could try the Surrey or Middlesex Marriage Indexes, which I operate and one or other of these could produce the entry you are seeking, (For details of the arrangements for searching these, see the note in "Research Report" in the Spring 1980 issue of this Journal, or any recent issue of "Root and Branch").

The situation with baptisms is much easier than it was due to the production of the Computer File Index microfiches by the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). These, as many readers will have discovered, deal with the whole country in county sections



and provide an index to several million baptisms. The coverage for London is particularly good though naturally far from total. Complete copies of the C.F.I. are to be found at the Society of Genealogists and at the Mormon Temple in Exhibition Road, Kensington while the London/Middlesex section (which includes all that is available for "urban" Surrey and Kent) can be found at the Guildhall Library. Failing this the searcher, if he has no other clues to guide him, should search the largest parishes first, (with obviously a bias towards those already indexed). He should not forget the registers of Westminster, especially St. George (Hanover Sq.), St. Margaret's, St. Clement Danes and St. Martin in the Fields.

Other very large parishes (1831 population in brackets) are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| St. Marylebone (122,000) | St. Pancras (104,000) |
| St. Leonard Shoreditch (68,000) | St. Matthew Bethnal Green (62,000) |
| St. Dunstan Stepney (51,000) | Clerkenwell (48,000) |
| St. Luke Old Street (47,000) | Islington (37,000), |
| Hackney (31,000) and | Whitechapel (31,000) |

Other large parishes, which have no separate population figures, are St. Andrew Holborn, St. Giles in the Fields, St. George in the East and St. Giles Cripplegate. South of the river, the likeliest places are the various Southwark parishes (almost all registers are deposited, i.e.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| St. Mary, Lambeth (90,000) | St. Mary Newington (44,000) |
| Bermondsey (30,000) and | Camberwell (28,000) |

Many of these are to be found in the C.F.I. for various periods. Sorting out these parishes can be a problem and four photo-stated sketch maps of the outer London parishes in 1837 can be obtained from the author of this article at **3 Hawthorn Close, Woking, Surrey** at 50p for the set plus large stamped addressed envelope. After this

baptism is found (which for most searchers is likely to be in the period 1800-1820), the finding of the marriage preceding, should, by way of Pallott's index or otherwise, be relatively easy.

The next logical step, and one I strongly advise, is to find the burial or death record of either or both the parents. This is not easy but without even an approximate date of birth the search for their baptisms will be extremely difficult, only if you are very lucky will a marriage allegation give their ages, but certainly this should be searched for if their marriage was by licence. The original marriage, not an index or transcript should always be looked up to check on this and also to find the names of witnesses etc., often omitted by transcribers. Another point sometimes worth checking is the name of the performer of the marriage and where he was a minister. Often people would "import" their local incumbent, even when marrying in London and in other cases he turns out to be a relative, so one should be careful to see whether the performer of the ceremony was someone who normally performed marriages in that parish. If a Licence is sought, there are three main sources. The first series is that of the Bishop of London, housed at the Guildhall Library. The other two, the Vicar-General's and Faculty Office series are at the Lambeth Palace Library. The last two are often referred to in the registers as Lic. by Abp Canterbury - they should not be confused with Licences issued by the archbishop in respect of his own diocese which have been indexed by Mr. Arthur Willis. These series are unfortunately only calendared for this period, though plans are afoot to index them.

Sooner or later however one is going to run up against a blank wall using registers and marriage licences alone. Extremely useful sources are the records of the livery companies of the City of London, most of which are deposited at the Guildhall Library. To practise a trade in the City you had to belong to one of these companies, usually either because your father had belonged or because you had served an apprenticeship. The records of such apprenticeship normally named the father. It should not be assumed however that because the person was, say a cooper in the city that he would necessarily belong to the Cooper's Company. The requirement was only that he belong to a Livery Company. There is a good chance that you can find out which one from the Clerk to the City Chamberlain at the Guildhall. Personal searches in his registers which cover all freemen back into the 17th Century may be made without charge at the Guildhall in London.

Perhaps the next most important sources for the London genealogist are wills and administrations of the various courts. Indexing of these is unfortunately rare and incomplete. Also to find a reference which takes one back to a place of origin is rare. Dr. Spufford estimates only about 5%, though I have been more fortunate in this respect. It should be remembered, that large numbers of London wills were proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (particularly in the later period) rather than in a local court. Here the publication of an index to the 1750-1800 period is under way by the Society of Genealogists.

There are two potentially invaluable sources for origins which are however at the present very much a last resort because of their bulk and the almost total lack of indexing. The first, and perhaps the most important, are the various papers concerning settlement. The large parishes in the centre have literally hundreds of volumes of these records, at best only roughly indexed by volume. If, however an ancestor is known to have died in the workhouse of a particular parish, it is quite likely that on finding this date of admission to that workhouse (all too frequently very close to his date of death) you will be able to trace a settlement examination for him. This will almost certainly give his age and often details of his parentage and place of birth with many biographical details not available from any other source.

I have been engaged in calendaring these records for some years and have produced several volumes of City of London poor law records. Even for the City



alone I estimate at least 12 volumes will be necessary to calendar the available material. The second source is the record of depositions in the church courts. Here witnesses gave a biographical resume of their lives, again unobtainable otherwise, for such ordinary citizens. It has been estimated that as many as 10% of the population at one time or another left such a deposition with biases towards the more respectable and middle-aged members of the community. Such a bias is however in accord with the number of ancestors such people are likely to have today. These records are however rarely indexed and if at all, only to the parties of the dispute in question, and finding an individual in them is an almost hopeless task at present.

Finally, usually totally ignored but sometimes useful are the 1801-1831 censuses. The central copies of these were destroyed, as almost all the textbooks say. What they do not say is that the local parish copies often survive. They give the name of the householder together with the ages of those present in the household. With a normal family one can often work out what age (it is only given by range, e.g. 30-40 etc.) refers to what individuals, and if (as I have done) one discovers several ancestors dying just before the 1841 census, such returns can be invaluable for giving at least a very rough idea of an ancestor's birth date, and even that of his parents, who are often to be found in the same household. The known survivors' returns are listed in Jeremy Gibson's "Census Returns 1841-1871 on microfilm". (Federation 1980 publication)

This brief resume of just a few sources shows, I think, two things. First that the tracing of ancestry in London while not easy (where is it?) is possible with the normal genealogical requirements of patience and care. Secondly, that it could be rendered much earlier. The sources are there; they just require an army of selfless volunteers to index them and so make them useful. Over the past few years, a very

considerable effort has been launched on transcribing and indexing and many people are helping - often only in their own homes. If you might be able to spare the odd half-hour (or more!) please contact me or the Research Coordinator of your own Society.

Recommended further reading: "A Guide to Genealogical Sources in Guildhall Library" (1979)

The map of your county, showing ancient parochial boundaries, dates of commencement of registers and probate jurisdiction is available from your secretary for the benefit of your society or, with other research aids, from the publishers.

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Middlesex Non-Parochial Registers

V.E Gale

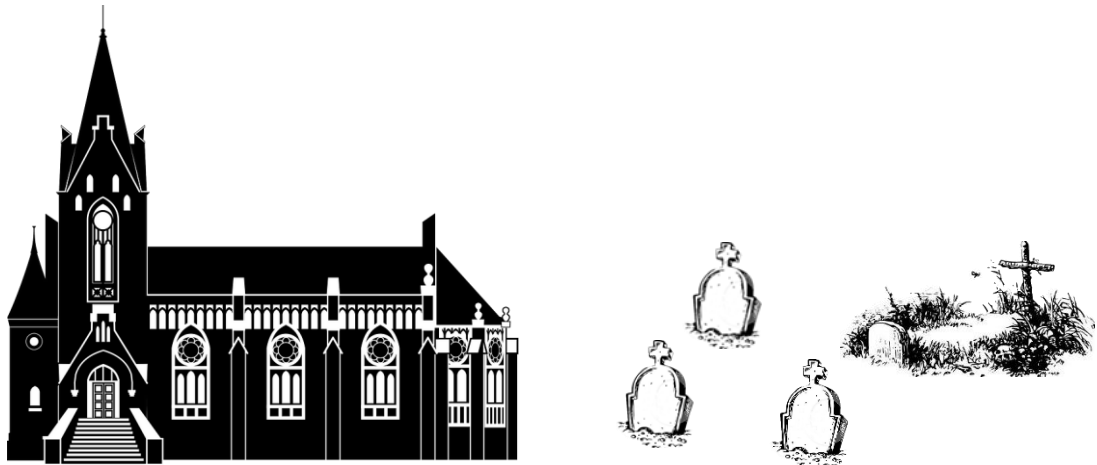
Upon the setting up of the General Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages on 1st July 1837, the non-conformist and Roman Catholic churches in England and Wales were invited to send in their existing registers to be authenticated by a specially appointed Commission; after which they would be treated as legally valid evidence in the same manner as Church of England registers. There was no compulsion but 3630 separate congregations complied with the request. With a few exceptions, Roman Catholic churches declined to part with their records as did the Jewish and Quaker congregations and some others such as the College of Arms, Bunhill Fields Burial Ground and the East India Company.

In 1840 these authenticated registers (together with some unauthenticated records of marriages at the Fleet and King's Bench Prisons, at Mayfair and the Mint, Southwark) were deposited at the General Register Office. In 1841 the Quakers deposited their registers and by 1857, with a further 300 registers received, these too were authenticated (including those for Bunhill Fields and the Chelsea, Foundling and Greenwich Hospitals) and duly deposited.

In 1961, these Non-Parochial Registers were transferred from the Registrar General's custody to the Public Record Office under reference R.G.4. They are at present available for search in the Long Room at Chancery Lane and an index volume on the open shelves there shows the following Middlesex Registers deposited:

Brentford, Old Albany Chapel	Ind.	1829	C	1831-1837
Edmonton, Winchmore Hill Chapel	Ind.	1778	(C (B	1819-1837 1831-1832
Edmonton, Edmonton and Tottenham Chapels	Ind.	1778	(C (B	1830-1837 1821-1837
Enfield, Chase Side	Ind.	1792	C	1808-1836
Enfield, Baker Street Meeting	Pres	1662	C	1727-1837
Enfield, Highway	Ind.	1820	C	1830-1838
Hammersmith, Trinity Chapel, West End	Bap	1783	(C (B	1783-1837 1784-1837
Hammersmith, Ebenezer Chapel	Ind.	1773	(C (B	1779-1833 1786-1787
Hammersmith, George Yard Chapel, Broadway, (formerly White Horse Chapel)	Ind. (form.Pres)	1650	C	1758-1837
Hammersmith, Waterloo Street	Wes	1809	(C (B	1807-1837 1814-1854
Harrow-on-the-Hill	Bap.	1812	C	1831-1836
Hendon Grammar School Chapel, Mill Hill	Ind.	1808	C	1831-1837
Hendon, Mill Hill	Ind.		C	1784-1830

Highgate Salem Chapel	Ind.		C	1785-1836
Hounslow, Ship Lane	Ind.	1827	C	1827-1836
Kensington, Hornton Street Chapel	Ind.	1791	C	1825-1837
Little Stanmore, Edgeware Chapel	Ind.	1834	C	1834-1836
Ponder's End	Ind.	1757	(C C)	1785-1800 1805-1836
Southgate, Chase Side Chapel	Ind.	1806	C	1812-1836
Staines	Ind.	1789	C	1785-1823
Stanwell, Poyle Chapel	Ind.	1823	(C B)	1820-1837 1826-1835
Tottenham	Wes.	1817	(C B)	1821-1837 1819-1837
Uxbridge	Ind. & Pres.	1717	C	1790-1836
Uxbridge, Providence Chapel	Ind.	1789	(C B B)	1789-1837 1826-1837 1847-1855
<p>KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:</p> <p>C - Baptisms, or Births and Baptisms B - Burials Ind. Independents Pres. Presbyterians Bap. Baptists Wes. Wesleyan</p> <p>The date following the denomination is the date of the foundation</p>				



Research Report

Vic Gale

Memorial inscription transcribing has been the major effort of the Society for the past few months and every other Saturday - weather permitting - up to 18 or 20 members of our Society and from the Society of Genealogists Project Group have turned out to ensure that these valuable records are placed on permanent record.

Our first outing - on 19th April - was to the redundant church of St. Lawrence, Brentford, now being adapted for theatrical and community use. We completed the whole transcription - 217 memorials - in the day and these are now being typed and indexed.

Work then resumed at Chiswick and after a number of interruptions by inclement weather, was completed by the end of June with a total of about 2,500 recordings having been made in the 1979 and 1980 seasons.

We have now moved to Hillingdon and in two Saturdays (we don't count 26th July when those few of us brave enough to turn out in that dreadful weather managed a total of 6 transcriptions before the skies opened up and we all went home soaked to the skin!) we have recorded 327 stones. There are at least as many again to be done but we anticipate completing the recording here by the end of the season as well as making a start at Stanwell.

For the record there are 36 ancient parishes in our area, each with its own parish church and churchyard, some with daughter churches, non-conformist burial grounds and so on. And then there are the municipal cemeteries - so there is much to be done. I am delighted therefore, when I am offered a transcript which has been made by someone else (as has happened for Teddington, Acton, and Uxbridge) or hear of others which are in the hands of local History Societies or individuals - as indeed I did recently when I was told by a member that she had transcribed Cowley churchyard herself. All of these I hope to be able to incorporate into the Society's collection - do tell me of any others that you know have been done.

The Marriage register for St. Mary's, Hayes 1557- 1840 has now been transcribed, typed and indexed by Connie Zouch and Mavis Sibley and I have a copy for the Society's Files. Arthur Powell tells me that he has completed his copying of the All Saint's, Isleworth, registers which are deposited at Hounslow Library (Marriages 1754-1837, Baptisms 1808-1852, Burials 1813-1896) and these are being slipped by members of the Society and will in due course be typed up.

I ask the same question again that I did in my last report - is anyone else doing any individual research work? Do let me know. Or if you want to and don't know how to go about it - or indeed what to do - just get in touch with me - I am full of lists of things to be done!

Shattering a Childhood Illusion

Ian Durban

My own family legend, related to me in my tender youth, was that the name Durban was of French origin and that we were descended from a Huguenot ancestor who had settled in Wandsworth where the family had continued to live until my grandfather moved to Mitcham in 1935.

For many years I accepted this hypothesis without question and even went to the extreme of experimenting with the spelling of my name to give it a more decidedly French flavour (eg. d'Urban, D'Urban etc). However, more recently I determined to test this legend and consulted some general reference works. Sure enough Durban was supposedly of French origin (I even found a town called Durban in the Languedoc) and, yes, Huguenot immigrants did settle in Wandsworth. Spurred on by this apparently corroborative evidence my interest in genealogy and family history took off.

As recommended, I began to work from the known to the unknown. From family sources and the GRO, I constructed my pedigree back to my Great Great Grandfather, Edward Durban, who I found was married in 1873 in Wandsworth. This certainly seemed to confirm that my male line did indeed have its roots in Wandsworth. Unfortunately, although I knew Edward's probable year of birth was 1841 from the ages given on his marriage and death certificates, I was unable to trace his birth details at the GRO.

Then, just as my wife was beginning to complain about the expenditure on abortive certificates, I was prodded in the direction of the PRO Census Room. I began a general search of the 1871 census of Wandsworth and, mercifully, soon found Edward living with his parents at 17 Warple Road. To my astonishment both Edward and his father, a beer retailer called William, were shown as being born in Hanwell, Middlesex. Their ages showed that their probable years of birth were 1841 and 1820 respectively.

The 1841 census revealed William, then a labourer, and his family living in Hanwell with Edward shown as a baby of 2 months. In 1851, still in Hanwell, William is a gardener and Edward a scholar. I could not trace them in the 1861 census for Hanwell or Wandsworth - where had they gone?

At this point I turned to directories. The 1870 Directory of Surrey confirmed William Durban, a beer retailer of Warple Road, Wandsworth, but beyond that nothing. I was more fortunate when I consulted the Directories of Middlesex:

- 1869 - William Durban, Beer retailer, Wellington Street, Shoreditch
- 1866 - William Durban, Beer retailer, High Street, Brentford
- 1862 - William Durban, Beer retailer, Hayes Town, Hayes
- 1859 - William Durban, Beer retailer, Woodend Green, Hayes



So, it appeared that in 1861 my forebears were living in Hayes and sure enough the census confirmed it, although Edward was not listed as present on the night of the census.

My next step was the parish church of Hanwell where the Rector kindly allowed me to inspect the parish registers. This was my first expedition into the world of PRs and the Rector was very patient with me. He informed me that his wife was a family tree fanatic, so perhaps he was used to genealogical enthusiasm. The registers confirmed the baptism of Edward and William John Durban as I had expected in 1841 and 1820, respectively. Presumably William, through ignorance or oversight, failed to register his son's birth with the local Registrar, hence my inability to trace it in the GRO.

Additionally, the registers provided me with my next clues. William John, as I now knew his full name to be, was the son of George (a carpenter) and Marv Durban and his wife's name was Susan. It was then that an old GRO marriage certificate I had, caught my eye: William John Durban married to Susanna Downes at Hammersmith in 1840; father of the bridegroom, George Ingram Durban, a carpenter - another connection made!

After further diligent searching in the census returns, I located George and discovered that his place of birth was Brentford and was able to estimate his probable year of birth as 1776. I have now to consult the Brentford PRs for his baptism. As far as his marriage is concerned, I have found no trace thus far. He does appear to have baptised a daughter at St Dunstan, Stepney in 1800 where he is described as a carpenter living in Poplar — was he working on the construction of the West India Docks?

These results, after about two years part-time research, have revealed that the extent of my immediate family's stay in Wandsworth was only 65 years (1870-1935): was ever an illusion so completely shattered? I am still clinging to my other illusion of French ancestry, but only just.

IF I manage to get beyond 1776, I may consider a sequel!!

After-thoughts on a day in the Churchyard – V.E. Gale

Recording Memorial Inscriptions may not be everyone's idea of a fun afternoon but it really does have its high spots.

Who, for instance, would expect to find three centenarians at Hillingdon. First of all, there was Alice Dunn who died in 1804 aged 105, and then two on the same stone! - Thomas Whittington in 1769 in his 104th year, and his son, another Thomas in 1804 (again!) in his 103rd year. "The Lord preserved my father's life and mine 206 years and more" it says on the stone.

After that, a life cut short with James Arnold, aged 20 "who was recently killed on the Hertford Road, June 18th 1794". Road accidents in 1794! The mind boggles. Hit and run stagecoaches! - or was it highwaymen!

And how about this for a magic moment – "Here lyeth Toby Pleasant, an African born; he was early in life rescued from West Indian slavery by a gentleman of this parish which he after gratefully remembered and who he continued to serve as a free man, honestly and faithfully to the end of his life". He died 24th May 1784, aged about 45 years.

"Roots" all over again - at Hillingdon.

Also, at Hillingdon we found one of the earliest stones we had seen outside in the open - John Walker, August 27th 1682, "In ye 64th years of his age". So, he was born when King James I was still on the throne, and he lived through the Civil War and the Plague of 1665! I wonder if in 1666 they could see the glow in the sky of London burning.

Of course, it isn't all fun - especially when you plunge your hands into a thicket of ivy to pull it away and find it full of brambles or nettles! Nevertheless, these discomfitures pale into insignificance when compared with the difficulties elsewhere. Compare, for instance, this note, from "The British Columbia Genealogist".

"A sign posted on the cemetery fence warns "Beware of Rattlesnakes".....and I saw evidence of rattlesnakes around all the tombstones. So, take care during warm weather!"

Again, when you have difficulty puzzling over the maps and directions that I supply for getting to the various churchyards, think on this one from the same journal. "This road is well marked...but it is not paved and a 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended during the winter and spring...Do not attempt to drive in from Oliver as apparently a bridge is out over one of the creeks....."

So do join us on one of our outings - its never as bad as that (I never direct you via Oliver!) and you could find one of those good ones!

Members Interests

The list below records new members and additions to our register of members' surname interests.

B10	BALL, Mr. A.N. 65 Lynton Mead, London, N20 8DH	
B11 B12	BELCHAM, Alan Chloe 48 Alwyn Avenue, Chiswick, W4 4DB	BELCHAM 1750 Norfolk STUBINES 1800 Norwich
C11	CORSINI, Mrs. Sue 8 The Park, Ealing, London, W.5	MURCH) MERSH) East London MORRIS)
D3	DURBAN, Mr. I. R. 116 Westminster Drive, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 9SF	DURBAN 1860 Brentford/Hanwell
E5	ELKINS, John H.W.H. 1 Udney Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex	ELKINS 1800/50 Middlesex STACEY 1750/1850 Farnham, Hants. Alton, Hants.
F1	FIELD, Mrs. B. L. Collards Lee, Elham, Canterbury	LANGSTON } LANGSTONE } LANGSDON } Brentford LANGSDOWN } Hackney LANGESDEN } East London ROSWELL } ROSEWELL } Poplar, Rotherhithe, ROWSWELL } East London SARGENT } SARGEANT } Mid-Sussex SERJEANT } BUTCHER } KEEBLE } OSBORNE } Bath, Wiltshire HASKELL } RICHENS } HILL }
H1	HANSFORD, M.A. 23 Moray Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 2AU	HANSFORD HANDSFORD HANSFARD HOSFARD HOSFORD

J1	JACKMAN, MISS P. A. 6 Everest Road, Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex, TW19 7ED	JACKMAN Middlesex, Surrey, Barnett, Hampstead STANNETT } Chelsea MADDAMS } BRUNGER Hampstead AYLARD Bethnal Green HARRIS Wisbech MAYNE Middlesex, Surrey, Devon PROUDFOOT Surrey PIBWORTH } London HAMILTON }
K3	KILLOH, John E. 21 Lancaster Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1AR	JOYCE } BILLOWS } pre 1900 Dorset, Isle o Wight KILLOH pre 1900 N.E. Scotland
L4	LIZMORE, Mr. W. C. 645 Riall Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada L2J 1Z4	LIZMORE } 1800 Brentford LISMORE }
P6	PROWSE, M.J.A. 13 Guildford Road, Fleet, Aldershot, Hants	PROWSE South Devon MITCHELL London
S11 S12	SANDERSON, Mr. & Mrs. P.R. 32 Thurlstone Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 OBS	SANDERSON } pre 1898 Middlesex & MIRIAM } London SPENCER } BARKER } pre 1898 Northampton & BALL } Mansfield
S13	SHIPP, Mr. H.F. 31 Minster Court, Hillcrest Road, Ealing, W5 1HA	SHIPP) Middlesex, Essex & SHIP) Suffolk TURPIN)
W11	WAGNER, Mrs. Mavourneen Mary 91 Pale Hill Road, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex	OWEN pre 1875 Oxford URE pre 1876 Glasgow GAUNT pre 1874 London WAGNER pre 1900 London DAWSON pre 1850 Limehouse/Poplar WRIGHT pre 1850 Limehouse/Poplar WHITAKER pre 1870 Islington DRAKE Devon

Notes & Queries

DURBAN Wanted - marriage of George Ingram Durban and Mary? before 1800. Information please to:

Mr. I. R. Durban (D3) 116 Westminster Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SSO 9SF

LANGSTON John, born 1798, Branford (Brentford) his wife, Esther, Ros(e)well, bapt.1813 at St James, Stepney, but probably born 1809-1812 in Poplar area. They are in 1841 Census at Brickfields, Clapton, and in 1851 Census at Leas Brick fields, Hackney, but missing from that area in 1861 & 1871 are believed to be somewhere in East London. Information sought on Marriage, Deaths and Census entries for 1861 & 1871 - please to:

Mrs. B. L. Field (F1) Collards Lee, Elham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6UF

BELLAMY Henry, son of George Bellamy, born c1818. Most of the time our Henry claims to be born in London, he was married in Nottingham in 1837 (the same church incidentally saw the baptism of William Booth) and we have him in the 1841 census in Burton Joyce, Notts, and the enumerator has him down as born in the County. Any news of his birth or baptism would be welcome.

Sam Morton (M5) 32 Burlington Road, Isleworth, TW7 4LY

MINDENHALL Emma

MILES William - Information please on marriage probably in London. We have a child of that marriage born in 1844, we know that William was an "attorneys' clerk". Two searches of the St. Catherine's House registers from 1845 back to start have failed to produce the answer, although the registers list three other Mindenhall marriages in the Clerkenwell area in that period. Any information please on both of these to:

Sam Morton (M5) 32 Burlington Road, Isleworth, TW7 4LY

Moving Cousins

Have you ever wondered just what is a "second cousin twice removed"? Cousins are the offspring of brothers or sisters. If a further generation is born, then one group of grandchildren are second cousins to the other group. Each difference in generation is termed "removed", hence the children on one side of the family and the grandchildren on the other side are first cousins once removed. And so on ----

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And finally —

It is rare indeed to find the Editorial on the last page of any magazine but in this case, I claim the Editors privilege of the last word. You will have read, in the Chairman's remarks of the work done by Robert Cook for the magazine, and I would like to add my own Thanks. When David Hawkings gave the editorial file to me, most of the copy for this issue was to hand - I had only to put it in shape and arrange for the printing.

My Thanks then, go to Robert for pointing me in the right direction, to Mrs. Ewart, and Mrs. Young for their invaluable help in typing the articles (which explains the three different type-faces used) and to Vic Gale who produced a quite lengthy article from his seemingly endless stock as an addition to his usual items, and for his words of advice and encouragement to me as I start this task.

So, we now have **Vol.2 No.1**, perhaps a little later than was intended and a slimmer volume than usual. What next?

The Editor's file is empty apart from the stock items - Interests, Strays and the like. We need as David said elsewhere, articles of a general nature, but most of all as this is a family history society we need stories about PEOPLE - YOU dear reader. What started you on the hunt? How far back have you got, or are you temporarily stuck? Write and tell us, we can publicise it, we may have an instant answer, we could raise it in December's Problems & Queries evening – there's a thought - if you write in with your difficulties beforehand, we may have a chance to do some research first and come out with the answer first hand.

Does this magazine meet your needs? We get some feedback (to use the modern jargon) at our meetings, but what about those of you who are not able to come into Hounslow each month? Do write and tell us just what you would like to see in the next issue or the one after. Inevitably we find some merging of interests between family and local history, would you like to read the occasional article about a "place" be it building or district because that after all, is where people live.

Many of us are sceptical in the normal way about committees and the results of their work, but I am confident that this Editorial Committee will be able to produce the magazine you want, provided always that you keep in contact.

Sam Morton



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