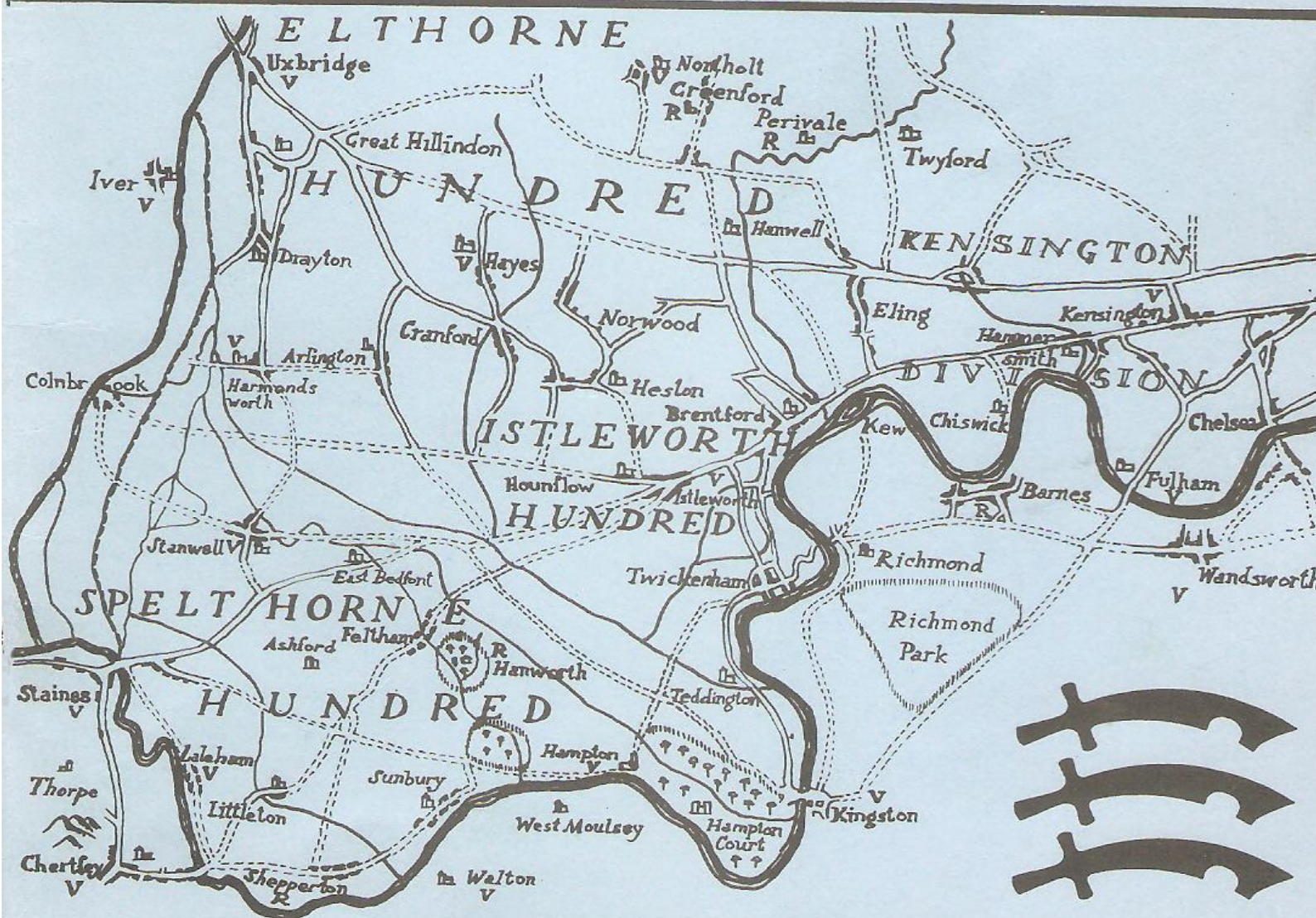


# West Middlesex Family History Society Journal

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Spring 1981







# West Middlesex

## Family History Society Journal

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

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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.

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## From your Chairman

Our last magazine took us up to September 1980 and since then there have been some developments and changes.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on the evenings of 10<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November. The later date was necessary because audited accounts were not available within ten days of the end of our financial year. On November 14<sup>th</sup> they were duly received and accepted, and a copy of those accounts appear elsewhere in this journal.

The main other business of the AGM was to elect the Officers and Members of the Committee and make a minor amendment to the constitution. Mrs. Sherley Ewert and Mr. Sam Morton were elected to the Committee to replace members who have moved away. The amendment to the constitution was in response to some anxiety being expressed about the expected departure next November of the remaining seven founders. It is now expected that four will retire next November and the remaining three a year hence.

David Hawkings resigned as Chairman in the first leg of the AGM and I was elected Chairman in November and Chris Watts was elected Vice-Chairman, there was no change in the offices of Treasurer and Secretary. Will all societies please note that our Secretary is **Mrs. Rhona Ward, of 29 Ernest Gardens, London, W14**

Our grateful thanks are due to the past efforts of David Hawkings in getting the Society off the ground and maintaining good attendances at our meetings. My own interests are the subject of a separate pen picture but despite my many years of genealogical involvement it will not be easy to follow such an experienced Chairman. Many thanks David for what you have done.

All our meetings attract some 40 to 50 people. In addition to the business of the AGM, our October meeting covered a most interesting display of family heirlooms with brief discussions by their owners. In November we had an excellent talk by Archie Cox of the West Drayton Local History Society on "Local History and the Local Rag". There was lots here of benefit to genealogists.

At the December meeting we split up into six groups, each headed by a committee member handling questions on all subjects but specialising on one. In January, one of our own members, Dr. Pat Kelvin gave a stimulating talk on Settlement Certificates with particular reference to her research on Central London Parishes. From her 4,000 or so index slips, various enquiries were made, and one questioner actually found one item of direct personal interest. A most successful evening!

Details on our programme of meetings for the rest of 1981 appear elsewhere in the journal. There are many good evenings arranged – let's see if we can now push our membership way beyond 100. All meetings take place in the Old Town Hall, Treaty Road, Hounslow, and begin at 7.30 pm.

May I make a plea for research. Initial copying and subsequent typing of M.I.s has resulted in a temporary glut of work with Vic Gale and Chris Watts, both of whom want a sabbatical this year to catch up with what they have in hand. Can I please appeal for organiser(s) to direct future work here? We are not short of people to do the donkey work in the field and Chris and Vic are willing to advise.

Finally, there is the Census. The 1881 information will be available at the PRO from Jan 4th 1982 and the demand for reading machines is likely to be very high. (especially if copies are available at Portugal Street only - Ed.)

Is anyone with reasonable access to a micro film reader willing and able to compile a transcription and index of the 1851 census for parishes in our area, one parish at a time? In this connection, please see the efforts by the Hampshire Genealogical Society and then see me to co-ordinate a plan of action.



### **PROGRAMME 1981**

February 13	Cecil Humphery-Smith	Heraldry & the Genealogist
March 6	Problems	Where do I go next?
April 10	Miss Andrea Cameron	Heston and its History
May 8	Richard Moore	Nonconformist Records
June 19	Miss Susan Higlett	Hounslow Street Traders
July 10	Alan Sabourin	Huguenot Ancestry
August 14	Workshop evening	
September 11	Alan Reed	Books and the Genealogist
October 9	Committee Members	Short talks
November 13	Annual General Meeting	-Social Evening
December 11	Fred Filby	One Name Societies

*(Members are reminded that the June meeting will take place on the third Friday of the month)*

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 30th September 1980

Journal production costs	£133.26	<u>Membership Subscriptions</u>	
Hire of Accommodation	76.29	76 Full	£306.00
Insurance	3.00	13 Family	78.00
Federation Subscription	14.50	7 Corporate	31.75
Directories of Members interests	50.00	Cheese & Wine Party	38.27
Stationery and Postage	35.26	Sale of publications	9.20
Misc. expenses	4.33	Special receipt	4.00
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>150.03</u>		
	<u>467.22</u>		<u>467.22</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 1980

Cash at Bank	343.92	Excess of income over expenditure	B/F	125.34
		as above		<u>150.08</u>
				275.92
		Subscriptions in advance		68.00
	<u>343.92</u>			<u>343.92</u>

We have examined this statement of accounts and balance sheet and  
 Certify them to be, to the best of our belief, in accordance with  
 the books and vouchers of the Society.

(Signed) K.M. Buckman, 23 Bucklands Road, Teddington, Middlesex.  
 .. K.E. Cox 80a Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

## News and Events

### PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Readers may like to note that the Reading Room of the PRO are closed on the following days in 1981 in addition to Saturdays and Sundays:

Easter	17-20 April	(no document produced after 12 noon on Maundy Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> )
May Day Holiday	4 May	
Spring Holiday	22-25 May	(includes the Friday before)
Late Summer	31 August	
Stocktaking	5-16 October	
Christmas	24-28 December	(All dates are inclusive)

### CARD INDEX OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN PRINT

This index now in the public Waiting Room at Chancery Lane, is being revised and brought up to date. It would be of great assistance if readers would inform one of the search-room officers of books and periodicals in which they have published public records, or parts of records, whether in full transcript, translation, in calendar form or by photographic reproduction. They would also be grateful for information about other records found in unusual or little-known publications.

### ST. CATHERINE'S HOUSE

A word of caution here, when you are searching the Birth Indexes. If you should find a time, along with the date - keep searching - it indicates a multiple birth.

### LDS CFI

Yes, you know - the Microfiche. Now it has been renamed The International Genealogical Index, and I am told that the copy in the Mormon Church in South Kensington is now available on Wednesday afternoons from 1 pm – 9 pm.

*Other copies are available as follows:*

- Society of Genealogists - Harrington Gardens (usually in great demand by members)
- Kensington Public Library - Philimore Walk, just off the High St
- Guildhall Library - Middlesex & London only
- Tower Hamlets Central Library - Believe this to be Middx & London
- Iford Reference Library - Whole country - this copy owned by East of London FHS

## From the Papers

### Kiss From Footpad

A footpad stopped the carriage of Mr. Morris, surgeon, on Hounslow Heath of Thursday se'nnight and robbed Mr. Morris of two five-pound notes. Two ladies in the carriage tremulously held forth their money, begging him to take it, but he gallantly refused, saying he would have a kiss apiece from them instead. It was, he said, the first and should be the last robbery he ever committed. He was a stout, well-looking man and had the accent of an Irishman.

Shrewsbury Chronicle - Aug. 2 1811

Cited in News from The English Countryside, Harrap 1979

### Brentford Petty Sessions

Charles Moore was charged with furiously driving a horse to the common danger of passengers on the 22nd. ult. at Heston. PC 152T stated that at half past three on the day in question he was on duty in the Staines Road, Hounslow. His attention was drawn to the Defendant and two other men in a cart drawn by a horse, which was galloping at its utmost speed. Defendant was striking it with a whip. After proceeding some distance up the road, the cart stopped opposite a public house, into which all three turned. Witness followed and asked for Moore's name and address. He refused to give it at first, and then gave a false one. Witness told him that that wouldn't do, and Moore then gave his proper name. Defendant said that the horse ran away. - The Chairman thought it strange that the horse should stop at a public house. - Fined £1 including costs or 14 days.

Bucks Advertiser. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> 1871

### Uxbridge Petty Sessions

William Parker was convicted of being drunk in charge of a horse and cart at the Black Horse in Iver Heath on the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1870. This was not the Defendants first offence and he was fined £1 or 14 days imprisonment.

Bucks Advertiser. Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 1871

Edward Hoare, baker, Botwell Lane, Hayes, was summoned for not having his name painted upon his van. PC Whitebread proved the case and the defendant, who said he was painting his cart in his leisure time and had not quite finished it when the policeman saw it, was fined five shillings.

Bucks Advertiser. 1889

These cuttings from yesteryear were prompted by a talk given recently by Archie Cox. As he reminded us, there is a lot of genealogical information to be found in the local papers, in births, marriages, and deaths apart from the news columns. If the area you are searching has a long-established paper, a look through the back copies could be quite rewarding.



## James Sabourin - the Mysterious

Alan Sabourin

Like Ian Durban in the Autumn 1980 issue of the Journal, I too was brought up with a legend which averred that the Sabourin's "came over after the massacre of St. Bartholomew" and that this particular immigrant "was a French Priest who crossed the Channel by boat in a barrel labelled pickled pork". Such deck cargo travellers are legion in Huguenot history and they did, in fact, occur in many well documented cases. Like so many other family researchers I delayed investigation of the true facts until it was too late to ask grandparents and father who could perhaps have supplied information which would have greatly helped give leads to worthwhile channels of enquiry.

In my favour was the relatively uncommon name of Sabourin; against, was the rapid realisation that none of them seemed ever to have achieved any noteworthy position in life and that wills, landowning, business and such-like records would likely prove nonproductive. Getting back to my great-great-grandfather via St. Catherine's House, church registers and census returns was not too arduous a task, but before 1800 - oh dear!

I decided to break the rule of working from the known to the unknown and, having progressed thus as far as I was able, adopted two procedures which the unusual surname made feasible.

Firstly, I checked every index at St. Catherine's House; all births, marriages and deaths since 1837, and noted every relevant entry. As a keep fit exercise, if nothing else, it can be highly recommended! Secondly, I joined the Huguenot Society of London and checked all their printed copies of their quarto series and proceedings, together with the equivalent issues of the Société du l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français. These publications are extremely well indexed. The Huguenot Society copies include transcribed records of the registers of all the churches, which had been, for a long period, designated as French churches to accommodate the needs of the large numbers of refugees who had fled from the Continent because of their beliefs. The Huguenot Society library has a vast collection of Huguenot material, much of it unique, and there is a continuing task in progress of translating and publishing a great wealth of miscellaneous records of the fraternity. Membership of the Society is very worthwhile for people of Huguenot descent. In my opinion, one of the important aspects of family history, is not just the listing of forbears and dates, but to try to get into the minds of the people. What were they like? What did they do for a living? Where did they live? What were their problems, trials and tribulations? What national and international events did they live through?

To quote a few examples - culled from the Society records - I am intrigued to find that a James Sabourin, who refused to change his faith, died at the oars of a convict galley in Tournai on 24th August 1703. That an Anne Sabourin was, for the same reason, imprisoned for 8 years in Aigues-Morte in 1731. That Pierre Sabourin, a Camisard (Huguenot guerilla) was in 1704, 22 years old, with black hair and of

medium build. That a Sabourin was signatory to a death warrant for Jean Guizard, burnt alive at Nerac in 1686. (If any Guizard descendants read this – I’m sorry about that!) That Charles Sabourin and his family benefitted from a soup kitchen hand-out on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1716 and that he had just returned from Holland. Facts such as these are real social history and help paint the contemporary scenes which were so lacking from our school-day history lessons.

The upshot of my researches presents me now with a fairly solid tree from today back to my great-great-grandfather with a possible link with another family of Sabourins which if it can be proved, would take me back two more generations to a Pierre Sabourin who came to this country from St. Naixent in Haut Poitou in about 1751. As a gratuitous bonus I also have acquired much information on other families of the name back to about 1680, some of whom may be related and some who are definitely not. It appears that today there are two main families of Sabourins in this country whose connection may or may not be capable of proof. The big problem is this:

One family, (the others), has in its possession the end papers of a book or bible on which, in time honoured fashion, the family history was written. In a fair amount of detail are listed the marriage between John Sabourin and Sarah Cottée in Stepney, in 1786, together with the births, baptisms and burials of their 12 children. Of the 12, death dates are meticulously noted for all but one of them and places of burial are given for them all. Of the sixth child, James, it is only recorded – “born on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1797, Baptised St. John’s Church, Brick Lane, same year”. The list is repeated under the heading – “This list made in 1831 when 5 out of the 12 where (sic) still living”. Against James, it merely says - “Died, Buried at Gibraltar ground”. No date of death or burial is given. (Gibraltar Ground was a private burial ground attached to an Independent Chapel just off the Bethnal Green Road and no registers for the chapel for this period have come to light).

Therefore, the implication is that James died sometime between 1797 and 1831, but why wasn’t the date given? The other family deaths recorded in the same papers, range from 1787 to 1864 so there is no obvious reason for the omission and it is highly possible that he did not die in infancy as did many of his siblings. Had he lived only till, say, 1825 this would have given him time to have married and to have produced children.

In my own family, I know that my great-great-grandfather was named James, and that he had two children (no others discovered to date): one born in 1821 was my great-grandfather James and one, born in 1824, his brother Charles. Lack of other children may indicate a comparatively early death - by 1831? I know that the mother’s name in both cases was Sarah - no surname given. I know that a James Sabourin married a Sarah Ellis on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1820 at St. Mary’s Church, Islington. Could this have been the James who was “buried at Gibraltar Ground? The timing is perfect, but the proof is lacking.

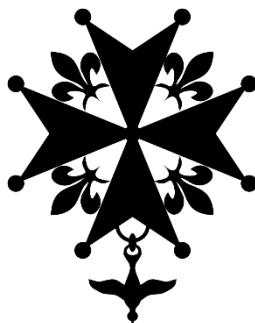
Both families were based in Bethnal Green in the silk weaving trade. If it was the same man, what was he doing getting married in Islington? Had he left home,

lost touch and thus accounted for the omission of the exact date of death? Had there been a family quarrel and they weren't speaking? Did he die young in an accident?

Does my father's hazy recollection that "there was a name something like Crotty in the family somewhere" refer in fact to Sarah Cottée, wife of John and mother of James the Mysterious?

Unfortunately, the Huguenot custom of naming the eldest sons after the paternal grandfather has produced a plethora of James Sabourins over the years and I know of 19 such between 1697 and 1821, not all of the same family. So, although the circumstantial evidence is good it must be admitted that there are other possibilities, albeit remote, and the chance of a resolution to the problem does not seem imminent.

Possibly it will never be resolved but it is certainly fun trying.



## Profile – Kenneth E Cox

Ken is a married man with four children and has lived in the Heston-Hounslow area for the past 34 years, but the west-country burr is still present in his speech.

He works for the Civil Service and is somewhat disturbed at the wholesale destruction of recent official records which have large amounts of information of interest to family historians.

Although he has been involved with genealogy for some 16 years, progress in the past few years has been slow and spasmodic, mainly through preparation for an Open University Degree. The first degree has now been attained, mainly in economics, and future work for Honours is likely to involve history, particularly economic and social.

Genealogy interests are widespread, and involve Somerset, Gloucester, Devon, Staffordshire and Shropshire. Research on his wife's family history has extended the area of interest to Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset.

He is also actively involved in local history and is a committee member of Hounslow and District History Society. For the whole of his adult life, he has also maintained an active interest in music.

## Digging up a bit of Family History

Susan Higlett

About 20 years ago, a small but interesting piece of my family history came to light. During the early 1960s, the old shops at Hounslow Broadway on the south side were demolished, to make room for redevelopment. One of the shops which disappeared was “Read and Hann” the corn and seed merchants, well remembered by older residents of Hounslow. During excavation of the site, a workman’s shovel struck what turned out to be a ginger beer bottle. Not a great find the reader might think, but to me it was of very special interest. Inscribed on the dark green bottle - it was made of very thick glass - was “N. Button, 28 High Street, Hounslow”.

N. Button was my great grandfather who lived opposite Read and Hann’s and he had a small mineral water business at the rear of his house and shop. In the centre of the bottle are moulded three buttons, this being the trade mark which Nathaniel chose, signifying himself and his two sons who helped him in the business. When the bottle was unearthed, it was given to my great-uncle who was in business in Kingsley Road, [quite close to the excavation – Ed] and he in turn passed it on to me. It is the only one we have seen as belonging to Nathaniel, and it made a little of the family’s past come to life.

My great grandfather carried on his small business during the 1880s and 1890s. He died in 1894, so the bottle was probably buried for about half a century. Nathaniel delivered his ginger beer and lemonade by horse and cart around Heston, Scrattage, Lampton, Spring Grove and North Hyde as well as Hounslow. My grandmother told me how as a small girl, she would help him in the back yard, cork and tie down the lemonade bottles. She would also accompany her father to London to buy the ginger root and yeast.

The particular bottle which I have is known as a Codd Bottle, so called after Hiram Codd, an American who was the designer, there was a marble in the top which sealed in the gasses. Readers may like to know that it was from this bottle that the expression “Codds Wallop” originated.

[This article came about as the result of a recent “Heirloom & Curio” evening, when members were asked to bring along some of their family heirlooms. We spent a fascinated evening examining this live history. Eileen Lane, showed us two “samplers” worked by aunts of hers when they were small girls in the ‘80s, David Hawkins showed a rather unusual “travelling canteen” all fitted into a handsome leather case not much larger than a small handbag. Dates and certificates are all tools of our trade, but it is this which makes family history come alive.]



## **“I think you have a Great-Aunt Liz”      Sherley Ewart**

Two years ago, when I embarked upon this compelling obsession of ancestry, I viewed my immediate source of information with some dismay. We were such a small family, and upon investigation, so uncooperative. Both my parents were dead and my older sister's only contribution was the perfunctory remark that she had “lost” the box containing the family certificates. An elderly aunt, the last surviving source of information about my maternal grandparents has maintained a curious silence. Her letters mention the weather, the state of health endured by herself and uncle John - everything in fact except an answer or acknowledgement to my pleas! Do I detect an undercurrent muttering of “that wretched girl is trying to probe into things best left alone?”

Undaunted by the barrier of silence, and human nature being what it is, I was spurred on to discover just what it was that had to be kept under wraps. Was it the 7-month pregnancy fall from grace and the general opinion that grandmother Rose Fey, nee Lee, had married beneath her? Or the fact that great-grandmother Martha Lee drank herself to death at the age of 43 with gin? Or the reputed claim that great-grandfather John Lee, came from Jewish stock? All of which I knew long ago from my mother - bless her - who must have been a budding genealogist without realising it. Although my mother died in 1957, she has been my greatest aid in researching into the Lee and Fey family lines. Her aid takes the form of me recalling her tales of the family related well over 25 years ago and I have found her help invaluable. Mother was the eldest child and her own mother's confidant so her snippets of information about various members have helped to cross-check and confirm that I am in fact pursuing the correct family of Lee. A John Lee in London is almost as enormous a task as a John Smith!

I well remember being taken in and around London with my mother when she made a pilgrimage to the houses once lived in with her parents. I was shown one house from which my grandparents Fey fled in haste. A hansom cab was used - so typical of my grandmother's hauteur to hide the poverty - and her insistence in turning back because she had forgotten to leave out on display, one very large rat caught by the family cat, for the landlord!

The family lines of grandfather Ernest Fey, takes me back to Devon following the trade of carpentry, although poor maligned Ernest did not have a “respectable” profession but appeared to turn his hand to anything that was available! His mother, my great-grandmother Susan Fey, nee Burridge, emerges from several generations of labourers and farm labourers in Bedfordshire.

Grandmother Rose Fey's father, my great-grandfather John Lee, styled himself as a Philosophical Instrument Maker at his marriage in 1865 (later changed to Clinical Instrument Maker) and was said to have provided a comfortable living for his wife and family, which perhaps explains grandmothers exalted opinion of her station in life! Rose's mother, my great-grandmother Martha Lee, nee Homes,

- she of the ruinous gin in 1883 - came from an established bootmakers in Leather Lane.

On my paternal side I was immediately far luckier. My stepmother was at once interested and helpful. Together, with half a dozen certificates she gave, came the chance remark of "I think you have a great aunt Liz in Portsmouth".

So, my grandfather Jesse Bate quite possibly had a sister? Somewhat daunted by the wealth of Elizabeths and Elizas in the birth indexes I hit upon the idea of advertising for great-aunt Liz. So, one day last year a Portsmouth newspaper carried my plea for "descendants of great-aunt Liz, sister to Jesse with parents called Isaac and Matilda Bate. It wasn't long before I was confronted by my excited daughter who had taken a telephone call in my absence. "Its them, it must be them, we have found RELATIVES!" Only those with a lack of kin can appreciate our excitement and wonder at finding relatives - only to be surpassed when I subsequently found that grandfather Jesse Bate was one of nine children. The prolificacy of the Bate lines gave the initial impression that half of Portsmouth was populated by descendants of my great-grandparents Isaac and Matilda Bate!

There followed many excited telephone calls and a visit from four Bate members a few weeks later. I was shown a family Bible and given a copy of the entries. I made copious notes of relatives past and present and was given two family trees from a Bate in Portsmouth and a daughter of a Bate in Gloucestershire. These two "trees" amalgamated with my own branch from grandfather Jesse made quite an impressive looking growth. I was also presented with photographs of great-grandparents Isaac and Matilda Bate and these have pride of place in my files.

A return visit to Portsmouth was made recently where I was introduced to even more Bate relatives, shown yet another family Bible and numerous photographs. To find oneself sitting in a room crowded with long lost kin - to hear such cries as "our long-lost cousin" and "isn't she like Barbara" - is rather overwhelming especially when realizing that we are all descended from one Royal Marine Corporal and his bride married in 1865; and to think I only found them all by acting upon a chance remark.

Great-grandfather Isaac Bate, who had been a labourer at the age of 11 in 1851, took himself away from the West Midlands either by design or spirit of adventure into the Royal Marines when he was 22 years old, and so escaped the pattern of life set by his father, my great-great-grandfather Walter Bate.

Great-grandmother Matilda Bate, neé Cox, was the product of two service families. Her father, my great-great-grandfather Jesse Cox, and his father, my great-great-great-grandfather, Richard Cox, and my other great-great-great-grandfather John Little, were all in the Royal Marines.

So, to date, what has my little investigation into the ghosts of my ancestors revealed - nothing too mortifying surely! Just an average and mixed bag of forbears, but if one has living members who are plainly disapproving of anything being brought to light, then one must try to respect their ideas of conformity and respectability. For my part however, I love the human foibles revealed and confirmed by research and find my family roots all the more endearing by their inclusion.

Never again will I call my family small. Thank-you Isaac and Matilda for your nine children: Richard, William, Jesse, Mary, Alfred, Amy, Elizabeth, Walter and Alice, - and thank you John and Martha for your nine children: Horace, Nelson, Arthur, John, May, Rose, Albert, Alice and Pattie.

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## Profile - Sam Morton

Born in Southwark, educated in the same school as George Brown, I turned to engineering and started work in 1939. During the war I moved to Mitcham and suffered more from bomb damage there than I ever did at the Elephant & Castle. Married in the early fifties and moved into Heston, soon to become heavily involved in one of the local Scout Groups. Some time later we became near neighbours of Ken and Sylvia Cox and first became acquainted with genealogy. Interested in photography, badminton, and still Scouting, a fan also of Patrick Moore, having now become an editor, life is never dull.

I had long puzzled over the marriage certificate of my paternal grandparents, wherein the Rank or Profession of the Bride's father was given as F.W.K. and I could find no logical explanation for these letters. Some three years ago, we were returning from a trip to the north, and took the opportunity to visit the village in Notts where that marriage took place, (Burton Joyce). We found that the village had a very active local history society which had just published a history of the village. We called on the secretary to buy a copy, and during our conversation mentioned these curious initials. "Oh, that's quite simple" said she "it means Frame-Work Knitter, and is very common in these parts".

One mystery solved, the next was the address of my grandfather, given as St. Anne's Limehouse, how did he come to meet a girl from Notts? All was revealed when we obtained his birth certificate, and found he was born in the next village, and like many others, had gone to London to seek work if not fame and fortune.

Neither of my parents were very forthcoming on family history, and now we are probing the early 1800s in London, the task becomes a test of patience as much as genealogical skill. It seems to me that there is a much greater chance of success if your forbears are either landowners, paupers or even criminals. That way you will find some record of them. If on the other hand they are honest, sober and diligent citizens of the town, there will be precious little to say about them. - It don't seem right somehow.

## LETTERS

**Pauline Appleby (member A3) writes:**

I have been tracing my ancestors for just over a year and have been quite lucky. My search started whilst I was visiting an aunt in Sweden who had made a start and then got stuck. She let me have great-grandparents birth and marriage certificates, plus a few baptism certificates from Norwood Green church and the rest I have done myself.

I know that great-great-grandmother was a TILDESLEY and came from Willenhall, and from the telephone directory I found nine of them in that town, I wrote to them all, each one replied and would you believe they were all related? I now correspond with an elderly gentleman of 80 who wrote "A history of the Family of Tildesley of Staffordshire". He has been tracing his family for 50 years and has a fine collection of family heirlooms. I have found that Isaac Tildesley, my great-great-great-grandfather was licensed victualler of the Old Oak Tree Inn, North Hyde and so was his son-in-law John Scruby later. I should love to find out more about this pub which still exists, I had thought of writing to the brewers but I don't think they can be of much help. Has anyone any pictures or information about this?

I know also that great-great-grandfather William John Bignell and his wife Mary lived at The Grove, in rooms above the stable. According to an old map I have, this is close to Hanwell Park, which no longer exists, being part of the Brent Valley Golf Course. I should like to know where I can find more information about this area without travelling to the GLRO, I would particularly like information on Parish Records of that general area.

In Oxford the main library has most of the local Parish Records, and if any of our members want help in this area, I will be only too pleased to do what I can.

**Mrs. V.E. Purslow, 19 St. Michael's Road, Claverdon, Warwickshire, CV35 8NT** is anxious to contact any member of our society who is researching or is related to the name TRAHERNE / TREHERNE of Middlesex or any other County. She writes: For the past three years I have been researching that name in England & Wales (all spelling variants) and have accumulated a considerable amount of information which has enabled me to publish 3 booklets entitled "Centuries of Traherne Families" each containing a short history and pedi-pedigree for the period 1550 - 1850. It is my intention to write further histories, and would like to correspond with any of your members who are interested in any branch of that family name, as it is possible that we can be of assistance to one another.

[If any member can help either of these letter writers, please reply directly to the address as given, Pauline Appleby's will be found on the Members interest's page. I would also be interested to learn of any developments from the letters. -Ed]



## CHISWICK CHURCH

Sam Morton

The last two summers has seen a group recording the M.I.s of this ancient church and burial ground. We spent many Saturdays on this task, and at the end I wanted to learn something more of the church.

The first church was of Saxon origin, there was most probably a village nearby, certainly a ford crossed the river at this point. Documentary evidence of 1181 refers to an inquisition into the manors and churches of St. Paul's. There were two manors in Chiswick - Sutton and The Prebendary, both of which belonged to the Dean and Chapter. A document of 1252 notes that the Font is in disrepair and that the Chancel was badly roofed - suggesting that the building was of some age. The tower was built in 1436 and in 1458 a visitation records that the church was of great importance and wealth.

Various additions were made through the years - a north transept in 1670 and in 1777 the first major rebuilding saw the addition of a south aisle. A fine hammer beam roof dating from 1460 was covered by a lath and plaster ceiling and was destroyed in 1863 when further additions were made. Finally in 1882 the entire church with the exception of the tower was rebuilt, the architect was John Loughborough Pearson. His major achievement was Truro Cathedral and he gave Chiswick a new church which has retained much of the atmosphere of the old. Much loving care and craftsmanship has been devoted to the church, when you are passing do spend some time in there.

All the memorials in the old church were preserved and replaced. None of the early registers exist, supposedly they were destroyed by Cromwell's soldiers when they were stationed in the church. The earliest surviving register is dated 1678. During the reign of George II, the church seems to have been used for fashionable weddings, since many were performed by special licence for couples coming from City of London parishes and elsewhere. In 1799 we find the wedding of Clementina Zoffany, daughter of the painter who lived at Strand-on-the-Green, and in more recent years that of Bernard Law Montgomery, later to become Field Marshal and Viscount. "Monty" was married by his father Bishop Montgomery.

The early Burial register throws an interesting light on local trades, but after 1706 only names were recorded. In 1710, we find "Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland," in 1769 "William Hogarth Esq." and in 1784, Jane Hogarth, his widow aged 80. Two of Cromwell's daughters are buried here, Miles Corbet M.P. (he signed the death warrant of Charles II in 1649, was arrested in Holland after the Restoration and was executed in London in 1662), Charles Holland the actor and James Whistler - painter, are also among the more notable persons laid to rest. We found much of interest both in the church and in the burial ground, and in typing up some of the M.I.s I found a few more samples of "graveyard humour" but more of that anon.

## The GENERATION GRID

Genealogists sometimes allot letters or numbers to successive generations in pedigrees, in order to facilitate reference to them or to identify individuals; but many of these private systems have the serious drawback that they lack a common “datum line” and are not “open ended”.

In the case of single-name studies, where pedigrees covering different family groups, or branches all bearing the same surname - and often the same forename - occur, the need for a standard system, which can also be used, after county or parish divisions, as a means of filing slips becomes vital.

A system of allotting identifying letters to each 30-year span of time from AD 1380 to AD 2159 has been devised by the Surname Archive (108 Sea Lane, Ferring, Sussex) for the purpose of separating and grouping the generations, and the originators hope that, by becoming more widely known, the “Generation Letter” may become a standard reference in genealogy.

The arbitrary “datum line” of this system is the S (for “self”) generation, representing those of us now in full maturity and, incidentally, the large post World War 1 generation of the 1920s. Similarly, T represents the post World War 2 progeny of the 1950s. The full list is set out below and it will be noted that there are useful mnemonics in that E introduces the Elizabethan century of 1500 and the O starts the “double- O generation of 1800. In those rare instances where pedigrees stretch back before 1330, a letter preceded by a minus sign may be used, working backwards from -Z; thus, an ancestor born between 1290 and 1319 would be a -X generation person.

Apart from identification purposes, a number of other uses come to mind for the Generation Grid; it can be placed over old charts (Visitation pedigrees etc.) where perhaps there is only one dating clue, and generations coming before or after this “datum line” can be read off, and compared with similarly labelled clues in other records. In lists of marriages or burials, one may make provisional assumptions about the subjects, for filing and etc. by saying that the former represents persons of the previous generation letter, and the latter of two generations previous. E.G. a burial without a given age in 1370 would be identified with O, and an 1870 marriage would be allotted to P generation.

A	1380-1409	H	1590-1619	N	1770-1799	T	1950-1979
B	1410-1439	I	1620-1649	O	1800-1829	U	1980-2009
C	1440-1469	J	1650-1679	P	1830-1859	V	2010-2039
D	1470-1499	K	1680-1709	Q	1860-1889	W	2040-2069
E	1500-1529	L	1710-1739	R	1890-1919	X	2070-2099
F	1530-1559	M	1740-1769	S	1920-1949	Y	2130-2129
G	1560-1589					Z	2130-2159

# Research Report

Vic Gale

We duly completed the outside work at Hillingdon Church in early October - it took six visits with parties of up to 15 or 16 of us and we recorded a total of 552 stones. There remain one or two to be rechecked and the memorials inside the church, but effectively we can cross Hillingdon off our list of "work to be done".

So together with what we did at Brentford, the start at Stanwell and the conclusion at Chiswick we must have recorded, during 1980, over 1,000 stones. Congratulations!

The winter months are quiet ones for this sort of Society research and I suppose we are all attending to our private and personal research. I have at last got the Brentford papers sorted and I am grateful to Mavis Sharp for typing them up. By the time you read this I hope they will have been indexed and a copy placed in the library. Hillingdon papers have yet to be sorted (by me) whilst Chris Watts is still beavering away at the mass of data accumulated at Chiswick. Thanks here, are due to his team of typists - Eileen Stage, Shirley Ewart, Olive Young, Sam and Mabel Morton, Tricia Jackman, Shirley Benet and Eileen Lane.

I have not had in recent months a great amount of material ready for slipping and indexing - I am grateful though to Wendy Mott for Northolt Marriages 1813-42, Grace Winch for Uxbridge Old Burial Ground M.I.s and Yvonne Woodbridge for her marathon job on St. Mary Abbott, Kensington Marriages - nearly 1,200 slips! Other records are still out and I know that other members are working on Arthur Powell's Isleworth project.

Apart from Arthur, I know that Connie Zouch continues with her solo work on the Brentford Parish Registers, whilst those of us who attended the January meeting will know of the work that Dr. Pat Kelvin is undertaking on the St. Mary Islington and St. Leonard Shoreditch Settlement Certificates. As always, I will welcome a note from anyone else about their pet projects.

And now we must think about the churchyard work for 1981. Both Chris Watts and I, after two years "leading" the teams are declaring a Sabbatical - to catch up with papers we have accumulated if for no other reason. It would be a shame to lose the impetus that we have built up and we are sure that some of you will come forward to organise and "lead" for a churchyard somewhere in the area - there are plenty to be done, from Kensington out to Staines, from the River up to the A40 - you name it and I will make the arrangements with the Vicar; we already have the "go ahead" for Heston, if anyone cares to take it on. Connie Zouch is already working on Hayes - why not you? Chris and I will be happy to tell you how it is done.

## Out of area STRAYS

Vic Gale

Here is a further selection from this index of Middlesex and London folk found elsewhere than where they might have been expected. The entry here shows only the name, "home" area, nature and date. I shall be happy to provide the full entry on the slip for any members interested who cares to send me a stamped addressed envelope.

There are of course, many more slips than have been recorded in these lists - I can only ask the Editor to include a few at a time - so if you have a "lost" ancestor who you think I might have in the index, do let me know. Send an SAE and I will search the index - just a card in to note your interest in a name, in case it subsequently turns up. A few stamps to help with the expenses would be a suitable acknowledgement. Enquiries to:

**V. E. Gale, 53 Liberty Lane, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 1NQ**

ADAMS,	George (London) bap. 1675
ALDREGE,	Anne (Wapping) bap. 1639
ALSOP,	Edward (St. Paul's Shadwell m. 1687
ANNESLEY,	Arthur (Lincoln's Inn) bur. 1786
ARNOLD,	George (St. Sepulchres) m. 1824
BAKER,	Edward Mark (St. Clement Dane's) m. 1829
BASNETT,	Samuel (St. Martin-in-the-Fields) m. 1785
BASSET,	William (Uxbridge) m. 1798
BECKENSHALL,	Francis (New Brentford) m. 1760
BILLIN,	Anne (St. Giles in the Fields) bap. 1699
BOUCHER,	Thomas (St. Martin-in-the-Fields) m. 1710
BOWEN,	William (Stepney) m. 1719
BOXALL,	Eliza (London) bap. 1838
BURROWE,	Joane (Stretford Bowe) m. 1588
CASE,	John (London) bur. 1777
CHANDLER,	John (Laleham) m. 1780
CLAPHAM,	William Henry (St. Marylebone) m. 1835
CLARKE,	John (West Drayton) m. 1791
CONDER,	Elizabeth (Kensington) bur. 1743
COUTTS,	Susannah (London) bur. 1814
CURTIS,	John (St. John, Wapping) m. 1740
DEADMAN,	Rebecca (Chelsea) born 1823
DEADMAN,	Robert (Chelsea) born 1825
DRAPER,	Elizabeth (London) bur. 1789
FULCHER,	Elizabeth (St. Pauls, Covent Garden) m. 1773
GRIFFIN,	John (Whitechapel) m. 1663
HOGG,	Ann (Twickenham) bur. 1777
HOWARD,	John (City of London) m. 1716
HUGHES,	Charles (Bethnal Green) m. 1792
KEKEWICH,	Lucy (Tottenham) bur. 1710



KING,	Mathew (Christchurch, Mddx.) bur. 1749
KIRBY,	Matthew Gustavus (St. Pancras) m. 1834
LEIGH,	John (St. Clement Danes) m. 1786
MANLEY,	Ann (London) bap. 1836
MILNE,	Charles (Westminster) born 1831
MOORE,	Ralph (Stepney) m. 1717
NASH,	Anne (Clerkenwell) m. 1722
NORTH,	Sarah (St. Martin-in-the-Fields) m. 1710
PANKINSON,	Ralph (Clerkenwell) bur. 1746
PHILLIPS,	Benjamin (St. Marylebone) m. 1832
PILLING,	Anne (Staines) bur. 1740
PITTS,	Daniel (Holborn) bur. 1729
POWLE,	John (Clerkenwell) bur. 1638
PURCELL,	Edward Henry (City of London) m. 1745
RAMSAY,	Sir William (St. Marylebone) m. 1796
RHODES,	Samuel (Islington) m. 1818
RICE,	Moses (London) bap. 1769
ROBINSON,	James (Hampton) m. 1725
SADLER,	John (Ruislip) m. 1831
SAINTLOE,	John (London) bap. 1630
SCOT,	Thomas (Stepney) m. 1722
SEWELL,	Priscilla (St. Mary Axe) bur. 1789
SHARP,	Frances (St. Marylebone) bap. 1830
SHERRARD,	Naomi (Feltham) bap. 1834
SIMMONDS,	Betty (Hampstead) m. 1771
SMITH,	James (Edmonton) m. 1732
SMITH,	John (Whitefriars) m. 1738
STACY,	Gabriel (Wapping) m. 1700
STREATHER,	Emma (London) m. 1825
TAYLOR,	Hannah Harriett (St. Marylebone) bap. 1818
THOMPSON,	Andrew John (London) bap. 1815
TITTERTON,	Susanna (Islington) bur. 1744
TOWNSEND,	Elizabeth (St. Sepulchres) bap. 1669
TRUSS,	Thomas (Holborn) m. 1728
TURNPENNY,	John (Westminster) m. 1760
VANCOURT,	Samuel (Holborn) m. 1734
VAUGHAN,	Mrs. Anna (Cheapside) bur. 1738
VEN,	William (London) removal to Devon 1756
WALLIS,	William (Shoreditch) bur. 1739
WALTON,	John Peall (Whitechapel) m. 1833
WARREN,	Elizabeth (Kensington) bur. 1738
WATTS,	Richard (St. George, Hanover Squ.) m. 1766
WEATHERLEY,	Richard (Ealing) m. 1738
WEBB,	Joseph (Knightsbridge) died 1713
WESTLEY,	Thomas (Uxbridge Moor) m. 1832
WHEATLEY,	Mary (Stepney) m. 1704
WHEELER,	Catherine (Hanwell) bur. 1812
WILBORE,	Martha (London) bap 1672
WILSON,	John (Stepney) m. 1705
YORK,	Philip (Westminster) m. 1733



# New Brentford Census 1810

# Constance Zouch

The following is a list of surnames only, found in the 1810 Census. The address, number of Males & Females with forenames is available. If you require this information, brief though it is, please enclose an SAE to:  
**Mrs. C. Zouch, 8 Sixth Avenue, Hayes, Middx. UB3 2ES**

From a document in Boston Manor Library, Brentford:

ALLAWAY	COOK	GREENLAW	KNIGHT	PEPPER
ALLEN	COOKE	GREGORY	LAMBERT	PETERS
ANDREWS	COPE	GRIFFITHS	LAFSAM	PICKERING
ARUNDELL	CORNISH	GRUBB	LAND	PIERCY
ARUNDALL	CORSAN	GUNTRIPT	LEADER	PIFER
ASHLEY	COX	HALL	LEE	PITT
ATKINS	COZENS	HANMELBURG	LINDLEY	PLANK
AVERY	CRIGHTON	HAMPTON	LOUCH	PLATT
BANKS	CRUMP	HARDING	MABLEY	POVEY
BARNES	DALE	HARRIS	MAGSON	POWELL
BEZLEY	DAVIES	HARTOP	MAINWOOD	PRICE
BISHOP	DENNIS	HAYNES	MAITLAND	PURKIS
BLACKMAN	DENYER	HEARN	MARSDEN	QUINION
BOLTON	DOWDEN	HEATHER	MARSHALL	RADCLIFFE
BOSWELL	DOWBRITZ	HIDEMAN	MATHEWS	RADBURN
BOURNE	DREW	HIERONS	MERRIL	RAPKINS
BOXALL	DRINKWATER	HINDMAN	MONTGOMERY	RAWLINS
BRICE	DYER	HINGE	MORRIS	READING
BRIGHT	EAST	HOBBS	MORTEMORE	REYNOLDS
BROWN	EASTWOOD	HOBDAY	NAIRN	RICHARDSON
BURROWS	EDGINTON	HOLLAND	NAPPER	RIPPINGTON
CALDWELL	ELDERFIELD	HOLLIS	NEW	ROBINSON
CAREY	ELLIS	HOLMES	NIBBS	RONALDS
CARRINGTON	EYLES	HONEY	NORBURY	ROOKE
CARTER	FARRER	HOWARD	NUNN	ROWLEY
CAUDWELL	FISHLOCK	HOWELL	OAKSHOT	RUGGILS
CHANDLER	FLOWER	HUGHES	PAGE	SANDERS
CHAPMAN	FRANCIS	HUNT	PALMER	SAXTON
CHILD	FRANKLIN	JAMES	PARKER	SERVIS
CLARK	FRIEND	JEFFERIES	PARSLEY	SEXTON
CLITHEROW	FROST	JENNINGS	PARSONS	SHACKLER
COBLEY	FULKER	JONES	PARTRIDGE	SHIELDS
COLE	GAYLOR	JOSEPH	PAYNE	SHOLTER
COLEMAN	GINGER	KIMBER	PAYS	SIMMONDS
COLLETT	GLOVER	KING	PEARCE	SIMS
COLLINS	GRAY	KIFSELL	PEAT	SMITH
COLSHELL	GREEN	KISSELL	PELTON	SNOWDEN
COMBS				

(continued on page 42)

## Members Interests

We welcome to our society the following new members and list their surname interests.

	<b>New member</b>	<b>&amp;</b>	<b>Their Interests</b>
A8	APPLEBY, Miss Pauline "Kyleburn", Wendlebury Turn, Nr. Bicester, Oxon, OX6 8PX		TILDESLEY 1860 North Hyde Willenhall, Staffs
A9	NATIONAL LIBRARY of AUSTRALIA		
A10 A11	ALLISON, Mr. R. Mrs. J. 71 Maxwell Road, West Drayton, UB7 7HW		CLUBB 1780 London, various 1830 Kensington/Chelsea
C16	CUTHBERT, Miss Jeanne 88 North Hyde Road, Hayes, Middlesex		MEDWELL ) Birmingham, Stamford CUTHBERT ) Northborough HOLBECHE Aylesbury
F4 F5	FEATHERSTONE, Paul Sandra 8 Globe Road, Staines, Middlesex, TW8 1BX		FEATHERSTONE 1800 Plymouth SANDYS .. Southwark GLOVER .. London
G12	GODSOE, Margaret 2130 Tapper Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3H 1P2		ORCHARD 1800} Iver, Bucks COWD }Uxbridge, Hillingdon LOVE } Hounslow, Mddx
H13	HUMN, A.J. 5 Sutton Way, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex		HUMN 1150 Great Bentley, Essex DAVEY 1861 Milverton, W. Somerset TAYLOR 1871 Harmondsworth, Mddx WELLS 1840 Petersfield, Hants SARTAIN(E) 1709 & 1860 Bath
P8	PHELPS, Mr. R.A. Lyndley Croft, Bridge Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 7HH		PHELPS (1800) Brentford, Isleworth, PHILPS ( )Hanworth FELPS (1700) Beaminster, Thorncombe & district, Dorset
P9	PAINTER, Mr. S.A.A. 108 Hanover Avenue, Feltham, Mddx TW13 4JP		PAINTER Somerset
R6	REYNOLDS, Mrs. V. 28 Dukes Wood Drive, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton		BROWN ) 1865 Kensington, Chertsey, EARL(E) ) Dorking

R7	ROBINS, Mrs. A.F. 38 Milner Avenue, Roosevelt Park, Johannesburg 2195, S. Africa	ROBINS 19c St. Pancras HAGGER 19c St. Marylebone
S15	SMITH, Mary, Helena "Sabana" Nelson Park Road St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, Dover, Kent, CT15 6HL.	FENNER ) Twickenham, Manchester FENTON )
W11	WOODHAM, Mrs. E. 20 Austin Park, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1BT	GREENWAY 1852 West London/West GREENAWAY Kensington WHEELER 1852 Any HARRIS pre 1770 Caerwent, S. Wales HAYES pre 1645 Tetbury, Glos.
L3	Revised list: LANE, Miss Eileen M. 61 Perth Avenue, Yeading, Hayes, Mddx UB4 9LW	LANE ) 1862 Portsmouth, Portsea LAME ) Bramfield, Bramhall 1831 Darsham 1790 Halesworth TUTHILL ) 1860 Any TRIP ) 1770 Halesworth GURNEY 1860 Any TILOTT 1790 Darsham, Halesworth Bramfield LEGGETT ) 1770 Norton, LEGGATT ) Bury St. Edmunds, LEGGITT ) Stowlangtoft, LEGATE ) Framlingham, Suffolk BROWNING )1817 Norton, Framlingham JACOB ) Pakenham, Suffolk SPINKS OSBORNE Norton, Any OSBORNE 1830 Kingston, Bedford, Any HOWSPIN Any

Brentford Census. (continued from page 40)

SQUIRES	TAYLOR	UPJOHN	WEBB	WING
STENSON	THOMPSON		WELCH	WINKWORTH
STEPHENSON	THORNTON	VALLENS	WENMAN	WISE
STEPTOE	THOROGOOD		WESTBROOK	WOOD
STEVENS	TOMLIN	WALE	WESTON	WOODBRI DGE
STIMPSON	TOMSON	WALKER	WHEELER	WOODS
STOKES	TOONE	WALKLING	WHITE	WRIGHT
STREET	TOWNSEND	WARD	WILKINS	
STUMP	TRIMMER	WARREN	WILKINSON	ZINZAN
SWAP	TUNSTALL	WATERS	WILLIAMS	
SWEET	TURNER	WATTS	WINBUSH	WORKHOUSE The
		WEBB		



## Notes & Queries

**EARL(E) Robert**      **Mrs. V. Reynolds, member R6** and member of Hampshire Genealogical Society is seeking information on her maternal G.G. Grandfather, he married Ann Start at Feltham on 29/3/1830. Robert was then aged 21 but place of birth is unknown. Both Robert and Ann are buried at Chertsey, and children of the marriage were married from Kensington (Warwick Road) area. Any information welcome.

**ESSAM**      Searching for news of my forbears in Middlesex and Surrey in the last century. I have a wedding of John Essam to Ann Thornton in Twickenham on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1804, subsequent children of Ann & John Thornton are found in the baptism records in Sunbury. Essam's are recorded in that area and also Chertsey for the greater part of the last century but they vanished as quietly as they came. Any information please to address below or to the Editor.

**Peter Essam, 48 South Way, Shirley, Surrey**

**FENTON**      Annie, died April 1918.

**FENTON**      John, died 1921, then resident at 4 Brook Road, St. Margarets, Twickenham. Asking for information on these two and would welcome any news.  
**Mrs. M.H. Smith (nee Fenton) member S15**

**SWINBANK(S)::**

**SKEATS/SKEAT/SKEET(S)::**

**MOXHAM/MOXLAM/MOXOM/MOXON::**

I am interested in all these names and willing to store and exchange references to them any place, any time. Am also willing to record your interests against future information received. SAE please.

**Mrs. L. Crowther, 32 Jubilee Drive, Thornbury, Avon BS12 2YQ**

**PHELPS/ PHILPS/ PHILLIPS**      **Mr. R.A. Phelps, member P8** is researching these names. His family is traced back to Thorncombe and Beaminster in Dorset in 1731, and came to Middlesex early in the last century, Grandfather was born in Brentford, Father in Hanworth, a Phelps was buried in All Saints, Isleworth, c1914/8

**NALDER**      Possibly living in Brentford c1810. Information please to **Mr. Phelps member P8**.

**\*\* Mr. Robin A. Thrift, 12 Windy Arbour, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, Tel. 54224**, has offered assistance to members who need help with research in the Kenilworth area.

## And Finally –

As I write these words for the last page of this journal, my thoughts are running on to the next. The file is empty once more - but that is just as it should be - I see no point in putting items aside “for next time”. I shall continue to press, cajole and bully you all for more text and am sure that you will oblige, and will only get really worried when each of our members has contributed at least one article. In this issue we include a “personal profile” on two of our members: this is something new and who better to be first under our scrutiny than our new Chairman and as I suggested the idea to the committee - the Editor. We hope that in this way we can get to know more about each other and our other interests, we don't want to pry, just as much as you wish to tell, with particular emphasis on your genealogy - how did you start and where have you reached.

This Family History business seems to be booming, from an interview with Anthony Camp, the Director of the Society of Genealogists (published in The Times recently) we learn that more and more people are growing interested in the past, membership of the society is growing steadily, and it is estimated that at any one time there are at least 25,000 people investigating their antecedents. This of course brings other problems; because of the increased use of old records etc., the wear and tear on these is quite worrying, and it means that re-binding is frequently necessary. One answer to this problem is for all these old documents to be indexed and micro-filmed, but to do this we need many more volunteers to help in this aspect of genealogy.

Another way to preserve these old records is to restrict access to them, and the Government's economy plans would help do just that. In his latest report, the Master of the Rolls warned that a planned cut of 10% in the PRO budget would seriously damage the Nation's Archives. There was a proposal to close the Chancery Lane search rooms and send all readers to Kew. In 1979, 87,000 persons visited the PRO and read over half a million documents. Given that the expenditure of the PRO is only £2 million a year, are we really so desperately hard-up that we must save money in this way?

One of our neighbours, East of London FHS, is planning a Saturday meeting mainly for the benefit of those members who are unable to attend the regular monthly evening meetings, but also to allow time for a more ambitious programme. As a member of that society, you may feel that I am biased, but it seems a good idea to me and I shall be interested in the outcome. Have any of our “out of area” members ever thought about such a meeting? If it were possible to arrange, would you support it? Do write and tell me, and if the interest is there, I will see what can be done.



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**(including West London)**

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Correspondence: Mrs. Rhona Ward, 29 Ernest Gardens, Chiswick, London W4

Journal contributions and matters arising from the Journal:  
Sam Morton, 32 Burlington Road, Isleworth, Mdx., TW7 4LY

In all cases, please mark your envelopes with the letters: WMFHS

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