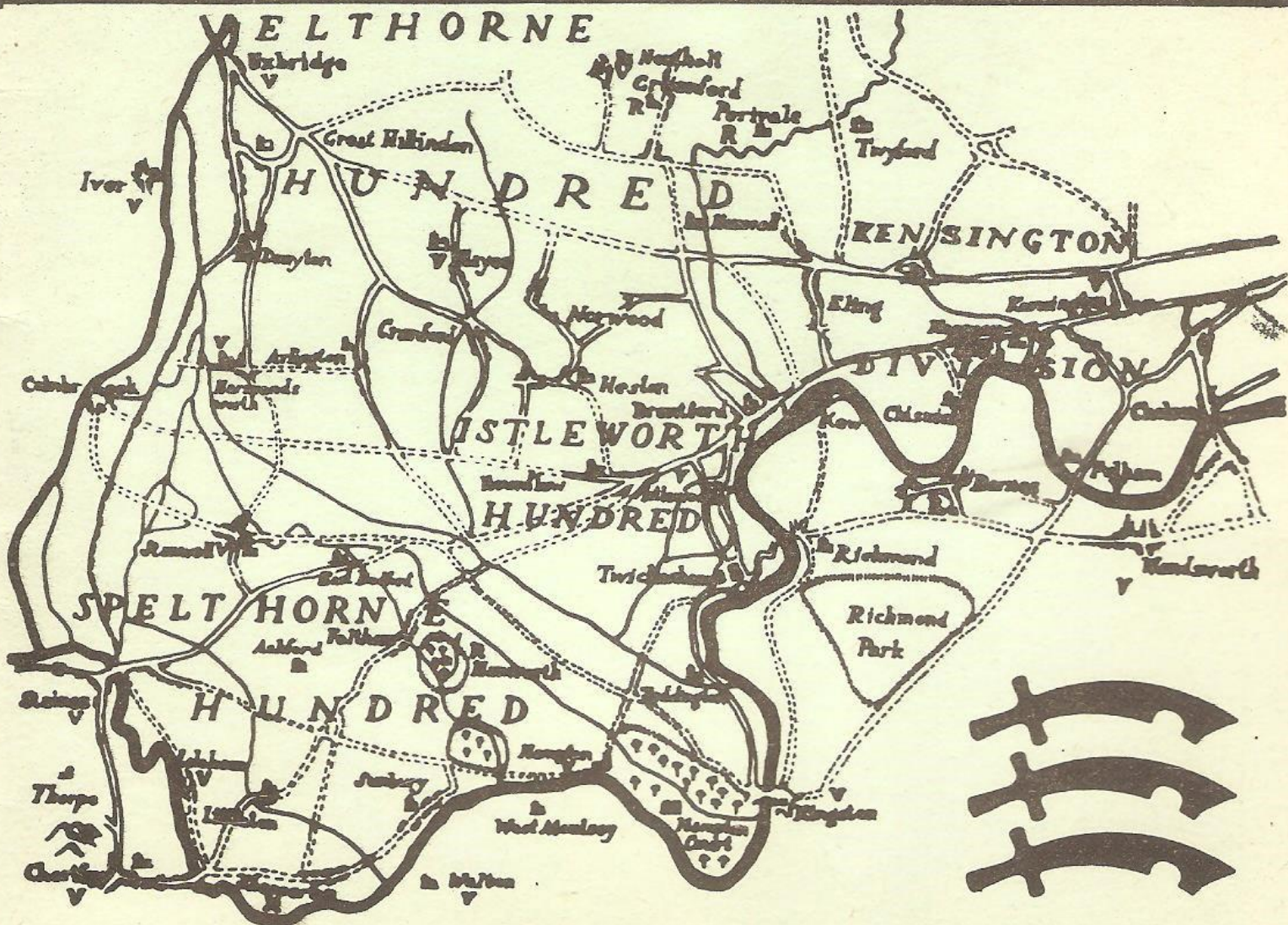


# West Middlesex Family History Society Journal

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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

Our membership still continues to flourish having risen from 230 at the start of the year to over 270 as I write. The monthly meetings attract never less than 60 and average 70 or often more members. The Committee are well aware that if we are to retain our members, we must have a full and interesting programme of activities for both experienced and new members, whether living locally or out of the area. Suggestions and offers of assistance are always welcome.

The IGI has now been ordered, and should arrive soon after this journal is printed. Mavis Sibley has kindly agreed to house it, on a trial basis, and members may visit her house, in West Drayton, to search it .....BUT – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - so do phone first. More details of the arrangements appear elsewhere in this journal.

The cost of the IGI was £430 and already we have collected nearly £180 in contributions, for which we are most grateful. If you have pledged money, or feel you can contribute, your gift will be most welcome.

A Directory of Members' Interests is currently being compiled from the details that you have supplied over the years. If you have not yet given us details of the families you are researching (up to 16), or have changes or additions to make, then let Sam Morton know - 11th November is the latest date to guarantee inclusion.

November 11th is also the date of our AGM, when we must elect our Executive Committee. Of the existing committee, only Sam Morton is ineligible for re-election having served his full term of three years. He will be much missed, although he will still be continuing as our Editor for a while yet, and, I suspect, assisting in many other ways also. Nominations for the Committee must be with the Secretary before 28th October.

### **STOP PRESS!**

Just as this Journal goes to the printer, news has come to hand that Chris Watts is elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society of Genealogists. We congratulate Chris on this news, our pleasure is somewhat lessened by the other news that he feels obliged to relinquish his position in our Society. Thank You Chris for all your efforts on our behalf.



# For your Diary



## Monthly Meetings:

|           |    |                              |               |
|-----------|----|------------------------------|---------------|
| August    | 12 | Problems & Queries           |               |
| September | 9  | “Palaeography”               | Alf Ison      |
| October   | 14 | “Shortcuts in Research       | Michael Gandy |
| November  | 11 | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING       |               |
| December  | 9  | “Records at the PRO – (Kew)” | Edward Higgs  |

## ALSO:

- September 2 – 4 Federation of Family History Societies Conference at University of Sussex.
- October 8 Society of Genealogists Day Conference, Bedford College, Regents Park. Details from the Editor or direct from the Society.

## Annual General Meeting

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the **WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY** will be held at the Old Town Hall, Treaty Road, Hounslow, at 7. 30 pm on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 1983.

Reports will be presented by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, you will be asked to approve the Balance Sheet, appoint the Auditors and elect a Committee for the ensuing year. Members who wish to bring any other matter forward or propose nominations for the Committee should write to the Secretary before October 28th.

## Subscriptions

Members are respectfully reminded that the financial year of the Society ends on September 30th, and all subscriptions (except in the case of recently joined members) become due on October 1st. The rates are shown on the back page of the Journal, and our Treasurer will not object if you wish to pay early. Please send all subscriptions to our Membership Secretary, Connie Zouch — her address is on the back page too.

## Tracing Your Ancestors?

Chris Watts will again be offering courses at local night schools this winter:

### “Getting Started”

These courses are intended for the beginner and will concentrate on the basic sources and techniques for tracing a humble English or Welsh family. Topics to be covered include Civil Registration, Census, Post 1858 Wills, M.I.’s, Cemetery Records and Parish Registers. The course will be repeated at two locations:

Nursery Road Centre, Sunbury-on-Thames for five weeks

Thursdays Commencing: 29<sup>th</sup> September 1983 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Ashford College Centre, Church Road, Ashford for five weeks

Thursdays Commencing: 10<sup>th</sup> November 1983 7.15 - 9.15 pm

### “Exploring Further”

This more advanced course is intended for those who attended one of the “Getting Started” courses, or have done some basic research on their own. Topics to be covered include Occupational Records, pre1858 Wills, Marriage Licences, Parish Chest, Local Administration and Land Records.

Spelthorne College Centre, Church Road, Ashford for five weeks

Thursdays Commencing: 12<sup>th</sup> January 1984 7.15 - 9.15 pm

For further details talk to Chris at one of our meetings or by phone (Ashford 51485) to register for any of the courses contact Spelthorne A.E.I. direct.

Connie Zouch will be repeating her class of last year:

Pinkwell Adult Education Centre, Pinkwell Lane, Hayes

Wednesdays Commencing: 21<sup>st</sup> September 1983 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Eileen Stage will also be taking a series of classes, but at present we have no details. There are no doubt many other classes planned in “our area” and the Editor is always pleased to publicise these courses. As with all Adult Education courses, they rely on the support of sufficient numbers to make the particular class viable. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this topic, do please pass the information on.



# Hammersmith

Robert Cook

This parish lies on the Thames 4½ miles west of London and immediately north of Fulham, with whose earlier history it is intimately connected, and with which it has again been united since 1965 in the London Borough of Hammersmith. Its development falls into the following stages.

Dependency of Fulham: Hammersmith was a relatively late settlement in the Middle Ages. The village probably grew up near the river in the twelfth century, and the name is first recorded only in 1294. It formed part of both the parish and manor of Fulham, which was held by the Bishop of London from before the Conquest until 1948. Its peripheral position in relation to the larger settlement led to the establishment of a medieval leper hospital.

The place grew with the agricultural development of the Pallingswick estate within the manor of Fulham (manorial court rolls in Hammersmith Library). The larger village of the seventeenth century sought its own church, and a chapel of ease was opened in 1631 with its own burial ground, although it remained part of Fulham Parish. But it evolved its own Vestry for the “Hammersmith side” of Fulham. The registers of the chapelry (1665- 1812) are in Hammersmith Library, as are the Vestry rate books (1795-1886). Probate jurisdiction rested with the Commissary Court of London.



*Brandenburgh House 1878*

The area attracted some great houses as rural residences, such as that of Sir Nicholas Crisp, later known as Brandenburgh House, and the Rivercourt House of Queen Catherine of Braganza. The mansion house of Pallingswick had an ever-changing succession of owners, and was rebuilt and renamed as Ravenscourt Park in the 1750s. Some fashionable terraces were also built near the river later in the century.

The agricultural village was increasingly influenced by the proximity of London. Brick earth was exploited from the seventeenth century, and the brickfields supplied London’s building needs in the eighteenth. Cultivation was more and more turned over to a “great fruit and kitchen garden” for the capital. There were also nursery gardens selling plants, such as the Vineyard Nursery founded in 1745. A number of these early gardeners came from Scotland.

Growing Independence: Its position as an isolated appendage of Fulham gave Hammersmith a certain reputation for independence. Firstly, there was constant dispute over church maintenance while Hammersmith was still subject to

Fulham parochially. It was also an early centre of religious non-conformity. There were Puritans and Levellers active there in the mid-seventeenth century, and there was an Independent, later Congregational, meeting house from the last quarter of the century. The Society of Friends had its own meeting house and burial ground from about the same time. The area attracted a Huguenot community with its chapel after 1685. A Baptist congregation was firmly established, with chapel and burial ground, from 1780, and Wesleyans from 1798.

There was also a long established Roman Catholic community, from which Hammersmith came sometimes to be known as “Little Rome”. This originated in a convent founded by Catherine of Braganza in 1679, which survived through the eighteenth century and was handed over to a refugee French community in 1795. Its registers (1710-1838) have been published by the Catholic Record Society (V, 26, pp 67-150).

Separate Parish: Hammersmith had a population of 5,600 in 1801, which rose to 10,222 in 1831 and to 24,519 in 1861, (Local census schedules for 1821 and 1831 have survived and are in Hammersmith Library). It was already a growing town, less isolated with the opening of Hammersmith Bridge in 1827, and increasingly under the influence of London. The brick fields expanded, employing several hundred people, while the extent of the market gardens also increased during the first half of the century. Large numbers of women, principally from Wales and Shropshire, were found there each year as summer workers. The Ownership of these gardens often remained in the same families for generations - for example, Wells, Martin, Yeldham and Lee.

Some industries were also founded - brewing, boat building, and a fabric bleaching factory employing about 80 women, mostly natives of Scotland. The spirit of independence continued to manifest itself in radicalism and Chartism, and in riotous support for Queen Caroline during her residence at Brandenburgh House in 1820/21.

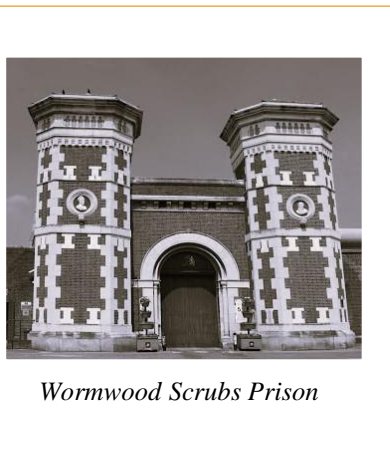
The population growth led to the building of St. Peter’s Church in 1829, like St. Paul’s, still a chapel of ease to Fulham. But in 1834 Hammersmith was eventually constituted a separate parish. Almost immediately it was sub-divided by the elevation of St. Peter’s into a parish in its own right in 1836. But these were the only separate ecclesiastical districts existing before civil registration.

Western suburb of London: Population rose to 97,239 in 1891 and to a peak of 135,523 in 1931, as industrial development accelerated. This stemmed from excellent communications created in the 1840s when the Birmingham Bristol & Thames Junction Railway linked the Grand Union Canal and the Thames wharves with railway goods yards at Willesden and Old Oak Common. Numerous industries were attracted, such as builders’ merchants (Froy 1850), lamps (Osram & Robinson 1893), catering supplies (Joseph Lyons & Co at Cadby Hall- [now being demolished -Ed) and builders and contractors (George Wimpey 1886), and about 300 other establishments.



This was accompanied by extensive building of working-class housing. But there was also an influx of city clerks with the opening of the Hammersmith & City Railway in 1864, and this was reinforced locally with the establishment of the headquarters of the Post Office Savings Bank in Blythe Road. There was a relatively high proportion of domestic servants, although Charles Booth noted in 1903 that many of the struggling middle class had to take in lodgers to afford them.

This residential development rapidly extinguished the rural economy from the



*Wormwood Scrubs Prison*

third quarter of the nineteenth century, as it crept over the market gardens and brickfields in the south of the parish. The Great Hall of Olympia rose on the site of the Vineyard in 1885. Farmland in the north was sold for the building of Wormwood Scrubs Prison in 1873, and for the Great White City exhibition grounds. Between the world wars, this too was built over with LCC (London County Council) housing, as was the adjacent Wormholt Estate with Hammersmith municipal housing, leaving Wormwood Scrubs as virtually the only undeveloped land.

The chief immigration from outside Great Britain during this period was from Ireland, and Irish settlement, particularly at Brook Green, was noted from as early as the 1830s. With the growth of population, a local newspaper was founded in the 1850s - The West London Observer (copies in Hammersmith Library). Hammersmith Cemetery was opened in 1869, this has now been partly cleared, but a transcription of the MIs is in the PRO (RG37, piece 79). Religious and political diversity continued with the establishment of numerous non-conformist chapels, an early Salvation Army Corps in 1874, and William Morris's Hammersmith Socialist Society in the 1880s. In 1900 Hammersmith became the westernmost Metropolitan Borough in London.

Inner London Area: In more recent times the population declined somewhat after wartime bombing and redevelopment, to 110,333 in 1961, of whom 20% were born outside Great Britain. About half of these - some 11,505 were from Ireland, making this one of the largest concentrations in Britain. The other chief immigration since the war was from the Caribbean (3,366) and Poland (1,386). Since then, there has been a sharp fall in the population figures to only 144,616 in 1981 for the now combined boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Newer employments have included entertainments - Hammersmith Palais de Danse (1919), White City Greyhound Stadium (1927), several film studios and more recently the BBC television studios. Some 20,000 residents work in central London, and a similar number come into the borough from elsewhere for their daily work. The principal employers now are the borough council and public utilities such as London Electricity Board, British Railways, London Transport, and the BBC.

Robert Cook was Editor of this Journal until his work took him away to Wales. He is now a member of the recently formed Glamorgan FHS and is busily engaged on some indexing for them. His letter continues:

“This is a new area for me, and it seems that one of the chief problems is that of late surname formation, unfixed surnames during the transitional period, and the frequency of common patronymics. But those who are expert on these problems hope that as transcribing and indexing proceed, and geographical patterns are worked out, then much more light may be cast on them.

I hope all goes well with WMFHS. ....”

Robert’s article is a continuation of a trend that he set in one of the first of our Journals and I am grateful to him for his work. I would welcome articles of a similar nature on other Boroughs in our “patch”. Those of us living in the area take so much of this information for granted but to an outsider trying to learn more of his forbears this sort of background information would be of much interest. Ed.





MARGARET DELY, NUN OF SYON.  
*From her Sepulchral Brass in Isleworth Church.*  
*Some signs as the original.*



Et pro charitate magis in die loci of / Richard Bethell  
 Bethell late vicar of this Church of Isleworth...  
 p' which he deceas'd the xxij day of march the  
 year of our lord 1564 on whose soule the heare say

*Back of twelve inches.*

Reproduced above are copies of two monumental brasses - both hand drawn and colour-washed. The prints were purchased at a "car boot" sale recently. The purchaser wanted only the frames, (which were rather nice too!) and, knowing my interest in such things, very kindly gave the prints to me. The frames were made by C. Lamm & Son of 36 Earls Court Road, and the back paper of one of the prints carries the inscription: "Drawn by my father James Wells about 1860"

W. Annetts Wells

Margaret Dely was one of the Sisters of Bridgettines, an Order established at Syon in 1421, and dispersed by Henry VIII in 1539. She led a small party of sisters at the time and they returned to Syon on the accession of Queen Mary in 1553. This brass was lost when the Church at Isleworth was destroyed by fire in 1943. The Society of Antiquaries has rubbings of the brasses and a reproduction of the figure was made from them. Clearly, I must now compare my print with the other copy, it is exciting to consider that this print which came to me quite by chance, may be the only original copy of that brass which was so sadly lost.

Of Richard Bethell, I know nothing. There were two graduates of that name from Oxford, and the son of the later of these graduated from Kings Cambridge, this son was born or baptised at Isleworth in 1772 with the name of his father and died in 1864, but was not so far as I know a clergyman. Any suggestions as to the identity of Richard would be welcomed.

Sam Morton

# How SURE is Sure?

Kenneth Cox

## **1. PRELIMINARIES**

1.1 A few months ago, I gave a talk to our Society under the general heading of “How Sure is Sure?” During the early part of that talk, I invited members then present to consider undertaking an exercise to be attempted over a reasonable period of time, so that the exercise would be unhurried and completed under the best possible conditions.

1.2 The main objective of the exercise were to:

- i test accuracy of recall
- ii test completeness of recall
- iii contrast the reliability of the best testimony available, ie yourself, against the fragmentary nature of the historical records usually examined by family historians.

1.3 Several months have now elapsed since the talk and a number of members have asked me to transmit the spoken word to the written one. What follows is a slightly expanded version of the talk, with some emphasis being given to several points to which I was unable to do justice because of lack of time.

1.4 To the experienced genealogist I apologise to the many references to the obvious sources. Even here, however, there are some points raised which might tend to prompt questions about what had previously been regarded as unassailable fact.

The article is structured and numbered for easy reference. It also enables the Editor to decide whether to serialise it.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

2.1 When I first mentioned the title of this talk a friend of mine said “You are going to upset a lot of people”. I hope not, but I do hope you ponder some of the points raised.

2.2 On previous occasions I have said that in the course of tracing the ancestors of myself, my wife and many other people, I have been rash enough to try to follow up all lines, including female ones. HOW SURE IS SURE? For obvious reasons, when you think about it, the female lines are more certain.

2.3 I find myself in good company over this. When investigating the Honeycombe family, Don Steel found it profitable not only to follow up the female connections but also to pay considerable attention to witnesses, neighbours and in one case, all the inhabitants of a parish in order to see what information, bearing on the Honeycombes, could be gleaned from their wills.

2.4 When preparing the material for the talk I paid particular attention to Don Steel's book "Discovering your Family History". I chose that book at that time because it:

- i. was relatively up to date
- ii. dealt with a real search, and
- iii. mentioned some less well-known sources.

Don Steel needs no plug from me, but I do urge people to read all of the book. From time to time, I shall refer to certain pages in it to avoid repetition of detail. The first part deals mainly with ONE ENGLISH MALE LINE. Anyone who reads this book will find in it a cautionary tale on the folly of neglecting female lines.

2.5 In the course of my searches I have on several occasions come up against two main obstacles:

- i. In searching for an event, say a birth or baptism, there are two or more recorded entries, any of which might be the right one.
- ii. An event which I feel is certain to have taken place, say a BIRTH or MARRIAGE since 1837, is NOT TO BE FOUND, either at all, or not in the place or record where I expect it to be.

EVENT For the sake of clarity I am defining this word to include not only Births, Marriages, Deaths, Baptisms and Burials, but also a record of someone being alive at some point in time, such as census listing, witness of a marriage, possible mention in a will at the time the will was made, etc.

2.6 In the case of the first obstacle, where there is more than one possibility, attempts must be made to discover more evidence and this additional evidence can often be reasonably conclusive. However, in some cases it is not, so occasionally you must weigh up all the evidence and either admit defeat, or eventually make a choice.

2.7 Referring to the second obstacle, it is necessary to consider the RELIABILITY of the record being examined.

- i. Why might it be incomplete?
- ii. How might it be incomplete?
- iii. Are there any other records which might be a reasonable SUBSTITUTE?
- iv. To what extent are the records CONTEMPORARY?

2.8 Where these frustrating obstacles are met, and who has not met them? I suggest that it might be useful (both to you and to others following you or checking the work) to set down the problem in detail on paper.

- i. What is the event being searched?
- ii. What exactly are the problems being met?
- iii. What assumptions are you making?
- iv. What are the possibilities?
- v. When you finally suspend the search, what decision, including admitting defeat, do you actually reach AND ON WHAT BALANCE OF EVIDENCE?

It has been my experience that family historians generally pose questions 1 and 2, but leave little or no indication that attention has been paid to questions 3,4, and 5. It may be that any decision reached under question 5 is actually right, but any doubts and assumptions should be brought out into the open. I hope to illustrate some of these difficulties towards the end of this article.

2.9 To be very blunt at the outset there is very little in genealogy and family history which can be regarded as 100% correct. You, yourself will personally know most of what has happened to you and your kin since the years when you started to take notice of these things, but the further you go back, the less certain things will be.

In the end it comes down to probabilities and possibilities and weighing up the evidence. At this stage let me make it quite clear that I am not concerned with the finality of legal evidence, although obviously I shall not ignore it. Merely because the law says that the legally married parents are the real parents of a child born to the wife does not necessarily mean that the presumed parents are the real ones. They may be, they may not be. We are usually (but not always) right about the mother, but there is always a prima facie doubt about the father. The doubt increases when the child was born during or shortly after the two World Wars, or when it is known, or suspected, that the deemed father was in the armed forces, merchant marine, or in any other line of activity which took him away for relatively long periods of time.

2.10 I have heard professional genealogists jib at this and say that if legal parentage is questioned then all genealogical research becomes impossible. If this is so, then so be it, but I would suggest that it is much better to face the problem head-on, consider the evidence and then reach a decision. In any case, this is an extreme example. I am much more concerned with more mundane problems in this article so the question of paternity can be left for the time being – the question of adoption, legal or otherwise, is much more serious unless it is made explicit.

2.11 The general point remains, however. All decisions should be made explicit, made on probabilities, and these probabilities based on as much evidence as possible.

With these considerations in mind, and working from the SIMPLE to the COMPLEX, we can now move on to what could and should be the most rewarding source of all – YOURSELF.

### **3. YOURSELF**

3.1 At first sight this might seem an unlikely position from which to start but a review does suggest some potential problems.

3.2 I would like to invite each one of you to contemplate a SIMPLE EXERCISE; Firstly, to think about it now, and secondly, if you are persuaded to think it worthwhile, to undertake the exercise in the next month or two.

Imagine you are recording genealogical and biographical INFORMATION known to you as follows:

- i. CONTEMPORARY information
- ii. Information about PAST EVENTS
- iii. Information about YOURSELF
- iv. Information about OTHERS

At the outset I suggest you consider carefully how you feel about the ACCURACY and COMPLETENESS of what you choose to record. So let us start with what you know, or think you know, ABOUT YOURSELF.

3.3 The PRESENT you can very likely record with ACCURACY – but now extend it to make it COMPLETE with information about ANCESTORS and RELATIVES who are STILL ALIVE.

3.4 Then think about the PAST FEW YEARS (say FIVE) and expand the exercise. Consider carefully whether you can still be ACCURATE and COMPLETE.

3.5 Now go back to the VERY BEGINNINGS of your life and record what you really know, or HAVE BEEN TOLD. You will find, I think, that you are dependent on OTHERS for information concerning your OWN BIRTH and your EARLY YEARS.

3.6 The MAIN POINT I am making here is that it is Crucial to distinguish between:

- i. WHAT YOU KNOW, PERSONALLY, FOR SURE
- ii. WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW, because others have told you.

3.7 Now turn your attention to your RELATIVES.

Start with:

- i. YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY, if married.
- ii. YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
- iii. THEIR CHILDREN
- iv. YOUR PARENTS
- v. THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
- vi. THEIR CHILDREN (your cousins)
- vii. YOUR GRANDPARENTS

And so on....

Unless you are single, or an only child, there ought to be plenty to mention under each heading, but with the information becoming sparser the further back in time you go.

3.8 There are Several Points I am making here:

- i. How much do you ACTUALLY KNOW FOR SURE
- ii. What do you THINK YOU KNOW, but on reconsideration you find that you are dependent on what you have found out from, or been told by, OTHER PEOPLE.
- iii. How much of THIS SECOND-HAND INFORMATION has been, or can be, CORROBORATED BY OTHER EVIDENCE:
  1. BY CERTIFICATE
  2. BY OTHER DOCUMENTS
  3. BY STATEMENTS FROM OTHER PEOPLE



3.9        The MOST IMPORTANT POINT I am making here is that your record should have some information about WHEN SOMEONE WAS ACTUALLY ALIVE and WHERE they are, or were, living.

This information is most important for family historians. We tend to concentrate, quite rightly, on THREE MAIN EVENTS OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST: BIRTH, MARRIAGE and DEATH. A moment's reflection, however, will indicate to you that if you want BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION, you need to consider:

- i.    The REST OF THE THREE YEARS containing the three main events.
- ii.   If you think that on average the normal life is THREE SCORE YEARS AND TEN, then also the OTHER 67 years.

3.10       Now, suppose you take some time and finish this exercise. Then let it stew for a week or a month, and THEN GO BACK TO IT.

3.11       When you are ready, THINK. Did you cover EVERYTHING YOU KNEW FOR SURE about the categories in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.7?

3.12       Did you cover EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW, but now realise that your information is in fact SECOND HAND?

ALSO: for the times when you were either NOT ALIVE, TOO YOUNG, or NOT PRESENT, exactly what events have been verified in some other way e.g. by CERTIFICATES, or by CONFIRMATION BY OTHER RELATIVES.

3.13       Now most of you are probably groaning about this, and think it is all rather obvious and trivial, but PERSONAL TESTIMONY is the most RELIABLE of which you are capable.

Here you are, doing this exercise:

- i.    Under the VERY BEST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS and
- ii.   With a perfectly WELL STATED OBJECTIVE;

The setting down of GENEALOGICAL and FAMILY HISTORY information bearing directly on YOU, YOUR ANCESTORS and YOUR RELATIVES.

3.14       Yet when you have finished, I suggest you ask yourself:

- i.    Have I included EVERYTHING which is RELEVANT and known directly by me:
- ii.   Have I included EVERYTHING which is RELEVANT and although not personally known by me, I believe to be FACTUAL:

- iii. Have I included EVERYTHING of RELEVANT BIOGRAPHICAL, as distinct from GENEALOGICAL INTEREST.

For instance, have I mentioned that Uncle Jim ran away to sea when he was a young man (what year was that?), that he travelled the World (do I know just where he did actually go?) and that when he finished with the sea, he settled down as a builder's labourer but ended up as a plasterer?

Incidentally, in all the examples I use, I have changed names around but they are all derived from actual genealogy of myself, my wife, friends in this Society and other people for whom I have done research.

3.15 All these questions are directed to invite you to examine your account to see if it is complete. Have you left anything out, or glossed over some things? Would you rather it was not set down, even by you, that Uncle Jim lived in sin and even now you do not know whether he is, or was, married?

What about those children who arrived a little soon after marriage or even before? If the latter, under what surname was the birth registered?

What about cousin Deborah who left home suddenly and the last you knew was that she settled down with a man running a night club in the West End?

3.16 BE HONEST with yourself because the WHOLE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE is to test the RELIABILITY of the best source known to you: YOURSELF.

REMEMBER you know exactly what your objective is and you are tackling the exercise in an unhurried way.

This is in marked contrast to most of the sources we are going to meet. Most of these records are derived from contact with the law, national and local, and much of the information was probably given unwillingly or in circumstances where less than total honesty might be expected.

It is also extremely unlikely that any of this information was given solely for GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES.

- 3.17 Perhaps your self-examination might reveal that:
- i. You have not been 100% complete
  - ii. You have not been 100% accurate

Only you can decide if there are any such deficiencies. If there are it may be some comfort to know that you are in the company of many family historians. Perhaps you will bear this in mind when we apply the criteria of ACCURACY and COMPLETENESS to the other sources we are going to discuss. We can now turn to these sources, beginning with INFORMATION FROM RELATIVES.

#### **4. INFORMATION FROM RELATIVES**

4.1 The orthodox advice is to ask your older relatives for family information. This is usually by word of mouth, but occasionally:

- i. The relative concerned will write down information, my mother did just that in her sixties before she became ill.
- ii. There may be letters, documents, photographs, funeral cards, obituaries, even certificates.

4.2 Try to obtain a good coverage – it is a good idea to have a checklist which you can use if you feel that prompting is necessary. For fuller information, see Steel – page 107.

4.3 Once you have made a start, extend the request for information to the older relatives, in particular your parents and grand parents if still alive. Also do not ignore uncles and aunts, including those who have married into your family. It is surprising what information about your family such in-laws can give (not always complimentary).

4.4 Now look at the results and rewrite the information, using a separate sheet of sheets of paper for each relative who gave the information.

Then try to classify it into:

- i. Those items that the relative might be expected to know
- ii. Those items that the relative probably does not know personally but has been told.

4.5 Check the notes from one relative against those of another and make careful notes of any DISCREPANCIES. Sometimes these can be significant. For instance, one of our aunts thought that the maiden name of her maternal grandmother was WOODWARD. It was in fact RALPH! The grandmother had lost both her parents while she was still young and had been brought up by the WOODWARDS, who subsequently cast her out when she fell for, and married an agricultural labourer. Two generations earlier a RALPH relative had married a WOODWARD.

4.6 Then identify those items where the relative is giving information about events which occurred early in his or her life – remember, this information is being given quite late in their life, and is therefore not contemporary.

4.7 Now the purpose of this article is to examine the probability of something being TRUE. No doubt most of you have already assembled the information, but I now invite you to consider whether this is:

- i. COMPLETE
- ii. ACCURATE

In so doing I ask you to think back to the results of your own self-analysis, paying particular attention to the notion of CONTEMPORARY EVIDENCE.

4.8 The question of “How Sure is Sure?” arises in two quite different ways:

- i. You apply the test to the relative concerned – can you reasonably expect an elderly relative to give you a COMPLETE and ACCURATE picture?
- ii. How far should you as genealogist, family historian, biographer or general historian be prepared to accept without question the information given.

4.9 Take the first question first.

It is advisable to label your notes with the DATE and PLACE, when and where the information was given. When you go back to these notes, possibly years later, you can at least know how old the relative was when the notes were made. Then again, perhaps it would be a good idea to make your own notes on WHAT WAS NOT COVERED, stating the reason, where known or suspected.

- i. Perhaps the informant said he did not know.
- ii. Perhaps he or she shied away from some questions.

But you might let the question cross your mind as to why Auntie Violet did not seem to mention anything about one of her aunts or her children when she could quite reasonably be expected to know.

4.10 The second question “How far should you as genealogist, family historian, biographer etc. be prepared to accept the information given?” is personal to you. You are the one who posed the questions and took the notes. From your knowledge of the relative concerned and the circumstances under which the questions were put, HOW SURE ARE YOU that the information is ACCURATE and COMPLETE?

- 4.11 Now what comes out of all this?
- i. You might think there are INACCURACIES
  - ii. You might think there are OMISSIONS
  - iii. As historians you should ALWAYS SEEK CORROBORATION of events that are not described by contemporaries.
  - iv. You note INCONSISTENCIES of information given by different relatives.
  - v. You might be displeased by the doubts you now experience about things you thought were true, but about which you are now having second thoughts.
  - vi. Nevertheless, it is GOOD HISTORICAL METHOD to identify these doubts, bring them out into the open, and then think about alternative methods of verification.

4.12 In my opinion however, too many genealogists and historians go too far the other way. It is one thing to cast doubt on the nature of oral evidence, but it is going too far to ignore it on that account only. Nearly all items of oral information have some truth in them somewhere and it is foolish to ignore them merely because they are heresy.

In 1962 a book was published entitled “Family Tree – an Adventure in Genealogy”. The author was Nancie Burns and Chapter 2 was headed “Tradition”. On page 28, she notes the remark of her Victorian, Ann Green, that “one of her ancestors lived at a castle.” This seemed most unlikely considered in the context of a Birmingham butcher but was subsequently found to be correct. A very similar thing happened to me. One of our two surviving Victorian aunts said very much the same thing when discussing her Isle of Wight ancestors and relatives. She also was right, but not in quite the same way. Her ancestor came from Corfe Castle in Dorset!

4.13 Possibly, then, you are not quite as confident about the material as you once were, so this is a convenient point to think about verification. For periods within living memory, we turn to documentary verification in the form, mainly, of CERTIFICATES, so we now move on to discuss CIVIL REGISTRATION of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS.

## **5. CIVIL REGISTRATION**

- 5.1 First of all, there are the GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.
- i. I am limiting the discussion, initially at least, to events in England and Wales.
  - ii. The events concerned are BIRTHS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS.
  - iii. The events are those registered from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1837 onwards.
- 5.2 The information comes basically in two forms:
- i. INDEXES prepared on a quarterly basis. These are described as March, June, September and December, and consist of events registered at any time in the three months ending with the last day of the quarter concerned. These are listed in alphabetical order.
  - ii. CERTIFICATES of births, marriages and deaths, prepared from applications which originate from the brief particulars in the indexes. Although expensive, these certificates of copies of entries are essential for maximum information about the events concerned. They are discussed in more detail later.
- 5.3 The indexes for births and marriages are to be found at St. Catherine's House and those for deaths at Alexandra House in Kingsway. For each entry they state the registration district, volume number and page number.

The most important features to note about these indexes and which can give rise to trouble are:

- i. The registration of the event can take place up to six weeks after the date of the event. This means that a birth, say, in March could be registered five weeks later and thus appear in the June quarter. Watch out for this – it is quite common.
- ii. The indexes in London are prepared from notification from local registrars. All copies, however carefully prepared, can and do contain errors of transcription. These indexes are no exception.

There are very rarely any errors in registration district, volume and page numbers.

5.4 ERRORS: These generally fall into two categories:

- i. The surname and/or Christian names are wrong. There might be a straightforward error in transcription. One must always remember that for much of the nineteenth century a very high proportion of the people in England and Wales were illiterate. This means that the registrar wrote down what he heard, or thought he heard. The possibilities for errors are obvious. The clearest advice is to check all possible variations in spelling. You should also do this even when you think you have found the entry required. Double checking pays.
- ii. The entry is just not there in the main indexes. This can happen when the local registrar, for any of a number of reasons, failed to notify the event to the General Register Office. It can also happen when the event did not reach the stage of local registration.

In the first case a useful remedy is to identify the local registration district and make an approach there. Apart from travelling costs or for the services of a local record searcher, there can be additional costs incurred at the local office, but there may be a real savings in time. In the second case, where the event is not even initially registered, recourse can be had to church records, which are reviewed later.

5.5 BIRTH INDEXES: Subject to the point concerning the relevant quarter mentioned in 5.3 above, the indexes themselves can be very useful.

- i. Apart from registration district etc. already mentioned, the indexes also show surname. They usually also show Christian name (s), but not always.

This situation arises in two main ways. The first is where the child died before being named. Clearly this cannot relate to your direct ancestor, but where you are building up a family history and the surname is uncommon, you might be interested.

The second, and more important situation comes about when the child has not been named at the time of registration. In theory this should have been put right by inserting the name when this has been decided. In practise this has not always been done, mainly, but not entirely in country districts. As a result, the indexes merely state “male” or “female” in the space for the Christian names.

- ii. After 1911 the indexes show the maiden name of the mother.
- iii. No mentions are made in the indexes of the name of the father, whether the father's name is known, or the exact date of birth.
- iv. Care needs to be taken in the case of illegitimacies. They are usually, but not always, registered under the surname of the mother. In one of my searches in Hampshire, the mother's name was Cosham and the father's, Whittle. The birth of the child was registered in the name of Whittle. The parents married two years later and then had more children. For a further example see the Honeycombes in Steel – page 32. The parents there did not subsequently marry.

5.6 BIRTH CERTIFICATES You can expect to see the following details on a birth certificate: date of birth, place of birth, Christian name, sex, name of father, occupation of father, name of mother (name, surname and maiden name) and the name of the informant, together with his or her signature, description and residence.

Much of this information can be wrong. We now come back to the question of illiteracy in the nineteenth century, so that the registrar wrote down what he heard, or thought he heard. Also, even when there was no difficulty in communication, the details can be incorrect, deliberately or otherwise.

The lesson then is clear. Never accept without question all the detail on a certificate. Always seek additional evidence. For the period 1837 to 1881, we can usually check with census returns, Wills and obituaries can also be used.

You might also note the quality of the certificate itself. Some are the result of photographic processes and are sometimes indistinct. Others are quite clearly copied in modern handwriting. I have met a number of examples of mistranscription, so again treat everything with caution.

5.7 DEATHS So far as the indexes are concerned, the stated age at death is not shown in the indexes before 1866. They are shown for years 1866 onwards and from 1970, the indexes also give the stated date of birth.

If you apply for a certificate you can expect to find on it, the following details: date of death, place where the death occurred, the stated age, causes of death, and the name address and relationship, if any, of the informant.



In addition to the limitations discussed above for birth certificates, you should normally suspect the accuracy of the stated age, unless you are dealing with a young person. The present is not the only time old people do not, or did not, die in their homes or those of their relatives. The informant no doubt did his or her best to be accurate.

Do not be surprised if the death is registered in an unexpected district. In the last few years, I have come across such a case. An Isle of Wight person all of her life failed in health in her seventies and went to live “for a short time” with her niece in Northampton. Within a year she died there. Now we know this, because it was comparatively recent, but of course there would be many such instances in the late nineteenth century.

#### 5.8 MARRIAGE INDEXES

Provided they took place, in some ways these are the easiest to find, although the search can sometimes involve looking at a period of twenty or more years. At four quarters a year, this can mean handling eighty books for each spouse. Be patient and persistent if necessary. A successful search brings its own reward. From a practical point of view, it is best to look first for the least common surname. You should also start looking at least two quarters AFTER the birth of the first known child – Steel, page 115. Once you have found a likely or possible entry, check the other spouse for the same quarter. If the registration district, volume and page numbers are the same, you are almost 100% sure of being right.

I mentioned the word “almost” for good reason. I was once looking for a marriage of JOHN APPLETON and ELIZABETH BROWN. APPLETON being the less common name I started looking for JOHN and eventually found him. A cross check with ELIZABETH BROWN, revealed the same identification particulars: Stepney, 1a, 651, so I applied for the certificate. The application was rejected. Although appearing on the same page JOHN APPLETON had married someone else and so had ELIZABETH BROWN! The chances of this happening are remote, but it does point out the fact that even an apparent certainty can be wrong.

#### 5.9 MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

Once you have the certificate you can expect to find the following information: date, names of the parties, their conditions (bachelor, spinster etc.), their stated ages, their address at marriage, their occupation or profession, their fathers names and occupations, where the ceremony was performed, and who the witnesses were. By now you will have guessed it - most of this can be, and often is, wrong. You can probably rely on the date and where the ceremony was performed. Indeed,

the latter can often be of use – a Catholic marriage revealing an unexpected Catholic connection. As for the rest watch out for:

- i. Wrong names – either deliberately false or perhaps misspelt. Do look out for wrong spellings. I once looked for a marriage of a MARGARET MINIHAN. After checking the references to MINAHAN, MINKHAN, MINHAN, MONOHAN, MOYNAHAN, I eventually found my entry under MINHAM. The Christian names are often wrong. Sometimes GEORGE HENRY, becomes HENRY GEORGE, sometimes either the first or second Christian names are omitted, and occasionally you get the wrong name altogether (perhaps a nickname).
- ii. Misrepresented condition – You might not expect this, but see Steel, page 118, where a man said he was a bachelor, when he was in fact divorced.
- iii. Wrong ages – These are notorious. Some are overstated, some understated – we can only speculate about the reasons. “Full Age” can be 21 or over – no joke, when he was in fact 42 when you start looking for his birth. The parties can also be under 21 even when they describe themselves as “Full Age”.
- iv. Wrong maiden name – If the lady had been married before, she might show her previous name as being either her maiden name or her previous married one.

#### 5.10 OTHER INDEXES

- i. Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Isles, have their own indexes. For further information and addresses, see Steel, page 116.
- ii. At St. Catherines House there are supplementary indexes for the Army, Navy, RAF and Consular Service – see Steel, page 116.

#### 5.11 DIFFICULTIES

Now let us look at the difficulties in consulting the indexes, always bearing in mind the main questions posed at the beginning of this article.

- i. Are the records accurate
- ii. Are they complete
- iii. How do you choose between more than one possibility
- iv. What do you do if there is no mention in the indexes

## 5.12 MARRIAGES

- i. There is usually not much problem when the names of both parties appear and have the same references.
- ii. If these are not found, then:
  - a) They were either not married; or
  - b) They were not married in England or Wales; or
  - c) There was a marriage but it was not recorded in the indexes at St. Catherines.

(In this case think about contacting the local registrar, if you have some clue as to who this might be).

BUT before concluding this, make sure that you have gone back far enough. My grandmother's maiden name was PARSONS, and her birth certificate indicated that her father was HENRY PARSONS and her mother ANN FOWLER (before marriage). What I did not know, was that she was the last of the family of children. With these common names I had to go back twenty-one years before I found the marriage entry and then I landed up in a registration district near Exeter of which I had never heard.

## 5.13 DEATHS

These are usually regarded as so important for Family History purposes – BUT:

- i. The stated age can give an indication of the year of birth
- ii. The certificate gives some evidence of an address
- iii. The certificate mentions the informant. This is likely to be a relative and if a married daughter, then you may have some useful family history information.
- iv. Sometimes you can obtain the date of death from indexes of Wills, if in fact the deceased left a will
- v. Many people feel it best to round off each generation. Later on, when you have come to a halt, you may be interested in the cause of death, but remember these are the STATED CAUSES. However, if the death was not by natural causes eg. Accident, or murder, then there should be something in the Press.

## 5.14 BIRTHS

Most difficulties arise here. You are stuck with the surname but occasionally you have an unusual Christian name.

- i. Always consider variations in spelling, especially in the 1800s. As previously stated, there was much illiteracy.
- ii. Bear in mind the possibility of changes in emphasis on Christian names, see Steel, page 114.

- iii. If there is more than one possible entry, take careful stock of what you know. The probable year of birth is almost certainly derived from the stated age at marriage. We have already discussed how accurate this might be. You should therefore consider alternative years.

When William Cox married in 1868, he said that he was “Of Full Age”. I assumed, and it was only an assumption, that he was born in Bristol. Unfortunately, all births of William Cox married in the Bristol area did not relate to one who had a father named Richard. (the name of the father appearing on the marriage certificate). After an enquiry about the 1881 census (which at the time was not generally available) it turned out that William had been born in late 1848.

- iv. Also consider what assumptions you are making about the place of birth (touched on above). When you are dealing with great grandparents and earlier, it does not follow that just because he or she married and died in the Bristol area that they were born there.

You may throw some light on this if you find mention in the census entries, which I hope to discuss next, but to proceed properly you need to make a list of all possible births, irrespective of place.

You then have to choose and remember; all you know from the marriage certificate is that the ancestor is son or daughter of (the father’s name) and occupation – assuming that this is actually given on the marriage certificate and furthermore that it is correct.

There are facilities, for which you pay, initially rather heavily, for having these entries checked until one with the right father is found. The full procedure for this is listed in Steel, page 114, under the heading “checking for people of the same name”.

Read this carefully. If you are searching an unusual name, either of child or father, you are probably in luck. If not, you can never be SURE unless all possible entries are checked, a very expensive business indeed. If you do compromise on

this, make SURE that in your working papers there is a complete list of all possibilities, and indicates:

- a) Those that St. Catherines House people say that they have checked for you, and
- b) Those for which you actually obtain a certificate.

5.15 Now suppose you cannot find any possible entry in the indexes and the question then arises as to whether they are complete. The answer to that is NO.

- i. The St. Catherines indexes are prepared from those made in the first place in local register offices.
- ii. To gain some idea of the omissions from the central list, look at the additions shown at the foot of many pages.
- iii. Unfortunately, this central index is in fact incomplete for the first forty odd years.
- iv. You might then consider visiting or writing to the local register office to see if you can make an appointment – some register offices can be difficult about this, but persist in your attempt.
- v. If you do succeed in going to a local office:
  - a) You will be charged a search fee
  - b) The local registrar does not keep records of marriages since 1837 solemnized at a Church of England ceremony, but he or she does keep all others.

For more information see Steel, page 114.

5.16 The last possibility is that the BIRTH may not have been recorded at all. This happened all too often in those early years, so you should look elsewhere for more information and this is perhaps the point where we turn to the census entries for 1841 to 1881.

This is also the point where this part of the article stops. If the Editor and you, the readers, wish, the second and final part will deal with census returns, parish registers and other parish records, bishops transcripts, wills and other sources, which affect our family history, with special emphasis on the techniques already discussed, and ending with specific examples illustrating degrees of probability and proof.

# Our Meetings

## **Quaker Records**

**Joseph Keith**

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. Keith prefaced his remarks with a brief outline of the Quaker religion, and went on to show how the records of the various Meeting Houses came into being, and how they went on to the area meeting and some went on to “national level”. Most of the records are of course the minute books of those meetings but they were not kept with the family historian in mind. Certainly, there is much of interest and if you know or suspect that some of your forbears were Quakers then it is well worthwhile making a search. The Library of the Society of Friends is open to all, and the staff will do their best to help. These few words do less than justice to a talk which was of absorbing interest and told us much more about those “Quaker Records”.

## **The Family Historian & the Library**

**Vic Gale**

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**

The purpose of this talk was to remind us that family historians may find books to interest them in many sections of the library, apart from the obvious “History” shelves. Vic took us through all the divisions of the Dewey Decimal System, explaining the logic of its classification, and drawing our attention to relevant titles in unlikely corners: like 820 (diaries); 711 (villages); 649 (child rearing). Above all, he recommended the 300s (Social Sciences), where law, the family, class structure, internal migration, medical services, criminology education .... an endless list awaits us, to put “flesh on the bones” of our highly individual ancestors. He did not neglect the 900s (history & geography), indeed he began with it, and I, for one, was glad of the reminder about the local Gazetteers which may be available in that section. (Perhaps I may be allowed to add, for others planning to browse in that area, that the best local history material in the public library, is often to be found in the Reference, rather than the Lending Department). Vic gave us a stimulating talk, broadening out the horizons of our hobby and reminding us, when we lift our eyes from the parish registers, of the wealth and variety of the material awaiting us in books.

Pat Kelvin

## **Army Records for Other Ranks**

**Chris Watts**

**July 8<sup>th</sup>**

“You’ve got to know the Regiment”, they say when a family historian goes looking for ancestors in the army. Chris showed us two ways of treating this discouraging pronouncement, taking us through those records which are not arranged by regiment (above all, W097 from 1873), and showing us how to set about finding the regiment.

Clues may be found in the rank of the soldier ancestor, the locations in which regiments recruited, the places where they were stationed or campaigned. His reminder about local newspapers as a source of regimental information was particularly useful; as was his warning that the “county regiment” did not necessarily recruit in the county after which it was named. In the discussion afterwards, David Hawkings mentioned another clue, for those who have photographs of soldier ancestors: uniforms and insignia can sometimes show not only the regiment, but the approximate date of service.

Once the regiment has been discovered the range of its records is formidable. Chris took us through the muster papers, description books, regimental registers, medal rolls, casualty lists, pension returns, and the records of the Royal Hospitals. His talk was illustrated by his account of his own search for an elusive John Watts - although one member of the audience, at least, wondered if she would have had the patience to track him down so persistently.

We were given detailed references to the classes of records Chris was describing. Those whose memories or notes are fallible can find the references again in the PRO leaflet on Army Records, or in their more general work, "Tracing Your Ancestors in the PRO".

Each type of source yields its own particular riches to the family historian. To me, the special contribution of army records is in their evocation of the physical presence of the men they document: height, colouring, distinguishing marks, fitness to serve and medical records if you are lucky, from the description books and discharge papers; movement from place to place, month by month, in the musters; cash entitlements, from pensions to beer money. Those like me, who have failed with army records in the past, will have been encouraged to have another go at tapping these riches.

Pat Kelvin

### **A Cheese & Wine Evening**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>**

It is some two years since we had a social evening and it was felt by the Committee that it was time for another. Most of the committee had a hand in preparing for this and I think we can say that it was a great success. At the end of the day we had made a small profit, your Editor won the first prize in the free draw, and a good time was had by all. Most members seemed to be talking "shop" most of the time and seemed reluctant to go home - always the sign of a good meeting!

### **The Elephant Hunt**

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**

By popular demand we repeated this afternoon session - and chose the day of the Cup Final for it. There were some new faces, but the majority were "2nd timers" anxious to continue their researches of last time. The whole thing went very well, and at the end of the day the "official solution" was placed on view. A certain committee member, reputedly one of our more experienced family historians has fallen into one of the 17<sup>th</sup> century traps and "will have to have another go". We are considering a further session sometime in the winter, if you have any views on a possible date - do let us know.

### **A ONE DAY CONFERENCE**

For some time now, the Committee has been considering such an event, and it has now been decided to organise a conference which will be held in Sept/Oct of 1984, - taking care not to clash with the Federation Meeting at Norwich, or the next English Genealogical Congress at York. Pat Kelvin, Yvonne Woodbridge, John Elkins and Sam Morton are in the early stages of planning this, and would welcome any comments.

# Research Reports

## MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

Work on this project was slow in getting started this year due to the somewhat inclement weather, we hope however that by the time this appears in print, St. Dunstan's, Cranford will be nearly completed. (Only the typing and printing remains - Ed).

There are still a lot of churchyards in the West Middlesex area waiting to be recorded. Why not make a contribution to future generations of family historians by recording the tombstones in your local parish church? All you need is a notebook, pencil, scrubbing brush, wellies, bags of enthusiasm and a few helpers. We particularly want help on the Middlesex/Surrey borders - e.g. Shepperton, Littleton, etc., but please check with one of us before you start, there is no point in duplication and we would be pleased to advise you.

Wendy Mott, Yvonne Woodbridge

## INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX

We hope to take delivery of a complete set of the Index for the whole of the British Isles within the next month or so. For the time being it has been decided to keep the Index and the reader in a member's home rather than try to persuade one of the local libraries to house it. Mavis Sibley - our librarian - who lives in West Drayton has very kindly volunteered, and the Index will be available for consultation at her home, subject to the following rules.

- 1) The Index may only be consulted by appointment
- 2) Appointments must be made by telephone to Mrs. Sibley no later than 9.30pm
- 3) The Index will be available for consultation by arrangement with Mrs. Sibley, but not normally at weekends
- 4) In the event of a large demand for the use of the reader a time limit may be imposed
- 5) Members of West Middlesex FHS will not be charged for consulting the Index but a contribution towards the cost of heating and lighting, and towards the cost of this Index and/or later copies will be welcomed
- 6) Non-members will be allowed to consult the Index only if there is no other Society user, and a charge of £2 per hour will be made

John Elkins





## **1851 CENSUS INDEXING**

We have now made a useful start. Separate slips are being made out for each family grouping under each Schedule in the Census, the information recorded on the slips being Surname, Christian name and ages, as well as identification particulars such as HO107 Piece Number and Folio.

Relationships and places of birth are not being shown. The members of the sub-committee were not unanimous about this, the majority view was that the final index (for each parish or each registration district) was to be a "finding aid" only. Will members of our society who do not live in the London area please let me know your views on this.

The whole of our area is taken by twelve reels of 35mm film and several of us are working in our own homes with converted slide projectors (thanks are due to Sam Morton for these conversions).

Our volunteers so far are Pat Kelvin, Connie Zouch, Mavis Sibley, Robert Chandler, John Elkin and Sam Morton for technical assistance. The Parishes we are working on at the moment are: Hayes, Uxbridge, Littleton, Sunbury, Brentford, Harefield and my contribution to all this is Heston. Ken Cox

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## **BOOKS TO READ**

Two more volumes from the Federation of Family History Societies:

### **Census Indexes and Indexing - Edited by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Chapman**

The 2nd Edition of this very useful book with more pages, and includes Jeremy's own system, which he explained very persuasively to a meeting of our society recently, with also a much-enlarged index showing by County, just what is being indexed at present, and the contact for information.

### **Land Tax Assessments - Edited by Jeremy Gibson and Dennis Mills**

A new publication about a fairly complex subject, contains much useful information, especially for a new comer to the subject, with an index of what is available and where to find it.

Both of these publications are priced very reasonably at £1, and they may be purchased from our bookstall. This is the price of most Federation publications and they really are very good value for the money. There must be a vast amount of "spare time work" by someone to make this possible.

This may also be an appropriate moment to offer our Congratulations to Ken Cox, our former Chairman who was elected to the Committee of the Federation at the recent AGM. Ken has taken over from Ann Chiswell the job of distributing agent for Federation Publications, and we wish his well.

# New Members

We welcome to the Society the following new members.

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| B33 Mr L. Bailey            | 29 Yeading Park, Hayes, Mddx. UB4 7DQ                              |
| C34 Mrs H. Clark            | 138a Northwood Road, Harefield, Mddx. UB9 6PS                      |
| C35 Mr R.S. Churchill       | 4 Whitebutts Rd., South Ruislip, Mddx. HA4 ONB                     |
| C36 Miss C. Cutler          | Flat 3a 137 Laleham Rd., Shepperton, Mddx.                         |
| D14 Mr Phillip B Dunn       | 3463W 5585So Salt Lake City, UTAH 84118 U.S.A                      |
| D15 Eleanor Dwight          | 246 Wangee Road, Greenacre, N.S.W. 2190 Australia                  |
| D16 Mr & Mrs Darling        | 115 Exmouth Road, South Ruislip, HA4 OOE                           |
| D17 Bill Davis              | 27 Byron Way, Hayes, Mddx. UB4 8AT                                 |
| E11 Mrs J. Exton            | 91 Grosvenor Ave., East Sheen, London. SW14 8BU                    |
| E12 Mrs G. Earl             | 42 Ashridge Way, Sunbury-on-Thames, Mddx.                          |
| F11 Mrs H.A. Forster        | 108 Feltham Road, Ashford, Mddx.                                   |
| H33 R.E. Hutson             | 7 Garth Wen, Llanfaes, Beaumaris, Gwynedd                          |
| H34 Mr. R.M. Hall           | 23 Parkland Grove, Ashford, Mddx. TW15 2JB                         |
| H35 D. Peter Hughes         | 13 Granard Avenue, Putney, London. SW15                            |
| H36 Mr & Mrs M. Hallt       | The Swallows, 4 Beverley Gardens, Swanmore, Hants                  |
| L13 Mr & Mrs E.A. Langston  | 62 Hatch Lane, Harmondsworth, Mddx. UB7 OAZ                        |
| L14 Derek J. Limpus         | 34 Manor Road South, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey                  |
| M19 Michael Markwick        | 101 Hounslow Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Mddx. TW2 7HA              |
| M20 Kathleen Mack           | 2 Munster Court, Munster Road, Teddington, TW11 9LP                |
| O5 Mrs E. Openshaw          | Morecroft, 48 Angel Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey                    |
| P24 Mrs J. Peeling          | 17 The Warren, Heston, Mddx. TW5 OJW                               |
| P25 Ron & Christine Parsons | 19 Paignton Road, Ruislip, Mddx. HA4 OBU                           |
| P26 Mrs E. Pett             | 15 Cedar Avenue, Whitton, Mddx.                                    |
| S16 Kathleen Roberts        | 42 Hunters Grove, Hayes, Mddx. UB3 3JE                             |
| S39 Mrs E. Shenton          | Flat 15 20 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey                        |
| S40 Peter F. Simmonds       | 4 Caroline Court, Ashford, Mddx. TW15 2AW                          |
| S41 Joan Scrivener          | 6 Cambrian Court, St.Marys Avenue, Norwood Green, Southall Mddx.   |
| S42 Mr & Mrs A.W. Swallow   | 163 Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Mddx.                                    |
| S43 Mrs J. Smith            | 40 St. Thomas' Road, Chiswick, London. W4 3LD                      |
| 76 Mrs V. Vallance          | 191 Cromwell Road, Hounslow, Mddx. TW3 3QW                         |
| W27 P.N. Wellstead          | 207 Brabazon Road, Heston, Hounslow, Mddx. TW5 9LW                 |
| W28 Alex F. Woolford        | PO Box 3, Windsor Court, R.R.2, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5H6, Canada |

## Change of Address -

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| J.A. Sweet, (S29)        | 4a Hallowell Road, Northwood, Middlesex. HA6 1DW |
| Miss C. O'Loughlin, (O4) | 77 Cranbourne Road, Northwood Hills, Middlesex.  |
| Mabel & Sam Morton, (M5) | 92 Avondale Avenue, Staines, Middlesex. TW18 2NF |

## - and their Surname Interests

|            |        |              |     |                |        |             |     |
|------------|--------|--------------|-----|----------------|--------|-------------|-----|
| Alsop      | 1825   | Worcs        | B33 | Manley         | 1800s  | Devon       | C36 |
| Atkinson   | 19c    | Birmingham   | W28 | Marley         | 1840   | Sussex      | B33 |
|            |        |              |     | Matson         | 1800s  | Eire/Sco    | D17 |
| Bailey     | 1833   | Hereford     | B33 | Maughan        | 1800   | Co Durham   | V6  |
| Beadsmore  | 19c    | Birmingham   | W28 |                |        |             |     |
| Bowdall    | 19c    | Eire         | P24 | Nutt           | 1800   | Oxon        | V6  |
| Burlingham | 18-19c | Norfolk      | L13 |                |        |             |     |
| Butcher    | 19c    | Yorks        | M20 | Parry          | 18-19c | Monmouth    | L13 |
| Butler     | 1800s  | Dorset       | P24 | Pascall        | 19c    | Kent        | S39 |
|            |        |              |     | Piddock        | 1830   | Kent        | H35 |
| Cann       | 18c    | Devon        | S39 | Pizzey         | 1800   | Sry/Brk     | C36 |
| Cummings   | 19c    | Eire         | P24 | Plumley        | 1800   | Dorset      | C36 |
| Cutler     | 19c    | Hampshire    | C36 | Porter         | 1850   | Flintshire  | H35 |
|            |        |              |     | Prosser        | 1830   | Hereford    | H35 |
| Danton     | 1830   | Kent         | H35 |                |        |             |     |
| Davidson   | 1800s  | Scotland     | D17 | Randall        | 1800s  | Hampshire   | C36 |
| Davi(e)s   | 19c    | Eir/Sco/USAD | L17 | Rogers         | 1820   | Oxon        | B33 |
|            |        |              |     | Rogers         | 1830s  | Middlesex   | E11 |
| Fosbery    | 19c    | Lancs        | M20 | Remsbery       | 1800s  | Ham/Ken     | S41 |
| Frowen     | 18-19c | Glos         | L13 | Rosewall       | 18-19c | E/London    | L13 |
| Grose      | 1850s  | Germany      | P24 | Saunders       | 1850s  | Middlesex   | E11 |
|            |        |              |     | Scarsbrook     | 1800   | Oxon        | B33 |
| Haas       | 1800   | France       | V6  | Scrivener      | 18-19c | Beds        | S41 |
| Halbert    | 1830   | Scotland     | V6  | Sengler Andlau | 1800   | France      | V6  |
| Hallt      | 1800s  | Middlesex    | H36 | Shenton        | 19c    | Lan/Lei     | S39 |
| Haswell    | 1800   | Co Durham    | V6  | Shingleton     | 19c    | Som/Mid     | P24 |
| Hatrick    | 1800   | Eir/Sco      | D17 | Simmonds       | 1850s  | Middlesex   | S40 |
| Heather    | 18-19c | Any          | H26 | Smeed          | 1830   | Kent        | H35 |
| Hewlett    | Any    | Any          | E12 |                |        |             |     |
| Hitch      | 17-18c | Cambs        | S39 | Taylor         | 19c    | Middlesex   | W28 |
| Hopkins    | 19c    | Birmingham   | P24 | Toler          | 19c    | Chs/Sry     | M20 |
| Hughes     | 1850   | Montgomery   | H35 | Townsend       | 19c    | Oxon        | B33 |
| Hut(d)son  | Any    | Uxbridge     | H33 | Tuck           | 1780s  | Hampshire   | C36 |
| Jeffery    | 1800s  | Wiltshire    | P24 | Wakenell       | 1800s  | Oxon        | C36 |
| Jenkins    | 1850   | Hereford     | H35 | Walters        | 19c    | Hampshire   | C36 |
|            |        |              |     | Wellsted       | 19c    | Ken/Ntt/Wil | W27 |
| Lane       | 1820   | Worcs        | B33 | Wheeler        | 17-19c | Lan/Sal     | M20 |
| Langston   | 18-19c | Middlesex    | L13 | Wildears       | 1800s  | Any         | H26 |
| Lister     | 19c    | Scotland     | P24 | Wild(e)s       | 1800s  | Any         | H26 |
|            |        |              |     | Winchcombe     | 1800   | Wilts       | V6  |
|            |        |              |     | Woolford       | 18-19c | Middlesex   | W28 |
|            |        |              |     | Wratten        | 1830   | Kent        | H35 |

These entries are of necessity somewhat condensed, but they still show the basic pattern. Full details are contained in our slip index. Just to repeat our Chairman's remarks, we hope to publish a new directory early next year, and you have until the AGM to correct/enlarge/reduce your list.

## HELP !!!

**JUDD** Susan. Birth/Baptism details required, from the Census of 1871/81 it would seem that our Susan was born about 1843 in Hammersmith, but there is no record in St. Catherine's House Indexes. Her father was Joseph Judd. When we reach that part of the 1851 Census, we will have a look for the girl, but meanwhile, our member, would be grateful for any information.

**Mr. A Saville, 30 Abbey Road, Malvern, Worcs.**

**SHUTTLE** Thomas. Born in the 1830s at Egham Hythe, information sought on birth/baptism/ancestry. *and*

**OSMAN** James. Born 1800/10 also at Egham Hythe, he had a wife named Elizabeth, and two sons at least, their names were John and Thomas. Seeking any information available on these two families, and would be glad of any help.

**L. A. Tedder, 26 Leslie Road, Chobham, Surrey**

### **St. LUKE, Chelsea**

Jeanne Baker of the East of London FHS, wrote to us the other day; her Society recently acquired photocopies of Baptisms at this Church from 1793-1812 and 1818-1831. They are simple indexes giving name of baptised and date only. It was decided to pass on these indexes to Chelsea Reference Library, Chelsea Old Town Hall. The original registers are of course at the GLRO, but if you happen to be in Chelsea, you might be able to save a little time.

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## MIDDLESEX STRAYS

|                                  |            |                                    |             |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| ANTHONY Daniel. Ealing           | mar.1730   | JELlicoe Adam. Lincolns Inn        | mar.1789    |
| ANTROBUS William. Westminster    | mar.1818   | JENNINGS Deborah London            | bur.1774    |
| ARMAN John. Uxbridge             | mar.1794   | JOHNSON William. Westminster       | bur.1700    |
| ASHLEY Mary. Hillingdon          | mar.1747   | JOHNSTON George. Hendon            | bap.1811    |
| ASHTON Frances. London           | bur.1705   | JON Charity. Pimlico               | Wil.1883/95 |
| ASHTON Frances. London           | bur.1727   |                                    |             |
|                                  |            | KEMP Mary. London                  | bur.1783    |
| BACKHOUSE John. Christchurch     | mar.1802   | KENNER Robert. London              | bap.1628    |
| BACON Nathaniel. Kensington      | mar.1833   | KITCHING Maria. London             | bur.1735    |
| BALE Edward. Westminster         | mar.1711   | KNAP John. London                  | mar.1680    |
| BALL Elizabeth. Whitechapel      | mar.1682   |                                    |             |
| BANISTER William. Clerkenwell    | mar.1821   | LAMBE Robert. London               | mar.1755    |
| BARBAR Mary. London              | bur.1767   | LEIGH John. London                 | bur.1686    |
|                                  |            | LESLIE Morice. Hanover Squ.        | mar.1892    |
| CALEMAN John. St.Martin/Fields   | wil.1804   | LIGHT Zachariah. St.Luke           | mar.1824    |
| CAM Thomas. London               | bur.1712   | LIGO Mary. London                  | bur.1726    |
| CARTER Ann. London               | bur.1752   | LUMLEY Robert. St.Clement Danemar. | 1831        |
| CHILTON Thomas. London           | mar.1682   |                                    |             |
| CLAPHAM Mary. Clerkenwell        | mar.1696   | MAKERITH William. MiddleTemple     | mar.1602    |
| CLARK Francis. Staines           | mar.1814   | MASON John. London                 | mar.1706    |
| CURR Rebecca. London             | wil.1762   | MATHEW Rychard. London             | bur.1588    |
|                                  |            | MORO John. Bethnal Green           | mar.1763    |
| DALBY Thomas. Ludgate            | bap.1745   | MUNN Thomas. Acton                 | mar.1699    |
| DALE Thomas. Stepney             | mar.1728   |                                    |             |
| DASHWOOD Chamberlaine. St.Giles  | bap.1683   | NICHOLS Thomas. London             | bap.1686    |
| DAWES William. St.Marg/West-er   | mar.1779   | NICHOLS John. London               | bap.1610    |
| DORELL Ann. London               | bap.1614   | NIVEN Rebecca. Soho.               | bur.1854    |
| DOUGLAS Edmund. Ealing           | mar.1821   | NUMCOM Susan. London               | bap.1704    |
| DUBBER Edward. London            | bap.1676   |                                    |             |
|                                  |            | ORCHARD Joseph. Kensington         | bur.1684    |
| EARLE John. London               | bur.1663   | OXFORD Edward. London              | bap.1830    |
| EGLETON Jonathon. London         | bur.1709   |                                    |             |
| ELLIS John. Hounslow             | mar.1790   | PAGETT Robert. London              | bap.1609    |
| EWIN Francis. London             | bur.1610   | PALMER Thomas. Uxbridge            | bur.1788    |
|                                  |            | PARLISH Woodbine. Westminster      | mar.1819    |
| FARMOR Elizabeth. London         | bur.1607   | PARKER Eliza. St.Mary Ovaries      | bap.1814    |
| FARRELL John. Brentford          | mar.1833   |                                    |             |
| FEASON Sophia. Chelsea           | bap.1817   | RAYNES Thomas. StMartin/Field      | mar.1621    |
| FELLOW Reginald. London          | mar.1705   | ROBINSON Joseph. Stanwell          | mar.1751    |
| FIDDIAN Frederic. Kensington Sq. | mar.1842   | ROGERS Levy. St.Luke.Mdx.          | mar.1807    |
| FISHER James. London             | mar.1695   |                                    |             |
|                                  |            | SKEAT William. Hanover Sq.         | mar.1766    |
| GAMMAN William. St.Luke Mdx      | mar.1805   | STEVENS Eliza. Notting Hill        | bur.1838    |
| GATES Robert. Harrow             | mar.1743   | SYMONS Elizabeth. W/chapel         | mar.1734    |
| GEORGE Lydia. St.Giles/field     | bur.1821   |                                    |             |
| GIBBONS Robart. St.James West.   | mar.1827   | THOMPSON Elizabeth. London         | mar.1805    |
| GIBBONS William. Covent Gdn.     | wil.1725/8 | THORRINGTON Ann. Hillingdon        | bap.1813    |
| GILLES James. Sunbury.           | mar.1807   | TIPPING Ann. Kensington            | bur.1719    |
| GILLES Peter. Heston             | mar.1807   | TURTON William. Middlesex          | mar.1805    |
| GIRDLER Thomas. Hillingdon       | mar.1772   |                                    |             |
| GRIMSTON Edward. Uxbridge        | bur.1656   | VAXE Mary. London                  | bur.1708    |
|                                  |            | VIRET Francis. N.Kensington        | wil.1878    |
| HALDANE Robert. London           | wil.1825   |                                    |             |
| HALTON William. London           | mar.1708   | WATE Elizabeth. St.Andrew Hol.     | bur.1712    |
| HEARD Emma. London               | bur.1891   | WEBB Elizabeth. London             | bap.1825    |
| HILTON John. London              | mar.1573   | WEBB Sarah. Fulham                 | mar.1785    |
| HOYLE Mrs. Westminster           | bur.1717   | WILKINSON Elizabeth. London        | bur.1820    |
| HUX Thomas. St.Sepulchre Lon.    | mar.1704   | WOODWARD Thomas. London            | bur.1610    |

## And Finally

In the last journal I mentioned that Mabel and I were in the process of moving house. We have now moved to almost the western edge of our “patch” and are finding our way around Staines. Once a town in Middlesex, it still has that postal address but is now part of the administrative county of Surrey. How I envy our forbears, for whom moving was such a simple task - with so few personal effects it was just a matter of “get up and go”. Small wonder that with the complications of a move today, we assume (quite incorrectly) that they remained always in the same spot. On a personal note, may I ask please that you remove our former address from your files and replace it with that given below. We are receiving much correspondence sent on from Isleworth, and I am sure the new owners will be glad to see the last of it.

I make no apologies for giving almost the whole of this journal over to an article by Ken Cox. I considered dividing it, but felt that it would lose some of its impact that way. As you will see, Ken has suggested a sequel and I intend to keep him to that.

Vic Gale has also promised a short series on the Dewey Decimal System as a follow-up to the talk he gave to the society recently. To me, at least, the talk was a timely reminder that the catalogue is the key to the whole library.

As I write these words, the AGM seems a long time away, but it is not too soon to consider our committee elections. With Chris leaving, we have two vacancies and to anyone thinking of offering their services I would say- “Go on, have a go - you won’t regret it”. A successful committee works harmoniously and doesn’t take life too seriously, and it is that attitude that has made these last three years so pleasant for me; I have enjoyed every minute of my time as a committee member. Chris’ departure means that we need a new Chairman, not an easy post to fill, but none the less essential. Any Offers?

Your Secretary & Editor have a new address, - please note:

92 AVONDALE AVENUE  
STAINES,  
MIDDLESEX  
TW18 2NF



## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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