

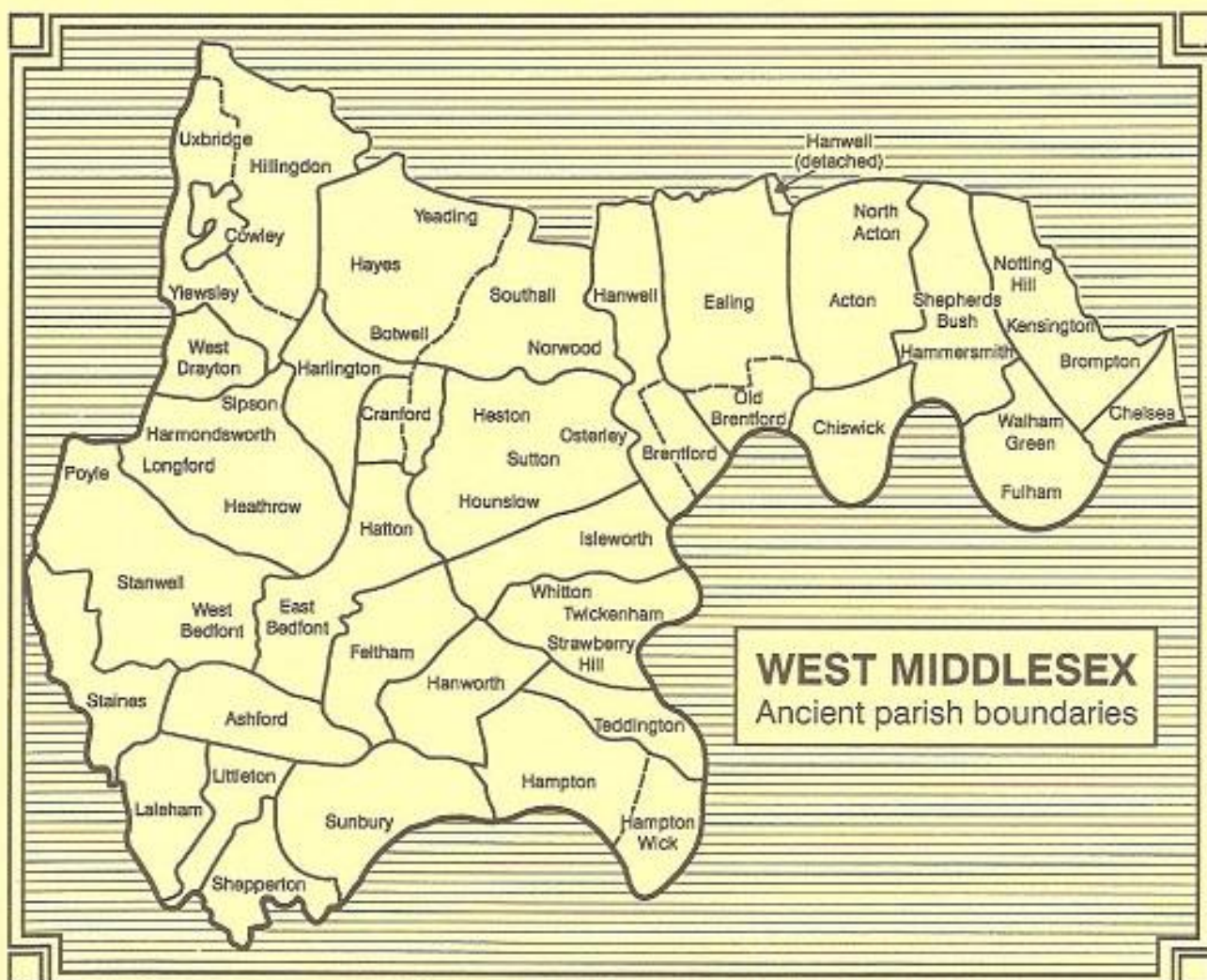


# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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## **WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Executive Committee**

Chairman	Robin Purr chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Mrs Margaret Harnden
Secretary	Paul Kershaw 241 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham TW1 4SY treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Treasurer	Tony Simpson treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Mrs Bridget Purr 9 Plevna Road, Hampton Middlesex TW18 1EF membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Editor	Mrs Yvonne Masson 65 St Margaret's Grove, East Twickenham Middlesex TW1 1JF editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Publicity Officer	Ted Dunstall 43 Elers Road, Ealing, London W13 9QB
Committee Members	Richard Chapman                      Maggie Mold Mike Cordery                          Lewis Orton Patrick Harnden
Programme Secretary	Mrs Antonia Davis 53 Laurel Lane, West Drayton Middlesex UB7 7TW
Society Web site	<a href="http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/">http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/</a>
Subscriptions	All Categories: £9.00 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December
Examiners	Chris Hern and Muriel Sprott

In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE/IRCs must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:

Mrs Yvonne Masson  
65 St Margaret's Grove, East Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 1JF

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:  
Mrs. Sheila Scott, 3 Wembley Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2QE

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:

Mrs Bridget Purr  
9 Plevna Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2BS

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

- 19 June      Finding your Poor Ancestors – A Look at Poor Law Records  
*Jean Debney*
- 17 July      Don't Delay, Write Today – Advancing Family History by Post  
*Jeanne Bunting*
- 21st Aug     Members' Evening
- 18th Sept    Was your Ancestor Really Married?  
*A talk by Colin Chapman*

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, and doors open at 7.15pm. Parking is available adjacent to the Hall. Research material such as indexes and reference books, exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall, all of which can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm; (talks take place between 8 and 9pm), tea/coffee, cold drinks, biscuits are also available at meetings.

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### Family Records Centre

Replacement microfilms have been made available for the whole of the 1841 census (HO107/1-1465) and most of the 1851 census (HO107/1466-2400). The remaining 1851 microfilms are expected in the next few months. Feedback from customers suggests that the improvement in quality is significant.

### Federation of Family History Societies

FFHS (Publications) Ltd have now installed and are operating Family History Online, a new family history service on the internet which enables members of the public to pay-per-view research material supplied by family history societies (who are members of FFHS) around the country. Vouchers in denominations of £5 and £10 will be available from individual societies, to be used in the same way as with the 1901 census internet service. It is also possible to pay for the service with Secure Credit Card transactions using a unique virtual voucher service, the virtual vouchers being 'sold' in £5, £10 and £20 values. There is a free Index search: at the Search screen users can enter a Surname, Forename, Year and County. Although the data is arranged in different datasets, this Initial Search will return all records matching the

search criteria across all datasets for the time period specified. The user may then select from the search results those records that best match the search criteria and request full details on a pay-per-view basis. As time goes on family history societies will add material to the database which already contains several million records, making it an expanding information source. [www.familyhistoryonline.net](http://www.familyhistoryonline.net)

### **Guildhall Library**

In case you were wondering what on earth's going on at the Guildhall Library, their manuscript stores are presently undergoing major building works to upgrade the storage to the highest modern standards. Work began early this year and was expected to take at least five months. The Reading Room has remained open throughout, but some original documents (not those on microfilm) will be unavailable until at least June 2003. Further details on <http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/gh/>

### **National Archives**

As announced in our September 2002 issue, the PRO and the Historical Manuscripts Commission have merged to form a new body: the National Archives. Resource (the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries) has set up an Archives Task Force to map out new ways of identifying and exploiting the UK's rich legacy of public and private archives, securing investment, developing and coordinating electronic access to the archives and making them more accessible to potential users. The Task Force will make its final report to the Minister of State for Arts in Summer 2003.

### **Old Bailey**

A new website, Proceedings of the Old Bailey 1674 to 1834, providing open-to-all access to records of 22,000 trials covering the period 1714 to 1759, went on line in March; the next 'tranche', up to 1800, will come online by July, and the early nineteenth century by Autumn this year; the database will eventually include the records of 100,000 individual trials, taken from 38 rolls of microfilm. Names and places mentioned are not confined to London. [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)

### **Diary Dates 2003**

**Wednesday 28 May and 4, 11, 18 & 25 June:** As part of their special Pepys London exhibition, commemorating the 300th anniversary of the diarist's death, Museum of London Curator Hazel Forsyth introduces ideas behind the exhibition and reveals some of the stories relating to Pepys and the objects on display. 3pm, 30 minutes. Free

**Saturday 31 May and 28 June:** Focus on the Great Fire which Samuel Pepys witnessed and examine ways in which fire has shaped the development of London throughout its long history. With Robert Whitwell. 1pm & 2.15pm, 45 minutes. Free. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN tel. 020 7600 3699 email: [info@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:info@museumoflondon.org.uk)

**Saturday 21 June to Saturday 20 September:** *They Can't Get On Without Us*. Special exhibition at the PRO exploring the many roles of women during the First and Second World Wars, with posters and propaganda showing women in the forces and on the home front.

**Saturday 28 June:** York Family History Fair, Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, York Racecourse. 10am to 4.30pm. All the usual stalls, plus cafeteria and free parking. Largest family history event in UK. Admission £2.50. Further details from: Mr A. Sampson, 1 Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4ND, tel: 01642-486615

**Thursday 17 July:** At PRO Kew, 7pm. Dr Toby Haggith, film historian at the Imperial War Museum, will present a selection of archive films about women at war in WWI and WWII, including government propaganda material and films produced by women documentary makers. 90 minutes approx. £5, £4 concession.

**Saturday 26 July:** Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day. Full Bucks FHS Library and databases, computer demos, guest societies, advice, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, etc. Free admission and car parking, light refreshments. 10-4, Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury (SE of town between A413 & A41). For more information <http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>

**Monday 4-Friday 8 August 2003:** Summer School *Women and War*, by PRO, St Mary's College Twickenham and BBC History, including lectures, guided tours and document workshops. For more information, call St Mary's College 020 8240 4198.

**Sunday 7 September:** Kent Family History Fair, Market Hall, Barker Road, Lockmeadow, Maidstone. Kent's largest fair - 100 stalls, large car park. 10-5.

**Saturday 13 September:** We Seek 'em here, We Seek 'em there. WMFHS One-Day Conference at the Public Record Office, Kew - see Whole Page Ad in this issue, and booking form in centre insert.

**Saturday 20 September:** PRO Open Day, with theme: *UndercoverArchives!* Espionage, codebreaking, hidden stories from the Archives. 10am-4pm. Free.



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow on 20 March 2003

### **1. Welcome from the Chairman**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those members attending.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Sheila Scott, Mary Brown and John Abbess.

### **3. Minutes of the 2002 AGM**

The Minutes of the 2002 AGM had been circulated in the June 2002 journal. They were therefore taken as read and the Chairman requested the attending members' authority to sign them as an accurate record of the meeting. This was given unanimously and they were duly signed.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes.

### **5. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reviewed a busy year for the Society, which included a well-received programme of monthly lectures arranged by Toni Davis. A successful and enjoyable Open Day was held in September, with more visiting stallholders than before, indicating perhaps the need for larger premises for our next Open Day in 2004, which will enable those who had to be turned away this year to participate. Feedback from stallholders was very positive, with comments on how well organized, helpful and hospitable the event was and particularly mentioning the catering. Our own sales were good, the research aids were in constant use and the various stallholders seemed more than satisfied. Congratulations should go to Margaret and Patrick Harnden and their team for a splendid effort.

The Society was represented at rather more out-of-county Family History Fairs and Open Days than previously and the number will increase in this present year.

The Society also supported the general line of the Federation of Family History Societies' response to the Governments proposals on Civil Registration, i.e. some were welcome, others needed re-thinking. The introduction of the Federation's "Family History Online", whereby family history societies make



their own data available in return for a fee for every enquiry, was welcomed. It is a potentially valuable source of income and how the Society might take advantage of it will be examined in detail. Vouchers to enable the use of this service will be available from the Society in due course.

The extra time for research at monthly meetings by extending our hours was not used by members and so has been discontinued. However, a laptop computer has been added to our research resources and this has been well used at monthly meetings and at other Open Days and Fairs we have attended. Other resources available at our monthly meetings have also been well used and thanks are due to the members who are responsible for them.

A lectern has been purchased in memory of Yvonne Woodbridge and is a valuable addition to our aids for speakers.

Yvonne would have approved of what we do but would probably be saddened by what we are not doing:

- i no-one responsible for M.I.s
- ii no contribution to the NBI (National Burial Index)
- iii no-one responsible for “bringing on” young family historians
- iv no formal links with local history societies established

Volunteers to plug these gaps would be welcome.

We thank the many voluntary helpers of the Society, as well as departing committee members, including the Secretary - for whom we have no replacement. However, the Treasurer has intimated that he would take over the secretarial job if a replacement for him can be found. We appeal therefore for a volunteer, who would receive support and considerable help from Paul Kershaw, as well as from Paul's predecessor, Muriel Sprott. The position of Treasurer is well documented by the Charity Commission (and other agencies) so it should not be too difficult a job to undertake.

We look forward to a successful year ahead, including our Conference at the Public Record Office in September, and our Christmas get-together to celebrate the Society's 25th year.

A visitor to the Society's stand at the Bracknell Family History Fair exclaimed “What a sparkling stand - and a sparkling stand must denote a sparkling society!” We hope it will long remain so.

## **6. Secretary's Report**

Good evening, everyone. The Society has again had a very good year. Our monthly meetings have been very well attended, remaining fairly constant at nearly 70 members per night depending on the speaker and of course the weather. The speakers have been varied and so have their topics. I hope therefore everyone has found something of interest this year. I think we are



achieving the right mix of items in these talks and we welcome any thoughts you may have on new speakers or topics you feel have not been covered.

The Society was again well represented at Open Days and Pairs throughout last year. From January through to November we travelled to Bracknell, to Hayes and Harlington Local History Conference, to the West London Local History Conference, to SOG, to Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, West Surrey, Suffolk, Kent and a long journey to York, the first time we have been this far north for many years. We have already embarked on this year's round of Open Days and Fairs. These fairs are basically PR exercises where we meet a large number of very nice people, and however much we think we already know about family history, we manage to learn something new.

Then of course we had our own very successful Open Day in Staines. This was our first Open Day for three years and although it was very hard work on the day especially for Patrick and Margaret Harnden and also for Peter Roe in the kitchen with his team of ladies, all that work certainly paid off as I am sure you will agree.

This coming year we are to embark on a new venture as the Society is having its own One Day Conference at the PRO at Kew, an impressive location for a very interesting and impressive group of speakers. A small planning committee has been hard at work on this project since October and tickets are now on sale. We are hoping to make this a biannual conference, alternating each September with our Open Day.

Our Projects Committee has also been hard at work and are showing results from their labours, adding to existing records and publishing new ones. Thanks are due here to Richard Chapman's small army of volunteers and his sub-committee for pushing forward with these projects.

I wish now to thank all our members for supporting the Society throughout this year and to the people who assemble and contribute to the journal, so that our UK and world-wide members manage to keep in touch with what the Society is up to. Thanks also to my fellow Committee members who do give up a considerable amount of their free time, not just at monthly meetings, but at committee meetings and generally organising things and working behind the scenes.

Thanks are due to the members who run the various research stalls we have around the hall and in the bar. There are the book stalls, exchange journals, library, maps and postcards, raffle, the ladies who make sure we sign in, and of course the very essential refreshment-making team. Also there is the postal book service, the mail order fiche service and the courier service. All these people are very much appreciated.

From this year the committee is allocating an annual figure for the purchase of books and CD5 which Pam and Brian Smith will be spending on new stock for the library. So look out for these new additions in due course, and suggestions for suitable acquisitions would be welcomed.

The committee as usual welcomes any feedback from members on anything to do with the Society. It is your Society and you do have a say. You know who we are. Talk to us.

I am now going to shut up literally as this is my very last night as Secretary of this Society. I have been on the Committee for six consecutive years and must now stand down. I have greatly enjoyed these busy six years. I wish at times I could have given the position of Secretary more of my time, but I, like some of the other members of the Committee, have not yet retired from work and have family and other interests outside the Society. I have had the pleasure of being in the midst of some very nice people on the Committees over the years under, I think, four different chairpersons. I have made many friends among the members of the Society and the Committees, and have communicated with people world-wide. I wish my successor all the very best for the future and am sure the Society will benefit from a new guiding light; I am sure the Society will go from strength to strength with such a strong team.

I will just conclude with the words of Yvonne Woodbridge my predecessor who cajoled me into this position just after I joined the Society so many years ago. I found this letter dated April 1995 among some paperwork I was sorting through. Yvonne said, and I quote "The WMFHS takes up a great deal of time. I quite look forward to 1997 when my stint as Secretary will be finished, then perhaps I may be able to do my own research". Ditto, Yvonne. Family research, here I come!

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

Ladies and Gentlemen. 2002 was a successful year for the Society, ending with 741 members which, if we count those in joint membership, rises to 796. Of these, 58 were from overseas, the majority living in Australia but closely followed by Canada and the USA. This was an increase in membership of 19 over the previous year. We had 20% of members not renewing their subscription, and this appears to be a constant figure.

You may be interested to hear how our members join the Society. The majority do so in one of two ways, either by using our Invitations to Membership, or by downloading a form from our website. Where do they find our Invitations to Membership? Many are filled in by those who attend our meetings first as visitors then decide they like what they see and join the Society. Some people write either to the Secretary or myself enquiring about

membership and are sent an invitation. We hand them out at Family History Fairs and Open Days and leave them in libraries. 45% of new members joined in this way last year, and a further 5% direct by letter.

40% of new members joined via our website and 10% through GENfair. What is GENfair? They are to be found on the internet and describe themselves as an “on-line family history fair”. As far as our Society is concerned, customers may purchase membership of the Society, any of our publications, and also books from Jim Devine’s postal books list, and this is done via credit card. Sadly the proprietor, Diana Spathaky, died last year after a distressing illness, and her husband Mike had to close down the site. I-le has now agreed that the Federation of Family History Societies should take it over under the banner of their publications company. It is hoped, therefore, that very soon it will be up and running again and that this method of purchasing, which is very advantageous to our overseas cousins, will once again bring us new members and customers. Thus we can see that 50% of new members join via pen and paper, and the other 50% through the internet.

We look forward to welcoming more new members in 2003, to receiving back those who have allowed their membership to lapse (such former members swelling the numbers each year) and to collecting further renewals from some of last year’s members who have yet to fill in the green form inside their December journal.

## **8. Project Coordinator's Report**

At the 2002 AGM I reported on the recently-formed Projects Sub-Committee and of the plan to transcribe the marriages of St Luke Chelsea from 1801 to 1837. This project was led by Ken Butler, who with a small team of volunteers carried out the transcription work at the London Metropolitan Archives and Chelsea Library, before the second stage - inputting and checking details - was begun. By the end of 2002 the task was complete and another 5000 entries had been incorporated into the West Middlesex Marriage Index, available for postal searches, at monthly meetings and at Open Days. This was an excellent piece of work which completed our coverage of this busy and important parish, and thanks are due to all those involved. The only real disappointment was that so few members responded to the appeals for assistance, particularly for the transcription stage. Inevitably this means that our rate of progress with such projects is not all we would like it to be. In addition to this, there is a continuing program of checking and upgrading of the Index, to which several members have contributed over the year.

The year has seen some additions to the resources that we have available on the laptop purchased last year. Although work on the 1891 census

transcription has ceased, all the material that had been typed up is now available for searching in the form of a database containing almost 370,000 entries: mostly from Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham and Hammersmith. A draft electronic version of the 1851 census indexes created by WMFHS many years ago has now also been completed. Possibilities for making this available as a CD publication, or via the Internet, are being considered.

We have recently completed a comprehensive index to the West Middlesex Poor Law records transcribed by the late Connie Zouch. Several members have helped with typing and indexing here: the result will greatly assist the searching of these transcripts (held by Janet Hagger). The transcription and indexing work carried out by Bridget Purr on the War Memorials has been the focus of some work in recent months, and this evening I am pleased to announce the publication of the Society's first CD: War Memorials and Rolls of Honour. This contains over 21,000 name entries from across our area, in a fully indexed (and searchable) Acrobat document. Priced at £5.50, it is available at the Bookstall tonight, and I encourage you to buy a copy and to spread the word to others who may be interested. Details of the publication will also appear on the website and in the June journal.

The current project we have begun follows on from the Chelsea Work, this time focussing on Fulham All Saints marriages 1813-37, with the aim of producing a more complete account of these events than we currently have. Once again, Ken Butler will be co-ordinating this, and once again I would like to appeal to anyone who may be able to help to contact Ken or one of the Sub-Committee. If you can find a few hours to transcribe details from microfilm at the LMA or Hammersmith and Fulham Archives, or type up from manuscripts into a spreadsheet, your help would be very welcome.

There are numerous other tasks awaiting helpers, too. We anticipate a considerable demand for checking a little later this year; members with IT skills are also especially welcome. As always, requests and suggestions for projects on which we might focus are welcome; please let us know what you think.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the accounts has been distributed at the meeting. The format follows that of previous years except that, in line with the Charity Commissioners' new requirement, a covering page provided by the Independent Examiners is included. Thanks are due to the Examiners, Muriel Sprott and Wendy Mott, for their inspection of the accounts. The accounts show a deficit for the past year. This is due to the Society spending more than its income - if this were to continue, the Society's reserves will be exhausted in about three years. There have of course been some exceptional items of expenditure. For example, the Society made a loss on the sale of the

pecially-produced calendars, which did not sell well. Attendance at Open Days, although a useful publicity exercise, is nevertheless a drain on the Society's funds. It is also possible that the cost of hiring Montague Hall for the Society's meetings might be rising - the Secretary has written a letter to the hirers asking that the Society be exempt from the increase.

After delivering his report the Treasurer asked if there were any questions from the floor about the accounts. One member had noticed that the amount received as Gift Aid had increased: was everything possible being done to urge more members to sign the Gift Aid form? The Treasurer agreed there was a potential for more income from this source. There being no further questions, Valerie Walker proposed the accounts be accepted, seconded by Jim Devine. The accounts were accepted by unanimous vote.

The Treasurer then announced to the meeting that the Executive Committee had agreed that a proposal for an increase in the Society's annual subscription from £9 to £10 be recommended at the AGM. By the time this would come into effect at the beginning of 2004, there would have been no increase for over four years. The Treasurer having proposed the increase, this was seconded by John Giddens. A vote was held and the proposal was carried unanimously. The Treasurer said he would in future look to review subscriptions around June of each year, so that any increase could be implemented more quickly.

## **10. Election of Committee**

As a coopted member of the Committee, Mike Cordery did not require a nomination. Robin Purr proposed that his position as a new Committee member be confirmed; this was seconded by Wendy Mott and was accepted by unanimous vote. With regard to the second Committee vacancy, Maggie Mold had been nominated by Bridget Purr and seconded by Mavis Burton. This was accepted by unanimous vote. It was proposed to deal en bloc with the re-election of those four committee members who had served over three years: Ted Dunstall, Yvonne Masson, Bridget Purr and Robin Purr, who were all willing to stand for a further year. Diane Bradley proposed, Peter Roe seconded, and the re-election of the four members was agreed unanimously. This left the Committee short of one member. The Treasurer had suggested that he move to the position of Secretary, but this would mean a new Treasurer would have to be found. A volunteer was requested from the floor, but none was forthcoming. The Chairman asked the meeting if seeking professional paid help with the Society's accounts was acceptable. The question of whether the Society could afford this was raised. It could cost around £1000 a year - the amount would have to be confirmed. It was pointed out that this could cancel out any benefits from an increase in the annual subscription and so could lead to a further increase. A further suggestion from the floor was to enquire into possible help from the local Volunteer Bureau. Another alternative was to "muddle through",

**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**12 Months to 31 December 2002**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

		12 Months 31.12.2002		12 Months 31.12.2001	
<b>MEMBERS' SERVICES</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>					
Subscriptions – late, 2001	18				
Subscriptions 2002	3474				
c/fwd 2001 (prepaid 2002)	<u>2969</u>	6461		6422	
Bank Interest		398		584	
Tax refund on covenants and Gift Aid		556		2	
Genfair Income (excluding subscriptions)		162		169	
Advertisements in Journal		<u>35</u>	7612	<u>35</u>	7212
Less <b>Expenditure</b> Open Day, Staines Sep 2002	1234				
Less Income	<u>-560</u>	674			
Journal production and delivery		4373		4110	
Hire of Meeting Hall		769		669	
Speakers		374		423	
Members' Interest Fiche		<u>303</u>	-6493	<u>0</u>	-5202
			1119		2010
Bookstall Sales inc Postal Service		3691		3441	
Plus/minus stock variation		47		736	
Less Cost of Sales (Stock etc)		<u>-2880</u>	858	<u>-2949</u>	1228
Sale of Calendars		405		0	
Less cost of purchase		<u>-764</u>	-359	<u>0</u>	
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>					
Donations		50		71	
Courier Service	270			355	
	<u>-47</u>	223			
Refreshments		80		25	
Raffles		337		310	
WM Marriage Index Searches		116		181	
Tape Hire at Meetings	23			5	
Less expenses	<u>-63</u>	-40			
1881 Census Index Searches	47			0	
Less expenses	<u>-33</u>	14			
Other Research Income		<u>9</u>	789	<u>31</u>	978
			2407		4216
<b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES</b>					
FFHS Subscriptions and Services		490		425	
Membership of other Societies		0		0	
Bank charges		43		0	
Research Expenditure		61		71	
Postage, Stationery and Telephone		602		945	
Misc Equipment (not capitalised) (sweatshirts)		543		152	
Mileage Allowance		360		26	
Subsistence		136		0	
Library Purchases		0		41	
Honorariums and Gifts		0		125	
Conference Fees		163		0	
Kensington & Chelsea CHG Archive		0		200	
Equipment Storage		0		6	
Equipment Maintenance		0		0	
Misc Expenses including Publicity		432		483	
Disposal of assets		0		0	
Depreciation		<u>1060</u>	-3890	<u>773</u>	-3247
Deficit(-)/Surplus (+) for Year			<u>-1483</u>		<u>969</u>

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

	Cost or Value at 30/09/94	Accumulated Depreciation to 31/12/01	Depreciation year to 31/12/02	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/02
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
1881 Census Index	1087	907	45	952	135
1891 Census	752	574	45	619	133
Fiche Reader Copier	1800	1230	143	1373	427
Film & Fiche Viewers	1080	525	139	664	416
Portable Fiche Viewer	50	34	4	38	12
Kodak Slide Projector	315	203	28	231	84
Projector Stand	1	0	0	0	1
1988 IGI Fiche	75	67	2	69	6
Times Divorce Index	11	10	0	10	1
Boxes & Display Shelves	31	27	1	28	3
Heavy Duty Printer	95	82	13	95	0
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	0	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	176	37	213	111
Fiche Readers bought 2001	705	176	132	308	397
Lectern - bought 2002	400	0	100	100	300
Laptop Computer - bought 2002	1482	0	371	371	1111
	<u>8556</u>	<u>4011</u>	<u>1060</u>	<u>5071</u>	<u>3485</u>

	Cost or Value at 30/09/94	Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/01
1881 Census Index	1087	907	180
1891 Census	752	574	178
Fiche Reader Copier	1800	1230	570
Film & Fiche Viewers	1080	525	555
Portable Fiche Viewer	50	34	16
Kodak Slide Projector	315	203	112
Projector Stand	1	0	1
1988 IGI Fiche	75	67	8
Times Divorce Index	11	10	1
Boxes & Display Shelves	31	27	4
Heavy Duty Printer	95	82	13
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	176	148
Fiche Readers bought 2001	705	176	529
Lectern - bought 2002	-	-	-
Laptop Computer - bought 2002	-	-	-
	<u>6674</u>	<u>4011</u>	<u>2663</u>

## CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks:			
Bookstall	1533	1035	
Fiche	130	498	
Postal Books	65	155	
Polytopes	0	0	
National Burial Index CDs	20	66	
PRO Vouchers	<u>171</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>1871</u>
Due from Inland Revenue for Gift Aid Repayments		554	
Cash at Bank and in Hand (including Floats)		<u>12660</u>	<u>16178</u>
		<u>16618</u>	<u>20712</u>

## CURRENT LIABILITIES

Subscriptions in Advance	2358	2969	
Creditors - Postal Books/Meeting Hall	0	0	
Deposits held	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>3009</u>
	<u>16220</u>		<u>17703</u>

## ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance Brought Forward	17703	16734	
Deficit/Surplus for 12 months	<u>-1483</u>	<u>969</u>	
	<u>16220</u>	<u>17703</u>	

Paul Kershaw, Hon. Treasurer  
5th March 2003

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, we have examined the Receipts and Payments Account and Balance Sheet of the West Middlesex Family History Society relating to the year ended 31 December 2002. We confirm that the accounts and Balance Sheet accord with the accounting records of the Society and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. We are not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Wendy Mott, Independent Examiner  
5th March 2003

Muriel Spratt, Independent Examiner  
5th March 2003



but this was not recommended. Another questioner asked if an appeal had been placed in the journal, which it was agreed was a possibility, but the Treasurer does have to be able to attend Committee meetings. If the Treasurer remained in office, a volunteer was needed for the post of Secretary. There was still no response from the floor. The Chairman felt the Treasurer should indeed take over the post of Secretary. The Committee would discuss the various suggestions and report back to the membership, perhaps at an EGM which could be held as part of a monthly meeting.

## **11. Appointment of Examiners**

The Chairman enquired whether both examiners wished to continue. Muriel Sprott agreed to do so, but Wendy Mott preferred to stand down. Chris Hern volunteered to replace her. This was agreed by unanimous vote.

## **12. Any Other Business**

The Chairman expressed the Society's gratitude to the departing Secretary, Mavis Burton, and Vice-Chairman, Sue Willard, for all their hard work over the past years. A presentation of flowers was made to them.

The Chairman spoke about the new resource being prepared by the Federation of Family History Societies based on material from family history societies and to be called 'Family History On-Line'. Vouchers for the use of this resource will eventually be available from the Society. The Chairman asked for a show of hands of those who would take advantage of this resource, and a number of members expressed interest.

Wendy Mott suggested charging an entrance fee to monthly meetings, as is already being done by some other societies, perhaps 50p for members, £1 for visitors, with free tea or coffee. This might help to defray any increase in fees for hiring the hall. This suggestion had a mixed reception from those present. Various other amounts were suggested, such as charging £1 if it included the raffle. Sue Willard thought it reasonable to charge an entrance fee to those attending meetings as they get more out of the Society. Bridget Purr said that members who attended monthly meetings included those who ran the Society and they should not pay an entrance fee; Peter Roe suggested free entrance for Committee members. A vote was requested from the floor and the majority were in favour of an entrance fee, four against, one abstaining. These suggestions would also be discussed by the Committee, and the Chairman would report back at an EGM or at a monthly meeting.

It was suggested giving the Executive Committee the authority to raise the subscription when required to shorten the time needed to bring this into effect, this could be done at an EGM. The Treasurer pointed out this might require an amendment to the Constitution.

Juliana Powney expressed appreciation on behalf of the Society for the work of the Executive Committee.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.



After the business of the AGM was over, we were treated to a very amusing account by Peter Roe entitled “What I did on Coronation Day”, recalling the fact that, like thousands of other young men doing their National Service, he was in 1953 in the Army. He found himself posted to Blandford, Dorset, where he and his fellows were encouraged to take part in sporting activities. The Sergeant Major became enthusiastic about starting a Tug of War team, for which eight ‘volunteers’, including Peter, were chosen. Then started the Sergeant Major’s unique style of training - taking up the rope in a prescribed way and to the command ‘down up!’ bending the knees before taking the strain and leaning back at a sharp angle - pulling against a concrete weight or against other groups of soldiers, which the team soon learned to defeat. Now five miles from the camp and on either side of the River Stour were the rival villages of Stourpaine and Durweston who competed for everything - the best crops, largest marrow, straightest furrow, best maypole, etc., so equally in their Coronation celebrations each was determined to outdo the other. The Sergeant Major, whose wife was a native of Stourpaine, suggested a Tug of War competition across the river between the villages and the challenge was accepted. Then followed the clandestine training of the Stourpaine team by the army team, who were regaled with free beer and food. So the great day arrived with a TV set specially installed in the NAAFI and a day off to watch the ceremony. Then off to a picnic lunch by the river and the village tug of war teams and spectators, including in the background the army team, assembled on either side. A rope was stretched across, the two teams took up their positions and the competition began. At first they seemed equally matched, but then the Sergeant Major shouted to the Stourpaine side ‘down up!’ and the Durweston team were soon floundering in the river. They were invited to supply a fresh team, who also ended up in the river. Durweston began to smell a rat and there were angry recriminations. So the Sergeant Major suggested the army team - who were warned on no account to get their best uniforms wet - should pull against sixteen Durwestoners. But sixteen men couldn’t budge the army team. Then on the command ‘down up!’ the Durweston men were pulled into the river. They were very upset. A large number of Durweston villagers grabbed the rope, and were duly pulled into the river wearing their best clothes. The Stourpaine villagers were very happy and the army team were the heroes of the day. The celebrations continued into the night with free beer and food for the soldiers, despite which they eventually arrived back at camp safely. While on holiday in the area a few years ago, Peter returned to the scene but found it much changed -

the old country road was more like a motorway and the village pub was semi-derelict; he didn't have the heart to go inside.

### **We seek 'em here, we seek 'em there**

The Society is organising a One-Day Conference on Saturday 13th September 2003, at the Public Record Office, Kew. We have brought together a team of excellent speakers: Michael Gandy will be telling us how research is becoming easier; John and Beryl Hurley will be outlining some alternative sources and Chris Watts will be guiding us through the resources at the PRO. Further details and a booking form can be found in the centre of the Journal (as well as on our website).

### **Treasurer and Secretary**

As announced by the Chairman at the April monthly meeting, the problem of these two Society offices has been solved: ex-Treasurer Paul Kershaw will indeed take over as Secretary, while Tony Simpson, who has been running the Bookstall at monthly meetings, will take on the job of Treasurer.

### **Family Tree Magazine Back Numbers**

Member Janet Hagger has a full set (fifteen years) of *Family Tree* magazine which she offers free to anyone who would care to collect them. Tel. 01932-242632

### **Cockney Ancestor Back Numbers**

Member Richard Ambridge wishes to dispose of an almost complete run of the East of London Family History Society journal *Cockney Ancestor* Autumn 1989 to present, and also the WMFHS journal December 1992 to present. Available to a good home for a charitable donation.

*Richard Ambridge, 195 Salisbury Avenue, Barking, Essex IG11 9XT*

### **Certificate Courier Service**

Members are reminded that the cost of certificates ordered through the Family Records Centre increased by 50p from 1 April 2003. Therefore the charge for certificates from the courier service is now £8.50. Please supply the FULL reference as given in the index, i.e. name, year, quarter, district, volume and page. I do check the reference you have supplied and appreciate that sometimes the page numbers are difficult to read if using a fiche.

Unwanted certificates or copies of certificates which are still wanted are always welcome for our certificate database. When applying please quote your membership number and make your cheque payable to me (*not* WMFHS); all payments must be in *sterling*. S.A.E.s appreciated.

*Valerie J. Walker (Miss), 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London W4 5EN*



# **We seek 'em here, We seek 'em there**

*How to find those wayward ancestors*

## **A ONE DAY CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, 13th September 2003**

at the

**Public Record Office  
Kew**

10 am – 3.30 pm

*See the centre pages for programme*

**BOOK NOW  
TO SECURE YOUR PLACE**

It was that time of year again and on a beautiful Spring day Rob and I set off westwards to Exeter for the Southwest Family History Societies' Conference, "Westward Ho!" We arrived and collected our conference pack and the keys to our accommodation and discovered that between breakfast and the rest of the day we had to walk down a steep hill and go up an even steeper one the other side, a good ten minutes' walk but a welcome antidote to all the sitting listening to lectures and the three meals a day that we were looking forward to over the weekend. However the University Campus was looking at its loveliest, the trees were coming into leaf and there were many flowering shrubs to admire on the way. The theme of the Conference was Movement and Migration and the lectures were on the twin topics of emigration and migration with many eminent speakers.

Thursday evening was our first opportunity to partake of the excellent food offered by Exeter University to its conference delegates, and after dinner we listened to a light hearted talk by Graham Davis on the "Myths and Legends among the Irish pioneer settlers in Texas".

On Friday morning we were warmly welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Exeter, Councillor Val Dixon and the Conference was officially opened by the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University, Prof. Stephen Lea. William van Vugt, Professor of History at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was the first speaker, and he read us the first chapter of his new book, "British Buckeyes: the English Scots and Welsh in Ohio, 1750-1920". This dealt with how North America, and Ohio in particular, was shaped and influenced by the experiences of emigrants from Britain who settled in the formerly Indian territory.

For all following lecture sessions there was a choice of speaker and as, so far, neither Rob nor myself have found any ancestors who emigrated to any part of the British Empire, we chose to attend those talks relating to migration. The first of these was given by Dr. Andrew Hinde, Senior Lecturer in Population Studies at the University of Southampton. In looking at migration from a demographic standpoint, he focussed on West Dorset in the nineteenth Century, examining the reasons why exceptionally high rates of out-migration were already appearing in the 1820s and 1830s, due not only to the depression in agriculture but from the economic changes in the country as a whole, e.g. the change from sailing ships to steam which affected the sail making industry in West Dorset.

An excellent lunch set us up for the afternoon and a lecture by Peter Towey on "Germanic Immigration to Britain between 1500 and 2000", a title which

speaks for itself. A founder member of the Anglo-German Family History Society, he has a wide knowledge of the main causes of movement from Germany to Britain across the centuries.

The evening began with a reception hosted by the Federation of Family History Societies, and with a glass of wine in our hands we sought out and greeted friends from near and far before filing into the dining hall for yet another excellent meal. This was followed by some amusing readings given by the Conference Committee.

Saturday morning and we once more climbed the hill to the lecture hall and settled down for the first lecture of the day, "Barra or Barrow? Bute or Burnley?" Bernard Deacon lectures in Cornish Studies at the University's Centre in Cornwall, and he examined why some people in the 19th Century just migrated while others emigrated. Cornwall had one of the highest numbers of emigrants and migrants in Europe and we heard how historians tried to explain migration and how this related to Cornwall, what was the influence of occupation, family and gender on the decision to migrate and how this should be viewed as part of the overall system of migration, rather than narrowly concentrating on Cornwall. This excellent lecture gave much 'food for thought and introduced to us many different ideas on the theme of movement within Britain.

While Rob attended the formal business meeting of the Federation AGM I visited the excellent University Library, which holds much of interest for the family historian. There were shelves of books relating to every county and apart from what looked like a complete collection of the Victoria County Histories, I found a reprint of the *History of Nottinghamshire* by John Thoroton published in 1796 with some beautiful line drawings of some of my Nottinghamshire villages. Among the Suffolk Records Society publications the *Wills of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury* in the 15th and 17th centuries and an Index of the *Probate Records of the Court of the Archdeacon of Suffolk 1444-1700* particularly caught my eye. A profitable afternoon.

Saturday evening at these Conferences is traditionally Banquet Night, enlivened by several stalwarts who dress in costume appropriate to the period - this time the theme was Occupations and there were many instances of an imaginative approach to this idea. (A Cardinal claimed this was the first time he had been able to outrank his wife - who was obviously the Vicar of Dibley). After dinner entertainment was provided by The Yetties, a three piece band who began with the traditional Cornish song *Away down to Lamorna*, where we joined in the chorus of "wet, wet, wet" with gusto. The West Country songs were interspersed with dancing, some of the diners being coerced into joining in and some volunteering to participate in several

simple country dances, your Chairman being one of the former! So you see, it isn't all hard work!

The final day gave us two excellent lectures, the first by Dr. Diana Trenchard on "Movement and Migration within England from the South West in the 1880s". The West Dorset Group has set up a project to gather as much information as possible about the destination of those who left West Dorset in the 19th Century. Beginning with questionnaires to their own members, the Group then left leaflets in libraries, etc. and information on their website. They have already analysed over 5,000 responses. Much to their surprise the majority who moved out of County did not go the British Empire, or to London or the industrial north, but half could be found in the adjacent Counties. This is at variance with the generally accepted view of migration from predominantly rural areas in the 19th Century and is an important project on the topic of migration.

Finally we heard one of the best talks on an unlikely subject. Roger Burt is Professor of Mining History at Exeter University and stumbled on the topic of his lecture almost by accident. "Freemasonry and Emigration during the Victorian Period" sounds dry and uninteresting, but he was able to obtain access to the records of Grand Lodge which gave him an insight into the influence of freemasonry on migration and emigration from Cornwall. By becoming a freemason before they left Cornwall, a man had an automatic entrée into an already established society in his new county or country, and could obtain information on the possibilities of employment. And on lists flashed up on the screen of those visiting London lodges from Cornwall we found one of Rob's ancestors, a shoemaker. So this research has relevance to all classes, not just the educated middle class we associate with freemasonry today. Fascinating and a whole new slant on the topic given by an excellent lecturer.

The lectures we did not attend were given by academics from Australia, Canada, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as from the West Country and covered many and varied aspects of emigration, as well as holding discussions on the general topics of Census records and computing.

On the single theme of migration, however, we heard lectures by a demographer, a regional historian, a researcher and an expert on mining history, all giving their particular slant on migration in the 19th Century. Add to that the opportunity to meet friends from all over the Country and make new ones and you will see why Rob and I find these twice-yearly conferences such fascinating events. Why not join us at the next one? The title is *A Little of What you Fancy*, looking at the Victorian era in all its aspects. So we hope to see you at the University of Essex, Colchester, between 29th and 31st August next. Details can be found in the family history magazines or on the FFHS website.



This story begins in the knowledge that my brothers, sisters and I were brought up with only our mother's side of the family to relate to. It seemed sufficient at the time to be told that both my father's parents and grandparents were dead. We knew he had a stepbrother and stepsister but they had been put into homes following the death of his father when he was a child and he had no idea where they were. Any subsequent discussions with any of his aunts and uncles contributed very little to his background and that of his family.

We grew up and all left home and had our own immediate families to contend with. About four years ago our mother passed away leaving my father with only his memories for companionship. Having reached retirement age myself I decided that for whatever time my father had left on this Earth I would spend a day with him each week giving him time to reminisce on his early life and childhood.

At first it was heavy going as there was a lot of bitterness, but slowly some information was imparted, albeit circumstantial. Without his knowledge I set about checking records at local cemeteries where his family were buried. Apprentice binding dates were obtained from the Guildhall Library and many evenings were spent at the Latter Day Saints Church in Staines searching for birth and marriage information.

Words cannot express the joy I experienced watching my father's face light up when he read copies of official documents, some giving proof that his parents were married, that he was conceived after they were married and that his mother had died of a flu epidemic six months after he was born, thereby eliminating any uncertainty that she died as a result of giving birth to him. Although the above would not be a problem in today's society, these moral standards were held very dear as a follow-on from the Victorian era.

My father was also led to believe that his ancestors were from Ireland, possibly tinkers or horse traders that came over during the potato famine. My research, especially at Guildhall Library, determined that our ancestors were in fact Watermen and Lightermen on the River Thames, a skillful trade in those days.

My father's grandfather, who brought him up, was a Waterman and Lighterman and ferried his own boat, the 'Tay', on the River Thames. My father recalls tales of Aristocracy being collected from Syon House at Isleworth and transported downriver. He remembers an 'Uncle Jim', whom his grandfather used to drink with, who owned several boats. He turned out to be James Clements, JP, one-time Mayor of Brentford and Chiswick.

There was also some speculation from his father's sister (aunt Ada) that they actually once lived in Syon House. The 1891 Census revealed that they did in fact spend some time living in Syon Park House, London Road, Isleworth, a School the Poet Shelley spent some time in as a boy but which has now been demolished to make way for the Royal Mail Delivery Office.

With only a tattered old sepia photograph of his father in Army uniform, proudly wearing his Military Medal awarded for bravery in the 1914-18 War, I obtained copies of his Army Service records. My father came across copies of statements contained in the National Roll of the Great War about his father together with other members of his family also decorated for bravery.

In my research I was able to track down his stepsister but she had passed away the year before I found her. He didn't know his stepbrother and was not therefore too concerned about me finding him.

Having become a member of WMFHS and using the 'Surname Interests' I came across a relative of my grandfather's brother. He had also researched his Reynolds relatives in parallel and we are in touch on a regular basis, giving each other information and expanding our Reynolds family tree.

I have now got back in time to 1810 and the family is still in areas around Isleworth. My father now takes an avid interest in my findings! There is no doubt I have succeeded in bringing a lot of happiness to my father, now in his 85th year, and removed some of the myths and uncertainties that have been with him all his life. My only regret is that I was not able to start earlier when my mother was still alive, for I am certain she would have been proud of what I have discovered. This story is only the beginning . . .

My father **George REYNOLDS** was born in Isleworth, Middlesex on 23rd May 1918. He lived with his father **Henry REYNOLDS** and mother **Mary Jane née SCUDDER** and grandparents **Joseph** and **Mary REYNOLDS née Carey** at 54 Darwin Road, South Ealing, Middlesex. George's mother Mary died from a flu epidemic six months after he was born, leaving his grandparents Joseph and Mary to take over parental duties while Henry went out to earn a living.

Henry met **Mabel BAKER** and eventually remarried in 1920. They had two children, **Leonard** in 1921 and **Joan Nellie Mary Ann** in 1924. They set up home in Lothair Road, South Ealing. Henry, whose career in the Army had been cut short due to an injury whilst saving a fellow officer in the 1914-18 War (he had carried the wounded man out of the firing line, for which he was awarded the Military Medal), became a Manager at Feltham Sand and Gravel Works. Fate took another turn and Henry met his death following a motorcycle accident one morning on the way to work in 1926.

Now destitute and without income, Henry's wife Mabel decided to put the three children into homes. However since his grandparents Joseph and Mary had looked after George in his infancy and he was not Mabel's blood relative they agreed to take George back under their care and bring him up as their own. Leonard was sent to live on a farm in Leicestershire while Joan went into a home for girls in Ealing Broadway.

George's grandfather Joseph suffered a stroke following the news of his son's death and was forced to give up his job as a Waterman and Lighterman. He bought a greengrocery business as a means of income and together they moved to no.17 Darwin Road which was larger accommodation and had facilities to stable horses at the rear.

In 1929 George's grandmother Mary Ann died, leaving George at the age of 11 to look after his invalid grandfather Joseph and help with the family greengrocery business. Life was hard for George, for before going to school he would have to wait on his grandfather, wash and shave him each morning, cook meals and do other household chores his grandmother used to do. Amongst other things the greengrocery provisions had to be loaded on to the cart each day and off-loaded at night when George came home from school. In addition the horses had to be fed, watered and groomed and the stables mucked out and replenished with fresh straw. Frequent visits had to be made to the markets for fresh provisions, all part of George's routine.

Two years later in 1931 his grandfather made an attempt on his own life and George, who found him in a pool of blood, ran for the local Doctor and his grandfather was rushed to hospital. Joseph died soon after in hospital, leaving George all alone once more to fend for himself.

George went to stay with his grandfather's brothers and sisters, all of whom had families of their own. He spent some time with each but did not feel wanted as he represented a burden and yet another mouth to feed in times that were hard.

Tired of being an outcast George decided he would make a career of life in the Army like his father had. Together with a colleague they lied about their ages and enlisted. George was aged 16 at the time.

He spent fourteen years in the Army and became a PT Instructor (CQMSI) in the Army Physical Training Corps. Much of his time was spent abroad in Africa, India and the Middle East. When he did come home on leave he would stay with his aunt Ada and visit his stepsister in the Home.

George met **Winifred MONEY** who was a friend of his cousin Ivy. They fell in love and got married in 1938. They had five children: **Jeanette, David, Valerie, Paul** and **Peter** and lived eventually in Northolt, Middlesex.

*David Reynolds, 22 Inkerman Road, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2AG*

## **References**

*The National Roll of the Great War* runs to 14 volumes and can be viewed by appointment at the Imperial War Museum Library. Although containing only a small proportion of the personnel who took part in the War (entries had to be paid for) it contains many names.

Surviving Army Service records dating to WW1 plus Medal Rolls are held at PRQ Kew

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## **AMENDMENT TO POSTAL BOOKS LIST**

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Please note that the 'following book from our Postal Books List is now out of print:

"Ealing in the 1930/1940s"

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Church bells have played an important role in the life of a community since the 8th century. They were used to summon the faithful to worship, celebrate baptisms, weddings and feast days, give news of Royal births and glorious national victories, and were tolled on the occasion of the death of a parishioner: 'three times three' upon the death of a man, and 'three times two' upon the death of a woman, followed by the years of the dead person's age.

In addition there was specifically the curfew bell, which originally warned villagers to cover the fires in their thatched cottages before retiring to bed at the end of the day.

Individual bells were often inscribed with an appropriate prayer or text, and perhaps dedicated to a saint. Like ships, they were always referred to as female. The tenor bell in Upper Hardres in Kent was made by William Daw of London in the late 14th century and inscribed in Latin with the words "I am the resounding rose of the world called Katherine".

At the Reformation a great number of bells were silenced or removed but many were restored during the Elizabethan period and more were cast. Inscriptions on Tudor and Post-Reformation bells tend to be secular in character, usually in English and often incorporating the name of the bellfounder and the names of benefactors.

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## HELP!

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*This service is free to members of WMFHS (please quote your membership number when writing). In order to ensure that your appeal is published correctly and is clear to other readers, please make entries clear and concise, give all personal and place names in **BLOCK CAPITALS**, and all dates in full.*

*Entries from non-members can be accepted, at a rate of £3.00 for up to ten lines. Payments must be in Sterling only, with cheques made payable to WMFHS.*

### CANDLER

Seeking the whereabouts in the 1861 census of WILLIAM and MARY CANDLER and their grandson HERBERT CANDLER (my grandfather and of particular interest), also their son WILLIAM CANDLER, his wife SUSAN and son EDWARD HENRY CANDLER. In the 1851 census William and Mary are living in TWICKENHAM and William and Susan are living in HAMPTON WICK, but I cannot find any of them in 1861. The 1871 census shows William and Mary living at Amyand Terrace, Richmond Road, Twickenham with daughter MARY ANN, son William Candler (widower) and grandson Herbert Candler. If anyone has come across any Candlers in the 1861 census for Twickenham or surrounding districts I would be very pleased to hear from them and will gladly refund postage.

*Peter H. Alexander, 38 Shaftesbury Avenue, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants SO53 3BS*

### GRAY

Seeking information about my father's stepbrother ERNEST GRAY who was at 92 Darwin Road, Brentford 1950-1960. Any information on Ernest and his descendants would be appreciated.

*Colin Carter, Nene House, 8 Gardyn Croft, Thorpe Marriott, Norfolk NR8 6UZ*

### HELP OFFERED

A new name appears at the back of the journal in our list of services provided through Members' Indexes: Paul Barnfield has been researching the village of Hampton Wick for over 40 years and is happy to search his records in answer to enquiries for a small fee + SAE. See **Members Indexes**

I have always been interested in family stories, and as a child I was often asking my mother about our relations. The most intriguing story was usually about her wealthy Great Uncle **William** who had been a grocer in Twickenham and wore an old black overcoat that had gone green with age, which might have accounted for his wealth! But the story did not end there. He retired to Richmond and when he died in 1907 he was indeed a wealthy man, but sadly his estate was embezzled by his executor solicitor, and I recall my mother telling me that she and her sisters and brother only ever received an initial £50 each of their legacy. Mother would also talk about a legacy that Great Uncle William had left for some almshouses to be built in Twickenham, but she had never seen them or known where they were. That was all Mother knew. She was only five years old when Great Uncle William died so all the details she acquired had been passed down to her by her sisters and parents and she never really knew what had taken place, and no effort was ever made to solve the mystery.

Many years later after my parents had died my interest in Family History was rekindled and I decided that I would once and for all endeavour to find out what really happened with Great Uncle William and what it was all about. But where to start? Sadly, all of the generation who may have been able to give me the answers had long since departed. Fortunately, my Mother, who was born in 1901 had, during her childhood, collected many birthday cards and postcards that had been sent to her and her sisters and brother during the early 1900s. When she died in 1964 I came across these boxes of cards, and thinking they might be of interest decided to keep them, and so for many more years they remained hidden away in a drawer.

It was not until I started to research Great Uncle William that I remembered the postcards and wondered what secrets they might reveal. All I knew about him was that he had been a master grocer and lived in Twickenham, where he had a grocery shop. Right from the start the cards were of interest, and I learned of **Aunt Julia** and **Aunt Emma**, but I did not know who they were or where they lived. One birthday postcard to my Mother dated 1912 from Aunt Julia read "I am sending you 1/- (5p today!) for your birthday ". Then I came across a postcard addressed to Aunt Julia at an address in Richmond, Surrey, but for some reason it had never been posted - fortunately for me. This was the first clue to where the family may have lived. I followed up this address and found that this was the home of Aunt Emma and Aunt Julia (now widowed), but had previously been the home of Great Uncle William and his wife when he retired to Richmond, and where he was living when he

died in 1907. This was a real starting point, and a whole lot of information subsequently came to light.

My next move was to visit Somerset House to obtain a copy of **William CANDLER'S** Will. This brought to light further information and gave me the full names and addresses of his son **Edward Henry CANDLER**, his nephew **Herbert CANDLER** and his two sisters **Emma Tilbrook CANDLER** and **Julia Haslett** who were some of the beneficiaries under the terms of the Will, but the most interesting information was the legacy regarding the almshouses:

*"I give the sum of five thousand pounds unto my trustees in trust that the said trustees shall therewith establish six Alms Houses for poor and deserving widows and spinsters who have resided in the parish of Twickenham aforesaid continuously for twenty five years without having received Parish relief and of the age of sixty years or upwards in manner following that is to say My said trustees shall with the sanction of the Court or a Judge thereof of the Charity Commissioners under Section 8 of the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act 1891 apply a competent part of the said legacy in purchasing a piece of land in the said parish as a site for the said Alms Houses and shall expend a further part of the said legacy in erecting suitable buildings on the said piece of land and shall invest the remainder of the said sum of five thousand pounds and which remainder I desire should not be less than two thousand five hundred pounds in any investment authorised by law for Charitable Trust Funds and when the said Alms Houses shall have been erected my trustees shall convey the same and transfer the invested fund so that the same shall vest in the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of Twickenham or other local authority and so that they shall have power to vary the investment of the trust fund from time to time and shall with and out of income arising from such investment shall keep the said Alms Houses in proper repair and insured against fire and shall apply any surplus of the said income in making a weekly allowance to each of the inmates of the said Alms Houses. . ."*

Having now traced Great Uncle William, I was anxious to find out what really happened to his money. I remembered my mother telling me that the solicitor involved was taken to Court, but she knew little more. My next move was to visit the newspaper library at Colindale, North London to see whether I could trace if any proceedings had been reported in the local press. After much searching I found in the columns of *The Richmond Herald* a full report of the proceedings at Richmond Police Court regarding the embezzlement of William Candler's estate and other charges: a detailed report of the proceedings appeared in *The Richmond Herald* each week from 17th March 1917 to 28th April 1917. The Bench committed the accused to the Central Criminal Court. A report of the Criminal Court proceedings



appeared in *The Richmond Herald* on 19th May 1917 and **Arthur James FURBANK**, 61, a solicitor, was sentenced to three years penal servitude. At long last the full details had come to light.

It was not however until 1935 that the almshouses were built on a site in Amyand Park Road, Twickenham, being part of the land comprised in a Conveyance dated 29th January 1934 and made between the Southern Railway Company of the one part and the Trustees of the United Charities and the Charity of William Candler for Almshouses on the other part. Eventually, twenty-eight years after the death of William Candler, a block of ten almshouses was built - five for each Charity.

A few years ago I visited Twickenham and took a photograph of the Almshouses, which are still in occupation today, and I chatted with one of the residents. I only wish I had been able to research this during my mother's and her sisters' lifetime, as I know they would have been most interested to know the full story.



*Above: The almshouses in Amyand Park Road, Twickenham.  
Below: The plaque affixed to the building.*



Further research has revealed that William Candler was the third child of **William** and **Mary CANDLER**. William Senior was a carpenter and they moved to Twickenham in 1822 from Clare in Suffolk. William Junior had one brother and five sisters. He was baptised in St Mary the Virgin Parish

Church in Twickenham on 26th January 1826. He married **Susan RUFFELL** at St John's Church, Hampton Wick on 20th June 1847. They had one son, **Edward Henry CANDLER**. On 21st January 1873 (his marriage certificate names him as a widower) he married **Mary Ann GODWIN** at the Parish Church of Weybridge, Surrey. They were living at 9 Amyand Terrace, Twickenham, prior to their retirement to 2 St James Villas, King's Road, Richmond, sometime during the 1880s. Mary, his second Wife, died on 2nd September 1899 at their home in Richmond. William Candler died on 13th April 1907 at Richmond.

*Peter H. Alexander, 38 Shaftesbury Avenue, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire SO53 3BS*

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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I was most interested in the article written by Muriel Sprott entitled "My Ancestor was a Lunatic" (December 2002), particularly concerning lead poisoning. I thought you might be interested in knowing about my grandfather, as the reason as to the manner of his death has always puzzled me, and his symptoms bear similarities to those described in the article.

My grandfather **William BURROWS** was born 5th August 1861 in Clifton, Bedfordshire. It was sometime between 1871 and 1881 that he followed in his elder brother's footsteps, as in the 1881 census he was found living with **James BURROWS** and his wife Louisa in Ealing, Middlesex, and his occupation was plasterer. On 24th June 1883 he married **Elizabeth MOODY** at St Johns Parish Church, Ealing. Up until 1895, when their sixth child was born, William and Elizabeth were still living in Ealing, but by the time my father **Frederick Thomas** was born in 1905 they had moved to Southall, Middlesex, where their last three children were born. All this time William had carried on with his occupation as self-employed master plasterer, but then on 22nd June 1911 disaster struck. As you can see from the inquest report below - taken from the *Hanwell Gazette and Brentford Observer* of 1st July 1911 - he committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

I had been puzzled for some time as to why my grandfather should just come home and shoot himself. I had come to the conclusion that he was not a well man as he had had a Fall and also had an abcess, also my aunt thought he was permanently drunk. Could all of these symptoms be put down to lead poisoning as, like Edwin Hann in Muriel Sprott's article, William was a painter and decorator and would have used lead-based materials all his working life. My general impression from reading about his inquest in the newspaper was that his family had not been particularly bothered about him.

To this day there are no photographs of William, and when at last I found his grave he was buried in a public plot on the other side of the same cemetery - in Havelock Road, Southall - to where the rest of the family are buried. It is very sad as my father, who was only six years old at the time of William's death, had been told by one of his elder sisters that his father had been buried in St John's churchyard, Southall. Indeed he went to his own grave in 1950 still believing this to be so.

It would have been interesting to read a Coroner's Report as, as with Edwin, I would have found out what he looked like, but to date I haven't been able to locate it as I have been told that all Coroners keep their own reports and dispose of them after use.

### **SUICIDE AT SOUTHALL: Inquest and Verdict**

An inquest was held by Mr **Reginald KEMP**, Deputy Coroner for West Middlesex, in St John's Hall, Southall, on Monday, on William Burrows, aged 51, a plasterer, of 37 Florence Road, Southall, who was found lying dead with a bullet wound in his head, on the evening of Coronation Day. Acting Sergeant **TRIPP** was the Coroner's Officer and Mr **C. PEARCE** was chosen Foreman of the Jury. Elizabeth Burrows, wife of the deceased, was the first witness called. She gave evidence of identification, and stated that her husband had good health and had no troubles.

*Coroner:* Was he a sober man?

*Witness:* He sometimes got a little drink, but not often

*Coroner:* Had he had more than usual to drink on Thursday?

*Witness:* No, no more than usual.

The witness further stated that the deceased had seemed very much depressed lately. He had had a fall a few months ago and had hurt his head, and an abcess had formed. Since then he had been depressed, but he had no troubles beyond that. He had never threatened to take his life, and there was no insanity in the family. She last saw her husband alive at ten o'clock on Thursday morning, when he left home to go to the allotments. She was not at home when he returned, neither was there anyone in the house. When she returned home, between eight thirty and nine o'clock in the evening, she went upstairs and found her husband in the front bedroom. The door was not locked, but nearly closed. Deceased was in a kneeling position, and she did not notice the gun until she shook him, then, seeing the gun, she did not stop but immediately rushed down the stairs. She sent at once for a doctor and the police. It was her son's rifle.

The next witness, **Percy BURROWS**, a son of the deceased, agreed that his

father had been depressed and seemed strange since the time he had the fall, and that he had never threatened to take his life. He also went out on Thursday, and came back very soon after his mother, but did not go up into the bedroom. He was in the Territorials and kept his rifle at the foot of his bed.

*Coroner:* What about the cartridges?

*Witness:* I do not know anything about them

*Coroner:* You are not allowed to have cartridges?

*Witness:* No

Further replying to the Coroner, witness said he always cleaned the rifle himself, and there was no reason for his father to touch it. The Coroner asked if there was any difficulty in buying cartridges for the rifle.

*Coroner's Officer:* No sir, I understand that the deceased obtained them from a man who had been in the Army, and he had had them for some time.

Station Sergeant **SPRINGTHORPE** deposed to being on duty at 8.45 on Thursday evening, in Featherstone Road. He was there informed by the son of the deceased that something was amiss at 37 Florence Road, and immediately went there, in company with **Mr Albert HILL**. Arriving at the house he was informed by the wife that her husband was lying with a rifle underneath him in the bedroom. He went upstairs with the light and found deceased in a kneeling position just inside the door, with a rifle underneath him and a terrible wound in his forehead. He saw that he was apparently dead and sent for Doctor **SINIGAR**, who said that the deceased had probably been dead an hour. There was a string attached to the rifle and deceased had probably sat on the edge of the bed and discharged the rifle with his foot. The bullet had entered the forehead, passed out at the back of the head and went through the ceiling of the room. Another witness, a friend of the deceased, said he saw the deceased at 2.45 on Thursday at the *Prince of Wales* public house. He did not seem strange but was very quiet and depressed. He had seemed depressed repeatedly of late, but he had not noticed anything unusual, except that he was very quiet.

In summing up, the Coroner said that they must all be satisfied that that was a case of suicide. There was no reason why the deceased should have had the rifle, as he did not clean or use it. Seeing that the piece of string was attached to the rifle, there was no doubt that the wound was self-inflicted. Apparently the fall the deceased had had some time ago had affected him, and he thought they were justified in bringing in that the action was due to an unsound mind. Accordingly, a verdict of "suicide whilst of unsound mind" was returned.

*Marion Webb, 15 The Rise, Partridge Green, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 8JB*

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## WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE 2003

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The 2003 West London Local History Conference was held at Montague Hall, Hounslow and as usual was a sell-out occasion. The appreciative audience were treated to a variety of different topics from the period which was the theme of this year's Conference: Georgian London 1741-1841 . Amongst the many local history societies' stalls around the hall was the well-presented one of West Middlesex Family History Society, stalwartly manned by Ted Dunstall and Lewis Orton.

In the first lecture **Rodney Walshaw** of Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society spoke of John Rocque, the celebrated eighteenth century map-maker. He had been impressed on first seeing John Rocque's maps, and wanting to know more about Rocque himself, turned to published sources and Rocque's Will at the Public Record Office. Rocque was born about 1704 in England, France or Switzerland - he had Swiss antecedents. The first mention of him in England is in the records of the Huguenot Society in 1709, and in 1729 a 'Jean' Rocque appears as a godfather along with a Martha Rocque, godmother: she may have been his first wife. He later married a Mary Ann Bew at St Benet Paul's Wharf: she became his Executrix and carried on his business of surveying and map-making after his death.

He lived in Soho, and later at Piccadilly. His first map, an estate map of Richmond, was produced in 1734, when he would have been about 30; for some 14 years his business produced maps of country estates: he obtained cash from country gentlemen by including their country houses in his maps. His brother Bartholomew was a landscape gardener and John sometimes worked on gardens with him. Rocque sometimes just copied existing maps and sold them. As a map-maker he was involved in various deals with engravers and publishers, but his most famous map, of London, he published himself in 1746, producing a map which has become an essential aid to historians, archaeologists and many others.

A new map of London being needed because of the way the city had been developing, Rocque invited subscribers to support the production of such a map: the President of the Royal Society was full of praise for him and gave him his recommendation. The subscription list, amounting to some 365 names, was published. At the top is the Prince of Wales and other Royalty, and other dignitaries such as the Master of the Rolls, Army Officers, Fellows of the Royal Society, etc., but many other occupations are included, such as drapers, tinsmiths, etc. There is no woman on the list! The map covered an area from Hampton Court in the West to Woolwich in the East, and from Harrow Hill in the North to Bromley in the South. The scale was 1" to 1000

feet, or 5.28" to the mile. Parts of the map could be bought as single sheets for 2/6d, or the whole map on cloth, for hanging on a wall, for 16 guineas. Rocque was innovative: much of the sort of information and symbols he used on his maps later became common practice in map-making. 'Where he learned his surveying is not known, although there were manuals on surveying available, e.g. "The Surveyor" by Baron Rathbone. With the assistance of his employees, Rocque would have used triangulation and trigonometry to measure distances and such equipment as a theodolite, surveyor's chain, and perambulator wheel. By modern standards the maps contain inaccuracies, nevertheless Rocque set a high standard and his accomplishment was outstanding. Surprisingly, at the end of his life he left only a very small amount of money in his Will.

In the second lecture **Julian Mayes** of the University of Surrey at Roehampton spoke about Kew Observatory. It is not generally known that in its heyday Kew Observatory, still standing but hardly visible amongst trees at the back of Old Deer Park, Richmond, was the leading meteorological observatory in the country. Originally known as the King's Observatory in Richmond (referring to George III), it was built, by Sir William Chambers, in 1769 primarily to observe the transit of Venus, when the planet passes between the Earth and the Sun, which took place in June of that year. Just across the river from Syon House, the Observatory stands on the site of the Carthusian Priory of the hamlet of West Sheen: on such a site the Observatory has been protected from urban development.

The Observatory was also originally the keeper of Public Time, but this was transferred to Greenwich about 1840 - hence Greenwich Mean Time, not Richmond Mean Time. So it was a government-funded (Royal) Observatory, with official functions. It laid the foundations for future meteorological research up to the 1840s and has inspired generations of climatologists and meteorologists who started their career from there.

But originally instruments for recording the weather were not always well-sited: for instance in the 1700s thermometers tended to be put in a north-facing room inside a building, not outside, so records from that time do not give an accurate representation of outside temperatures. And the first rain gauge in use at Kew in 1773 was placed on the top of a pole on the roof, whereas it is now known they are most effective at ground level, where they are not affected by eddies etc. Later instruments were laid out in the grounds of the Observatory. One of the most precious and useful set of weather records still in existence is the personal weather diary kept at Syon House by Thomas Hoy who was at Syon House 1782-1822 and was one of most dedicated observers of weather at the time. Julian was able to give us the weather for March 15th 200 years ago: it was cloudy with rain, and the winter of 1815 was one of the coldest recorded. In 1803 Luke Howard of the



Observatory created a system for naming clouds (cumulo-nimbus etc.) still in use today all over the world (a book has been written about him: "The Invention of Clouds" by Richard Hamblyn). But by 1840 the Observatory faced a financial crisis. The British Association for the Advancement of Science came to its rescue the collection of old scientific instruments was transferred to the National Maritime Museum (and are now in the Science Museum) and under the care of the BAAS the Observatory was able to forge ahead with the development of effective weather-recording instruments.

Apparatus was developed to record the weather continuously: many weather-recording instruments were developed, for example a portable barometer ~ the Kew Pattern Barometer, still in use in the late 20th century, in 1851 came the humidity slide rule still in use today, and in 1854 the first louvred barometer screen; the photo heliograph could take photographs of the sun to count sunspots, which affect the weather, and help record the difference in solar output across the 11-year solar cycle, and two types of anemometer (wind recorder) were developed at Kew in the 19th century.

Kew standardised weather observations, and mass-produced weather instruments carried the Kew hallmark. One of the Observatory's tasks was verifying thermometers - 2,500 in 1854. By the 1840s, weather instruments were being fixed to kites and carried in balloons to introduce a third dimension to weather observation. Scientists from the Observatory took part in intrepid balloon ascents, such as that launched from Vauxhall Gardens in 1852 which went up to 20,000 feet and travelled 57 miles downrange to Cambridgeshire. Weather readings were taken twice a minute. In 1862 a balloon reached 37,000 feet.

In 1867 a decision was taken to set up weather observatories around the country. Kew Observatory remained central to the system and the instruments used were verified at Kew. In 1900 the Observatory nearly became the site of the National Physical Laboratory, but became instead the Observatory Department of the NPL when it was established in Bushy Park. In 1910 control of weather records was transferred to the Meteorological Office.

By 1979 Kew was costing £100,000 a year to run. It was offered for sale, and is now the Headquarters of two private companies. Part of the arrangement of the sale was that people should be allowed to visit the small museum which is housed in an outbuilding. Julian pointed out that this was a missed opportunity: Kew Observatory would have been a wonderful place for a National Meteorological Museum.

In the third talk **Jacqui Pearce**, a pottery expert from the Museum of London's Specialist Services, spoke about local pottery manufacture. Locally three very different types of wares were produced: stoneware at



Fulham Pottery, a variety of wares at Isleworth, especially fine porcelains from 1765 up to the end of the 18th century, and tinglaze and stoneware at Mortlake. John Dwight's stoneware pottery was established in 1672 at Fulham, which was then a fashionable place to live; this was the first commercially successful production of stoneware in the country and led to the killing off of imported German stoneware jugs. Stoneware is so-called because it is fired at so high a temperature - around 1400°C - that the material vitrifies, making it non-porous and very durable.

Fulham Pottery remained in existence till the 1980s, and in the 1970s an archaeological excavation took place, which found massive quantities of production waste. Some of the jugs were custom-made and carried personal medallions, especially those for inns - 450 medallions were identified in the excavation. Dwight tried his hand at producing porcelain, but got nowhere near it. He died in 1703 but production continued, the mainstay of which was brown stoneware, which was utilitarian, not a luxury item for the table. By the early 19th century the Fulham production was very similar to that of other potteries around the country.

Several potteries flourished in Mortlake in the 17th and 18th centuries, at 99 High Street from 1619, another at 61-72 High Street, 107 High Street and at St Mary's Wharf. John Sanders at 61-72 High Street produced blue and white tablewares, and later white ware and the highly coloured and decorated tinglaze ware, which was very popular and a luxury item for use at the table. At 107 High Street Delftware and tinglaze ware were produced.

In the second half of the 18th century the Staffordshire potteries began to produce porcelain for use with the now-popular tea and coffee, for which delftware and tinglaze ware were unsuitable; transfer printing onto ceramics was also coming in. Porcelain took over the market from tinglaze ware. Finally production of these wares was transferred from Mortlake to Vauxhall in 1823, and by the mid-19th century pottery manufacture in Mortlake had come to an end.

In the mid-eighteenth century Joseph Shaw was producing porcelain at Railshead Creek, Isleworth, where a group of cottages were called "China Cottages". The land was eventually sold to Nazareth House and the pottery relocated to Hanworth Road, Hounslow. Some clay was dug locally for the pottery, and the pits were filled in with pottery waste, found in a recent archaeological excavation, and which has provided considerable information about the production of fine wares in the area.

After lunch members of the Conference Committee, in what has become a tradition at the Conference, gave readings culled from contemporary writings, on this occasion about eighteenth and early nineteenth century

schools, seen from the point of view of both teachers and pupils and embracing charity schools for the poor and private schools for the better-off. After which David Blomfield spoke of the threatened livelihood of the Thames watermen, dealing particularly with one family, the Laytons of Kew.

In 1803 a meeting, chaired by the Duke of Cumberland, was held at St Anne's church, Kew, about the threat of war and the need to raise a Volunteer Force to act in addition to the official Militia. There were a number of volunteers from the small Kew community, most of whom were probably employees of the Duke or were working on the Royal palace then being built at Kew. Two Layton boys volunteered for the Force. This was probably to escape the Press (for the Navy). Watermen were the taxi-drivers of the time, ferrying people up and downriver, as well as across, in an age when the roads were very bad, especially in winter. There were also lightermen, who worked in Central London, unloading, or 'lightening' the big cargo ships which arrived from all parts of the world. Palaces and great houses were built near the Thames as the river was the only means to bring in building materials.

In 1750 came the building of Westminster Bridge, the first bridge in London since the mediaeval London Bridge. Kingston was another ancient bridge but was some distance outside London, and Fulham (later Putney) Bridge had been built in wood in the 1720s but had not had much impact on traffic. Now that bridges were being built, and more were to follow in the eighteenth century, roads again became important. The livelihood of the watermen began to be affected, and there were now fewer watermen's apprenticeships. The Company of Watermen and Lightermen was formed by Act of Parliament and therefore did not have the privileges of a Livery Company, whose members were not liable to the Press: watermen were an obvious source of material for the Navy.

The threat of being pressed was so bad that young watermen from upriver ventured no further towards London than Kingston, where their boats were taken over by old men who took them on into London. All kinds of tricks were played by the Naval recruiting officers, such as placing a turkey on top of the Monument in the City of London - a crowd gathered, and any young men were 'collared'. Bogus prizefights were also advertised, and would-be spectators who turned up were again 'collared'. The Duke of Cumberland wrote a letter of protection for the Layton eldest son, who was due to inherit the family business from his mother, watermen's widows being allowed to take on their husband's business and run it till a son could inherit.

Horses were not used for towing barges before 1770, and before that up to 60 men pulled the barges by walking along the bed of the river - there was then no towpath. It was pointed out that a horse could pull as much as 12

men, so eventually towpaths were built, usually out over the river so as not to encroach on riverside properties. Locks were not built until 1811; before that the navigation on the river was very bad in some places, but afterwards improved. At about the same time the Canals came along. The Layton family moved into barges in a big way and did well.

The family were off the river by 1860, the next generation becoming solicitors and wine merchants etc. Eventually the lot of watermen improved when they were able to take advantage of the new leisure trade on the river, some becoming masters of pleasure steamers, and hiring boats for fishing and other leisure activities.

**Anna Chalcroft**, a Guide and Friend at Strawberry Hill, then spoke on Horace Walpole's gothic villa in Twickenham. Walpole, who lived 1717 to 1797, a life which therefore spanned most of the eighteenth century, was a man of many parts - author, MR man of fashion, and during his life wrote over 8,000 letters, most of which survive. But he is best known as the builder of Strawberry Hill with its many innovations.

He bought 'Chopstraw Hall' in 1747, at a time when anybody who was anybody lived in Twickenham. Walpole changed the name of the house to Strawberry Hill, the name given to the area in Domesday Book. The Gothic style had become popular with other residents along the Thames who had added Gothic features to their houses. Walpole felt Gothic epitomised all that was best in England's past. He had builders around the house for some 50 years.

There were two quite separate spaces within the house, the public and the private, but the whole house was a 'cave of curiosities'. People soon began to be interested in seeing the house, and it became so popular Walpole sold tickets; one of Rowlandson's cartoons depicts people queuing at the gate. Walpole even produced an illustrated 'Guide Book' for the house. The house was specially lighted for effect - Walpole acquired a quantity of Flemish stained glass for the windows - which led to a fashion for stained glass windows. He used papier maché for moulded ceilings because of its lightness in weight, and designed his own wallpaper, some designs being based on features in the great cathedrals. Wallpaper was at that time fixed to battens so it could be moved around at will, and was hand-painted w Walpole would hire a painter-stainer to do the work for him; some of the original wallpaper has recently been discovered in the house.

He also installed a 'print room' with integral borders in the wallpaper for displaying his print collection, an idea which also became a fashionable 'must have' amongst other gentry. Walpole commissioned paintings and

engravings of the house, and left accurate and detailed descriptions of each room. After his death the 'greatest auction sale ever held' took place as items from the house were sold off, but he left money for his letters to be published.

Finally, **Valerie Bott** of Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society gave an account of the Brentford Flood. Whilst studying the 'Welsh Harp Reservoir in West London and its connection with the local Canal System, Val had discovered a news cutting about the Brentford Flood - for days the newspapers covered what appeared to have been a major disaster. She was intrigued and decided to find out more.

Although not heavily industrialised in the first half of the nineteenth century, Brentford was prosperous, catering for travellers to and from London and with a weekly market. The Grand Junction Canal, part of which is formed from the canalised River Brent, enters the Thames at Brentford, and barges and their families regularly came down the Canal system from the Midlands to Brentford with their cargoes.

The flood was preceded by some extreme weather - in January 1841 there was an intense frost; on the third of the month there was a tremendous thunderstorm. The very cold spell was followed by a sudden thaw. In the middle of the night of 16th/17th January, a surge of water flowed down the canalised River Brent and found its own way into the Thames, causing a catastrophic flood. Some of the canal barges had been frozen in since Christmas, and the families aboard were already in distress and receiving charity.

A police constable alerted the Canal bargemen and their families aboard the barges, but a number of boats were swept along in the water and were severely damaged, and there were several deaths. The Times published a story on the 18th January which talked of ice on the High Road, and people using portable pumps. One tanning business beside the Canal sustained damage estimated at £1000.

The newspaper stories went on for a fortnight and local collections were raised for the destitute bargemen. Merchants from the Midlands who employed the boatmen came to see them and give to the collection - the Duke of Northumberland gave £59, even Queen Victoria made a donation. Inquests for the dead were held in local pubs, and blame was placed on the Canal Company who had not given due attention to the Canal. A number of works were subsequently carried out and a new dam, which can still be seen, was installed at the Welsh Harp.

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## PAST MEETINGS

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In February **Pat Hilbert** talked to us about her ancestors the GREEN family, 63 of whom were Thames watermen, ten were Royal watermen (serving ten Monarchs for over 200 years), nine were lightermen, six were boatbuilders, and six won the famous Doggets Coat and Badge race, including Pat's father.

Many men in the family had served the obligatory apprenticeship with a Master Waterman: the 'superb' Waterman Company apprenticeship records are kept at Guildhall Library. Watermen were usually apprenticed at the age of 14, bound to a Master (there was a 'Binding Ceremony' at Watermen's Hall), and were issued with an 'indenture' - a document, copied out twice on the same sheet then cut with a wavy line, the apprentice taking one copy, the master the other. After two years the apprentice took an examination to be licenced and at the end of the apprenticeship took another examination to gain his 'freedom'. The records often give addresses and information on relationships, plus birth and baptism dates, and if the apprentice's circumstances were unusual, this might lead to an even more informative entry.

A waterman had to buy a licence every three years, and they were only licensed to work in specific places (the Company also holds a licence payment book). When licensed a waterman was given a badge number to be worn on his sleeve and fastened on his boat. Watermen's Hall has been on the same site since the 17th century - it was the first building to be burnt in the Great Fire but was rebuilt. It is now the only surviving Georgian Livery Hall in the City. The official watermen's uniform is an orange-red coat and cap. There is also a Putney coat (purple) and a Hammersmith coat (blue).

The Thames once formed the main highway through London. From the 14th Century London watermen provided the main form of transport; in 1598 there were more than 40,000 earning their living on or about the river: they were the taxi-drivers of the time. Roads were mainly dirt roads making progress along them very slow.

In 1791 Hackney Carriages were introduced, but the watermen's organisation was so strong the Hackney Carriages had to stop two miles from the river's edge to prevent any competition. Watermen provided two types of river journey: up and down, or across - up to 1729 there was only one bridge in London, London Bridge, so the only way across was by ferry. In Saxon times there had been a wooden bridge; in 1176 a stone structure was built which acquired houses, shops and a church. The bridge could be

dangerous to 'shoot' in a small boat, its narrow arches so impeding the flow of water that the river would freeze over in winter. The mediaeval bridge was finally replaced in 1831, and there have been others since.

The watermen used wherries, a light boat rowed by one man which could take up to eight passengers and their luggage, and would take passengers from below London Docks as far as Windsor. Lightermen were employed unloading cargoes into barges from ships which were too large to dock at the riverside and had to moor in midstream.

In 1684 Thomas Martin founded a school at Putney for watermen's children; it closed as a school in 1911 but still exists as a charity for watermen.

In 1729 a wooden tollbridge was built at Putney; from the second half of the 18th Century more bridges were built and as the number increased the number of watermen declined. But by the 19th century some were able to take advantage of the new desire of the public to use the river for leisure. The Green family acquired a boathouse at Dukes Meadows near Barnes Railway Bridge; they taught sculling and rowing and also built boats. They also trained eights for rowing races: for many years Pat's uncle Bert GREEN trained the Oxford Cox for the Boat Race.

They went in for races themselves, such as Doggets Coat and Badge, which was first competed for in August 1715 and is still rowed every year. It is 4 miles 5 furlongs long (from London Bridge to Chelsea) for single sculls, and is rowed by watermen in the first year of their freedom. Unlike for the Boat Race, the river is not cleared during the race. Four-seater wherries were used till 1830 but since 1964 specially-built light boats have been supplied by the Watermen's Company. The race takes about 30 minutes to complete (Pat's father rowed it in 26 minutes, 29 seconds). A 12oz silver badge is awarded bearing the motto of the House of Hanover (Dogget began the race to celebrate their coming to the throne). Women can now also compete - once barred from plying as watermen, they can now do so.

Doggets Coat and Badge competitors are recruited as Royal watermen (who originally rowed the Monarch between Royal palaces); they still have official duties escorting the monarch on such occasions as the Opening of Parliament. Although when she travels by river the Queen now uses a motor launch, Royal watermen are still in attendance. The Archives at Windsor Castle hold records of Royal watermen, giving such details as date of birth, date of appointment and reappointments, date of death, etc. Although Royal watermen have to retire at the age of 70, they are allowed to become "extra" watermen if they wish. Few watermen could swim - Pat's father 'hated the water'.

Pat found the boathouse in the 1881 and 1901 censuses. As Barnes became more developed, by 1900 the family were hiring boats at 6d an hour - the Ferry was 2d. People came to Barnes by train and were met by Pat's grandfather in his boat - this was the only way then to reach the boathouse, but in 1914 a footway was opened on Barnes Bridge. Some of the family lived in The Terrace at Barnes - now houses there cost a great deal. By the 1960s the boathouse was being run by "Ma" Green. It had deteriorated and a new one was built adjacent to it. A renovation of the old boathouse was contemplated by the local council but in 1980 it was burnt in an arson attack by youths - reports appeared in the local paper. The land on which it stood was originally owned by the Duke of Devonshire; the area is now called Dukes Hollow and is one of the smallest nature reserves in the Country.

Recently two family history magazines have run useful articles about Watermen: "Oars and Scullers" in the PRO's *Ancestors* and an article by David Blomfield in *Family History Magazine* (Oct. 2002).

In April Paul Blake delivered a hard-hitting and sometimes horrific account of the 1857 Indian 'Mutiny' from its historical beginning to the eventual re-establishment of peace in the affected States.

In 1592 a Portuguese ship the 'Madre de Dios' was captured by the English off the Azores and towed into Dartmouth - it was the biggest ship ever seen in England. Its cargo, comprising tons of spices and other precious commodities from the East Indies, was valued then at half a million pounds. This excited the interest of British merchants, and a group of them petitioned the Queen for a Charter to trade in the East. This was eventually granted and the East India Company was born. It became extremely powerful and had its own private army, recruiting local men to control local populations as in Madras, Bombay and Bengal. But by the end of the eighteenth century a British Board of Control took over and British officers were in charge of the local other ranks.

The 'Mutiny' was restricted to a comparatively small area of Northern India and began amongst discontented Sepoys who probably used a religious dispute over the use of beef fat on cartridges issued with new rifles to mount an insurrection: it was probably not a coincidence that it was exactly 100 years since Clive of India's Battle of Plassey. British civilians including many women and children in beleaguered towns and garrisons, such as Kawnpore, bore the full brunt of the local soldiers' anger and many were brutally murdered. But the uprising was speedily put down once reinforcements arrived from Britain, and became part of the history of the British Raj.



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

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Two points I would like to make this time. One is addressed to anyone joining the Society and sending in their Surname Interests to be published in the journal. Now it might be that the next journal has just been 'put to bed' and your Interests cannot be included in that issue, *but* if they do not appear in the next issue after that, something has GONE WRONG and we (the Editor or the Membership Secretary) should be informed immediately. This being a very efficiently-run Society this is a rare event, but we would prefer it to be a non- event.

The other point concerns any enquiries which might result from the appearance of a particular surname interest in the journal. Can I emphasise that even if you receive an enquiry which cannot be answered by your particular research, it is equally important to send back a 'nil return', as this gives the correspondent 'closure' on the enquiry, instead of being left to wonder. So, please, always answer any query even when you can't be of help. And when making an enquiry please remember the all-important SAE.

**Deadlines for the quarterly issues of WMFHS journal are:**

**15 January; 15 April; 15 July; 15 October**

### **FIRE INSURANCE RECORDS**

The records of Fire Insurance Companies (see also *Bookshelf*) are of great use to the family historian. After the Great Fire of London 1666, companies sprang up to insure premises against fire. Every policy holder was issued with a metal badge, otherwise known as a 'fire mark', which was fixed in a prominent place to the outside of the building. By the 18th century fire insurance was also provided for those living in other parts of the country, particularly in the South and in provincial cities.

Where fire policy registers exist, they generally include the following information: policy no., name of agent/location of agency; name, status, occupation and address of policy holder; names, occupations and addresses of tenants (where relevant); location, type, nature of construction and value of property insured; premium; renewal date ; and some indication of any endorsements.

The Guildhall Library has the best collection of records plus many Fire insurance plans, as does the British Library. In order to assess potential liability, from the 18th century the companies commissioned the production of town plans, which give details on the use of their properties plus the number of storeys and building materials; house numbers are often given, sometimes with the schedules of occupiers. Later revisions of these plans are held in County Record Offices.

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## NEW MEMBERS

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*The Society welcomes all new members. The list below comprises those from whom surname interest forms had been received at the time this issue of the Journal was prepared. The interests themselves are listed on the following pages.*

- B271 Mr R.E.C. Boulter, "Kimmeridge", North Street, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5DA *kimmeridge0@tinyworld.co.uk*
- B270 Mrs I.J. Broom, 3 Grange Road, Bournemouth BH6 3NY *ij.broom@ntlworld.com*
- B269 Mr R. Budgen, 71 Pavilion Gardens, Staines, Middlesex *roy@budgenr.freeseve.co.uk*
- C224 Mrs J. Carter, 55 Medlock Road, Horbury, W Yorks WF4 6JA *william.carter1@btinternet.com*
- C223 Mr H. Coleopy, 31-23580 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge, B.C., Canada V2X 0S8 *hcoleopy@pacificcoast.net*
- C219 Mrs S. Coussens, 109 Edinburgh Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex *sally@cousens109.fsnet.co.uk*
- C221 Mr R.J. Cox, 27b The Parade, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5SB *robawake@yahoo.co.uk*
- D138 Mrs B.A. Davis, 35 Samuels Drive, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 3PR *barbara.davis@care4free.net*
- D132 Mr W.A.A. Dean, 4 Westmorland Close, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs PR1 0UT *williamdean@amserve.com*
- D135 Mrs J. Dixon, 36 Riesling Street, Thornlands, Queensland 4164, Australia *jeannedixon@ozemail.com.au*
- G122 Mr G.L. Gimber, 10 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, Middlesex *gimberg@dial.pipex.com*
- H226 Mrs M.J. Hague, 8 Franklyn Crescent, Windsor, Berks SL4 4YT
- H223 Mrs G.M. Hartman, 7 Ridgway Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8NN *jill@hartman3.freeseve.co.uk*
- H228 Mr J.C. Hinge, 3 Crawters Close, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1PW
- H225 Ms J. Holdway, 14 Tay Street, Ashgrove, Brisbane, Queensland 4060, Australia *jennyholdway@hotmail.com*
- M192 Mr G. Meeser, 12 North Road, Cliffe, Rochester, Kent ME3 7UH *gavin.meeser@btinternet.com*
- M166 Mr D.S. Mills, 9 Turner Avenue, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 5LT
- M195 Mr V. & Mrs K. Morgan, 34 Salcombe Drive, Earley, Berkshire RG6 7HY

- P129 Mr D.A. Paul, 19 Five Acre Wood, New Road, High Wycombe, Bucks  
HP12 4LD *david.paul1@tesco.net*
- R114 Mr C.G. Read, Drayton Manor, Tring Hill, Tring, Herts HP23 4LD  
*cread@smithassociates.uk.com*
- R115 Mrs C.M. Russell, 23 Grange Rd, St Peters, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3EP
- S188 Dr Camilla Sharp, 3 Tudor Road, Hampton, Middx TW12 2NQ  
*sunfish@intonet.co.uk*
- S222 Mrs J.M. Sharp, Oakdene, Weston Road, Congresbury, Bristol, North  
Somerset BS49 5ED *jeansharp@waitrose.com*
- S210 Mrs R.G. Sparrow, 55 Markfield Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6RQ
- S219 Ms J. Stokes, 37 Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AR  
*jaysnest@amserve.com*
- T70 Mr N.E. Thomas, 23 Beech Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex  
RH16 3RY *nigelthom@tiscali.co.uk*
- T72 Mr G.A. Trussler, 22 Linden Avenue, Old Basing, Basingstoke,  
Hants RG24 7HG *geoff.trussler1@virgin.net*
- V15 Mrs A.M. van Wayenburg, 66A Pebblebrook Road, Wainui RD1,  
Kaukapakapa 1250, New Zealand *woodfellar@xtra.co.nz*
- W203 Mrs P.R. Ward, 32 Laurel Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 2AB  
*patricia@teepee32.freemove.co.uk*
- W192 Mrs C.E. Wilson, 48 Heath Rise, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7PD  
*cwilson735@aol.com*

**Please note the following changes of address:**

- B132 Mr Andrew Begernie, Timbers, Orleton, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 4HN
- F82 Mr John Fielder, Flat 5, 1 Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon CR2 7EG
- F97 Mrs J.G. Fletcher, 3 Fairfield Chase, Bexhill-on-Sea, E Sussex TN39 3YD
- J56 Mr M. James, 1 Tamar Way, Wokingham, Berks. RG41 3UB  
*mike.james@bigfoot.com*
- M172 Miss P.J. Musgrove, Whittington Cottages, 6 Farm Close, Sunninghill,  
Ascot, Berks. SL5 7AR *paula.musgrove@logicacmg.com*
- W90 Miss Shirley J. Wooster, Bannett Tree Cottage, Joyford, Coleford, Gloucs  
GL16 7AS

**We regret to report the deaths of the following members:**

- C26 Mr Robert Chandler, 5 The Ridgeway, Astwood Bank, Redditch,  
Worcestershire B96 6LS (Honorary Member)
- F37 Mrs Jean M. Freeman, 96 Barons Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk  
IP33 2LY



## SURNAME INTERESTS

*The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed on the previous page. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. ANY' or ALL' indicates that, for instance, any date or any place is of interest. When writing to members about entries in this section, please remember to include an SAE.*

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
ANNETTS	18C	Andover	HAM	R115
ARNOT	Before 1806	Lasswade	MLN/SCT	V15
BALL	1800-1920	Hounslow Area	MDX	C223
BALL	From 1780	London	MDX	S219
BARRETT	c1840	St Pancras	MDX	D135
BARTLETT	19-20C	Worth	KEN	H225
BATES	Before 1875	St Ives	HUN	M166
BEAUCHAMP	Before 1840	Bedfont Area	MDX	M166
BEEDELL	Before 1881	Kensington	MDX	C219
BISHOP	Before 1700	Harmondsworth Area	MDX	W203
BLOWER	Before 1900	Portsmouth	HAM	B271
BOLT	Before 1846	Stepney	MDX	V15
BOULTER	1800-1900	Staines	MDX	B271
BRACE	c1835	Brilley	HEF	D135
BREMOND	18-19C	London	MDX	H223
BROOM	18-19C	Any	WOR	B270
BROOM	19C	Westminster Area	MDX	B270
BROWN	18-19C	Hammersmith Area	MDX	H223
BUCKLE	1870-1930	Sutton	SRY	C223
BUDGEN	Pre-1850	East Grinstead	SSX	B269
BULLOCK	Before 1800	Bristol Area	SOM	H228
BYATT	Before 1880	St Ives	HUN	M166
BYATT	1920-40	Wigan Area	LAN	M166
CALLAN	18-19C	Bath Area	SOM	S219
CASS	1820-90	Hampstead Area	MDX	D138
CHALKLEY	c1840	Southsea	HAM	D135
CHANDLER	Before 1880	Camberwell Area	SRY	M166
CLACK	19-20C	Marylebone	MDX	C224
CLACK	19-20C	Any	MDX	C224
CLACK	Before 1900	Any	OXF	C224
CLACK	19-20C	Any	YKS	C224
CLARK(E)	Any	Hampton Area	MDX	T70
CLAYTON	Any	Any	ANY	T70
CLIPPERTON	19C	Battersea	SRY	B270
COLEOPY/COLLOPY	1850-1926	Hounslow Area	MDX	C223
COOPER	19C	Kensington Area	MDX	H223
COSTER	Before 1865	Twickenham	MDX	M166

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
COTTON	19C	Uttoxeter	STS	B270
COVERDALE	c1750	St Peter Port	GSY	D135
COX	From 1850	Hounslow	MDX	C221
CROUCH	From 1800	Brentford	MDX	C221
CULVER	Any	Hampton Area	MDX	T70
CURRIER	Any	Any	ANY	D132
CURRYER	Any	Any	ANY	D132
DAVIS	19C	Tredegar	GWENT	S219
DAVIS	1880	Isleworth	MDX	V15
DEAN	Any	Any	ANY	D132
DENYER	19C	Any	SRY	C224
DORMANS	1854	Heerlen	NETH	V15
DOUGHTY	Before 1840	Margate	KEN	R115
DOWDEN	1750-1850	Hanwell	MDX	W203
DOWDEN	1725-1850	Harmondsworth	MDX	W203
DRAGE	c1840	Bermondsey	SRY	D135
DREW	1800-50	Chirton Area	WIL	H228
DREWELL	Before 1800	London	MDX	H228
DUNNETT	Any	Ipswich Area	SFK	H223
DUNNINGHAM	Before 1880	Ipswich	SFK	B271
EDWARD	19-20C	Pancras	MDX	C224
EVANS	18-19C	Liverpool	LAN	S219
FIELD	1850-1950	Hounslow	MDX	C223
FIELD	Before 1780	Hillingdon Area	MDX	W203
FINCH	1820-90	Northolt Area	MDX	D138
FISHER	Before 1780	Chiswick Area	MDX	W203
FLETCHER	c1700	Stoke Damerell	DEV	D135
FORD	All	Rickmansworth	HRT	W192
FORD	All	Chorley Wood	HRT	W192
FORD	After 1870	Park Lane Area	MDX	W192
FRANKLIN	18-19C	Northill Area	BDF	D138
FRANKLIN	Any	Brill	BKM	H223
FRICKER	1820-90	Holborn	MDX	P129
FULLER	18-19C	Carlton	SFK	H223
GIMBER	c1833	Ickham and Well	KEN	G122
GOODMAN	19C	West Ham	ESS	R115
GOODMAN	Before 1850	Witham	ESS	R115
GOODWIN	c1750	St Peter Port	GSY	D135
GRAVES	19C	Wayland	NFK	R115
GREGORY	Any	Hampton Area	MDX	T70
GRUMBRIDGE	19-20C	Battersea	SRY	B270
GUIDON	Before 1725	Harmondsworth Area	MDX	W203
GUMLEY	c1740	Isleworth	MDX	R114
GUNTRIPP	Pre 1900	Mortlake	SRY	M195
HADDOCK	All	Fulham	MDX	S222
HALL	Before 1865	Twickenham	MDX	M166
HARRIS	19C	Monmouth Area	GWENT	S219
HART	1815	St Marylebone	MDX	D135



Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
HARVEY	19C	Clerkenwell	MDX	B270
HEARN	18-19C	Any	ANY	B270
HEATH	All	Kensington Area	MDX	W192
HICK	18C	Hull	YKS	B270
HILL	Post 1850	Ealing	MDX	C221
HILL	18-19C	Fulham Area	MDX	H223
HILLIER	19C	Andover	HAM	R115
HINGE	Before 1800	Any	ANY	H228
HORN	c1800	Birmingham	WAR	D135
HOUSE	Before 1875	Lambeth Area	SRY	M166
INDGE	Before 1800	Any	ANY	H228
JACKSON	Before 1860	Kensington Area	MDX	R115
JAMES	18-19C	Sandford	DEV	B270
JAY	18-19C	Any	ANY	B270
JOHNSON	From 1800	Isleworth	MDX	C221
JOHNSON	From 1850	Brentford	MDX	C221
JOINER	Any	Any	ANY	T70
KERR	Any	Any	ANY	T70
KILGOUR	From 1905	South Lambeth	SRY	V15
KILGOUR	Before 1781	Cannongate	MLN/SCT	V15
KING	All	Hammersmith Area	MDX	S222
KIPPS	Post 1850	Kensington Area	MDX	B269
KLETT	17-19C	Schwerin	GERMANY	H223
LAKE	19C	Isleworth	MDX	R114
LANE	18-19C	Dymock Area	GLS	S219
LEVENS	Before 1910	Hammersmith	MDX	C219
LEWENDON	1765	Goring Heath	OXF	V15
LEWINGDON	1765	Goring Heath	OXF	V15
LEWIS	Before 1880	Westminster St John	MDX	W203
LEWIS	After 1840	Lambeth	SRY	W203
LEWIS	Before 1840	Shoreditch	MDX	W203
LIGHT	19C	Pimlico	MDX	H226
LOCK	c1840	Kensington Area	MDX	D135
LOYER	18C	Westminster Area	MDX	B270
LUFFRUM	After 1812	Brentford Area	MDX	D138
MACK	All	Fulham	MDX	S222
MANN	All	Fulham Area	MDX	H226
MANN	All	Chelsea Area	MDX	H226
MANNERS	c1740	Isleworth	MDX	R114
MATTENLY	Any	Hillingdon Area	MDX	W203
MAY	18C	Broughton Area	HAM	H228
MAY	19C	Marylebone	MDX	H228
McARTHUR	18-19C	Greenock	SCT	S219
McVICAR	18-19C	Greenock	SCT	S219
McVICAR	After 1820	Liverpool	LAN	S219
MECKLENBURG	17-19C	Schwerin	GERMANY	H223
MERRINGTON	All	London	MDX	D135
MILLS	Before 1850	Lavenham	SFK	M166

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
MILLS	1840-1950	Twickenham	MDX	M166
NEAL(E)	All	Bedfont	MDX	C221
NEATE	Before 1780	Any	BRK	V15
NOLLER	Pre 1875	Hammersmith	MDX	M195
NYE	After 1850	Ealing	MDX	R115
NYE	After 1850	Woolwich	LND	R115
O'CONNOR	All	Fulham	MDX	S222
OSBORN	c1800	Littlehampton	SSX	D135
OVENS	Before 1850	Westminster	MDX	W203
PACKHAM	Before 1870	Camberwell Area	SRY	M166
PACKHAM	Before 1905	Dartford	KEN	M166
PAINE	Any	Any	ANY	T70
PALMER	1820-90	Hampstead Area	MDX	D138
PARKER	Before 1800	All	SOM	H228
PAUL	1820-90	Hammersmith	MDX	P129
PELLING	Pre-1850	West Grinstead	SSX	B269
PHEBEY	19-20C	Isleworth	MDX	C224
PHILPOT	18-19C	Hammersmith Area	MDX	H223
PINNER	All	All	ALL	W192
PRIOR	19C	Sudbury	SFK	H226
PRIOR	20C	Fulham Area	MDX	H226
PRIOR	19C	London	MDX	H226
PURCELL	c1840	Dublin	DUB/IRL	D135
REDWOOD	19-20C	Pancras	MDX	C224
RILEY	Before 1870	Clapham	SRY	W203
RINGROSE	19-20C	Fulham Area	MDX	H226
RINGROSE	19C	Lambeth	SRY	H226
RINGROSE	20C	Heston	MDX	H226
ROLLS	Any	Any	ANY	T70
ROOKLEY	Before 1880	Tiverton	DEV	R115
ROSE	19-20C	Gateshead	DUR	H225
ROUND	Any	All	MDX	M192
RUSH	c1715	Farthinghoe	NTH	D135
RUTTER	Any	Kew Area	SRY	T70
RUTTER	Any	Hampton Area	MDX	T70
SADLER	Before 1860	Bury		V15
SAICH	Before 1860	Kensington Area	MDX	R115
SAICH	After 1840	Ealing	MDX	R115
SALT	1880	Acton	MDX	M195
SAUNDERS	Any	Great Milton	OXF	H223
SCANES	18-19C	Exeter Area	DEV	T72
SCUTT	From 1905	South Lambeth	SRY	V15
SHEPPARD	1850-90	Isleworth Area	MDX	B269
SHIRLEY	c1680	Staunton Harold	LEI	D135
SHURING	Before 1760	Any	MDX	W203
SI(E)VIOUR	1740-90	Acton Area	MDX	S210
SIMMONS	Before 1800	Midsomer Norton Area	SOM	H228
SINGER	After 1850	Chiswick	MDX	S188



Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
SOLLY	Before 1840	Thanet Area	KEN	R115
SPEARING	19-20C	Kensington Area	MDX	T72
SPEARING	18-19C	Any	BRK	T72
SPINDLER	Any	Kidlington	OXF	H223
STOCK	All	Fulham	MDX	S222
STOCKHAUSEN	18C	Cripplegate	LND	B270
STOKES	18-19C	London	MDX	S219
STRANGE	18-19C	Corston Area	WIL	S219
SURIN	Before 1760	Any	MDX	W203
TALBOT	Pre 1875	Hammersmith/Fulham	MDX	M195
TAVERNER	18C	Any	LND	B270
TEMPLER	19-20C	Kensington Area	MDX	T72
TEMPLER	18-19C	Exeter Area	DEV	T72
THOMAS	Before 1850	Westminster	MDX	M166
THOMAS	Before 1870	Lambeth Area	SRY	M166
THOMAS	Before 1890	Twickenham	MDX	M166
THOMAS	1800-1950	Teddington Area	MDX	T70
THOMAS	1800-1950	Kingston Area	SRY	T70
THOMPSON	1900-1980	Greenwich Area	KEN	C223
THURGAR	19C	Witham	ESS	R115
TOLMAN	18C	Wayland	NFK	R115
TOWLER	19C	Marylebone	MDX	C224
TRITTON	Before 1820	Hanworth	MDX	V15
TRUSSLER	1850-1950	Kensington Area	MDX	T72
TUBBS	Before 1880	Basingstoke	HAM	B271
TURNER	Before 1920	Hounslow Area	MDX	C223
TURNER	1820-90	Kilburn Area	MDX	D138
VAN WAJENBURG	1694	Netherlands		V15
VAN WAYENBURG	1694	Netherlands		V15
VICKERY	Before 1878	Kensington	MDX	C219
WAKEHAM	Any	Kensington Area	MDX	H223
WALTER	19-20C	Wandsworth Area	SRY	H228
WALTER	19-20C	St Pancras Area	MDX	H228
WAPSHOTT	c1900	Ham	SRY	C224
WARD	19-20C	Marylebone	MDX	C224
WEBB	Before 1900	Bures	SFK	B271
WEBB	Before 1910	Hammersmith	MDX	C219
WEBB	Before 1815	Chiswick Area	MDX	W203
WHEELER	1750-1850	Chirton Area	WIL	H228
WHELLER	1750-1850	Chirton Area	WIL	H228
WHITE	Pre 1850	Uxbridge	MDX	C221
WHITE	18-20C	London	MDX	H225
WHITE	1760	Cannongate	MLN/SCT	V15
WHITMORE	18-19C	Ipswich Area	SFK	H223
WICKS	18-19C	Chelsea Area	MDX	B270
WILLSON	18-19C	London	MDX	H223
WIMBURN	19C	Chelsea	MDX	B270



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## INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For members of the Society fees are as stated (please quote membership number); for non-members they are twice what is indicated below, except where specified.

Please note that all enquirers must include a SAE (or IRC). Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

**West Middlesex Marriage Index** Pre-1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Search for one specific marriage reference: £1 (non-members £2); listing of up to 20 entries for specific surname: £2 (non-members £4). Please supply places/dates/surname variants if known. All enquiries must contain SAE (minimum 220x110mm). Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.

*Richard Chapman, 15 Willerton Lodge, Bridgewater Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0ED*

**West Middlesex Strays** People from or born in our area found in another area. Enquiries : Members free, non-members £1.00.

*Mrs Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow TW3 4AP*

**Monumental Inscriptions:** Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge. Enquiries: free for members, non-members £1.00.

*Mrs Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow TW3 4AP*

**1881 Census Indexes** For fee of £1.00 plus SAE (at least 9"x4") any one county searched for any one surname. Fee will cover the supply of up to four photocopies of the entries found. Cheques payable to Mrs Margaret Harnden.

*Mrs Margaret Harnden, 10 Wavendean Avenue, Thorpe Lea, Egham, Surrey TW20 8LD*

**Chiswick Census 1801** Head of household plus numbers of males and females; additional information in some cases.

*Mrs R. Ward, 29 Ernest Gardens, Chiswick, London W4*

**West Middlesex Settlement Records** New Brentford, Uxbridge, Staines, Ealing, Feltham, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hanwell, Chelsea. Enquiries £1.00

*Mrs J. Hagger, 9 Mandeville Road, Shepperton, Middx TW17 0AL*

**Divorce Index** An index to divorces reported in *The Times* 1785-1910. Indexed by surname of principal parties, surname of co-respondent(s), and alias(es). Enquiries members free (SAE or IRC and please quote membership no); non-members: £1.50 (UK), A\$4, NZ\$5, inc. postage. Also available on fiche at £8.00 (UK), A\$22. NZ\$26, inc. airmail postage worldwide.

*Mrs. Annie Weare, PO Box 3021, Bassendean 6054, Western Australia.*

**Hammersmith Burials Index** 1664-1837 A search of this Index can be made for £1 per surname plus SAE.

*Apply to: Mrs Margaret Garrod, 54 Potters Lane, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5BQ*

**Hayes St Mary's Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1557-1840. Enquiries £1 per surname.

*Mrs M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF*

**Hillingdon Parish Registers** Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery). Enquiries £1.

*Mrs M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF*

**Isleworth All Saints Parish Registers** Baptisms 1566-1919, marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942. Enquiries £1.00, or \$5 US/Canada.

*Mrs M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF*

**Isleworth All Saints Parish Registers** Baptisms 1808-1854, marriages 1754-1895, burials 1813-1879. Poor Law Examinations 1777-1801, 1813-1830. Enquiries £1.00, or \$5 US/Canada.

*Mr A. Powell, 71 Whiteside Road, Brentford, Middlesex*

**Harlington Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1540-1850. Enquiries £1.00.

*Mr P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex UB3 SEW*

**Chiswick Marriages** Around 800 marriages October 1678- December 1800. Enquiries, giving approximate date, £100.

*Mr A. Powell, 71 Whiteside Road, Brentford, Middlesex*

**Harmondsworth Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages and burials 1670-1837. Enquiries £1.00, or 3 IRCs per name.

*Mrs Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow TW3 4AP*

**Feltham Index** An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham, Enquiries free, on receipt of a SAE. Contributions welcome.

*Mr P. Watson, 22 Bedfont Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4LT*

**Teddington Index** A growing database of material relating to Teddington and its inhabitants. Enquiries free to WMFHS members, on receipt of a SAE. Additional sources welcome.

*Mr D. Neller, 8 Ellera Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0HG*

**Coastguard Index** All enquiries £5.00 per name.

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

**West Middlesex War Memorials** Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials etc, for WWI and WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

All enquiries, SAE, to: *Ted Dunstall, 43 Elers Road, Ealing, London W13 9QB*

**Hampton Wick** Records of this village collected over 40 years of research. Will search records for ancestors etc. in answer to enquiries. El plus SAE.

*Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3TY*

**West Middlesex Family History Society**  
**Area of Interest**

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

If undelivered, please return to:

West Middlesex FHS  
c/o Mrs B. Purr, 9 Plevna Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2BS