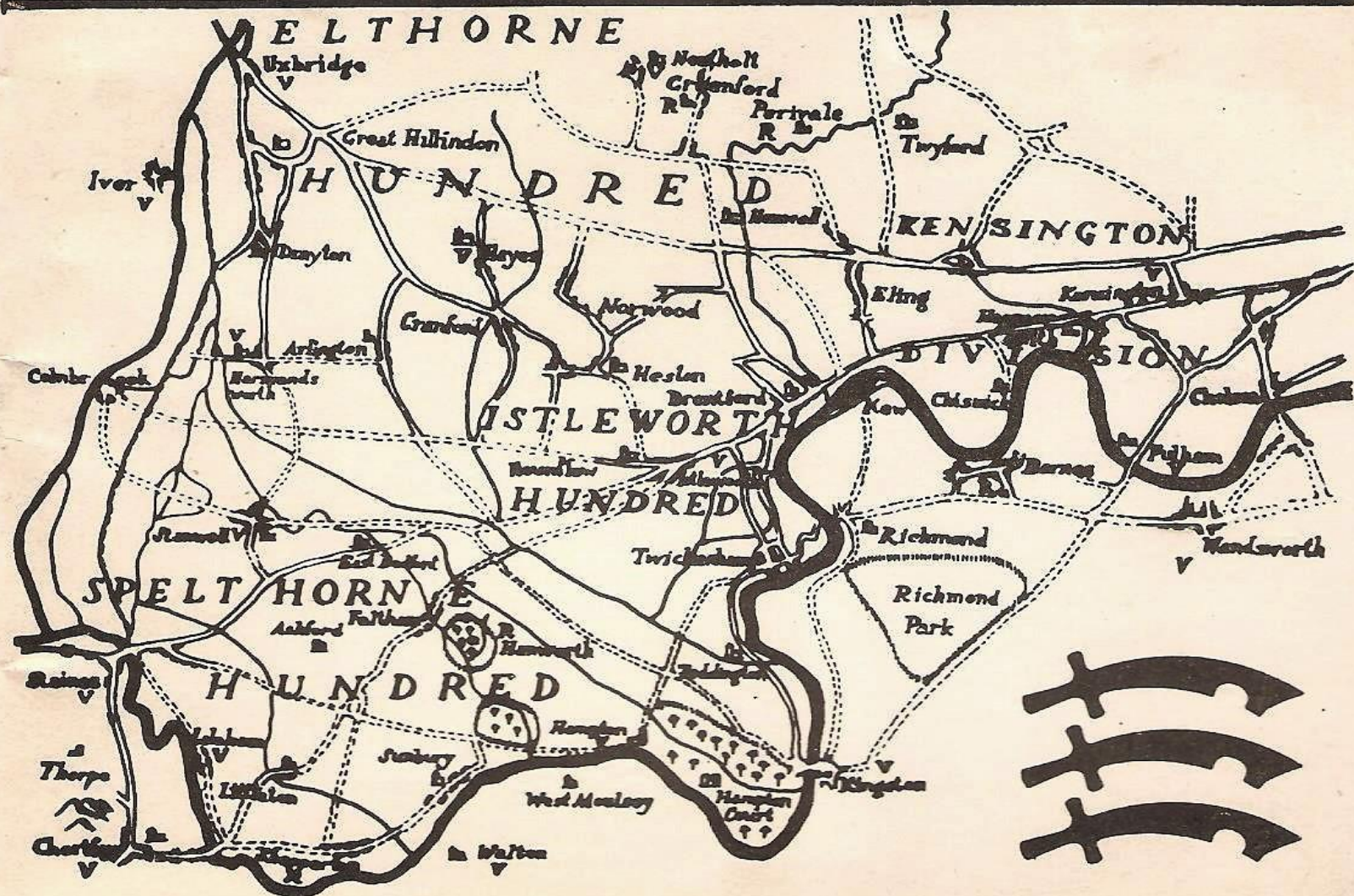


West Middlesex Family History Society Journal

ISSN 0142-517x

Vol. 7 No. 2

July 1988



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Bankers National Westminster, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
Branch Code, 60-22-10 Account No. 19463146

Subscriptions	Individual Membership	£5.00 per annum
	Family Membership	£7.50 per annum
	Corporate Membership	£4.00 per annum

(Overseas members now pay the same rate as U.K. members)

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Published by the WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

A Registered Charity no. 291906

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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, 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.

YOUR CHAIRMAN

Several meetings on, the 10th anniversary celebrations in the pipeline, and I'm still in one piece, thanks to your very encouraging support.

I have, personally, enjoyed hearing all our recent speakers, not the least of whom has been Glyn Morgan - the one also most responsible for helping me along. Thanks Glyn, and you Vic for doing such a splendid, and very time-consuming job on the journals, as well as several other tasks. We are planning to exchange an increasing number of journals with other groups and I believe will get a very good deal.

Since my time in the Society, the varied and interesting programme has been organised with great efficiency by Gilly Hughes. Having put in overtime for us since retiring from the committee, she has now handed over the task to Janet Huckle. Our thanks for all the hard work and ideas Gilly and trust it will provide you with the time you need for your own research. Good luck Janet I feel sure things will continue to run on oiled wheels under your able control.

I have been very pleased to receive some helpful suggestions from members and we are hoping to get one or two new things going in the near future. One of these is a Small Ads. Board; up at meetings where you can display private advertisements eg. "I am going through the census for Scottish Borders at the Mormon Church and could easily look out for other names". Members should find this useful and thanks Mary Mason for the idea.

We are looking carefully at the structuring of future programmes and hoping to incorporate some of your suggestions. We would like to encourage more members to take part themselves. The possibility of "visits" of different types is also being investigated. These might range from a conducted tour of one of the Record Offices; a visit to another Family History group; or organised M.I. sessions. Other ideas would be welcome eg. Are stately homes or museums of interest?

Because the tasks we are taking upon ourselves are ever increasing, we are considering the idea of using sub-committees with additional co-opted members from the floor. If you are approached to help out, please accept because not only would it help us considerably, to function more efficiently, but also, in all probability you would enjoy taking a more active part even if only on a short-term project. Please don't hesitate to volunteer as we may not always know who to ask. There is certainly no better way of learning fast, as I can say - with experience.

Finally, on the assumption that you are reading this about the time of our 10th Anniversary, let us look forward to the excitements, discoveries and comradeship of shared interests during the next 10 years of Family History.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- July 8 **“10th Anniversary Meeting”**
The Society was founded in July 1978, this is a party to celebrate our first ten years. There will be food and wine available with a charge of £1 per person. All are welcome.
- August 12 **“Help and be Helped”**
From beginners to the advanced Family Historian, we all can learn from others. At this meeting there will be a chance for all our members to ask or proffer advice. Please come along with your queries and we will try to answer them, but also be prepared to offer advice of your own
- September 9 **“Andrew Pears & the story of his transparent soap”**
- **Andrea Cameron**
- October 14 **To be arranged**
- November 11 **“How Sure is Sure – 3”** - **Ken Cox**
More thoughts on how certain we can be in the tracing of our ancestors.
- December 9 **Annual General Meeting + a small talk**
The meetings are held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow (just off Hounslow High Street) commencing at 7.30 on the second Friday of every month.

OTHER DATES

- September 9-11 The North West Kent F.H.S. hosts:
The Autumn weekend Conference & F.F.H.S. Council Meeting
The conference will be held at Avery Hill College, Eltham, London SE9. On the theme **“Villages within the City”**, and will deal with villages engulfed in the growing city. Full details from:
Tom Manthorpe, 54 The Fairway, Bromley, Kent BR1 2JY
- October 8 Joint Conference of the Middlesex Societies entitled:
“The Lure of London” at the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road. There will be a series of five lectures, with bookstalls and refreshments.

JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION

Mike Markwick is now in charge of Journal Distribution, any problems involving non receipt, or as has happened receiving 2 copies, should be referred to him at:
101 Hounslow Road, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 7HA

THE WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

1978-1988

DAVID HAWKINGS

In the Summer of 1978 following advertisements in various journals a group of about a dozen family historians met on the 30th June in West Drayton Library to set about forming a local family history society. The meeting was chaired by Royston Gambier on behalf of the Federation of Family History Societies and temporary officers were appointed to set the wheels in motion. Shortly after, another meeting was called in Hounslow Manor School on 19 July 1978 where about fifty people attended. The Society was then officially set up and officers formerly elected. At that time, it was proposed to call the Society "The West London Family History Society". At about the same time the Central Middlesex and North Middlesex Societies were being formed and it was then decided that we should be called the West Middlesex Family History Society.

Monthly meetings began in Hounslow Manor School attended by an average of about 30 members. By the end of 1981 it was found that the room in the school was far too small for the increasing number of members attending meetings and we then moved to Hounslow Town Hall where we continued until May 1984. Shortly after; the Town Hall was demolished to make way for a shopping precinct. Since then, we have flourished in the newly built Montague Hall, Hounslow.

Our monthly meetings are regularly attended by over 60 members and sometime over a hundred, and the Society continues to grow; we now have 380 members. Our meetings include guest speakers who give us the benefit of their research. We have also held beginners' courses and discussion evenings.

Some members have given a considerable amount of their time in copying the gravestones of several churchyards and cemeteries and other have painstakingly transcribed some Middlesex Parish Registers. Such work is much to be encouraged as gravestones soon erode and crumble and parish registers, though most are now in Record Offices, are much easier to consult in a typed and indexed form.

Some family historians see little benefit in becoming a member of their local society unless they have local ancestors but much can be learned by attending lectures and discussing one's own family history problems with others.

Although all my known ancestors came from Somerset, I can certainly boast of a most exciting discovery by being a member of our Society. By chance I asked one of our members who was visiting from New Zealand, what family she was researching. "Pole" she said, "from Somerset", well I said, "One of my family - Grace Hawkins married a Faithful Pole in the 18th century". Yes, she said Faithful and Grace are my ancestors". So, I had found a very distant cousin! You just never know what or who you may turn up.

We have nearly completed our tenth year and to celebrate we are holding a wine and cheese party. Good luck to you all and happy hunting.

[David was a founder member of our Society and it's first Chairman, seeing the Society through its initial years and later serving a second term on the Committee as Vice Chairman. He keeps an eye on our progress and is always ready to help out, notably last year when our November speaker could not come, David filled in at the last minute. It was his suggestion to have the wine and cheese party for our Tenth Anniversary Meeting, and with a small committee has been organising this]

Editor

HOW ARE YOUR CUTTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS?

MIKE NEIGHBOUR

What is in your family history file?

I have just looked through mine again. I keep it rather like a diary; each new discovery is written up. And that's the point. It's mainly words, apart, that is, from those little trees which very quickly get out of control. Because the folders are used frequently, I keep all my pages in a series of folders with transparent plastic envelopes inside. Thus; each new page is protected from constant thumbing and inserting new pages is relatively easy. Of course, the special shape of the G.R.O. certificates warrant a separate folder.

Maps are important too. I try to draw sketch maps, or copy existing maps, of each location I visit; these being the homes of my ancestors. Alongside I include photographs of villages, farms or other buildings that are relevant. Thus, each photograph can be topographically identified, and this greatly enhances the value of the work as a definitive record.

Where newspaper cuttings have survived, or copies of them taken, I like the idea of including them in the main body of the folder where their subject matter is more relevant. It is also important to make a photocopy of your original cuttings as soon as possible. Everyone is aware how quickly newsprint turns yellow. Everyone knows how awkwardly shaped some cuttings can be, necessitating some folding. However, unfolding the paper after some period of time can damage it, and the content of a line of print can be lost. I now overcome this potential problem early on by mounting my cuttings on white paper, using a photographic spray adhesive. If necessary, I cut and reform the original so that it fits onto an A4 size backing sheet.

Most important of all I label the margin of the sheet with the date of publication and the name of the journal. Most libraries and many main post offices now have copying machines and it is worth a few pence to preserve an important source. (Not all machines provide good copies, so it is a useful exercise to test several in your area and then let all your friends know which you consider to be the best)

Where are all the photographs so important to your family history folder? I don't mean the rich colour prints you take, but the black-and-white ones taken by other people in earlier times. Which are the most valuable and the most interesting? Which are the oldest? Have you negatives for them all? What condition are they in? Have you a special photograph framed behind glass and sitting on a mantle shelf or window sill? Here it catches either heat from a fire or full sunlight, so making the paper more brittle and bleaching the tones from the surface.

I expect my collection is fairly typical. About 200 assorted prints, with about as many again held by other members of the family. A small quantity of them date from the 19th century; or two precious ones from the early days of photography. I have no negatives for any of these.

Like the other parts of my family history project, the photograph collection is used; inspected from time to time; handled so that individual prints can be placed next to each other for comparison; turned over and tiny prints held to strong light. But what else are we to do with them?

Our photograph collections are primary sources. Unique. And we are sometimes handling them to death. If we want the visual images of our family's history to survive, in order to support the research, we have so painstakingly carried out, then we must take great care of all our documentary sources. And that includes our photograph collection.

I have now photographically re-copied my grade A collection, which includes all the earliest prints and those without negatives. Re-copying gives me four benefits:

- (1) I get a new print which I can handle as much as I like;
- (2) I get a negative for the first time, so other members of the family can be given copies;
- (3) I can make copies whatever size I want, up to the limit of the negative's resolution (determined by the quality of the original print);
- (4) I am no longer quite so concerned because I have the means of replacing material which might get lost or damaged. (As long as everything is not kept in the same place!)

In fact, it has been a most rewarding task, as I have been able to study each original and decide exactly what I want to reproduce. Selective enlargements are an obvious choice, but I can also choose a harder or softer contrast, a different type of paper, a soft edge, replace the sepia original with a black-and-white copy; or make a new sepia copy.

At last, I am beginning to pay the kind of attention to my old photographs that their uniqueness deserves.

Michael K. Neighbour, 27 Knutsford Avenue, Watford. WD2 4EQ

BEFORE ALL THIS

VIC GALE

Our West Middlesex Family History Society (founded 1978) was amongst the last formed of the County Societies which now cover the whole country. The heyday of the new societies was probably between 1974 and 1975 and before about 1972 there were hardly any.

Then, genealogy and family history was a very lonely study. There was the Society of Genealogists, of course, largely then a “club” for professional genealogists and with a membership only just creeping towards 3,000; there was a scattering of evening classes run by a few enthusiasts - but in the main, one was, on one’s own. A few text books were available in the libraries - Arthur Willis’s “Genealogy for Beginners” published in the mid 1950’s was probably the first, and he was certainly my mentor; over the years a few more became available, and then Alex Haley’s account of his “Roots” started the flood - especially after it was televised.

What there was not in those early days, was the interchange of ideas, the discussion about one’s problems and successes which the family history societies made possible. But perhaps more important for our individual researches, there was no I.G.I. or the many transcripts and indexes which are now available to us. Without the encouragement of the societies there was a lack of effort - both team effort and individual effort - to copy registers and record memorial inscriptions and prepare the indexes on which we all now rely (perhaps too much!). To say all this is not to belittle the work of those individuals who, in their lonely way had ploughed the original furrows - but there were so few of them. Phillimore’s Marriage Indexes and Boyd come instantly to mind. Other enthusiasts, including local history and specialist publishing societies, were transcribing Parish Registers, and others were tackling their own special interests - Hearth Taxes, Muster Rolls and so on - but really one had to be pretty lucky to find much in print or copy form that was of much use to one’s progress. Of County Marriage indexes, and indexes to the Censuses there were probably none.

The records were all there of course - sometimes more accessible, sometimes less. I can’t recall when all the various changes came about, but when I started (more years before West Middlesex than I care to recall), things were very different.

The General Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths was kept at Somerset House which, with its iron railed galleries and tight little spiral staircases to reach them, had a much more appropriate ambience than the more matter of fact, business like St. Catherine’s House. There was far less room but far fewer people as well, and there was never in my experience the awful scrimmage that one can find at St. Catherine’s, which all too often nowadays seems to be the haunt of hooligans using the big books as battering rams. The prices were different too. Nothing was free and you had to pay 1/6d (to-day’s 7.5 p.) to search five years of any of the indexes, and the patrolling attendants would peer over your shoulder to make sure you didn’t stray into a sixth

year without paying for it! (You could though buy a day's season ticket for £1 and do all the searching your arms and back would allow. It doesn't seem a lot of money now, but when that same pound would also have bought more than four gallons of petrol, it puts it a little more into perspective). When you had found what you sought (though success was no more guaranteed then, than it is now!) the certificate cost another 3/9d (about 19p.)

Censuses too were in a different world. Until 1962 there were, of course, only the 1841 and 1851 available, and as I said earlier, no indexes, no photocopies in the local libraries - and Portugal Street was no more than just another London Street. All the Public Records were at Chancery Lane - again a much nicer place for our ancient records - and more important, they were brought to you in their original document form. None of those wretched eye-grinding, head-thumping microfilm readers in those days. It took much longer to get the one you wanted up from the vaults though - you could wait up to two or more hours and we used to 'phone the day before so that they would be ready and waiting for us when we arrived. The documents themselves were produced in great cardboard boxes tied up with red tape (like they still are at Kew); they were foolscap size and about six inches deep with perhaps a whole or half a Registration District in each. When you found what you wanted, you could get a photostat (the old sort, white writing on black paper) for a few shillings.

When it came to Parish Registers, you almost certainly had to go to the Parish church to see them. Some of the more responsible incumbents and churchwardens had deposited their documents at Record Offices (or allowed copies to be made for deposit) but most had not; and their accessibility depended entirely on the whim of the individual Vicars. Certainly, there were those who would have all their books lined up on a desk in a comfortable room in the Vicarage and probably a cup of coffee as well and no fee asked for - but they were few and far between. There were also those whose minds worked like cash registers and ticked up all the three and ninepences (which seemed to be the proper charge according to their interpretation of the appropriate Parochial Church Measure) for each year that you looked at. Many would not allow you to look at their registers without their remaining present; quite proper, of course, but jolly inconvenient when they said they were too busy to see you anyway (and no doubt they were, to be fair). On the other hand, one that I can recall simply gave us the keys to the church safe in the vestry and asked us not to disturb the sacramental wine or church silver whilst we were getting the books out! It was all very hit and miss.

So, on balance, are we better off now? The answer has to be an emphatic "Yes", with all the research facilities we now have available to us in print and on fiche and film, that without the family history societies we probably would not have. And for all the other benefits that the Societies bring to us - Journals, like this one, the members' interests lists, the talks and seminars and "brains trust" sessions, and as I said at the beginning, the opportunities for exchanging ideas over cups of tea. I have to say that it is sad, that so many family historians will probably never have the joy of handling

the original documents that carry the records of their forebears and of seeing the names they seek in the ink and on the paper that they were written all those years ago. However, it is all too easy for us to destroy the things that we cherish by over-using them; and perhaps because of the success of family history societies, there are now so many of us handling these old papers that something had to be done to protect them – it is sad, nevertheless.

And what of our own West Middlesex efforts? There can be no doubt that in our ten years we have accomplished much to make the records of our area more available to researchers through the copies, transcripts and indexes that we have made. There is still much to be done, and in our next ten years perhaps we can do some of it. I'm sure we will.

(Vic Gale is a founder member of our Society and has been involved in Family History, as he says, "for more years than he cares to recall". Vic was the original Projects Coordinator for the Society and he started the West Middlesex Marriage Index, which now contains over 39,000 entries; one of the major contributions of this society to help research in our area of interest. In his letter to me he comments that: "Most of the article itself was actually written at 41,000 feet on the flight home!"

I wonder what our ancestors would have thought of that!)

Editor

A REMARKABLE MISTAKE

LOCAL POLICE CASES HEARD AT BRENTFORD

George Warwick, described as a labourer, no home, was charged with being a suspected person found on enclosed premises at 11 Queens Road, Southall, supposed for the purpose of committing a felony. According to the evidence of Mrs. Bonnett and her two sons, who live at the above-mentioned address, they were awakened at 2 o'clock in the morning by a violent ringing of the bell. On looking out of the window, Mrs. Bonnett saw the prisoner and asked him what he wanted. He made no reply and she then apprised her sons who, on going downstairs, found the accused in the passage. The prisoner was again asked what he wanted, but he refused to say, and even the promise of having his head knocked off with a rifle if he did not answer, did not have a loosening effect on his tongue. The police were then sent for, and the prisoner was taken into custody. The prisoner's defence was a denial that he was in Southall for any felonious intent. His explanation was that he left Shepherds Bush in the morning with the intention of seeing his wife who lived at 11 Queens' Road, High Wycombe, and he called his mother as witness, who supported his evidence. The Bench accepted the prisoner's version and discharged him on the charge of being a suspected person, but fined him 5d for ringing the bell without lawful excuse.

Southall Gazette, 1 March, 1902

Mavis Sibley

NOTES AND NEWS

SHROPSHIRE F.H.S.

Have you any ancestors who might have been buried in Shropshire? If so, then a computerised index of nearly 17,000 names and involving 4,600 different surnames that have appeared in M.I.s within that County; may be of help to you. Non-members of the above society can apply for help for a fee of £2 plus an SAE, which will include a printout of all entries up to five surnames, with the following information:

Surname; Name of each churchyard it appears in; Grave Numbers for each;

Please apply directly to:

Michael J. Hulme, 19 Brook Road, Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury SY4 3PU

MILITARY ANCESTRY

Capt. Erik Grey late of the Queen's Royal Regiment has made a speciality of tracing Army ancestry, and with his background as a military historian would be well fitted to help those who either are unable to get to such places as the P.R.O. at Kew, or when they get there, find the material overwhelming. Capt. Grey emphasises that this work is essentially a retirement hobby with him, and while he asks for a fee, it will be very modest compared with what some researchers charge. Interested persons should write directly to him for further details at:

32 Minster Drive, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5UP

WHERE IS MIDDLESEX

We don't need to ask this question, but plenty of the letters your secretary receives from overseas, do raise this query. An organisation that is successfully putting MIDDLESEX back on the map again after being nearly obliterated by our legislators, is the recently formed "Friends of the County of Middlesex". Elsewhere in this Journal appears a short synopsis of the history of Middlesex, taken from a publicity leaflet of this organisation.

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

This really is a year for celebration, and from 8th to 10th August this year the P.R.O. will be running a special conference at the Inner Temple, London to celebrate its 150th Anniversary. For details of lectures etc. apply to:

Miss Stella Colwell, c/o Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1L

YOUR ANCESTORS IN HISTORY

Would you like to know what was happening in this country and the world in general, whilst your ancestor was alive? A set of 5 interesting sheets, depicting events from 1500 to 1900 under 7 different columns, with an eighth column to allow one to write in events associated with one's ancestors, has been produced by Mrs. Barbara Robinson of Record & Genealogical Research. Thus, one can get a feel of what it was like when great grandfather was married for example. The A3 sized sheets are available at 50p each plus postage, and Australia and New Zealand members can send dollar notes at the rate of \$1.50 per sheet plus postage.

Mrs. Barbara Robinson, Record & Genealogical Research, 137 Gretna Rd. Coventry CV3 6DS

FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

A preliminary announcement has been made about the next A.G.M. of the above; it will be hosted by the Cleveland F.H.S. at their conference at Durham University on 31 March to 2 April 1989. Full details will be available in September from:

Mrs. C. McLee, 3 The Green, Kirklevington, Yarm, Cleveland, TS15 9NW

ST. CATHERINE'S HOUSE

The room available for the indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths at St. Catherine's House has recently been enlarged. The space occupied by the old Kardomah Coffee Shop is now used for the Birth indexes from 1837 to 1862, which gives much more elbow room than before. However, the area devoted to the birth indexes from 1862 to 1911 is totally inadequate. The indexes for deaths have also been slightly moved, to allow for access to the pre 1862 Birth indexes. Marriages are still reached by a passage at the back of the main room. The front desk is now for enquiries only, certificate collection is from a desk near where they are ordered.

Have you BATTEN ancestry?

Kenneth Batten, is trying to build up a One Name Index, and will answer queries on the above name from such information that he has already, but he appeals for more information about this surname, and will be glad to know about all occurrences of the name. Letters will be answered and costs repaid:

Kenneth Batten, 3 Slains Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB2 8TT

A MESSAGE FOR ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS

During 1986/7 I managed to write to all the heads of family: NEIGHBOUR (and its variants) in the U.K. whose entries I located in phone books. A good proportion of them have responded with family information, trees and potted histories.

However, I recognise that there are many NEIGHBOURS I have no knowledge of, but would like to hear from. This especially includes families in U.S.A., Canada, New Zealand and Australia. If you are a NEIGHBOUR and you know of other NEIGHBOURS living nearby, whether or not related, I would appreciate you enclosing their address(es) if you are writing to me. I can then check them against the list I already have.

My research into this very friendly family is becoming quite extensive and if anyone else is engaged in similar research I would be delighted to hear from you.

The first NEIGHBOUR newsletter will be published this Spring. If you would like to receive a copy, please enclose a self-addressed 9" x 4" (foolscap) envelope and 3 IRC's or 2nd class stamps.

Mike Neighbour, 27 Knutsford Avenue, Watford WD2 4EQ

NEW CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MUSEUM

A Customs and Excise Museum and Exhibition Centre was opened to the public in July 1987 at the Custom House, Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EE.

For those members whose forebears served in this department, the display offers a unique opportunity to see records and artefacts that illustrate both the historical and modern aspects of the work of Customs and Excise.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO KILL OFF A “FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY” SECRETARY?

The above question is put, not because I believe family historians are blood-thirsty people, in fact they are the opposite, and a wish for longevity for all people connected with their hobby, is one of their endearing traits. How often one hears: “If only great-grandfather had lived long enough to appear on the 1851 census”. But the question is asked because of the number of letters I receive, that were sent originally to former secretaries of our Society, before finding their way, eventually, to my address.

Quite a number are re-addressed by the person who was secretary in 1979, and who fortunately still lives at the same address. I expect that for a long time, letters will be sent to Staines, where Sam and Mabel lived and undoubtedly, the present occupier will re-direct the letter to Weymouth, and then it will come back to Ruislip. We are not in the holiday season yet, and such re-directions are carried out without much delay, but in the middle of Summer, with folks away for several weeks or even months, it could be a long while before such a letter reaches the right person. Family History Society secretaries are human and can forget a letter occasionally, but I wonder how many of the complaints one reads, usually from a non-member, of three letters sent to a society and with never a reply, even when SAE’s have been enclosed, are the result of each letter carrying an out-of-date address.

It is all too easy, when writing to another society, to take the information spotted in a past journal of that Society. But in an organisation relying on voluntary labour, it is natural for officers to change from time to time, and the information for 1986 is not necessarily true for 1988. The Federation of Family History Societies has grasped this problem firmly, and on the back cover of their “News and Digest”, published twice yearly, are the latest list of F.H.S. secretaries; the federation places an asterisk against changes of name or address since the last issue.

So, when writing to other family history societies about that exciting bit you saw in their journal, that might prove a lead on your own research, do check that you have the present secretary’s address; that is if you really want a quick answer to your question.

Glyn Morgan

OUR FIRST TEN YEARS

CONNIE ZOUCH

A PERSONAL VIEW

16th July 1978 was the inaugural meeting of our present Society. There were about 50 people present, all interested in Family History. We learnt that a small group had met prior to this date and formed a committee. This included David Hawkings, Chairman; Peter Guyver, Treasurer; Rhona Ward, Membership Secretary; Robert Cook, Editor; together with others. Many of this committee were tackling these jobs for the first time. I would like to thank them all for their work.

We met at first in a large room in a local school, where we all sat in rows behind lightweight desks and felt like overgrown school children. We moved with relief into Hounslow Town Hall and had the luxury of a kitchen - we could now have a coffee break in the meetings. To counter this luxury, we had to suffer the aircraft coming overhead and drowning the speaker's voice every few minutes. When the new Montague Hall was opened, we moved again, with its soft seats, soundproofing, and a serving hatch - it really is a perfect venue.

I became Membership Secretary at the end of Rhona Ward's term of office. At the end of my three years on the committee I was asked to continue, which was pleasant, by the time I handed over to Wendy Mott, who had been treasurer, I had completed seven years.

Over the years our membership has increased, my last count was 350. Some members resigned as the area of research changed, others left in disgust as an illegitimate ancestor was found, or it was not so easy to find ancestors as they had expected. Even so, our drop out rate has been low.

Whilst I was Membership Secretary, I received many letters and phone calls. I could not believe it when someone asked, "would you send me the marriage of John Smith, he married in London". Yes, it really did happen! Then there was the descendant of Captain Cook, who finally got fed up with being laughed at and phoned to tell me it was true. No, they had not done any research, perhaps one of the family will start in the future.

If it is wet whilst on holiday, many family historians make tracks for the nearest record office. Because of this, one member has connected up with unknown descendants in Yorkshire. These are only a few of the tales I could tell. Through these letters I have watched histories being unravelled. When the final letter comes just to say that the birth or marriage certificate has been found, it gives me the same thrill as it does the person doing the searching.

From the beginning the most frequent question was "How do I trace my family?" A copy of the article by Michael and Chris Watts in our first journal was sent to many of our early members. Now we can recommend local evening classes. We have many members who have attended classes run by Eileen Stage and Chris Watts.

Similar classes are now being run all over the country which have been of benefit to our more distant members.

I have been involved in a number of research projects. At Chiswick Churchyard I was initiated into the art of "Tombstoning" (copying monumental inscriptions). These were later to be typed and indexed. I still have the original list of "tools" needed. It includes something to kneel on, a small scrubbing brush, a plastic or wooden scraper, a hand mirror, a pencil, a plant sprayer, and a packed lunch. Why a mirror? All was explained when the sun came out!

We tackled other churchyards as well. There were days when we all wanted to work under the trees to get out of the sun and of course, these were all those wet days. We had some good times on those expeditions and some funny ones - for which some folks had their cameras ready. There were unusual graves "Look at this - 14 buried in a grave that small. How did they get them all in?" At Norwood Green I nearly fell into a vault. At Heston there was a kindly passer-by who donated a cake for our picnic!

David Hawkings gathered a group of us together to index the Prison Hulk Books at Kew. There was no time to read the books, but we all had a brief glance. I noticed someone transported for stealing 1,000 needles! One got 14 years for stealing a silk handkerchief; ten years later another only got 7 years for taking a whole roll of cloth.

Whilst working on these records someone discovered one of my missing ancestors, Thomas Munns, ten years transportation for Coinage! At the Guildhall Library I looked up the trial. It included an account of his arrest on Friday 24 December 1852:

"When the officers went down the steps to the room they occupied, at 23 Clerkenwell Road at 11.00 am, there was a lot of noise and confusion. The hand of Eliza Munns swept everything from the table. The officers found casts, and coins scattered all over the floor"

Eliza Munns, wife of Thomas, was sentenced to prison for 1 year. My Thomas turned up 10 years later buried in his small Cambridgeshire Village.

When we (my husband, daughter and self) joined the Society in 1978 we had been working on family history for some years, and I was a member of the Society of Genealogists. There was a lot we did not know, Census records - where are they; Tombstones - how to read them; Rate Books, Overseers Accounts, Settlement records, Fire Insurance, are just a few of the things we have learnt from other members, speakers, and books.

We have also had various pieces of information on the Zouch family given to us. One was a Fire Insurance policy reference which I followed up at the Guildhall Library.

"George Zouch at the Holy Lamb in the Minories in the Parish of St. Botolph Aldgate Without, Citizen and merchant Taylor of London. For his goods and Merchandise in his said Dwelling House and not Elsewhere". 18 Nov. 1714.

There were two notes in the margin:

“Removed to Shinfield parish near Reading in co. Berks. Ent’d 12 Jan. 1724” and
“George Zouch Removed from Shinfield parish in Berkshire to Basildon near Reading.
Ent’d 10 December 1730.”

There was an alphabetical index to these records for London and other Counties. The information given reminded me of the Poor law settlement examinations giving movement from parish and county, but in a different strata of society.

As the Society grows, the work grows also and has to be broken down into a more manageable size, such as the distribution of the journals, which was joined with Membership Secretary. Mike Markwick has now volunteered for this job. Being a committee member can also be an interesting experience. If you are interested ask a few questions. I did not have any particular skills, but as one of a committee, I soon found I too had ideas.

I have enjoyed being a member of West Middlesex Family History Society for the past ten years and look forward to the future, along with the many friends I have made.

(Connie Zouch was a founder member of the Society and as she says its second Membership Secretary. She has been an indefatigable transcriber, see the list on the back page of the Journal. Her main interest has been Settlement Certificates of which she transcribed a large number for the West Middlesex area.)

ALEXANDER POPE

A Shepherd's Boy (he seeks no other name)
Led forth his flocks along the silver Thame,
Where dancing Sun-beams on the Waters play'd,
And verdant Alders form'd a quiv'ring Shade.
Soft as he mourn'd, the Streams forgot to flow,
The Flocks around a Dumb compassion show,
The Naiads wept in ev'ry Watry Bow'r,
And Jove consented in a silent Show'r.

See what Delights in Sylvans Scenes appear!
Descending Gods have found Elysium here.
In Woods bright Venus with Adonis stray'd,
And chaste Diana haunts the Forest Shade.
Come lovely Nymph, and bless the silent Hours,
When swains from Shearing seek their nighty Bow'rs;
When weary Reapers quit the sultry Field,
And crown'd with Corn, their thanks to Ceres yield.

SUMMER from PASTORAL (1709)

Alexander Pope was born 300 years ago this year; he came to live in Twickenham in 1719 when he was recognised as England's greatest living poet. He lived there the rest of his life dying there in 1744. The above piece comes from his earliest published work.

Middlesex

We, who are involved in family history research, tend to think of the old county structure of England, ie the 40 counties and the City of London as still in place; only recognising the present Local Government structure where this involves the place of deposit of records. "The Friends of the County of Middlesex", recently formed by the Television personality Russel Grant are now campaigning to keep the name of Middlesex alive, to this end they have issued a leaflet which contains the following points.

MIDDLESEX where we stand:

From a leaflet of "The Friends of the County of Middlesex"

There is a common misconception that Middlesex was abolished in 1965. In fact, it was only the County Council that was abolished and in the words of the Royal Commission "These proposals will not affect existing cultural, social, sporting or other associations or loyalties which are based on the traditional County, the concern is to get the best administrative structure for local government". Therefore, the Act of Parliament did not abolish or dissolve our ancient County, which still officially exists, as it has for over a thousand years. The Department of the Environment confirms "Why should it be assumed that the abolition of the County Council which had existed only for three quarters of a century marked the end of the long life of Middlesex? Middlesex has been recognised for upward, of 10 or 12 centuries before the creation of the County Council, and it will no doubt continue to exist".

In 1888 an Act of Parliament decreed the setting up of the County Councils which included Middlesex. Much of Middlesex north east of the Thames was included in the London County Council and the rest of Middlesex was given its own County Council, except for Monken Hadley which was transferred to Hertfordshire County Council. This did not change the fact that all of these areas are still and will always be Middlesex.

In 1963 the London Government Act decreed that in 1965 the Middlesex and London County Councils were to be abolished on the institution of the ill-fated Greater London Council. But as the Environment Department verifies Middlesex's identity and boundaries remain unaffected by local government re-organisation. Local government units are the product of bureaucracy, our historic County's borders were created and formed by the natural geography of the Land.

The area known as Middlesex was populated by a branch of the Saxon race, who being intermediary between the East and West Barons got their middling name. Middlesex was first recorded in 704 A.D, when a piece of land in Twickenham was granted to the Bishop of London by the King of Essex and Mercia. The area was part of the East Saxon Kingdom and then part of Mercia, later absorbed into the nascent English state under Alfred. As a County it was probably in existence by 886 when it was described as land dependant on London.

1762

This year has no particular significance, it was these two reports that took my attention, both show that although the country was entering the modern age (the Industrial Revolution was just beginning), people still retained the superstitions of the Middle Ages.

"In the year 1762 six children, all of one family, died one after the other at the village of Wattisham, near Needham Market in Suffolk. Their feet mortifying and dropping off. It has since been shown that the cause was most likely the bad food they were eating, especially the ergot in the Rye bread. However, gossips in the village would not believe that their deaths had a natural cause but thought they were the machinations of some neighbourhood witch." (Roy. Agr. Soc. Journal ii 16)

On Sunday Dec. 28 1762

"A number of people surrounded the house of John Prithchers, of West Langdon in Kent, and under a notion of her bewitching one Ladd, a boy about 13 years old, dragged out his wife by violence and compelled her to go to the said Ladd's father's house about a mile from her own, where they forced her into the room where the boy was, scratched her arms and face in a most cruel manner, to draw blood, as they said of the witch, and then threatened to swim her, but some people of condition interposing, the poor woman's life was happily preserved and the persons concerned in carrying on the imposition, particularly one Beard & Ladd's wife, being carried before a magistrate and compelled to make a satisfaction to the unhappily injured woman, the mob dispersed, and the country that was everywhere in tumult is again quieted. The boy pretended to void needles and pins from his body, and his father & mother collected large sums of money of those whose compassion was excited by so melancholy a situation"

1762 was the sixth year of the Seven Years War, in which Britain took on the Bourbon Powers of France and Spain. By that year, having conquered most of the French colonial possessions, the British turned their attention to the Spanish Colonies. Havana, the capital of Cuba, was besieged in June and captured on the 13th August. The military command was a family affair involving three brothers: George Keppel, 3rd Earl of Albermarle, was in overall charge; Augustus Keppel was a Naval Commander; and William Keppel was an Army Commander.

In a letter in December 1762, Samuel Johnson commented upon the military success:

"The Havannah is taken; a conquest too dearly obtained, for, Bathurst died before it.
"Vix Priamus tanti tota que Troja fuit" (The death of Priam and the capture of Troy were scarcely worth the cost)

Johnson's biographer, James Boswell, came to London that year; however, the meeting of these two literary giants was delayed until the following year as Sheridan, Boswell's friend, had fallen out with Johnson earlier in the year.

In his London Journal for Wednesday 15 December 1762, Boswell gives an account of his evening in the city:

“The enemies of the people of England who would have them considered in the worst light represent them as selfish, beef-eaters and cruel. In this view I resolved today to be a true-born Old Englishman. I went into the City to Dolly’s Steak-house in Paternoster Row and swallowed my dinner by myself to fulfil the charge of beefeating; and I went at five o’clock to the royal Cockpit in St. James’s Park and saw cockfighting for about five hours to fulfill the charge of cruelty”.

“A Beefsteak-house is a most excellent place to dine at, you come in there to a warm, comfortable, large room, where a number of people are sitting at table. You take whatever place you find empty; call for what you like, which you get and cleverly dressed. You may either chat or not, as you like. Nobody minds you, and you pay very reasonably. My dinner (beef, bread, beer and water) was only a shilling”.

The weather in 1762 was exceptional. A blizzard in February lasted for 18 days, and snow in some places lay 10 to 12 feet deep. Nearly 50 people lost their lives. It was also a year of great drought and heat, a large harvest was gathered, but fodder became exceedingly scarce. The drought broke in an exceptionally heavy rainfall from October 26th onwards, especially in the eastern counties.

“Most of the cattle in the fields were carried off; likewise, the stacks of hay and wood, with the loss of all the hogs that were in their styes and yards; together with all the horses that were in the stables; for the waters rose twelve feet in less than five hours, which was in the dead time of the morning, nothing of it being perceived at one o’clock, it reached the chamber window before five, and the face of the water was covered with the bodies of the beasts that perished. The damage at West Ham alone was computed at £100,000. At Chelmsford, Cambridge and Norwich great damage was sustained, and at many other places; sundry persons perished, and several thousands of hogs, horses, horned cattle and sheep were drowned....” (London Magazine)

During the drought and heat there were localised thunder and hail storms, the Gentleman’s Magazine of May 1762 reports two in the West Middlesex area.

Sunday May 2 - About four in the afternoon there fell a shower of hail-stones in and about Ealing in Middlesex, that measured upwards of an inch round. It was accompanied with dreadful thunder and lightning, and all the bloom was blown from many fruit trees by the weight of the hail-stones.

Friday 21 May - A clap of thunder in Richmond so loud it threw the whole town into the greatest consternation. On the same day it rained so heavily in Hounslow the lower parts of houses were flooded and the Windsor coach was delayed by two hours.

It also reported the following example of longevity; no doubt he had a valid birth certificate:

“Died in 1762 a peasant in Poland in the 157th year of his life, till within 12 days of his death he worked as a day labourer.”

STRAYS

A document was seen in the Record Office at Haverfordwest, Dyfed about a Marriage Settlement for a prosperous Uxbridge family; a parish register in West Wales has a marriage entry for a widower from the Brecon/Monmouth border; a gravestone at a chapel near Cardigan lists the death and personal details of a son of the neighbourhood who died near Brisbane, Australia in the middle of the last century; a gravestone at Port MacQuarrie N.S.W. provided information about a Joseph Wallace of Staines who died in N.S.W. in 1882; and in hundreds of census entries one comes across the names of those who for reasons of employment, marriage or just adventure, were found living far away from their place of birth.

All these are called “Strays”, and every family history society has someone who looks after such information, and sees that the Federation of Family History Societies gets to know about them. They in turn produce an indexed microfiche of all such findings, and should you visit the Society of Genealogists in London, do have a look at such fiche as have been produced. The information is also sent to the relevant family history society, many of whom have a regular feature in their journals, giving publicity to the finding of such strays.

Our own Strays Co-ordinator is Sarah Minney who wants to hear about every stray entry you have found. If we did more noting of such information, it is possible that great grandfather’s marriage which we just cannot find anywhere will be spotted by someone, miles away from where we thought of looking and we will have cause to be thankful to that public spirited fellow family historian who passed on the information.

Glyn Morgan

Here is a selection of strays found for the West Middlesex area, for all information on Strays, contact our Strays co-ordinator whose address is on the back page.

22 June 1758 - John DORREL, widower of Hillingdon, to Elizabeth KELLICK, Licence, at Barking, Essex.

19 June 1851 - James MAYNARD aged 45, gentleman of Chelsea (father: William) to Theodosia MALING aged 30 (father: Samuel) by licence at Braintree, Essex.

13 March 1838 - Daniel HOWARD gentleman of Feltham (Father: William deceased) to Mary Ann Nightingale WARD (father: John) licence at Newport, Essex.

8 July 1801 - Daniel GARDENER to Ann CANNON of Hanwell, Middx. by licence at Great Bromley, Essex.

15 October 1773 - Edward WILCOX [signs WILLCOX) to Elizabeth HAYS of Fulham at West Horndon with Ingrave, Essex.

28 July 1806 - John CASTILOW of the Royal Westminster Militia and Jane CAIRNES (late of the City of Durham) at Dovercourt, Essex.

NONCONFORMISTS AND PARISH REGISTERS

MICHAEL WILD

Those people who think that nonconformist's entries do not appear in Church of England parish Registers are wrong. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (from the reign of Elizabeth I to that of James II - apart from the Commonwealth period) there were laws which attempted to suppress nonconformity and enforce attendance at Church of England services. So, it is likely that nonconformists, prudently decided to hide their true religious opinions and act as though they were Anglicans.

From 1689 onwards "Protestant Dissenters" were granted a wide degree of religious toleration and laws enforcing attendance at Church of England services were abolished so there was no reason why they should then have had anything to do with the Church of England. However, my own experience is that entries referring to members of nonconformist families still occur in Parish Registers. Baptismal entries may have ceased, but marriage and burial entries continue to appear. With marriage it is likely that it was recognised that a marriage entry in a parish register provided a legal record of the marriage. The reason for burial entries is probably a very practical one, that there were few nonconformist burial grounds and consequently it was easier to be buried in the parish churchyard.

It is worth remembering that nonconformists were a relatively small proportion of the population. Four of the main denominations: the Baptists, The Independents (later the Congregationalists), the Presbyterians and the Quakers were all in existence before the beginning of the 18th century. The fifth, the Methodists, began in the 18th century as a movement within the Church of England and which showed such impressive growth after its expulsion from the Church that it grew to overshadow all other nonconformist denominations.

1851 CENSUS INDEXING

To proceed with this project the Society needs microfilm readers. We have access to the micro-films of the appropriate parishes of our area, but we need the readers to enable transcripts to be made. If any member can help in obtaining second hand microfilm readers or knows how they can be obtained, could they get in touch with the Editor or Secretary, either by letter or at one of our meetings. Another possibility is to use other equipment: like slide projectors or photographic enlargers, that can be converted to workable microfilm readers, again any help anyone can offer would be appreciated. Once this problem is solved, we can get on with transcribing the census more quickly for our area.

We are looking into the idea of publishing the next set of indexes for the 1851 census on microfiche; this is for the second part of Brentford Registration District and for Paddington. Publishing on microfiche is far less expensive than publishing in book form and also means you can order the fiche in smaller numbers.

THE DISGRACED GOVERNESS

JAQUELINE KENSETT-SMITH

About 1967, I decided that I would try to find out as much as I could about my family. I started with the Kensetts because my father had given myself, brother and sister "Kensett" as our third Christian name. It was his mothers maiden name and she was very proud of it. She said it was Norman, and that her grandfather, Francis Kensett, was a rich gentleman and Lord of the Manor of Norbiton and Surbiton. I think the Lord of the Manor is highly suspect although he did live at Norbiton Lodge (now demolished) in the late 1820's, but he did not own it.

My father told me that his mother, Mary Ann Sarah Kensett, had been named after his father's favourite sister, who had died young. She and her sister, Elizabeth, played the organ and gave recitals in London. My second cousins, children of Juliana, Mary Ann Sarah's sister, told me that Anne Sarah had had a notorious affair with a titled gentleman. No mention that she had ever come to Australia.

One day searching for family names in the Historical Records of Australia at the Mitchell Library I found a reference to Kensett, Mary Ann. I was allowed access to the following documents:

Enclosed in Lord Stanley's Despatch no. 216/1842. Anne Sarah Kensett, aged 23 years sailed for Port Philip in March 1840 in the ship "Mellish" Capt. Jones, and arrived there in the month of July in the same year. She had been engaged for a term of three years as Governess in the family of a Mrs. Rucker, whose husband is described as one of the principal inhabitants of Melbourne.

"The last letter received from Anne Kensett, was dated 29 Nov. 1840, about 4 months after her arrival in the Colony - she was then at Mr. Ruckers Country House, The Hermitage near Melbourne, Port Philip".

"Mrs. Kensett of Hampton Wick, the mother of the person above referred to is anxious to obtain intelligence respecting her daughter. From the interval, since the date of Anne Kensett's last letter, her friends cannot hope she is still alive, but they wish to ascertain the time and manner of her death, as they have received no reply to their letters addressed to Mrs. Rucker requesting information on the subject."

Statement from William Rucker 28th June 1843:

"Anne Sarah Kensett arrived here in the Mellish in June 1840, when Mrs. Power, the wife of a respectable inhabitant of this Town, by whom she had been engaged on my behalf and under whose protection her passage was taken, informed Mrs. Rucker, that from certain occurrences during the voyage, it would not be advisable to allow her to become an inmate of our family. On further enquiry I found that A.S. Kensett had made some disclosures of an improper connexion at an early period of her life, but as Mrs. Power and the brothers of this person also passengers in the Mellish, distinctly disclaimed any

imputation on her conduct, whilst on board, I felt myself bound not to judge her too rashly or harshly and rather to assist the deceased whom under providence I had been the means of separating from her natural friends in a distance of 16,000 miles, in maintaining the course of propriety & virtue which I was led to believe she had thus commenced.

“Accordingly, I induced a friend (Mrs. Carrington) to engage her as daily tutoress, where after a few days her conduct procured her admission unto the house and subsequently elicited from Mrs. Carrington such high commendation and such strong professions of sympathy with the injustices done her by Mrs. Power, as to permit Mrs. Rucker on expressing her willingness to permit A.S. Kensett to fulfill her agreement with herself at the termination of her engagement with Mrs. Carrington.”

“Bound by this promise, Mrs. Rucker received A.S. Kensett, when Mrs. Carrington at the end of 6 weeks only, suddenly withdrew her protection assigning no other reason than that she had discovered indications of bad temper and assuring Mrs. Rucker on her honour that she had no other fault to find.

“With extreme regret I have now to state that the unfortunate girl had not been many weeks an inmate of my family when her conduct towards the Gentlemen of our circle became such as to call for some reprehension.”

“The united efforts of Mrs. Rucker and myself to guard her against the miserable fate which seemed to threaten her, so far from leading to the desired reformation, only resulted in a most unfeminine display of utter disregard or shame under the influence of which she avowed her determination to place herself under the protection of an unmarried professed friend of mine, who had a few days previously been residing at my house as a guest and altogether made such disclosures, as to leave no shadow of doubt of the nature of her disposition or former life and habits”.

“The immediate expulsion from my Family became imperative, but as a last attempt at rescuing her from her own depraved inclinations. I offered her the means of returning to England which she however resolutely declined and with much difficulty I persuaded her at length to go to Sydney to which place I paid her passage and to support herself respectably for a short time until she should succeed in procuring an engagement. I furnished her with the additional sum of Twenty Pounds making the total amount of my advances on her account upwards of One Hundred Pounds.”

“In spite of the threat I held out to her of enforcing repayment of this sum if she returned to Port Philip, I had the mortification of learning shortly after that she had returned and was living under the protection (as it is called) of and at the station of the person before alluded to (Mr. John Maude Woolley), where I learned from the newspapers she soon afterwards died.”

“It is impossible to believe that the mother of Sarah Kensett could have been ignorant of her character or disposition and it was from resentment at the heartlessness evinced by allowing such a person to be palmed on Mrs. Power, as fit for the instruction and association of our child, that Mrs. Rucker left her letters unanswered, especially as their object seemed chiefly to be, to ascertain what effects the deceased had left.”

The discovery of this led to detective work in earnest as my family could not confirm her identity, although Hampton Wick was common to Anne Sarah and our Kensetts. Luckily the Public Library had copies of Melbourne Newspapers and after hours of searching the name literally jumped out of the page at me. In the Port Philip Gazette 30 June 1841:

“Death - On the 26 instant; in the district of Geelong, in the 23rd year of her life, Ann Sarah Kensett, eldest daughter of the late Francis Kensett of Hampton Wick, Middlesex.”

A researcher in England confirmed this with the inscription from a headstone in St. Mary’s Churchyard, Hampton.

In memory of
FRANCIS KENSETT
who died August 1st 1836
aged 49 years
also of
Ann Sarah Kensett
his daughter
who died June 26th 1841
at Melbourne, Port Phillip, South Australia
aged 22 years

The Researcher sent me a copy of Francis’s death certificate and after much frustration, I obtained one for Ann Sarah - very minimal and no cause of death.

I did ask if I could see the original letter that Ann’s mother wrote inquiring about her daughter’s fate but it was not with the other material. I was told it probably went back to England with the report. I don’t know in which archives it would be if it still exists. The Foreign Office perhaps? Some department dealing with colonial affairs? Perhaps another member might be sufficiently interested to try and locate it.

Jacqueline Kensett-Smith, 33 Broughton Road, Homebush, N.S.W. 2140 Australia

ODD ENTRY

Extract from Heptonstall, Parish Register

Burial September 8 – 1780

Wm. Greenwood, Hep. Yeo. Killed by standing too near a cow and a bull

(Found by Wendy Mott)

PAST MEETINGS

March - The Green Family Boer War Epic - Howell Green

This was a display of Family History with a difference. Mr. Green had inherited a diary, written by his grandfather in 1900, which he had turned into a slide show with commentary and music. In 1899, when the Boer War broke out, Fred Green was a member of the Wellingborough St. John's Ambulance Brigade. The Government asked for volunteers from this organisation to go to South Africa as medical orderlies. In the slide show we followed Fred Green through his six months service as a nursing orderly in the Boer War. With contemporary photographs from his time as a member of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, his introduction to the Army, the journey to South Africa and then the railway journey from Cape Town to the Orange River where the field hospital was. All was accompanied with commentary from contemporary sources and the playing of music popular at the time. There was a dramatic reconstruction of life at the hospital, where he often worked all day with only the clothes, he stood up in. The gradual loss through death or being invalided home of the Wellingborough contingent. Fred, himself, returned in June 1900, his six months stint over. He landed in July 1900. The Government later that year called for volunteers to go out to China, where the Boxer rebellion had just broken out. Fred Green volunteered and sailed on the Union Castle ship "Maine" late in 1900 for Hong Kong and we followed him on his second voyage though in less detail. 1900 was an eventful year in Fred Green's life, he later settled down in Wales as a show-maker until his death from a fire in his Cobblers shop in the 1930's.

For the second part of his talk Mr. Green told us how he had put together the slides and music, it seemed he had left no stone unturned in his quest for pictures of the events described in his grandfather's diary, all were contemporary and related to the place mentioned there.

V.A.R.

April - "Don't look now your date is showing." Avril Lansdell

The title of our April talk, doesn't really give any real clues to what it might be about. But it is certainly provocatively inviting. Members clutching old photographs, the hall almost full to capacity and a buzz of anticipation, all heralded a really riveting talk. Avril Lansdell is curator of The Museum of Fashion at Weybridge Surrey, where she would welcome visitors, where she could answer questions more leisurely than was possible at the meeting. She used photographs to good effect, to illustrate how those photographs could be dated by certain characteristics.

Avril's projectionist was her husband who, on introducing himself, gave an interesting resume of the history of the photographic process (a talk in itself ?) from 1839 and the daguerreotype, through 1851 and the negative on a wet glass plate, to 1880 and the dry plate. It was quite obvious that Avril and her husband were a team who shared interests and in so doing, were able to help each other.

Avril commenced her commentary as the slides appeared on the screen and urged us to notice:

In the 1840's Ladies wore their hair over their ears and a cap with lappets. 1850's photographs may be hand coloured, crinolines had sloping shoulders. 1859 Tiered skirts. 1861 lobes of ears were exposed (tut tut whatever next!). 1865 onwards, the whole ear showing. Crinolines no longer dome shaped but like a right-angled triangle, flat at the front and full at the back. Some photographs revealed the clamps at waist and neck to keep the sitter still for the exposure time. 1872 ears showing, false hair pieces, low yoke over shoulders and the use of striped fabric. 1870's scarf or jabot fixed with a brooch. Earrings worn and a bustle. 1879-1882 no bustle but the hobble skirt, smooth light fitting sleeves, no waist seam, pleated skirt, low tight bodice, slash sleeves. Sometimes a pocket for a watch and a chain can be seen.

1889 puffed up sleeves led to: 1893/4 "leg o' mutton" sleeves, accompanied by an elaborate cravat. 1895 sleeves got bigger and bigger until the late 1890's when they became smaller and were worn with a large buckle belt. Early 1900's tailored skirts with a stiff Swiss belt with a point at the top and bottom. 1910-12: Edwardian tailored suits with wide lapels. 1913-14: Sailor collar, lower neckline blouse (known as the pneumonia blouses).

Men were harder to date but rough dates were still possible. In the 1850's and 60's men were like the famous picture of Brunei with no trouser creases, crumpled clothes and a tall top hat. Then 1870 a short double-breasted waistcoat with lapels. Later, button down pockets and in the 1880's a high reverse collar.

The photograph could also be dated from the studio background. In the earlier days painted backcloths were used, by the 1860's, simple props like a column, a curtain and a drape were used. In the 1870's rustic furniture was in vogue. In the 1880's some studios reverted to the 1860's type background of a balustrade or curtain against a plain backdrop. In the late 1880's Japanese influence led to elaborate studio props with Chinese screens etc.

Finally, the back of the photograph was used by studios to advertise their work, so a knowledge of photographers could suggest a date. Early advertising incorporated a diamond shape. So many clues to date a photograph and you can even try checking up on T.V. costumes. J.H.

May "Paupers, Parsons, Pedagogues & Politicians" Glyn Morgan
Our secretary selected the above intriguing title as an introduction to the life and times of our ancestors in the period 1750 to 1850. As so many of them were of lowly stock even if not paupers, it was useful to know a little about their life styles and the influence and pressures upon them. The Church and the parsons ran everything, the civil administration of the parish as well as the religious side, and the type of parson in the district could have a marked effect on how our ancestors fared.

Although universal education did not come until 1870, attempts were made by many thoughtful people to bring some education to ordinary people, and tribute must be paid to the teachers of those days, even if their ideas were very different from what we would call education today. The growth of nonconformity at this time with the chapels and their Sunday Schools, helped many a poor child to read and sometimes write, and contributed greatly to the social life of the community.

Finally, the politician, they were not very responsible to the country at large, having been voted in by a very select and small electorate, but they had their troubles; the period in question did not see many years of peace, and taxes rose dramatically; the Industrial Revolution, and the growth of the towns were sped up by the pressures of feeding the war machine. Moreover, those politicians either in their wisdom or their stupidity caused the colonies to come into being, and thus gave an incentive for millions to leave these shores in search of a better life.

Each facet of the talk would have needed a whole evening to itself to explore it properly, but as it is, the speaker gave us a peep into some of the problems our ancestors faced, and perhaps gave us a greater insight into why they moved and acted as they did, and why we have so much difficulty finding out about them.

DISGRUNTLED ENUMERATORS

PAM MORGAN

(1) The following was written on the 1851 census return for the Parish of All Hallows, Barking. (ref. HO 107/1531, f. 193, p.18)

“The enumeration of this district was undertaken by me in the belief that I should be fairly paid for my services. I was not aware that all the particulars were to be entered by the enumerator in a book, the work without that being ample for the sum paid, nor had I any idea of the unreasonable amount of labour imposed. The distribution, collection, etc. of the schedule together with the copying of the same, occupied from two to three hours for every 60 persons enumerated, and for this - the equivalent is - ONE SHILLING!!! What man possessing the intelligence and business habits necessary for the undertaking would be found to accept it, if aware of the labour involved? How then can a correct return of the population be expected?

He who proposed the scale of remuneration should, in justice be compelled to enumerate a large district, such as this, upon terms he has himself imposed.”

Twenty years later enumerators were still complaining about their pay. The following was written in the description page for enumeration district 2, for the sub-district of Mortlake in Richmond Registrars District:

“Very badly paid, & thinks if Government Officials had to do it, they would be paid treble the amount. Myler Falla”

NEW BOOKS

“Coroners’ Records in England and Wales”

J.S.W. Gibson & Colin Rogers F.F.H.S. £1.50

Another very useful Gibson Guide, this details all the Coroners Records held in English and Welsh repositories from medieval to modern times. There is also an introduction to these records which explains the working of the coroner and a glossary of terms used. In normal circumstances these records are not available until seventy-five years after the event. The book is set out in the Normal “Gibson” way, all records are given under the pre 1974 Counties, with the address and phone number of the appropriate repository.

“Marriage, Census and other Indexes for Family Historians”

Edited J.S.W Gibson F.F.H.S. £1.50

The third edition of this guide to various indexes, updated and enlarged from the previous edition. As usual it gives the names and addresses of large number of indexes of interest to Family Historians.

“FOOD and cooking in 18th Century Britain, History and Recipes”

by Jennifer Stead - English Heritage

If you had ever wondered what your ancestors ate in the past, this is one of a series of books for you. It gives details of the type of food the way it was prepared and cooked in previous times. There are also recipes to try out from contemporary cook books. There are seven volumes in the series covering prehistoric up to the 19th century. They are available from English Heritage places; these are historic buildings or places run by the Government.

V.A.R.

COVENANTING

VALERIE WALKER

Here we go “covenanting” again. The annual Subscription to the Society is due for payment from 1st October 1988 and it would be wonderful if we could get over the 100 mark for covenants - we now have 90.

So if you have not already done so, please do consider paying your annual subscription to the West Middlesex F.H.S. as a covenant. This does not increase your subscription in any way, but allows the Society to reclaim from the Inland Revenue the income tax you have already paid. Approximately £2 can be reclaimed from every £5 subscription.

Anyone who pays tax may sign a covenant, as may a married woman whose husband pays tax, even if he is not a member of this society. A covenant form is included with the subscription renewal form inside this magazine, or you may obtain one at our meetings from Valerie Walker, Covenant Secretary; who will also be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

GROVESNOR SCHOOL, HOLLY ROAD

MARGARET RIDGE

I was searching through the 1881 Twickenham census for a friend a short while ago, when I came across an entry for Grosvenor House School, Holly Road. Now I used to work down Holly Road for AFA Minerva and I had no idea there used to be a school there. I went to Twickenham Reference library to see what I could find out about the house and the school. The house at one time belonged to the Swanston family estate and according to Frazers Magazine (1860) – “in a wooden fronted house on this estate in a little parlour with two small windows looking onto a trim Dutch garden with old boxwood borders. In a silence broken only by the occasional rustling of the leaves and the singing of the birds in the neighbouring orchards or by the hearty laugh of Fielding as he sketched the humours of Partridge. “Tom Jones” was written.”

For many years Holly house was occupied at intervals first, as a school for young ladies and subsequently as a boy’s school. The boy’s school was run by the Rev. L Murray D’Orsey M.A. and it prepared pupils for the Public School, Universities, Army, Navy and Civil Service etc. The 1881 census records 20 scholars between 8 and 17 with birth places as far apart as Canada, New Zealand, China, Torquay, Ireland and Herne Hill.

However, in 1905 Grosvenor was demolished and “as every cartload of rubble passes out through the old gateway shuddering ghosts and tender memories enshrined for so long in the old walls, fade away forever”.

Certainly, on walking down Holly Road today it is very difficult to imagine how it once was. A rural community with rows of cottages, trees and birds singing and Holly House standing there in all its original glory. If you look carefully at the building that stands upon the exact spot, I think you may see some of the bricks used in the old building. As you look down the side many of the bricks look definitely old, they have that nice warm rosy colour. I shall certainly view Holly Road with a different eye next time I walk down there.

1881 Census for Grosvenor School, Holly Road, Twickenham:

School Staff:

Lambert M. D’Orsey	36	School Master (Clergyman)	Scotland
Williamson M. Samuel	20	Asst. Master	East Indies
Henry James Ony ?	13	Servant Housekeeper	Rochford, Essex
Elizabeth A. Caldicott	45	Cook	Longfield Court, Kent
Gertrude Rothera ?	22	Parlour Maid	Wales
Eliza Cullyer	25	House Maid	Elsy, Norfolk
Jane May Spong	19	House Maid	Stepney Middx.

With the following Scholars:

Conway B. Brough	17	Tottenham
William W. Williams	16	New Zealand
Thomas Morris	15	Canada
Cloud Er. Turvey	10	Broughton, Middx
Ernest E. Wadman	13	China (British Subject)

Gaston Mislowks	14	Torquay
Charles D. Cox	13	Kensington
Roland D. Cox	10	Herne Hill
Percy J. Nasher	12	Ireland
Harry A. Sherlock	14	India (British Subject)
John B. Sherlock	8	India (British Subject)
Arthur H. Usher	11	Ireland
Randolph C. Thornhill	18	Rushton, Norfolk
Sydney J. Minpris	12	Rushton, Norfolk
Harry J. Lee	12	Kensington Middx
Hope Jubes	11	London
Henry A. Black	9	Islington
Charles E. Bolt	16	Sunbury
Herbert E. Hall	16	Canada
Harold C.H. Tong	14	Manton, Lincs.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

CONSTABLE

This name has a distinguished origin. It comes from the latin “comes stabuli” (count of the stables) through the old French “cunestable” to the English constable. He was originally a senior officer of the Royal Army in medieval times or the Governor of a royal castle. In France the title evolved to that of the senior military man below the King, in charge of the Royal Army in the King’s absence. In England the name went down in importance to that of the parish official responsible for law and order, from which the modern meaning of the word comes.

The name of Constable for a parish official date back to the time of Edward I, when an officer in each township (petty constable) was required to act under the orders of a higher official for each hundred (High Constable), in carrying out the periodic view of the military equipment which every Englishman, according to his economic status, was ordered to have ready against the needs of national defence and internal disorder. The military duties of the constable became extended to include the organisation of “watch and ward” and the “hue and cry” as well as the supervision of the headboroughs and “tythingmen” of each parish.

The constable was annually appointed by the Manor Court at Easter. The office was unpaid and could be onerous and unpopular, there was an obligation on all adult men to serve, though substitutes were sometimes allowed. In the 19th century this old established figure of the annually elected, unpaid, plain clothes constable was replaced by a long service, paid, uniformed and trained “bobby”.

ST. CATHERINE’S HOUSE COURIER SERVICE

Pam Morgan is prepared to collect certificates from St. Catherine’s House for members, either U.K. or overseas. The fee of £7.50 each (inc. postage) will include an index search of up to three years (ie 12 volumes). If there is any doubt, enquirers will be contacted before a certificate is purchased. A refund of £5 will be made for unsuccessful searches with a note of the time searched. Please send full details to:

Mrs. P. Morgan, 17 Croft Gardens, RUISLIP, Middx. HA4 8EY

WEST MIDDLESEX WILLS

In 1858 the present system of a Principal Probate Registry was set up. This replaced the Church, which from the Middle Ages had been the authority which had probated wills. For England and Wales, all wills proved after 12 January 1858 will be found in the indexes at Somerset House, though there are copies of this index in various record offices around the country.

Prior to 1858, the Church was the only authority for the proving of wills. There was a system of courts across the country, at the lowest levels the courts of the Archdeacons or Commissary, then the Consistory Court of the Bishop which had authority over a complete diocese and then Archbishops Courts of Canterbury and York which had supreme authority in their provinces. There were also courts which were not in the ordinary, (ie under the Archdeacon and then under the Bishop) these were the peculiars.

There were eight courts in which the wills of Middlesex residents may be found:

(1) **Prerogative Court of Canterbury (P.C.C.):** This was the highest court in which wills could have probate granted for England and Wales. Any person having property in two dioceses or in both the Province of Canterbury and York and also those who died overseas would have had his (or her) will proved here. It was the court used by the wealthier sections of society, though with the nearness of the court, which was located in London, for Middlesex residents many more Middlesex Wills are to be found here than for other counties.

Microfilm copies of the books, into which each will was entered may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane. There are printed indexes until 1700, with hand written indexes for each year until 1857. The Society of Genealogists has a card index for the wills from 1750 to 1800 and has published this index for the letters A to G, with further volumes to follow.

(2) **The Consistory Court of London:** The next senior court for Middlesex, it had jurisdiction over the whole county, except those parishes that were peculiars. Its records are at The Greater London Record Office.

Middlesex had two lower courts for the administering of wills, these had jurisdiction over parts of the county.

(3) **The Commissary Court of London:** Had jurisdiction over 40 parishes in Middlesex, mainly in the north and centre of the county. Records at the Guildhall, London. Parishes in the West Middlesex area were: Acton, Cowley, Ealing with Old Brentford, Fulham, Hammersmith, Greenford, Hanworth, Harefield and Teddington.

(4) **The Archdeaconry of Middlesex:** Mainly responsible for parishes in the south and west of the county. It ceased operations in 1810. Records at the Greater London Record Office. Parishes in the West Middlesex area were: Ashford, Chelsea, Cranford, East Bedfont, Feltham, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hillingdon, Heston with Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, Perivale, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

(5) **The Archdeaconry of London:** This had jurisdiction over several parishes in the City of London and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. Records at the Guildhall Library.

There were three peculiar courts that had jurisdiction over parishes in Middlesex:

(6) **Peculiar Court of the Deanery of Croydon:** This was the court for parishes in the Archbishops of Canterbury's peculiar, they were Harrow, Pinner and Hayes with Norwood. The records are at Lambeth Palace, London.

(7) **Peculiar Court of the Dean and Chapter of St. Pauls:** The court for the parishes of Chiswick, Friern Barnet, St. Pancras, St. Luke Old Street, Stoke Newington and West Drayton. Records located at Guildhall Library.

(8) **Royal Peculiar of Westminster Abbey:** Jurisdiction over Westminster and Paddington. Records at Victoria Library, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 9UD

It should always be noted that wills may be found in any of two or three courts, depending on where a person died. Thus; in an Archdeaconry or Commissary court {the lowest) the Consistory Court (intermediary) or the P.C.C (the highest). Likewise for a peculiar it may also be found in the P.C.C., it must also be noted that a person may be buried in a parish although not a resident of that parish, ie when the family has a tradition of burial in that churchyard. (An example was quoted in the last journal, Volume 7, no. 1, p. 4). The fact he was non-resident was not always noted in the burial register.

Further References:

Wills and Where to Find Them - J.S.W. Gibson

Wills and their Whereabouts - A.J. Camp

A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdiction - Compiled by J.S.W. Gibson (FFHS)

Greater London Record Office - Information Sheet no. 6 Middlesex Wills

Parish Map of Middlesex - published by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

HELP!!!

DYOS

My "DYOS" ancestors lived in Laleham from 1825 to 1890. I was able to borrow, through an inter-library loan, "The Laleham Commonplace Book" (published by Allen, c. 1975), which was a very interesting history of the village and its families, with many photographs. As this book mentions the DYOS family, I would like to purchase a copy. It is now out of print, so would any member of the Society be able to help in locating a copy?

Mrs. H. Lloyd, Rose Cottage, Burnt House Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2PN

NIMZ

Wilhelm Ewart (or William E.) NIMZ, born c.1868, married Emily BELCHER on 10th March 1889 at All Saint's Church, Kensington, both were Tailors, and the address on their marriage certificate is 29 Bolton Road. They later lived at 21 Sands End Lane, Fulham, where their daughter still lived when she married in 1916. Children of Wilhelm and Emily were Maud Lilian Emily, William, Frederick, Herbert/Herman, and Emily. Other Nimz relations born prior to 1880 are Herman, Adolphus, Theodore, Wilhelmina - all from the Fulham area. Herman was supposedly married to a French woman (possibly named Charlotte). Wilhelm's father was Gotlieb Nimz, Labourer, and came from Prussia. Any help, and details, all gratefully received.

Mrs. Wendy Burr, 17 Doggett, Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 7BW

OVERALL

Frank OVERALL, born c.1868, place and parents not known. Married Mary Elizabeth MORLEY c. 1890 and two known children were Albert and Edith. Frank OVERALL was a trooper in the Horse Guards in 1893 but he is known to have died shortly after this time. His wife remarried an Officer Hawkins and eventually moved to Luton Bedfordshire. Either Frank or Mary had a sister/Aunt Kate. Frank's son lived and married in Fulham in 1916. Any help or information will be much appreciated.

Mrs. Wendy Burr, 17 Doggett, Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 7BW

SHEPHARD/ SHEPPARD

I am searching for the birthplace of my great-grandfather Walter SHEPHARD. He would have been born about 1847, (father also Walter). He married Esther STAMMERS in 1866 at St. Paul's Hammersmith. They were living in Star Lane, Fulham in 1871, with Walter's married sister, Nancy Brown. Walter and Nancy (Naomi) state that they were born in Fyfield, Essex, but searches in the Record Office and St. Catherine's House have been unsuccessful. In 1881 Walter was living at Wandsworth. He died at Merton in 1920. Any information about Walter's birthplace to: **June White, 5 Oakley Gardens, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2DF**

This section is open to any of our members who have difficulty in tracing their ancestors, and feel an appeal to other members may bring a lead. For non-members a fee of £1.00 is charged for each entry. The Editor will only print requests for information on persons born more than one hundred years ago

HELP OFFERED

ISLE of WIGHT

I would like to offer to do research at the Isle of Wight County Record Office on a reciprocal basis, for research in the Middlesex area.

Mrs. H. Lloyd, Rose Cottage, Burnt House Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 2PN

AUSTRALIAN STRAYS

1851 saw the beginning of the gold-rush era in Australia, with important discoveries in both New South Wales and Victoria. Thousands flocked to the diggings - not only miners, but also storekeepers, publicans and the like. Even a brief inspection of the headstones in the cemetery at Ballarat, in Victoria, reveals places of origin that include: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Herefordshire, Isle of Wight, Lancashire, London, Norfolk, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Suffolk, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire, North and South Wales (especially Glamorgan & Carmarthenshire); Scotland; and Irish counties of Antrim, Armagh, Clare, Cork, Derry, Down, Fermanagh, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Mayo & Tipperary.

It is worth bearing this in mind if someone in your family tree apparently “disappears” in the latter half of the 19th century. You may find them in Australia! The first source you should check - and one that is readily available in the U.K. - is the STRAYS INDEX. If overseas origins are given in Australian Records, the reference may have been sent to the Strays exchange programme, either via the Federation of Family History Societies, or direct to the Family History Society in the County concerned. This is an on-going project, and you need to check each new addition to the microfiche publications of the F.F.H.S. Strays.

Within Australia itself, movement from one state to another may be recorded in the collection held by Australia’s national Strays Coordinator, and published in installments in book form, entitled “Strays Collection Australasia”.

If you would like information about research in Australia, write (enclosing 3 IRC’s or four 34p stamps please) to:

Judy Webster, 77 Chalfont St. Salisbury, Queensland 4107, Australia

(Copyright J. Webster 1988)

DATES OF THE CENSUS

1801	Monday 10th March	1871	Sunday 2 nd April
1811	Monday 27th May	1881	Sunday 3 rd April
1821	Monday 28th May	1891	Sunday 5th April
1831	Monday 30 th May	1901	Sunday 31 st March
1841	Sunday 6 th June	1911	Sunday 2 nd April
1851	Sunday 30 th March	1921	Sunday 12 th June
1861	Sunday 7 th April	1931	Sunday 26 th April

Sarah Minney

CHRONOLOGY OF PARISH REGISTERS

The final set of dates which had a bearing on the way parish registers were kept.

1813 Rose's Act came into force on 1 January this year. It replaced the old, irregularly kept, parchment volumes with as much, or as little, information as the local vicar or clerk decided. with pre-printed pages, recording only the information required by law, thus losing all those bits the vicar or his clerk would add. One loss was the recording of the parents of young children who were buried, a feature of most registers for at least a hundred years. It was also provided in the Act that a survey was to be made of the places where parish registers are held and report to the Privy Council "whether such buildings are safe and proper".

1814 The Act for burial in woollen was finally repealed in this year, although in most parishes it had not been regularly observed for many years.

1824 A Bill was brought to the House of Commons entitled "A Bill to authorize the Establishment of a Metropolitan Register Office, for concentrating and preserving the Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in England." It failed to proceed beyond a first reading.

1831 When the 1831 Census was taken the Government included a question to all church authorities to make known the list of Register Books they held. It showed that there were 722 registers beginning in 1538, of these 66 had disappeared by 1910.

1837 Civil Registration of Births, Marriage and Death commenced on July 1st 1837. At one stroke the parish registers lost their pre-eminence in recording the genealogical important events in peoples lives. Marriage was still celebrated by the church, the form the marriage registers was to take was established by this act and is the one we are familiar with today. Copies of the marriage registers had to be forwarded to the local Superintendent Register. Baptismal and burial records continued as set out in Rose's Act, they were replaced in importance by the new birth and death certificates which gave more detail about the person concerned.

1840 The records of the Nonconformist Churches were authenticated and then taken into the custody of the Register General for England and Wales. This was to allow them to be admitted as evidence of Birth, Marriage and Death in legal cases. The chance was missed for a similar act for Anglican Registers, but no doubt the Church authorities would have resisted any attempt vigorously.

1929 The Parochial Registers and Records Measure passed this year allowed Incumbents to deposit their Registers and other books and documents in Diocesan Record Offices. The Bishop, (under this measure) could only force registers to be deposited if they were exposed to damage or loss. It also directed the way registers were to be cared for, a measure that echoed the 1538 Royal Injunction.

1978 The Parochial Registers and Records Measure was passed by Parliament this year. After more than a century and a half of trying, Genealogists and others concerned with the preservation of parish registers at last got what they wanted. Under this measure all Parish Registers and other parish documents over 100 years old were to be deposited at a Diocesan Record Office appointed by the Bishop. Over the last ten years parish registers have been gradually acquired by record offices, thus making them more widely available to the family historian and also making it far less likely that any more registers will be lost. By this measure, the 1929 measure, which had never been enforced, was repealed as was Rose's Act of 1812. It also set out a new form for the entries of Birth and Burial that superseded the 1812 ones.

References:

The Parish Registers of England - J.C. Cox

The Parish Chest - W. Tate

The History of Parish Registers of England - J.S. Burns

National Index for Parish Registers; vol.1 Sources for Birth, Marriage and Death before 1837 - D.J. Steel.

Tudor Royal Injunctions on Religion Acts of Parliament 1660 – 1978

Ordinances of the Interregnum 1642-1660

THROWING THE CAKES

It was formerly the custom at Twickenham of dividing a great cake in the church on Easter Day which was then thrown from the church tower to be scrambled for by poor children of the parish. The custom being looked upon as a superstitious practice was ordered to be stopped by Parliament in 1645. "That the parishioners to forbear their custom, and instead buy loaves of bread for the poor of the parish with the money which should have bought the cakes." (Lysons Environs of London p.803).

Cobbett, in his "Memorials of Twickenham", 1872 quotes an entry in the Vestry Minutes Book of 1681 that says there is a "rent charge of 20s from Vicarage Close, Isleworth, containing 6 acres to be used in bestowing bread to the poor at Easter." It seems this was the successor of the old custom.

There was a similar custom at Paddington that was still carried out at the end of the 18th century. At Abingdon it is still the custom for the Mayor and Corporation to throw specially baked buns, like hot cross buns, from the top of the Town Hall to people assembled in the market place below. Bun throwing occurs to mark events of special importance to the town or the country. The buns were thrown for the silver wedding of the Queen and for the wedding of Charles and Diana. The custom originated with the coronation of George III, and some families have a complete collection from that time.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society:

A24	Mrs Iris AMER	16 Thames Avenue, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8JL
B76	Mrs Audrey BREWSTER	9 Julian Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9BU
C61	Mrs H.L. CLIFFORD	Roughton, The Ridings, Stonesfield, Oxford OX7 2EA
D38	Mrs N. DAVIS	17 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UE
E17	David EVANS	24 Carolina Place, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berks. RG11 4PQ
E18	Mrs M.D. EELES	Yeomans Barn, The Grange, Cranford Road, Barton Seagrave, Northants NN15 5JL
H44	Mike HESTER	142 Cubitt Street, Richmond, Melbourne, Victoria 3121 Australia
H70	Graham HENNEY	c/o 7 High Trees, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CRO 7UR
J24	Mr. A.S. JACKLIN	54 The Rise, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middx. UB10 OJN
K19	Mrs M.L. KNOX	8 Woodland Glade, Clevedon, Avon BS21 6AL
L30	David E. LAMPARD	1 Springfield Park Road, Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 2PW
M47	Reginald W. MAYHEW	19 Hammers Gate, Chiswell Green, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3DZ
M48	Miss Angela MISKIN	122 Church Road, Hanwell London W7 3BE
M49	Miss M. MARTIN	39a Darwin Drive, Southall, Middx. UB1 3JY
R32	Miss Judith RUSSILL	Wye Barn, The Quay, Tintern, nr. Chepstow, Gwent NP6 6SZ
S77	Mr. & Mrs W.P. STOKES	41 Ludlow Road, Feltham, Middx. TW13 7JE
S78	Royston Derek SMITH	39 Trevale Road, Rochester upon Medway, Kent ME1 3NZ
T21	Brian THOMAS	68 Thornton Ave. West Drayton, Middx. UB7 9JX
T22	Mrs B. TREVALLION	33 Maple Road, Hayes, Middx. UB4 9LR
W64	Mr. & Mrs L. WHITBY	3 Brambles Close, Isleworth, Middx. TW7 5BX
W65	Mrs Heather WASLEY	86 Chesterfield Road, Ashford, Middx. TW15 2ND

Please note the following changes of address:-

B38	Mr. & Mrs K. BALDWIN	Stratton House (plot 11) Cheyne Walk, Hornsea, North Humberside HU18 1BX
J8	Penny OWAIN-JONES	85 Chelverton Road, Putney, London SW15 1RW
L14	Mr. D.J. LIMPUS	'Rosemount', 25 Esher Place Ave. Esher Place, Esher, Surrey KT10 8PU
P38	Mrs P. PRICKETT	'The Den', 40 The Lagger, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire HP8 4DH
S15	Mrs M.H. SMITH	2 Ireton Close, Market Harborough, Leicester
S45	Mrs E. STRETTON	7 Rockingham Road, Bispham, Blackpool, FY2 0LP
W55	Mr. D.J. WARNER	8 Gainsborough Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 7BD

AND THEIR SURNAME INTERESTS

ABSLOM	19 c.	Pancras & Hackney	Mdx A24	COTTINGTON	18-19c.	Sussex	Ssx L30
AINSBY	19 c.	Chelsea	Mdx M47	DAVIES	1802	Tregaron	Cgn R32
ALABASTER	any	anywhere	all K19	DENTON	1820-1910	Hammersmith	Mdx H44
ALDRIDGE	17-18c.	Iver	Bkm E17	EELES	19 c.	Islington, Hackney etc & Ealing	Mdx E18
ALLARS	any	anywhere	all K19	EMERY	18 c.	Norfolk	Nfk H70
ALLEN	1780-1860	Mattishall	Nfk H70	ESSAM	1850's	Hounslow	Mdx W64
ANDREWS	18-19c.	Chelsea	Mdx L30	EVANS	19-20 c.	Cowley & West Drayton	Mdx E17
ANGEL	19 c.	Plymouth	Dev A24		1740		
ANGELL	19 c.	Plymouth	Dev A24		Llanbadarn Trefeglwyl		Cgn R32
ATKINS	18 c.	Hanworth	Mdx W64		1751	Llanilan	Cgn R32
AYLETT	1780	Takeley	Ess R32	EVE	19 c.		
BAKER	1731	Brockdish	Sfk R32			Great Waltham area	Ess H70
BALM	19 c.	Camden Town	Mdx H70	FORD	19 c.	London	Lon H70
	pre 1850	London	H70	FRANKLIN	18-19c.	Fulham	Mdx B76
BARNARD	19 c.	Chelsea	Mdx D38	GARRETT	19 c.	Roxton	Bdf E18
	19 c.	City of London	D38		19 c.	Tasmania	E18
	19 c.	East of London	D38	GODLIMAN	19-20c.	Cowley & West Drayton	Mdx E17
	20 c.	Tottenham	Mdx D38				
BARNES	19 c.	Isleworth	Mdx K19	GOLDSMITH	19 c.	London	M48
		& Little Missenden	Bkm K19	GOMME	1750-1800	Brentford	Mdx W64
	1750-1800	Torquay	Dev S77	GOODALL	18-19 c.	Harlington	Mdx B76
	1750-1800	Isleworth	Mdx S77	GOODE	19 c.	London	Lon H70
BARNES	1750-1800	Torquay	Dev S77	GREEN	17-18c.	Edlesborough	Bkm E17
BENNETT	1761	Harleston	Nfk R32	GUMM	1750-1800	Brentford	Mdx W64
BIRCHELL	18-19c.	Fulham, Hammersmith, Chelsea & Kensington	Mdx H70	HAM	19 c.	London	Mdx J24
BIRD	1795	Gt. Hallingbury	Ess R32	HAYWOOD	1750-1800		
BOULDIN	pre 1900	London	H70			Old Brentford	Mdx W64
BREEZE	1807	Harleston	Nfk R32	HEMPLEMAN	20cent.	Islington & Shoreditch	Mdx S78
BREWSTER	18-19c.	Brentwood	Ess B76	HEMPSON	1813	Woodbridge	Sfk R32
	18-19c.	Dorking	Sry B76	HENNEY	18-19c.	Fulham, Hammersmith, Chelsea & Kensington	Mdx H70
	18-19c.	Romford	Ess B76			all any	any H70
BRISTOW	19c.	Farnham Royal	Brk H44	HESTER	1800-1882		
BROWN	17-18c.	Edlesborough	Bkm E17			Chiswick area	Mdx H44
	early 19 c.	Chelsea & Brentford	Mdx R32	HEYWOOD	1750-1800		
	early 19 c.	Southwark	Sry R32			Old Brentford	Mdx W64
BULLOCK	18-19 c.	Hounslow	Mdx B76	HICKEY	1800-50	Southwark	Sry W64
BURCHELL	18-19c.	Fulham, Hammersmith, Chelsea & Kensington	Mdx H70	HODGES	19-20c.	Heston	Mdx E18
BURFOOT	1800-90	Farnham Royal	Brk H44	HOLMES	19 c.	Felsted area	Ess H70
BURFORD	1800-90	Farnham Royal	Brk H44	HOPE	18-19c.	Kent	Ken L30
BURGH	19 c.	Chelsea, Fulham, Knightsbridge & Kensington	Mdx D38	HUMPHRIES	19 c.	Fulham	Mdx M47
BUTCHER	1806	Woodbridge	Sfk R32	IMPEY	17-18c.	Edlesborough	Bkm E17
CHAPPELL	1680	Norfolk or Suffolk	Sfk R32	JACKES	to 1800		
						Kings Lynn area	Nfk W64
CHESHAM	1772			JACKLIN	18 c.	Wisbech area	Cam J24
		Gt. Hallingbury	Ess R32	JARVIS	19 c.	Anglia area	H70
CHIPPEN	18 c.	Hanworth	Mdx W64	JAYES	19 c.	Shoreditch & Westminster	Mdx E18
COBB	19 c.	Chelsea	Mdx M47	JENNINGS	18-19c.	Kent	Ken L30
COLESHILL	17-18c.			JENNINGS	1840-1920	Hammersmith	Mdx H44
		Iver & Langley	Bkm E17	JEWIT(T)	18 c.	Hanworth	Mdx W64
COOMBER	19 cent.			JEX	to 1800	Kings Lynn area	Nfk W64
		Brentford area	Mdx H44	JOEL	1755	Llanbadarn Fawr	Cgn R32

JONES	1761	Bronant	Cgn	R32	RICE	19 c.	Fulham	Mdx	M47	
	1800	Llanbadarn Fawr	Cgn	R32	ROWLANDS	1740				
JUDD	19-20 c.	Tottenham	Mdx	D38			Llansartffraid	Cgn	R32	
JUET(T)	18 c.	Hanworth	Mdx	W64	RUSSELL/RUSSILL	1790	Hamton Wick &			
KENDLETON	19 c.	Chelsea	Mdx	M47			Isleworth	Mdx	R32	
KNIGHT	18-19c.	Sussex	Ssx	L30			Lambeth & Kingston	Sry	R32	
KNOX	18-19c.	Marylebone,			RUTTER	17-18c.	Iver	Bkm	E17	
		Shoreditch & Bethnal Green	Mdx	K19	SAPSFORD	1764	Gt. Hallingbury	Ess	R32	
LAMPARD & variants	18 cent.	Surrey,			SAVILLE	1777	Elsenham	Ess	R32	
		Sussex, Hampshire & London	L30		SAYER	to 1800				
LAPPIN	18-19 c.	Fulham	Mdx	B76			Kings Lynn area	Nfk	W64	
LODGE	19 c.				SAYERS	18-19c.	Sussex	Sax	L30	
		Chester-le-Street	Dur	W65	SEAR	17-18c.	Edlesborough	Bkm	E17	
		19-20c.	Klerksdorp	S.A.	SINDAL	1763	Manuden	Ess	R32	
LONG	18-19c.	Kensington	Mdx	C61	SMITH	16-19 c.	London &			
MARNDER	1780-90	Isleworth	Mdx	W64			Middlesex		S78	
MARTIN	19 c.	Pancras &					19-20 c.	Chelsea	Mdx	S78
		Hackney	Mdx	A24	SNOWLING	to 1800	Wheatacre	Nfk	W64	
MASCALL + variants	18 cent.				STEDDY	18-19c.	Kent	Ken	L30	
		Kent, Sussex, London	L30		STONEMAN	19 c.	London	Lon	H70	
MAYHEW	19 c.	Chelsea	Mdx	M47	TATE	19 c.	London	Lon	H70	
MIDDLETON	19 c.	Chelsea	Mdx	M47	TOLLEMACHE		Suffolk	Sfk	R32	
MILES	18-19c.	Kensington	Mdx	C61	TRUBEE	17-18c.	Iver	Bkm	E17	
MISKIN	19 c.	Gravesend	Ken	M48	WALDUCK	18-19c.	Kensington	Mdx	C61	
MOODY	18-19 c.	Southall	Mdx	B76	WALLER	18 c.	Norwich area	Nfk	H70	
		& Freckwell Heath	Bkm	B76	WHITBY	to 1800				
MORGAN	1747	Llanbadarn Fawr	Cgn	R32			Kings Lynn area	Nfk	W64	
MORGANS	1755	Bronant	Cgn	R32	WHITE	19 c.	Islington	Mdx	W65	
MURRELL	19-20 c.	Tottenham	Mdx	D38	WHITING	19 c.	Newbury	Brk	K19	
NICHOLAS	18-19 c.	Plymouth	Dev	B76	WHITTICK	1800-50	Fulham	Mdx	W64	
		& Marazion	Con	B76	WILD	18-19c.	Hammersmith	Mdx	C61	
OSMAN	19 c.	Mottisfont	Ham	E18	WILKES	19 c.	Lewisham area	Sry	E18	
PAGE	1732	Stradbrook	Sfk	R32	WILKS	19 c.	Lewisham area	Sry	E18	
PHILLIPS	19 c.				WILLIAMS	19 c.	Pembroke	Wls	A24	
		Little Baddow area	Ess	H70	WING	19 c.	Isleworth	Mdx	K19	
PONDER	20cnet.	Islington &			WING	19 c.	Great Missenden	Bkm	K19	
		Shoreditch	Mdx	S78	WINSBURY	18-19c.	Hampstead	Mdx	C61	
PRESS	19-20 c.	Norwich	Nfk	D38	YOUNG	18-19c.				
REYNOLDS	1860-1935						Chester-le-Street	Dur	W65	
		Chiswick area	Mdx	H44						

These lists of members surname interests are given in condensed form, so as to give as much information as possible in the minimum of space, and to make the search for a specific name relatively easy. In most cases the date will indicate a period, the place a general area. All abbreviations for counties are given according to Chapman County Codes, a full listing of which may be found in most FFHS publications.

ODD ENTRY

Extract from Twickenham Parish Register:

December 26th 1599

Bapt. Anna dau. of Margaret, servant to Mr. Burnell: the father of whom we would not know.

THE EDITOR

You will have realised that the Society is ten years old with the July meeting, which I hope will be well attended. I first started tracing my family more than twenty years ago, there was almost nobody to ask and books on the subject seemed to assume you were of at least Gentry class; why would the plebes wish to trace their family history? Now it is completely changed, it is more of a challenge to trace ten generations of Ag. Labs than of Squires. Although it is nice to find the odd bit of aristocratic blood, even if very dilute.

One thing has changed for the worse, gone are the leisurely times at Somerset House (when the Indexes to Births etc. were there) then you could have the whole gallery to yourself. At St. Catherine's House a good pair of elbows is a pre-requisite to find space to look at the volumes, one result of the popularity of our hobby.

The last journal contained some printing errors, notably in some cases a ° appeared in place of a ! . This was a result in the breakdown of my normal printer when producing the December Journal. For the April Journal a new printer was going to be used; however, after the proofs had been produced it was obvious, they would reduce to give poor print ready copy. Therefore I had to use another, older printer to produce the proofs, unfortunately this prints ° instead of ! . I remembered this after I had given the printer the camera-ready copy. Therefore, there was frantic phone call, "Hold the Front Page stuff", whilst I corrected p.23 which contained the quotation from Byron with 4 exclamation marks, the rest I had to leave.

In fact, the last journal was produced on three different types of printers: the main bulk was produced on my old Daisy Wheel; several pieces at the back, ie What's in a Name, was done on a Dot matrix; and the page headings were done on a laser printer (not mine alas).

Is it ever too young to be hooked on Family History? Recently my niece, aged 8, was staying with me; looking for something to do she decided to copy some of my family history files, and then to make her own. She then started asking her older relatives about their birth and marriage dates and ended up making a family tree for her great grandmother. Maybe she will soon be a member of the Society.

It is a perennial plea but I always need plenty of copy to produce a well-balanced journal. Any facet of Family, social or local history either relevant to this area or of general interest is needed. Any size of article will do from small extracts from parish registers to longer articles about points of interest.

NEXT JOURNAL

The closing date for copy for the next Journal will be October 31, and the journal will appear in November, this year.

INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

These indexes are to help with research in the West Middlesex area, they are open to all enquirers, for members of the Society the fees are as stated, could all correspondents please quote their membership number. Fees for non members of the society are double what is indicated below.

WEST MIDDLESEX MARRIAGE INDEX

This covers more than 40 parishes mainly in the West Middlesex area, but also some in other parts of Middlesex (39,000 entries). All marriages prior to 1837, enquiries for specific marriages 50p, general searches £1 per name, plus SAE in all cases to:
Mr. Vic Gale, 53 Liberty Lane, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 1NQ

WEST MIDDLESEX STRAYS

Any event taking place away from a person's normal abode. Enquiries 50p. plus SAE: **Mrs. Sarah Minney, Flat 2a, Belmont House, 30 Belmont Road, Twickenham TW2 5DA.**

CHISWICK CENSUS 1801

Head of Household and numbers of males & females, additional information in some cases. Enquiries, SAE:
Mrs. R. Ward, 29 Ernest Gardens, Chiswick, London W4

NEW BRENTFORD St. Lawrence Registers

Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; 1617-1720/1 Enquiries 50p plus SAE:
Mrs. C. Zouch, 8 Sixth Avenue, Hayes, Mdx UB3 2ES

WEST MIDDLESEX SETTLEMENT RECORDS

Hammersmith, Uxbridge, Staines, Ealing, Feltham, Hanwell, Friern Barnet. Enquiries 50p plus SAE:
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NEW BRENTFORD CENSUS 1810

Head of Household and numbers of Males & Females - Enquiries with SAE:
Mrs. C. Zouch, 8 Sixth Avenue, Hayes, Mdx UB3 2ES

HAYES St. Mary's Registers

Baptisms, Marriages, Burials 1557-1840. Enquiries 50p plus SAE:
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HILLINGDON Parish Registers

Baptisms, Marriages, Burials 1559-1850. Enquiries 50p per surname TO:
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HARLINGTON Parish Registers

Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1540-1850. Enquiries 50p plus SAE to:
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Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Feltham, Hampton, Hayes, Heston, Harlington, Hillingdon, Perivale, Norwood Green, Staines, Teddington, Uxbridge

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Mrs. W. Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP

OTHER INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

The fees quoted below are for all enquiries.

COASTGUARDS INDEX

Enquiries £3.00 per name plus SAE to:

Mrs. E. Stage, 150 Fulwell Park Avenue, Twickenham, Middlesex

CHANDLER One name study

Searches made on this name only, enquiries with SAE to:

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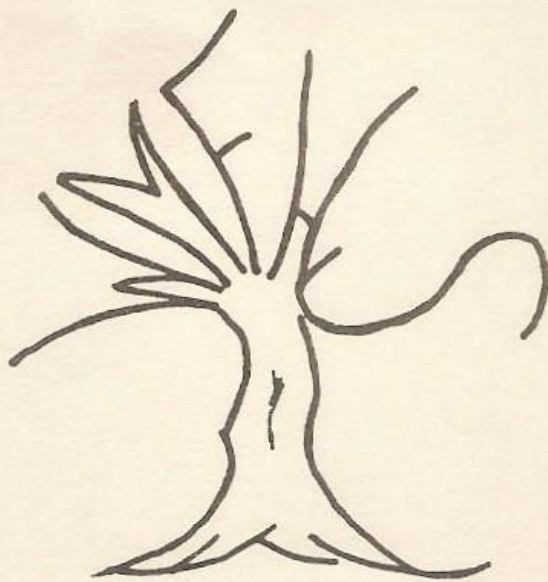
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