

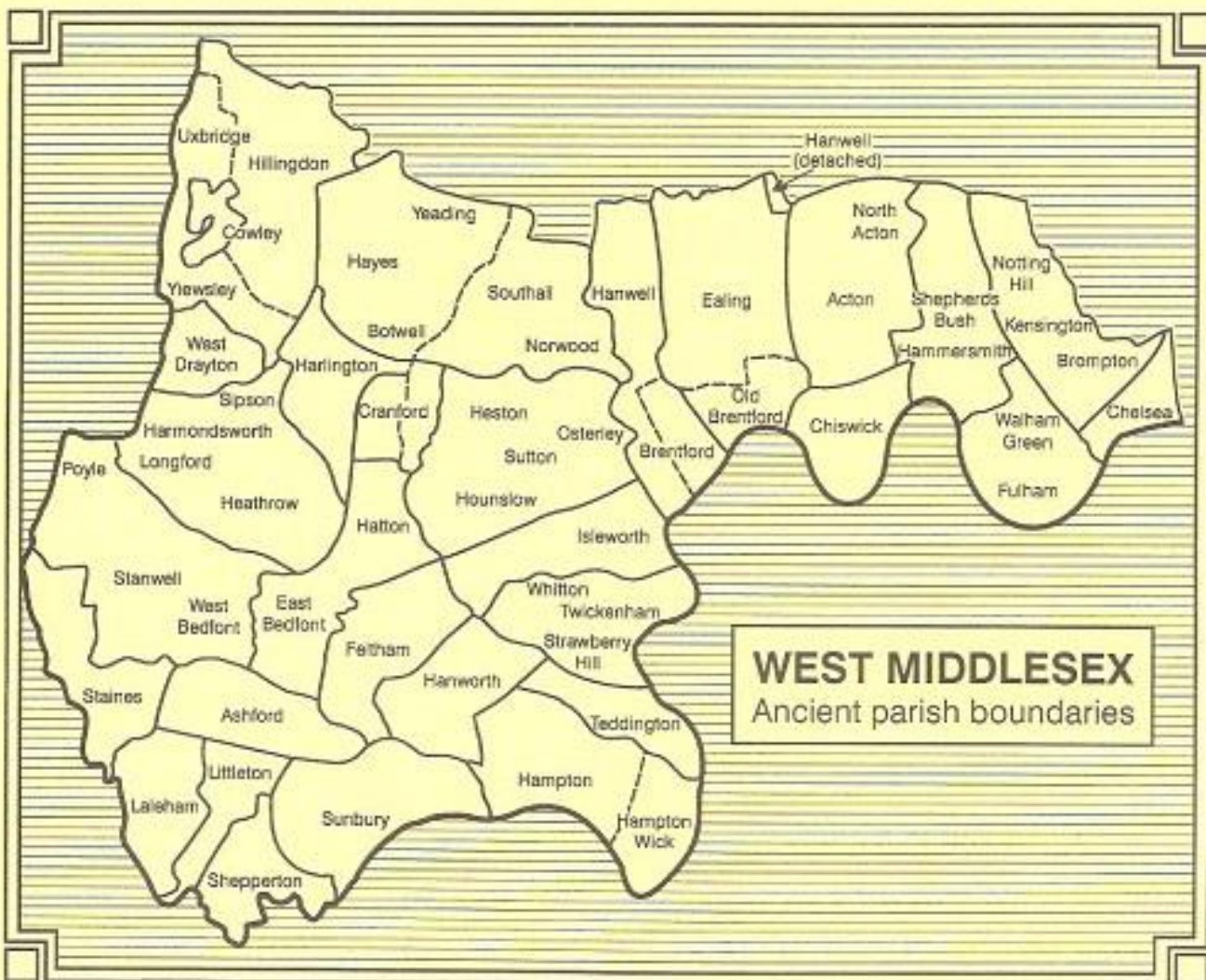


**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY  
JOURNAL**

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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	All Categories: £10.00 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:

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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:

- 18th Mar AGM and Members' Evening:
- 15th Apr They Don't Do Food Like That Any more  
*David Bartram*
- 20th May Education Records  
*Richard Harvey*
- 17th June DIY manual Self-help in 19th and 20th Centuries: the Friendly Societies – *Audrey Fisk*
- 15th July Members' Evening

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 (e.g. IGI, 1881 census, Middlesex marriages to 1837) and reference books, exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall, can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm; talks take place between 8 and 9pm; tea/coffee, cold drinks, biscuits are also available.



**WMFHS OPEN DAY**

**Saturday, 11 September**  
10am to 4pm  
St Peter's Church Hall,  
Laleham Road, Staines

*Indexes • Book Stall • Library • Postcards of churches  
Family History • Local History  
Guest Societies*

*All welcome – Admission Free*  
Light Refreshments available all day

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### **Federation of Family History Societies**

The Federation celebrates its 30th anniversary this year: its 30th anniversary conference "A Flight of Yesterdays" takes place at Loughborough University 26th-30th August. Details can be accessed from the Federation website [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk) or [www.flightsofyesterdaysorg.uk](http://www.flightsofyesterdaysorg.uk) or FFHS, PO Box 2425, Coventry CV5 6YX First class speakers include Carenza Lewis from Time Team, plus family and local history experts, and many family history topics covered, with special family and local history fair on the 29th, workshops and beginners' courses.

### **London Metropolitan Archives**

Since November 2003 the Public Cloakroom at the LMA has moved down to the mezzanine floor, i.e. half-way up the stairs, and the lift now stops there. Visitors must leave their coat and bag there before proceeding up to the Reading Rooms. The vending machines and telephone are now in this new facility and visitors can eat and drink there. The Main Reception Desk and public toilets are still on the first floor. Copying of documents which cannot be done on the self-service machines is done at the Reception Desk, where visitors can also buy pencils, postcards etc.

### **Museum of London**

From 17 October 2003 to 18 July 2004 the museum is staging an exhibition "1920s: the decade that changed London", which brings together varied symbols of that age from Bolshevik posters to the golden lifts from Selfridges store, telephone boxes, gorgeous dance dresses, goods from Woolworths, film of Anna Pavlova and Fritz the Cat, etc. By the end of the 1920s London had skyscrapers, talking pictures, jazz, the BBC, divorce, and traffic controls, and Londoners had more choices than ever before. During the period of the exhibition there will be a series of special talks and tours, plus film screenings including Alfred Hitchcock's *Blackmail*, the first British talkie. *Adult £5, cone. £3, under 16 free. Museum of London, London Wall EC2Y 5HN tel. 0870 444 3852*

### **The National Archives (was PRO)**

TNA conduct behind-the-scenes tours of their strong rooms and conservation labs. at 11am and 2pm every Saturday. Places are limited and booking is essential: to book tel. 0208876-3444.

TNA Kew now has a Cyber Cafe, a small room off the Restaurant containing ten PCs available free of charge, plus a Cafe Bar to one side of the Restaurant serving speciality coffees and teas plus cakes and pastries.

TNA are also offering a series of free taster/ training sessions, to take place in the Cyber Cafe:

**Monday 23 February**, 2.15pm: *Library Catalogue Taster Session*: find out how to use the Library Catalogue.

**Wednesday 25 February**, 6pm: *Census Taster Session.*" experts show you how to get the most out of the 1901 Census online (booking essential for this event: tel. 020-8876-3444).

**Monday 8 March**, 2.15pm: *Historical Manuscript Commission (HMC) Records Online*: use the HMC website to find out about non-public records.

**Monday 15 March**, 2.15pm: *PROCAT Taster Session*: learn how to find your way round the TNA catalogue.

**Monday 22 March**, 2.15pm: *TNA Website.*" Find your way around the TNA Website.

DocumentsOnline provides online access to more than 1 million digital images of documents held at TNA, which can be searched and downloaded. Free of charge from any PC at Kew or the Family Records Centre, but a charge per document if used from home: payment can be by Credit/Debit Card via a Secure System. Already included is the complete series of registered Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) Wills (1384-1858) (£3 per Will, immaterial of how long the Will is). The next major digitisation project will be the WW1 Campaign Medal Index (WO372) the most complete list, male and female, of those who served.  
[www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk](http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk)

### **Society of Genealogists**

On Friday 30 April SOG will be holding a special pre-SOG Fair event in the form of an afternoon conference "A Taste of Family History", which will include twelve talks to be given during the afternoon: Oral evidence: how to extract it; Ten Useful Websites; Where Do I Begin?; Births, Marriages and Deaths; Census Records; Family Search Website (Latter Day Saints); Scottish Army Records; Irish Army Records; World War One Records; Software; Newspapers; Parish Registers. Tickets cost £10, and will include a choice of four of the above talks plus free entrance, on either Saturday or Sunday, to the SOG Fair itself. Lectures at the Fair itself are not included in this ticket. Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7YB, tel: 020-7553-3290, email: [events@sog.org.uk](mailto:events@sog.org.uk)  
*Tickets for either this Conference or the Fair can also be booked on SOG's website: [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)*



## Diary Dates

**Thursday 12 February to Saturday 1 May:** Exhibition: *Women in the Office, 1870 to present*. The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle St, London E1 7NT, tel. 020 7320 2222, [www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk](http://www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk)

**Thursday 19 February:** Lecture at TNA Kew by Divia Patel of V&A: *Images of India*: photographic images from the 1840s alongside more modern images by such photographers as Cecil Beaton. 7.30pm, £5/£4 conc. (Part of the *Our Man in India* exhibition starting 23 January.)

**Tuesday 24 February:** At Family Records Centre, 2pm: talk: *Less Well-Known Sources at FRC* by Audrey Collins.

**Tuesday 2 March:** At Family Records Centre, 2pm, talk: *Getting the best out of the 1901 Census Online* by Dave Annal.

**Sunday 7 March:** Essex and East London Family History Fair, Courage Hall, Brentwood School, Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex. 10am~5pm. Over 100 Stalls. Admission £2.

**Tuesday 9 March:** *Blitz — London Daring World 'War II*, talk by Brenda Cole to Sunbury & Shepperton Local History Society at the Theatre, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton, Middx, 8pm, non-members £1

**Saturday 13 March:** West London Local History Conference on the theme *Victorian and Edwardian West London*. Venue: Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, Middx 10am-4.30pm, tickets £7.50, book in advance from Janet McNamara, 31B Brook Road South, Brentford TW8 0NN, cheques payable to West London Local History Conference, please enclose SAE. Always a sell-out (150 seats), early booking advisable.

**Saturday 27 March:** At Family Records Centre: Open Forum with staff from GRO Southport: how certificates are produced.

**Saturday 27 March:** At The National Archives, Kew, a special Conference *Records, Bureaucracy and Power in the Anglo-Norman Realm* to mark 800 years since King John lost Normandy to the King of France: day of lectures about the Norman Conquest, the twelfth century and the effects of the separation of the two kingdoms. 9.30am-4.45pm. £45/£39 conc. includes lunch and refreshments.

For more details and to book, contact the Interpretation Team tel. 020-8392-5323 or email: [events@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:events@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Sunday 28 March:** Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Family History Fair, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB. 10am-5pm. Admission £2.

**Sunday 3 April:** Family History Day Conference of London Cornish Association, *A Day with David Holman* (Chairman, Cornish Family History Soc). Includes facts about names, places and dates with specific reference to Cornwall. Plus demonstration of the CFHS database, and question and answer and problem-solving sessions. Hawkstone Hall, Christchurch and Upton Chapel, 1a Kennington Road, Lambeth, London SE1, nearest underground Lambeth North. £17 or £12 conc. for members of affiliated Cornish Associations. Further details and bookings: 020-8989-7336 or email: [brenda@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:brenda@londoncornish.co.uk)

**Sunday 25 April:** South Coast Family History Fair, Worthing Pavilion Theatre, Marine Parade, Worthing BN11 3PX 10am-5pm. South Coast's Largest Family History Fair. Admission £2.

**Friday 30 April:** *A Taste of Family History*, a special pre-SOG Fair event to be held at SOG's premises at Charterhouse Buildings (see notice above).

**Saturday 18: Sunday 2 May:** Society of Genealogists Family History Fair, 10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday, at Royal Horticultural Society New Hall & Conference Centre, Greycoat Street, London SW1, tickets £6 on door or £4 in advance from SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, London EC1M 7BA tel: 020-7553-3290, or online: [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)  
WMFHS will have a stall on Saturday 1 May.

**Saturday 26 June:** 9th Yorkshire Family History Fair, the largest family history event in the UK. York Racecourse (Knavesnire Exhibition Centre), 10am-4.30pm. All usual stalls, free carparking, cafeteria. Admission £3. Further details from: Mr A Sampson, 1 Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4ND, tel: 01642-486515. WMFHS will have a stall at this event.

**Saturday 3 July:** Kent Family History Society Open Day, Pembroke Building, Medway Campus, University of Greenwich, Chatham, Kent. 10am-5pm. WMFHS will have a stall at this event.

**Saturday 24 July:** Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day, Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. 10am-4pm. WMFHS will have a stall at this event.

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## WMFHS NOTICEBOARD

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Please make a special note of the events under **Diary Dates** where it is indicated WMFHS will have a stall: we are always delighted to see members who can make it to these events, especially those who cannot attend our monthly meetings.



Please note the **2004 WMFHS Open Day** will take place on Saturday 11 September, 10am-4pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Laleham Road, Staines.

A special plea from our Publicity Secretary, Ted Dunstall: if any member of the Society has in their possession any photographs taken at past Society events or when the Society has been in attendance at other events, Ted would be very happy to receive originals or copies of these photographs (his address is on the inside front cover of the journal). He has compiled an album containing such photographs, but its coverage is not comprehensive.

**INDEX:** In every year's March edition of our Journal we enclose, as a centre insert, an 'Index to the Journal' covering the previous year's four issues. Article References list the main articles by title and author, then we record Photographs, Reports of Talks by Guest Speakers and alphabetical lists of the Names and Places that appear in the articles. This year our Index has been extended to include all Surnames that appeared in 2003's HELP! And SURNAME INTERESTS sections. Of course, like all indexes, this refers you to the original source - in our case the specific 2003 edition of the Journal. Copies of the 2003 journals are available from the Membership Secretary, or the Editor can supply a copy of a particular item.

### **Agenda General Meeting 2004 – Notice of Agenda**

The Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held at 7.45pm on Thursday 18th March 2004 at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, Middlesex. The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th March 2003
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Project Coordinator's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Approval of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2003
9. Appointment of Examiners
10. Election of Committee
11. Any Other Business

Ted Dunstall and Yvonne Masson are standing down from the Committee having served for six years. Richard Chapman, Margaret Harnden, Patrick Harnden, Paul Kershaw, Bridget Purr and Robin Purr, having served three years or more, offer themselves for re-election for a further year. June Watkins has been nominated to fill one of the vacancies which will arise on the Committee from March 2004.

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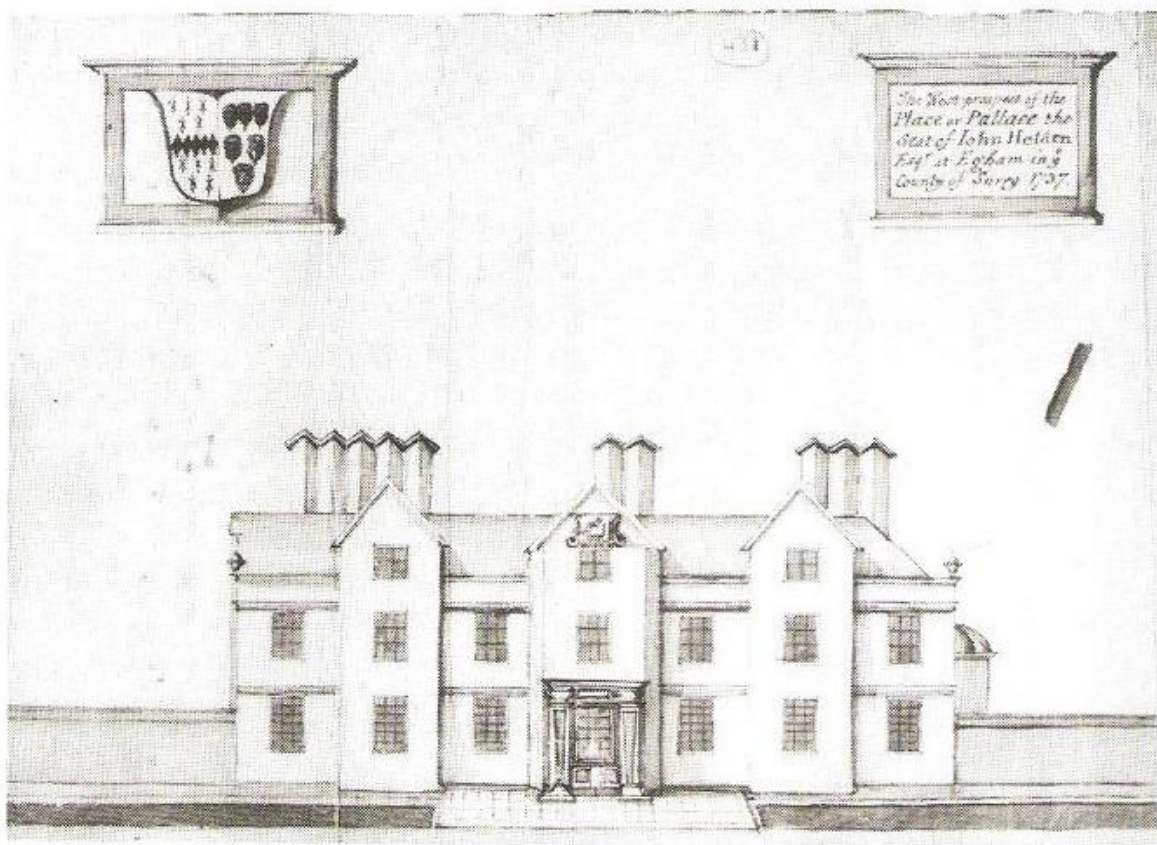
## FORSTER vs. FORSTER: 'A VERY MELANCHOLY CASE' (Part 1)

Richard Chapman

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*Legal records can provide a view into the lives of our forebears that is unsurpassed by almost any other type of official source. The aim of this article is to present one example where the records from a series of related court actions have been used to reconstruct a tale of marital breakdown from the late eighteenth century. Part I describes the background and the first action, in the Court of King's Bench.*

**John Forster** was born in 1748 into a family with considerable interests in Jamaica<sup>1</sup>. John's uncle, **Thomas Foster** MP, born in 1720, married Mary, only child of **John** and **Mary Helden** of St Kitts, who owned property in Egham, Surrey<sup>2</sup>. Following the death of the widowed Mary Helden in 1753, the Egham properties passed to Thomas and Mary Foster<sup>3</sup>. Among them was a house built on the site of the old manor house of Imworths, referred to



*"The West prospect of the Place or Pallace the seat of John Helden, Esq. at Egham in the county of Surrey 1737."*

*Reproduced with permission from the Oliver Collection (S.A. Oliver Charitable Settlement) in the University of London Library Depository.*

in John Helden's time as 'The Place' and later as Egham House<sup>4</sup>. Thomas Foster died and was buried at Staines in 1765, leaving no heir. Under the terms of his will, after the death of his wife Mary, the Egham properties and some Jamaican estates passed to his nephew John Forster<sup>5</sup>.

By 1777, John Forster was living in St Elizabeth parish, Jamaica, and on 18th June he married **Mary Brooks**, daughter of **Colonel Christopher Brooks** and his wife Deborah. Mary had been born in Jamaica on 18th October 1763: she was just thirteen years old when the ceremony took place<sup>6</sup>. John's aunt Mary had died suddenly in the house at Egham on 19th December 1776<sup>7</sup>. Now provided with a home in England, John and his young bride left Jamaica soon after their marriage, arriving in England in August 1777<sup>8</sup>.

At the age of just fourteen, on 1st July 1778, Mary gave birth to her first child, **Marianne**. Two years later a son, **George**, was born and both children were baptised at Egham on 17th May 1780. John Forster had left England in February to attend to business in Jamaica, but returned to England after eighteen months and in August 1784, their third child, **Henry**, was born and later baptised at Egham<sup>9,10</sup>.

The Honourable **Mrs Hester Lisle**, younger sister to the First Marquess of Cholmondeley, was eight years older than Mary Forster and in 1773 she had married **William Clapcott Lisle** of Upwey, Dorset<sup>11</sup>. By the early 1780s a close Friendship had Formed between Mary and Hester<sup>12,13</sup>. In the spring of 1787 Mrs Lisle was staying with the Forsters at Egham and invited them to join her and her husband at their house at Lille in Flanders<sup>14</sup>. By June it was agreed that Mary would accompany Hester upon her return and that John would follow soon after. The two ladies arrived in France at the end of the month<sup>13</sup>.

The Lisles were not the only Britons in Lille that summer. A British garrison was stationed there<sup>15</sup> and the officers, with their French counterparts, formed an important part of the social circle of the Lisles and their guests. Among the soldiers was a young lieutenant of the 102nd regiment, **Ebenezer George Nicholas Bryan Mussell**. Born at Bethnal Green in 1764, son of **Ebenezer Mussell**, a noted antiquary, his Father had died within a year of his birth<sup>16</sup>. At the age of sixteen he obtained a commission as ensign in the 69th Foot, and after the end of the American War in 1783 he lived in France and England, supporting himself on his lieutenant's half-pay and some income from property<sup>17</sup>. By 1787, he was living in Lille and that summer received an invitation to dine with William Clapcott Lisle and his daughters. Upon the arrival of Mrs Lisle the young lieutenant was introduced to her and her companion<sup>13</sup>.

## Lille and after

On 9th July 1787, soon after her arrival in Lille, Mary Forster wrote to her husband, describing with enthusiasm her situation - the town, the walks, the theatre - and her efforts to learn French. She wrote too of Mrs Lisle's great amusement at some 'amorous Billets' that she (Mary) had received from the Frenchmen. Such attentions continued and in a further letter, urging John not to delay in travelling to join them, Mary described the exploits of Monsieur de Mussey, who one night had made an unsuccessful attempt to reach her chamber by means of a ladder at the window. It was agreed to keep details of the episode quiet, but further notes were sent to Mary through the summer, particularly from a Baron de Silliac<sup>18</sup>.

Her letters to John and entreaties for him to join her in Lille met with no response: she protested that writing was 'like conversing with the Dead'. However John did finally arrive in September and stayed with the Lisles for ten days, during which time he met Ebenezer Mussell and invited him to call at Egham when next in England. While John was there, a further incident involving the Baron de Silliac occurred, when a letter was thrown through a Window of the sitting room in which the Lisles, the Forsters and their guests were assembled. Addressed to 'La Belle Forster', this note was regarded with great amusement by those present, including Mr Mussell. This and other attentions played by the Baron towards Mary were apparently of little concern to John, who later invited the Frenchman to visit Egham.

Towards the end of the month John and Mary made their farewells and returned to England, travelling to Canterbury and the house of John's sister, Elizabeth Venner, and her husband. Over the next few days, John acknowledged to his wife that while at Lille he had overheard a conversation between her and Ebenezer Mussell, in which they had arranged to meet the following day. John proposed - or so Mary was later to claim - that she write to Mr Mussell and ask if he would come to England and live with her, a proposal which Mary rejected with indignation. She confessed these events to Mrs Venner, indicating that she felt that John was determined to drive her away and that his proposals were more likely to encourage her liking for Mr Mussell. Mrs Venner sympathised and indicated her long-standing concerns at the behaviour of her brother towards Mary. She advised her to confess all to John but when she did, he informed her that since he no longer fully held her affections, she might never return to his house. John then returned to Egham alone.

Soon afterwards, Ebenezer Mussell arrived in Canterbury and exchanged a series of letters with Mary, her maid **Sarah Audley** acting as go-between.

Mary declined meeting him and wrote again to John, pleading with him to take pity on her 'taken from her Family, at the Infantile Age of little more than Thirteen' - but to no avail. Upon showing John's reply to the Venners, they agreed to Mary's continuing to stay. A week later she travelled back to Egham in the company of Mr Venner to seek a reconciliation with her husband. Her arrival caused John to fly into a great passion, but he was calmed by his brother-in-law and eventually agreed that Mary might stay.

A few days later she received a letter from Mr Mussell, who was now in London, and via the Faithful Sarah, agreed to a meeting at the gates of Egham House at midnight the following evening. The night proved to be wet and after John had retired Sarah was sent to the garden gate to admit Mr Mussell and show him up to Mary's chamber, where they sat and talked for some time before he was escorted out again. The correspondence continued over the ensuing weeks, Sarah acting her part as before, with John remaining ignorant of all. By now Ebenezer was staying at the Swan Inn, nearby in Staines.

By November John had announced his intention to send Mary to Jamaica and only after some entreaty was he persuaded to allow her to take their daughter, Marianne. On 7th December Mary received directions to join a ship on the Solent. In a hasty note to Mrs Venner she explained her situation and noted 'the other Party is so determined not to lose me [...] and is resolute to follow me to Southampton'. Letters were also exchanged with 'Captain Bryan' at the Swan Inn. The next morning John, Mary and Marianne set out in their chaise, with Sarah following by stage coach. Upon arrival at the Dolphin Inn, Southampton, Mary soon received a letter: Mussell had a chaise standing ready at an inn nearby. After some delays and hesitation the decision was made and Mary, along with Sarah, went to join him. With Ebenezer travelling alongside on horseback, they set out for London.

Travelling all night, they arrived in Westminster on Sunday morning and took rooms at the Westminster Hotel on Bridge Street, where Mary and Sarah rested. In statements that she was later called upon to give, Sarah provided evidence for the couple having slept together on this and subsequent nights while at the hotel. Later they moved on to the City from where Mary wrote again to Mrs Venner, soliciting her advice and the counsel of her husband. She also mentioned that Mussell had already consulted Mr Erskine, the well-known advocate.

On Christmas Eve 1787, the party moved to the White Bear Inn on Piccadilly and stayed there until the end of February. From here they moved to a house belonging to Peter Lyon in Marylebone. Here they remained, as Captain and Mrs Mussell, until mid-summer, when they moved once more,

to the Strand, where on 27th August Mary was delivered of a son. Three weeks later she moved again, to rooms in a house in Yeoman's Row, Brompton, belonging to a Mrs Harriet Law. Ebenezer, however, did not accompany her. Christmas Day 1788 was one of sadness for Mary, for after a period of illness her young son died and later was buried at Kensington under the name Ebenezer Brookes Mussell Forster. Mr Mussell, who had been admitted as a student at Gray's Inn in November, only returned to Brompton at around this time and was a regular visitor through the summer of 1789. Mary fell pregnant again and on 8th May 1798 gave birth to a daughter, who was later baptised privately at Yeoman's Row with the names **Sarah Mussell**. In June 1790 Mary moved once again, though whether directly to Mussell's chambers at Gray's Inn is not clear. They were certainly cohabiting there a year later. In February 1792, she gave birth to another son, baptised George Brookes on 7th March, again at Kensington<sup>19</sup>.

Mary's life with Ebenezer Mussell was brought to an abrupt end by his death early in 1793. He was buried at St Andrew, Holborn on 22nd February. In a simple will, made in 1789, he left all his property to Mary Forster, noting only that the bequest should not be liable to the debts or management of her husband, John. It was an understandable condition, given their recent history<sup>20</sup>.

### **Criminal Conversation**

We return now to John Forster and his actions since the elopement in December 1787. While recent events were such that their departure was probably no great surprise to him, and whatever his true feelings towards Mary, John soon resolved to take action. Over the next few weeks he consulted his advisers and early in 1788 made several moves. The first of these was an action for 'crim. con.' in the Court of King's Bench against Ebenezer Mussell.

In the higher courts of common law in late 17th century England, the action of trespass was extended to cover an action by a husband for damages against his wife's lover, their liaison being referred to as a 'criminal conversation'. By the second half of the 18th century, actions for crim. con. were largely the concern of the Court of King's Bench. They were conducted between the two men only, with the husband claiming damages against the alleged lover for trespass upon what, from the legal perspective, was his property. The frequency of these actions grew enormously in the second half of the 18th century and by the time that Forster vs. Mussell was before the court, it was approaching a peak. Publications relating to the cases, varying from formal law reports to highly sensational pamphlets produced for public



entertainment, were produced in similarly increasing numbers ~ the latter focusing particularly on the sins of the upper reaches of society and cases where the sum awarded in damages was particularly great<sup>21</sup>.

Whilst *Forster vs. Mussell* does not appear to have reached the attention of the public in this way, it was among a minority of cases that were contested. It also involved the two great characters on the crim. con. stage in this period; Thomas Erskine and Lord Kenyon. Erskine dominated the prosecution of crim. con. suits for many years, earning fortune and fame for the histrionics of his courtroom appearances. Occasionally he acted for the defendant, and following their initial consultation in December 1787, he agreed to do so for Ebenezer Mussell. Lord Kenyon was appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench later in 1788, a few months before *Forster vs. Mussell* came to court. For the last decade of the 18th century he undertook an increasingly extreme position in attempting to secure high awards for damages against adulterers not only to recompense the plaintiff, but as a public demonstration of punishment upon the defendant. However Erskine's presentation of the case for Mussell was able to save him from such a fate.

The surviving documents of the *Forster vs. Mussell* crim. con. action are few. Among the plea rolls for Hilary Term 1788 is one dated 23rd January for John Forster against Ebenezer Mussell on a plea of trespass and assault<sup>22</sup>. Forster claimed that in the previous December Mussell had 'with Force and Arms made an Assault upon [... Mary '...'] and then and there debauched lay with and carnally knew her' by which means he was deprived of her affection and comfort. Claiming further that Mussell had imprisoned Mary and so deprived him of her society, he sought £5,000 in damages; a sum that would certainly ruin the young lieutenant. Mussell pleaded not guilty and it was directed that the case should come before a jury.

Not until November is there another reference to the case: an order made to summon the jury<sup>23</sup>. The surviving records are silent as to the subsequent progress, but fortunately the hearing in Westminster Hall was reported in *The Times* in March 1789<sup>24</sup>. A brief summary of Forster's claim was followed by a longer account of the efforts of Thomas Erskine for the defence. Quoting from evidence of Sarah Audley, he described Mary as 'a woman of the most exquisite beauty, and of the most amiable and refined manners' who had for some time prior to the elopement been neglected by her husband. With characteristic flourish, Erskine spoke of how Mary 'was obliged to lye in a solitary bed, without the consolation, without the friendship, and without the society of her husband, who was snoring by himself, in the opposite side of the house'. He emphasised that she had been sent without protection to Lille and was naturally taken to be a single woman and that in these circumstances, Mussell had 'unfortunately contracted a violent passion for her'. On hearing that John was to force her to go to

Jamaica, Mussell acted as ‘a man of generosity and spirit’ to save Mary from her husband. The newspaper article concludes simply ‘Verdict for Plaintiff, One Shilling’ - not quite the £5,000 that John had been seeking.

(to be continued)

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

- 1 Foster-Barham, A.H. *Genealogy and Descendants of Roger Foster of Edreston, Northumberland* (London, 1897); Foster-Barham, F. *The Foster-Barham Genealogy* (London, 1844); Forster, B.G. *The Ancestors of Commander George Brooks Forster, R.N. 1792-1874* (Canberra, 1979); Westminster Archives: St George, Hanover Square: parish registers
- 2 British Library: Add. MSS 62898; Sedgwick, R *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1715-1754* (London, 1970)
- 3 The National Archives, Public Record Office (hereafter PRO): PROB 11/799 sig 15
- 4 Turner, F. *Egham. A History of the Parish under Church and Crown* (Egham, 1926); Malden, H.E. *The Victoria County History of Surrey*, Vol. 3, p. 424 (London, 1967)
- 5 London Metropolitan Archives (hereafter LMA): St Mary, Staines: parish registers; PRO: PROB 11/913 sig 412
- 6 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: Film 1368561: St Elizabeth, Jamaica: parish registers; Forster, B.G. *The Family and Descendants of Commander George Brooks Forster, R.N. 1792-1874* (Canberra, 1986)
- 7 PRO: PROB 11/1030 sig 164; PRO: PROB 20/959
- 8 LMA: DL/C/180
- 9 Surrey History Centre: St John the Baptist, Egham: parish registers
- 10 LMA: DL/C/561/1171
- 11 Parish register of St Martin, Jersey. Information from the Channel Islands FHS.
- 12 *Gentleman's Magazine*, March 1755; Mosley, C. (ed.) *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*, 106th Edn. (London, 1999)
- 13 LMA: DL/C/283
- 14 I use the modern spelling here, rather than the contemporary Lisle, to avoid an obvious confusion.
- 15 *The Daily Universal Register*, 13 Apr 1787
- 16 LMA: St Matthew, Bethnal Green, parish registers; *Annual Register* 1765, p.102; PRO: PROB 11/903 sig 66
- 17 *London Gazette*, 24-27 Jun 1780; *Army List*, 1780-1786; North Devon Record Office 1142B/T30/3-8
- 18 This section is based upon the entire body of evidence presented before the courts in later years. These sources are cited in Parts II and III and only references to other material are noted here.
- 19 Foster, J. *The Register of Admissions to Gray's Inn 1521-1889...* (London, 1889); Church of St Mary Abbots, Kensington: parish registers
- 20 LMA: St Andrew, Holborn: parish registers; PRO: PROB 11/1229 sig 102
- 21 Stone, L. *Road to Divorce. England 1530-1857* (Oxford, 1990)
- 22 PRO: KB 122/549
- 23 PRO: KB 125/173
- 24 *The Times*, 13 March 1789, p. 4, col. 1

### IS HE ONE OF YOURS?

The following monumental inscription has been sent to us by Mr. John Holloway who spotted it in Hastings Cemetery:

In Loving Memory of Thomas Brooks late of Kensington who died May 21st 1891 aged 73 years.

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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.*

### **HUGHES/DUFFIN/DUFFY**

THOMAS HUGHES married ELIZABETH DUFFIN or DUFFY at ICKENHAM, MIDDLESEX 18th March 1776. Children include THOMAS HUGHES born OLD BRENTFORD 1804. This Thomas Hughes married JANE AYRES of UEEINGTON in 1832 and had six children including another THOMAS HUGHES c1835 at St Mary's Church, RICHMOND. He married ELIZABETH WHITE 25 December 1858 at HARMONDSWORTH parish church; they had nine children including yet another THOMAS HUGHES in 1861 and my own grandfather GEORGE HUGHES 12 February 1864 at HESTON. There seems to be a tie-up with a building firm called DUFFIN AND HUGHES which later became THOMAS HUGHES AND SONS of LONDON ROAD, HESTON. They appear to have stopped trading in 1903. Is anyone researching this Family or know anything about the business? I would be most grateful for any information or help.

*Mrs O.M. Dorrington, 112 Harrington Grove, Cambridge CB1 7UB*

### **RANDALL**

My maternal great grandparents were ALFRED RANDALL, who died aged 64 on 30 May 1918 at 2 VINCENT'S COTTAGES, STATION ROAD, WEST DRAYTON, and his wife CAROLINE RANDALL, who died aged 83 on 13 May 1935 and at the time was living with her son at 62 EDGAR ROAD, YIEWSLEY, WEST DRAYTON. Has anybody any ideas as to where they might be buried. Yiewsley does not have a churchyard and having spoken to the Rector recently at St Matthews Church, I understand that West Drayton Church has not been burying for a considerable time so they could not be there. I was told to contact Hillingdon and speak to Angela Thompson, but they are not in Hillingdon, Harlington, West Drayton,



Cherry Lane, Uxbridge, Northwood or Harmondsworth Cemeteries. Any suggestions would be most welcome.

*Marion Webb, 15 The Rise, Partridge Green, Horsham, West Sussex RI-113 8JB.*

### **VINCENT/WALKER**

Any information about my grandfather PERCY WVILLIAM VINCENT, a tramcar cleaner, and grandmother MARY ANN ELIZABETH (nee MARSHALL); I believe they lived at 35 ROXWELL ROAD, SHEPHERDS BUSH between 1900 and 1902. Also my maternal grandfather CHARLES WALKER and grandmother ELLEN (nee CARTER) at either 14 SUTTON LANE or 4 BEACONSFIELD TERRACE, CHISWICK between 1906 and 1927. Charles was a Cowman/jobbing gardener from PIRTON, HERTFORDSHIRE. I have tried all these addresses on the 1901 Census on the Internet but have had no success; can anyone help please?

*Harry Vincent, 4 Sumerian Road, Weston Estate, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 85G*



Members  
enjoying our  
Christmas  
Party  
*for full report  
see page 33*



Missing a family hero? On a visit to the Museum of London (free entry] at the Barbican we found Postman's Park, which was opened in 1880. The site is made up of the churchyard of St. Leonards Foster Lane, St. Botolph Aldersgate and the graveyard of Christchurch Newgate Street. More land bordering Little Britain was added in 1883.

The plaque at the gate to St. Botolph 's reads:

The tablet is erected to the Glory of God in commemoration of the evangelical conversion of Rev. John Wesley, MA on May 24th, 1738 (the site of the meeting room of the religious society was probably 28 Aldersgate Street) and of the Rev. Charles Wesley, MA on May 21st 1738. The site of the house is near St. Bartholemew's Hospital, Little Britain. Erected by the International Methodists, May 24th 1926.

The pretty little yard is at the end of Aldersgate at the corner of Little Britain. The notice on the fence outside at the entrance to the yard states:

A church has stood here since the time of Edward the Confessor, the present church of St. Botolph being the third, dating from 1754. In 1950 it became a Guild church.

In 1887 the artist G .F. Watts conceived the idea of celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee by creating a national memorial to heroic men and women. A wall in Postman's Park was thus dedicated to this cause in 1900.

The name 'Postman's Park' is derived from the many postmen (the main Post Office was nearby) who went there during their lunch breaks seeking peace and quiet. Interested parties can view the names on various websites (e.g. visit the 'Google' website and search for 'Postman's Yard').

The Doulton tile commemorative plaques read as follows:

**Alfred Smith**, Police Constable. who was killed in an air raid whilst saving the lives of women and girls. June 13th 1917.

**Thomas Griffin**, Fitters Labourer. April 12 1899, Boiler Explosion at Battersea Sugar Refinery, was fatally scalded in returning to search for his mate.

**Joseph Alfred Ford**, aged 30, Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Saved six persons in Grays Inn Road, but in his last heroic act was scorched to death. Oct 7, 1871.

**Walter Peart**, Driver and Harry Dean, Fireman of the Windsor Express. On July 18th 1898, whilst being scalded and burnt, sacrificed their lives in saving the train.

**Amelia Kennedy**, aged 19, died in trying to save her sister from a burning house in Edwards Lane Road, Stoke Newington, Oct 18th 1871.

**Mary Rogers**, stewardess of the *Stella March* 18th 1899. Self sacrificed her life by giving up her lifebelt and voluntarily going down with the sinking ship.

**Edmund Emery** of 272 Kings Road Chelsea, passenger, leapt from a steamboat to rescue a child and was drowned, July 31st 1874.

**William Donald** of Bayswater, aged 19, Railway Clerk Was drowned in the Lea trying to save a lad from a dangerous entanglement of weed. July 16th 1876.

**P.C. Harold Frank Ricketts**, Metropolitan Police, drowned at Teignmouth whilst trying to save a boy bathing and seen to be in difficulty. 11th September 1916.

**Elizabeth Boxall** aged 17 of Bethnal Green who died of injuries in trying to save a child from a runaway horse, June 18th, 1888.

**Frederick Alfred Croft**, inspector, saved a lunatic woman from suicide at Woolwich Arsenal Station but was himself run over by the train. Jan 11th 1878.

**P.C. Edward Brown Greehhoff**, Metropolitan Police. Many lives were saved by his devotion to duty at the terrible explosion at Silvertown, 19 Jan 1917.

**Herbert Peter Cazaly**, Stationers Clerk, who was drowned at Kew in endeavouring to save a man from Drowning. April 21 1889.

**P.C. Percy Edwin Cook**, Metropolitan Police, voluntarily descended high tension chamber at Kensington to rescue two workmen overcome by poisonous gas. (1)7th Oct 1927.

**Herbert Maconoghu**, schoolboy from Walthamstow, aged 13, His parents absent in India, lost his life vainly trying to rescue his two school fellows who were drowned at Glovers Pool, Croyde, North Devon. August 28th 1882.

**Frederick Mills, A. Rutter, Robert Durrant & D. Jones**. Bravely striving to save a comrade at the sewage pumping station East Ham. July 1st 1895.

**Samuel Rabbeth**, medical officer, of the Royal Free Hospital, who tried to save a child suffering from Diphtheria at the cost of his own life, October 26th 1884.

**James Hewers**, on Sept 21 1873, was killed by a train at Richmond in the endeavor to save another man.

**George Blencowe**, aged 16, when a friend bathing in the Lea cried for help, went to his rescue and was drowned. Sept 6 1880.

**David Selves**, aged 12, at Woolwich supported his drowning playfellow and sank with him clasped in his arms. September 12 1886.



**Ernest Benning**, compositor, aged 22, leapt from a boat one dark night off Pimlico Pier grasped an oar with one hand supporting a woman with the other but sank as she was rescued. August 25th 1883.

**William Goodrum**, Signalman, aged 60, lost his life at Kingsland Road Bridge, in saving a workman from death under the approaching train from Kew. February 28th 1880.

**Thomas Simpson**, died of exhaustion after saving many lives from breaking ice at Highgate Ponds. Jan 25th 1885.

**Mrs Yarman**, wife of George Yarman, labourer at Bermondsey, refused to be deterred from making three attempts to climb a burning staircase to save her aged mother, died of the effects. March 26th 1900.

**William Fisher**, aged 9, lost his life on Rodney Road, Walworth, while trying to save his little brother from being run over. July 12th 1886.

**Richard Farris**, labourer, was drowned in attempting to save a poor girl who had thrown herself into the canal at Globe Bridge, Peckham. May 20th 1878.

**Samuel Lowdell**, bargeman, drowned when rescuing a boy at Blackfriars, Feb 25th 1887. He had saved two other lives.

**George Lee**, Fireman at a fire in Clerkenwell, carried an unconscious girl to the escape falling six times and died of his injuries. July 26th 1876.

**William Freer Lucas**, M.R.C.S, L.I.D. Middlesex Hospital, risked poison for himself rather than lessen any chance of saving a child's life and died Oct. 8th 1893.

**William Drake**, lost his life in averting a serious accident to a lady, Hyde Park, April 2, 1869, whose horses were unmanageable through the breaking of the carriage pole.

**Edward Blake**, drowned at the Welsh Harp waters, Hendon in the attempt to rescue two unknown girls Feb 5th 1895.

**Ellen Donovan** of Lincoln Court, Great Wild Street, rushed into a burning house to save a neighbour's children and perished in the flames. July 28th 1873.

**Edward Morris**, aged 10, bathing in the Grand Junction Canal, sacrificed his life to help his sinking companion Aug 2 1897.

**Alice Ayres**, daughter of a bricklayer who by intrepid conduct saved three children from a burning house in Union Street Borough at the cost of her own life, April 24th 1885.

**Godfrey Maule Nicholson**, manager of a Stratford distillery, **George Elliott**

and **Robert Underhill**, workmen, successively went down a well to rescue comrades and were poisoned by gas. July 12th 1901.

**John Cranmer**, Cambridge, aged 23, a clerk in the London County Council who was drowned near Ostend whilst saving the life of a stranger and a foreigner. August 8 1901.

**Soloman Galaman**, aged 11, died of injuries September 6th 1901 after saving his little brother from being run over in Commercial Street. 'Mother, saved him but could not save myself'.

**G. Garnish**, a young clergyman who lost his life in endeavouring to rescue a stranger from drowning at Putney, January 7th 1885.

**James Bannister**, of Bow, aged 30, rushed over when an opposite shop caught fire and was suffocated in the attempt to save life. Oct 14th 1901.

**John Clinton**, aged 10, who was drowned near London Bridge in trying to save a companion younger than himself, July 16th 1894.

**Elizabeth Coghlan**, aged 26, of Church Path, Stoke Newington, died saving her family and house by carrying blazing paraffin to the yard. Jan 1st 1902.

**Sarah Smith**, pantomime artiste, Princes Theatre, died of terrible injuries received in attempting in her inflammable nightdress to extinguish the flames which had enveloped her companion. January 24th 1863.

**Arthur Reglelous**, Carman, (Little Peter) aged 25, who was with Alice Maud Denman aged 27, died while trying to save her children from a burning house, in Bethnal Green, April 10 1902.

**Robert Wright**, police constable, of Croydon, entered a burning house to save a woman knowing that there was petroleum stored in the cellar - an explosion took place and he was killed. April 30 1893.

**Arthur Strange**, Carman of London and Mark Tomlinson on a desperate venture to save two girls from a quicksand in Lincolnshire were themselves engulfed. Aug 25th 1902.

**Henry James Bristow**, aged 8, at Walthamstow on December 30 1899 saved his little sister's life by tearing off her flaming clothes but caught fire himself and died of burns and shock.

**John Slade**, Private of 4th Batt. Royal Fusiliers of Stepney, saved one man and dashed upstairs to rouse others, lost his life. Dec Z6 1902.

**Joseph William Onslow**, Lighterman, who was drowned at Wapping on May 5 1885, in trying to save a boy's life.

**Daniel Pemberton**, aged 61, Foreman L.S.W.R surprised by a train when

gauging the line, hurled his mate out of the tracks saving his life at the cost of his own. Jan 17 1903.

Each of the plaques is a record of personal sacrifice. Each could be someone sought in a family tree, each an additional bit of interest to a family tree.

*Ted Hawkins, 8 Eskdale Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 5DJ*

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## **WMFHS NOTICEBOARD**

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### **Summary of Federation of Family History Societies and Society Of Genealogists' responses to the White Paper Consultation Document on Civil Registration** (summarised from the SOG and FFHS Websites)

The General Register Office will formulate its suggestions for the changes it requires to legislation and publish these as what is known as a Regulatory Reform Order (RRO). Parliamentary Committees of both Houses will scrutinise this Order and all the responses (including those from the family history community) then place their recommendations before the full House (there is still time to influence this process - you can still send a letter voicing your opinions to your MP, c/o the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA).

The Key Proposals (and responses of SOG and FFHS) are:

The registration records from 1837 will be split into 'historic' and 'modern' (i.e. those relating to the still 'active' population) records. 'Historic' records will relate to people born over 100 years ago, and it is intended they will be made available to the public in full. It is hoped they will eventually be digitised, possibly by a not-for-profit organisation. Access would be free or at minimum cost.

Both SOG and the FFHS welcome proposals for the registration records to be made open to researchers without the need to buy expensive birth, marriage and death certificates. They hope that there will be full consultation with prospective users about the proposed database to be prepared from the 'historic' records, but warn there may be problems caused by the volume of use. No details have been given as to how the not-for-profit organisation might recover its costs. 'The Government has no view on the question as to which 'historic' records should be electronically captured.' FFHS thinks it is disappointing that the Government has no plans to undertake this work itself. The original 100 year old registers held by local Register Offices would be transferred to local Record Offices.

'Modern' records are defined as relating to those born in the last 100 years (regardless of whether or not they are still alive) for all events, i.e. births,

marriages and deaths. The Government will supervise the digitisation of these records (possibly within the next five years or so but in the meantime they will be retained by the Registration Service which will handle applications for access) with certain suggested restrictions on information. Public access to the index to this 'modern' database will be free but there will be a charge for fuller information, subject to the restrictions. SOG considers that the proposal to link such 'modern' entries as births and deaths will be impossible to implement retrospectively, but welcomes the linkage of future entries, and advocates that family historians be able to access these linked records. Government departments (e.g. Pensions, Licence providers) will be able to access these records electronically, thus removing their need for the production of paper certificates.

It is suggested that 'modern' records at local Registries be put under the care of local authorities (but may be subcontracted) and the records made available for public inspection; the local authorities will have some guidance as to what they should make available but will have a certain amount of freedom as to how they do it. There may be varying standards of how and where records are housed depending on local financial resources: due to already-existing financial burdens, local records may not be able to be made available.

Suggested restrictions on 'modern' records:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Restrictions</b>
Births	Address of mother, occupation of parents, address of informant
Marriages	Occupation of bride and groom, address at time of marriage, occupation of parents (it is proposed that henceforth mother's occupation be noted at the time as well as father's, but information will be restricted].
Deaths	Occupation of the deceased, occupation of the husband if the deceased is a widow (in future wife's occupation will be noted), cause of death, informant's usual address.

The above restricted information will be made available to certain family members, although the definition of 'family members' is not yet fully decided. Suggestions are: spouse/life partner; their children/step-children; parents/step-parents (including guardians]; brothers and sisters [including half-siblings); grandchildren/step-grandchildren; uncles and aunts (or if they are deceased, their children); appropriate evidence would have to be produced to confirm the relationship. On behalf of family historians compiling family trees and histories, SOG proposes that the definition of 'family member' should be as broad as possible, perhaps to include nephews

and nieces and more distant blood relatives, e.g. great nephews, second cousins. SOG wonders how the Registration Service will cope with all those family members asking to see restricted information. They will have to assess the validity of documentation presented to them - will they be qualified to do so? These restrictions will probably mean researchers could not commission someone else to do their research for them; this may discriminate against the frail, disabled, or those with poor literacy.

There is an issue regarding balancing legitimate access against the rights of privacy of an individual. Could perhaps a genealogical organisation such as SOG apply to become an authorised user? Could there be a register of family historians who will abide by a code of practice? There has already been a warning that 'groups such as genealogists cannot expect to enjoy the same level of access to 'modern' records as hitherto due to security concerns': as well as the right of the individual there is the problem of identity theft (e.g. for passports).

The 100 year rule imposes restrictions based on the age of the subject rather than the age of the document. SOG suggests 'closure' on information should be 75 years for birth, 50 years for marriage and 25 years for death, and placed only on the use of the database ~ personal application at an appropriate Centre, with appropriate identification, would deter fraudulent and inappropriate use of records. FFHS suggests a cut-off of 75 years, but ideally no restrictions at all. Both SOG and FFHS point out that the Scottish system imposes restrictions of 100, 50 and 25 years respectively on birth, marriage and death databases and there is no restriction at all for personal applicants at the General Record Office for Scotland. According to the proposals, if someone died in their twenties, we would still have to wait until the 100th anniversary of their death to see details of an address, occupation or cause of death, although it is conceded that this information might be available elsewhere, such as in a Will. The restriction on occupation could make it impossible to differentiate between people of the same name. Restriction on cause of death may mean wider family members will not learn about genetic illnesses in the family. FFHS points out that occupation of father will not appear on the birth certificate of a child born within the last 100 years, but if he/she dies before the age of 16, it will appear on the death certificate. Address of parents and informants will not appear on birth certificates, but place of birth will, and till well into the 20th century these were often the same. Currently there is a restriction on production of birth certificates of people born less than 50 years ago, and death certificates for these people where they died age 16 or under. These are not issued unless the applicant can supply all the details which appear on the certificate, or can provide a good reason for requiring it, plus proof of their own identity. This

is perhaps a better safeguard than the proposed restriction on certain pieces of information on all certificates.

Overseas registrations such as births at sea, at embassies, etc. will be included in the Government's digitisation project. However again, this applies only to 'modern', not 'historic' records, but these should appear when they are digitised.

There is the question of how data will be restricted - will it be merely crossed through, or will the certificate issued be transcribed; the latter has always been an unsatisfactory process for family historians, as the transcriptions are often inaccurate. SOG hopes that the current proposals would improve the accuracy of birth, marriage and death records. The database should be accurate and easily correctable (family historians have already experienced the apparent lack of ability of government projects to control the quality of data transcription; there will inevitably be errors in transcribing information onto a database, and the implementers of the proposals should not repeat the errors made with the 1901 census). Unless researchers have access to an image of the certificates either locally or via the Registrar General, they will not know whether the database is trustworthy.

The 'historic' and 'modern' databases will have been compiled by two different organisations; after the restricted period, records will have to pass from one to the other. On death entries where the age of the deceased could not be determined, how will it be decided when the record should pass from one database to the other? This would also include marriages where just 'full age' is given.

To comply with this 'access framework', once a record is incorporated in the database, all holders of copies of that record will be required to apply the same framework, and this will probably lead to anomalies. It could well be that archive centres will not make filmed post-1900 registers available as there would be nothing to prevent someone looking at, say, prohibited marriage information whilst examining burial or baptism entries on the same film. There is also the problem of church registers containing mixed information, some of it restricted and some not. Some purchasable fiches already contain, say, marriage registers post-1900. Published transcripts also contain post-1900 information.

Four of the 14 criteria against which the proposals will be assessed are relevant to family historians, i.e. whether the proposals:

- 1) remove or reduce a burden



- 2) have been the subject of or take appropriate account of adequate consultation
- 3) prevent any person from continuing to exercise any right or freedom which he/ she might reasonably expect to continue
- 4) satisfy the proportionality between burdens and benefits as set out in the Act.

SOG considers the proposals do not meet these criteria: family historians will be prevented from continuing to exercise their freedom to know about their family. It will be more difficult to identify a recent ancestor or distant relative in these times of greater migration and fragmentation of families. The balance will swing away from what genealogists at present reasonably expect to achieve using the existing paper copies; the current proposals would prevent speculative research. SOG points out that it holds correspondence with the Home Office dating from 1912 reflecting its success in making the 1841 and 1851 censuses available for public inspection. SOG has also since the early 20th century continued to lobby about the restrictive regulations in the Registrar Generals office.

## **LOCAL ARCHIVES HOLDING MATERIAL RELATING TO THE WEST MIDDLESEX AREA**

The Society has produced a leaflet of the Local Archives and Local Studies Libraries in the area of West Middlesex.

The leaflet lists which parish is covered by which Archive or Library. Addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and websites are shown.

For your free copy, send an SAE or two IRCs to:

Mrs Bridget Purr  
Membership Secretary  
West Middlesex Family History Society  
9 Plevna Road  
Hampton  
Middlesex TW12 2BS

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## A PLACE IN THE SUN – *A digital indexing project at Guildhall Library*

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*In January 2003 a team of volunteers began the task of indexing a run of volumes of the Sun Fire Office policy registers at Guildhall Library. The team has been put together by the London Archive Users' Forum, of which most of the volunteers are members. The For-um was founded in 1988 to bring together both professional and amateur researchers and the professional custodians of records. Its aim remains to campaign for the preservation of archives, primarily in response to threats to archive services in the local government sector. This is their first project of this kind.*

Why the Sun registers? The Sun had the largest volume of insurance business in the country during most of the period 1710-1863 for which its surviving policy registers are deposited at Guildhall Library; thus its richness as an historical source is unparalleled. However, the aids to finding a particular person or place in the registers are extremely patchy. A number of indexes of the policies already exist. A Government-funded project created databases for the period 1775-1787, providing indexes for name/place/occupation/value, but not necessarily location, of the property insured; microfiche copies are widely available. Other selective indexes concentrated on particular crafts and trades, Jewish surnames and locally-based projects. There is also a card index to personal names 1714-31, arranged by county but entirely omitting London, Scotland and Wales, compiled by genealogist Alan Redstone.

The LAUF project is non-selective; it includes every policy in the volumes covered. Of course some choices had to be made. The estimated capacity of the project was 30 volumes, and out of 1200 volumes altogether there is some overlap with the existing, selective projects, but this has been kept to a minimum. The volumes chosen are nos. 471-500 from the MS 11,936 series, and cover the years 1816-24. They have a largely London focus, as by this time this run of registers was compiled by the company's London agents. The period chosen was particularly pivotal in British economic history and also represents a period when London map-makers were especially active: the data from the registers will complement a fine set of contemporary maps by Robert Horwood held in Guildhall Library, published as the 'A to Z of Regency London' by the London Topographical Society.

Basic data of a kind which lends itself to digitised searching is being entered on a database. This will be converted by the Access to Archives team at The National Archives into a format suitable for inclusion on the Access to Archives (A2A) internet database ([www.a2a.pro.gov.uk](http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk)) and early in 2004 will become searchable on the internet, world-wide, 24 hours, seven days a week.

The information being entered is anything specific to the policy in question which can readily be searched in an index: the names of the insured parties, their complete address, and their occupation or status, are captured in all but the infrequent cases where this information is not included in the register. Where the insured property - whether buildings or chattels - is not situated at the insured's given address, its location is also recorded, together with the names of the occupiers of buildings and their trades, if given.

Property values have not been recorded. There are two main reasons for this. First, the purpose of the A2A system is to open up access to the records themselves rather than remove the need to consult them at all; there is in most cases much to be learned, directly or by inference, from consulting the original register entry. Second, to capture values meaningfully would have required the project also to include description of goods or other property insured, which for reasons of sheer practicality would have greatly reduced the project's potential coverage. As it is, even with more than twenty volunteers committing half a day per week to the work during the whole of 2003, entering data onto laptop computers, only a tiny percentage of the MS 11,936 series of registers will be covered.

After the completion of this year's indexing, it is hoped that the work will continue, not least because the volunteers enjoy it! As one volunteer put it, "Each page-turn brings a fascinating aspect of London's social history." They have found the whole Regency world here, from the Prince Regent and the Duke of Wellington to sellers of old clothes in Whitechapel.

LAUF publishes a progress bulletin from time to time, available on request or on the LAUF website at [www.londonarchiveusers.org.uk](http://www.londonarchiveusers.org.uk). Susan Sneddon, the Project Manager, has day-to-day charge of the project. She is happy to deal with enquiries, including from new volunteers, and can be contacted on 07939-178246 or at [FireArchive@aol.com](mailto:FireArchive@aol.com). LAUF can be contacted at [ArchiveUsers@aol.com](mailto:ArchiveUsers@aol.com). It is hoped to continue the project after the present funding arrangements expire in March 2004.

Membership of LAUF is open to all. The annual subscription is £7.50 for individuals (£3 for each additional member at the same address) and £15 for organisations (who receive additional copies of the newsletter). For overseas rates, please enquire. To enrol send your name, address and telephone number to the Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Paul Hadley, 28 Poole Road, London E9 YAE; cheques should be made payable to the London Archive Users' Forum. Enclose SAE if a receipt is required.

Isobel Watson, The London Archive Users Forum, Roland House, 29 Stepney Green, London E1 3JX, tel. 020-7791-2661, email: [isobelwatson@hotmail.com](mailto:isobelwatson@hotmail.com)

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## BOOKSHELF

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### **Tracing Births, Deaths and Marriages at Sea** by *Christopher and Michael Watts*

The first chapter of this book looks at what records were created, or should have been created, for births and deaths (and marriages) within the British Isles, British Merchant ships, passenger ships, Royal Navy ships in territorial waters and other special categories. Later chapters identify what has survived, for what period, what the records contain, where they are to be found, and how they are arranged. The book also summarises details of the provisions which a number of Colonial administrations - particularly in Australia - made for the recording of events that took place at sea. There is a good section on subsidiary sources which may throw up information not otherwise available, be this from newspapers, gravestones, wills or occupational records. The book concludes with a search strategy and appendices to aid research.

*175 pp publ. January 2004 £11.99 (+ £1.50 p&p). Society of Genealogists Publication.*

*Available from SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA, rel. 020-7251-8799 email: sales@sog.org.uk*

### **Middlesex** by *Michael Robbins*

Although Middlesex tends to be thought of these days as one large, featureless suburb, it has a very interesting history, crowded with important events and famous characters, from a possible crossing of the river at Brentford by Julius Caesar to Winston Churchill at Harrow School. There are also minor characters: the devil of Edmonton, the witch of Finchley, the miser of Harrow Weald, highwaymen on Hounslow Heath. First published in 1953, at that time this book was the most comprehensive history and description of an English county ever attempted in a single volume. The first part describes the county's natural situation and its earliest history, and surveys its economic life, in particular its almost vanished agriculture and its modern industrial development, with chapters on particular aspects of its history, inhabitants and buildings. The second part is a gazetteer of places in Middlesex from Acton to Yiewsley. The book contains 48 pages of photographs, is fully indexed and includes updated tables of population and a detailed bibliography.

ISBN 1 86077 269 2 496pp 74 ill Published 2003 £17.99 (Online price £16.19)

### **London's Coffee Houses** by Anthony Clayton

Coffee houses are once again a familiar sight on the high street, the latest manifestation of an institution which began in the 17th century. After the Restoration of the Monarchy, London became awash with coffee houses, which became places for both leisure and business, news and conversation, medical treatments and auctions. So important and influential were they in the fabric of London society that at times the authorities tried to suppress them. In the 19th century during the Temperance movement, coffee taverns were established in opposition to the gin palaces. In the 1950s there were the coffee bars where customers could listen to the latest music such as skiffle and rock'n'roll. This book presents a thorough and entertaining survey of London's coffee houses, placing them in their social framework.

*ISBN 0 948667 86 9 HB 192pp 100 ill publ. 2003 Online price £15.25*

### **Genealogy for Beginners** by Karin Proudfoot

This book tells the family history beginner how to set about it: how to collect information from living relatives, how to make full use of all existing clues and traditions and how and where to find written records and what information they can be expected to provide as well as the likely problems that may be encountered and possible ways to solve them. In 1955 when Arthur Wiltis' original book of this title was first published, there was no other up-to-date textbook on the subject. This 7th edition, published 20 years after his death, has been completely revised and rewritten and is once again an up-to-date and readable guide.

*ISBN 1 86077268 4 144pp 11 ill publ. 2003 Online price £8.09*

### **Feeding London** by Richard Tames

This historical panorama includes markets and market gardeners, dining clubs and soup kitchens, gastronomy, starvation and adulteration, showing how London has fed itself over the years.

*ISBN 0 948667 85 0 HB 208pp 141 ill publ. 2003 Online price £15.26*

### **The Story of Domesday Book** by R.W.H. Erskine and Ann Williams

Domesday Book, first produced in 1086, has attracted intense scrutiny, particularly since its 9th centenary celebrations with the publication of various new editions and modern translations. This book is a collection of special studies relating to Domesday Book by outstanding Domesday scholars. The contents include: A General Introduction to Domesday Book; The Geography of Domesday England; How Land Was Held Before and After the Norman Conquest; The Life of the Manor; Agriculture in Late Anglo-Saxon England; The Archaeology of the Domesday Vill; The

Domesday Boroughs; 11th Century Communications; Parish Churches in the 11th Century; The Castles of the Conquest; The Monetary System under William I; Weights and Measures; The Great and Little Domesday Book Manuscript. This book throws new light on William's extraordinary survey - Domesday Book is probably England's most important public record.  
*ISBN1 86077 273 0 238pp 80 figs publ. 2003 Online Price £16.19*

**The Chelsea Book: Past and Present** by *John Richardson*

The attractions of Chelsea were evident as early as the 16th century when both Sir Thomas More and Henry VIII built houses there. At that time Chelsea was primarily a riverside settlement to which people travelled by boat, usually disembarking near the Old Church. Serious development began in the late 18th century when parts of the large estate owned by Sir Hans Sloane were built upon, and as the Kings Road was brought into public use Chelsea spread northwards. It is now one of the most coveted areas in London for its architecture, shopping and atmosphere. This book explores Chelsea's history up to modern times.

*ISBN 0 948667 89 3 128pp 181 ill publ. 2003 Online price £13.05*

**Acton: a history** by *Jonathan Oates*

Acton has not had a Full-length narrative history published since the First World War. This well-researched new book will therefore be welcome to all those who know the area. It explores every aspect of Acton's past from its prehistoric origins to the late 20th century. Drawing on a wide variety of hitherto unused primary sources and the unpublished work of other historians, the author shows how a small village outside London grew to become a significant part of the Capital's western suburbs, including the impact of the Civil War, the time when Acton was renowned for its waters, its 19th century fame as 'Soapsud Island', and its industrial zenith in the mid-20th century. In addition to describing the lives, work, pleasures and problems of its less well-known inhabitants, the book Features more well-known people such as controversial cleric Dr Daniel Featley, the blue-stocking Lady Mary Wortley Montague, and more recently, Adam Faith and Sean Connery.

*ISBN 1 86077 277 3 HB 144pp 150ill publ. 2003 £15.99 (Online price £14.39)*

The above seven books are available from Phillimore 81 Co Ltd, Shopwyke Manor Barn, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 2BG

email: [bookshop@phillimore.co.uk](mailto:bookshop@phillimore.co.uk)

tel: (+ 44 for international) 01243-787636 fax: 01243-787639

website: [www.phillimore.co.uk](http://www.phillimore.co.uk)



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## SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS ON MICROFICHE

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### Monumental Inscriptions

The following transcriptions of monumental inscriptions for churchyards in the West Middlesex area are available.

	U.K.	Overseas
St Nicholas, Shepperton . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
St Mary Magdalene, Littleton . . . . .	£1.35	£1.75
St Mary the Virgin, Bedfont . . . . .	£1.35	£1.75
St Mary the Virgin, Harmondsworth . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
All Saints, Isleworth . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
All Saints, Laleham . . . . .	£2.35	£3.00
All six sets of fiche . . . . .	£9.50	£11.00

### Surname Indexes to the 1851 Census

Paddington (HO 107 / 1466-1467). . . . . <i>Set of two microfiche.</i>	£2.35	£3.00
Kensington, Brompton, Hammersmith & Fulham (HO 107/1468-1471) . . . . . <i>Four microfiche. These, together with the two for Paddington (above) cover the whole of the Kensington RD</i>	£4.35	£5.20
Chelsea (HO 107 / 1472-1474). . . . . <i>Three fiche. Covers the parish of St Luke, Chelsea</i>	£3.35	£4.00
Brentford Registration District (HO 107/1698-1699) with Hampton Sub-District (HO 107 1604 (part)) . . . . . <i>Three fiche. Includes the parishes of Heston, Isleworth, Twickenham, Hampton, Teddington, Acton, Brentford, Ealing, Hanwell, Greenford, Perivale and Chiswick</i>	£2.85	£3.50
Uxbridge (HO 107/1697) . . . . . <i>Two fiche. A complete index to the surnames, Christian names and ages for the Uxbridge RD which covered the parishes of Cowley, Hayes, Harefield, Hillingdon, Ickenham, Northolt, Norwood, Ruislip and Uxbridge</i>	£2.35	£3.00
Staines (HO 107/1696). . . . . <i>Two fiche. A complete index to the surnames, Christian names and ages for the Staines RD which covered the parishes of Ashford, Cranford, East Bedfont, Feltham, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton, Stanwell, Staines and Sunbury</i>	£2.35	£3.00

### Indexes to the 1891 Census

Hampton (RG 12/616-618) . . . . . <i>Two fiche. Index of surnames, Christian names and ages for Hampton, Hampton Wick and Teddington, which comprise the Hampton sub-district of the Kingston RD</i>	£2.35	£3.00
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All prices above include postage. Please indicate the number of each that you require, and send your order with your name, address and payment (sterling only, cheques payable to West Middlesex Family History Society) to: Mrs. M.M. Harris, "Stone Lea", Mellors Lane, Holbrook, Derbyshire DE56 0SY

*It is suggested that UK members order from Mrs. Harris, not GENFAIR as you will then not be charged VAT.*

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## PAST MEETINGS

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Last November member Roy Hewitt gave a riveting talk on the subject: "A Corner of a Foreign Field: a History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission", taking us on a visual tour of various World War One cemeteries and showing us the different ways the fallen are commemorated, from the gravestones of the unidentified bearing the simple legend "Known only to God" to the fallen sons of such famous figures as Prime Minister Asquith, Sir Harry Lauder and Rudyard Kipling, and the grave of the poet Rupert Brooke who died of blood poisoning from an infected insect bite, but had earlier coined the phrase "a corner of a foreign field". One cemetery is known as the "Aristocrats Cemetery" as it contains some titled fallen, including a 'Lord' and a 'Baron'. Elsewhere two brothers, and a father and son, lie buried side by side. Roy's wife's grandfather, who died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme - a day of 60,000 casualties including 20,000 dead - left behind a wife and ten children. Also shown was the grave of Private Nugent, whose remains were not found until 1999. Some graves are collective ones, like that of a group of 'sappers' - Royal Engineers - who were entombed together whilst carrying out mining operations beneath the German lines at Ypres. Occasionally the trenches themselves were later made use of as burial places: one is marked "the Devonshires held this trench; the Devonshires hold it still". The Menin Gate was put up to commemorate the missing.

The war cemeteries vary in size from garden size to whole fields; most contain a monumental 'Cross of Sacrifice'. At the entrance to the cemeteries registers and visitors' books are held: sometimes where an actual grave position has been lost, names are given as "believed, or known, to be buried in this cemetery". Gravemarkers at first were simple wooden crosses made by the surviving soldiers themselves. The Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission was created by Royal Charter as early as 1917 and the last cemetery was completed in 1934. Very soon after the War people began to visit the cemeteries — in fact better-off families were sometimes able to bring bodies back to England: in more recent conflicts, families have been given the choice to repatriate bodies. It was decided to bury bodies and mark graves without regard to rank. Photographs of graves were sent to families, and these may well still survive amongst family papers. The headstones of identified bodies always contain military details - a carving of the regimental cap badge, the soldier's serial number, rank, name and sometimes age, and date of death. Families could also choose a religious symbol, e. g. the Christian cross (gravestones of non-conformists tend not to

have crosses), star of David, plus a personal inscription not exceeding 66 letters. Whether the inscriptions were free or charged for depended on where the fighting forces came from: Australia provided them for free, the British Government charged for them, e.g. "Rest in Peace" cost 3s.9½d - so many families could not afford these extra inscriptions. Awards such as the VC are mentioned on a headstone, including the only man - a medical officer - in the Great War to win two VCs, one posthumously. A high percentage of Army chaplains were also killed. Ages given on headstones range from 14 to 68: some of those serving under assumed names were covering up the fact they were under age. Non-combatants - often ambulance drivers, nursing sisters etc. - were also buried in the war cemeteries. There is even the grave of a wife who was visiting her husband in a field hospital. Roy has traced in earlier censuses some of the names on the headstones.

*For further information, write to: Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks. The National Archives Kew has lists of the fallen on CD-ROM, plus Regimental HQs are also a source of information.*

During the Society's successful and enjoyable 25th anniversary/ Christmas party held at Montague Hall in December, committee member Lewis Orton gave a very entertaining talk which had his audience fairly wallowing in nostalgia as he spoke about the world of his childhood in South London. Our anniversary had reminded him that he could remember the 25th anniversary



*Jill Munson, widow of our late chairman, Les Munson, cuts the anniversary cake.*

jubilee of George V, and watching the rehearsals for that event. On roads with little traffic public transport was provided by trams - an institution which disappeared and has recently re-appeared in South London - and trolley buses. Lewis' Family lived in a typical 19395 semi-detached with the traditional acoutrements - the Ascot water heater, mangle, a garage minus a car, a wireless set but no gramophone, and no refrigerator. Vegetables and fruit were grown in the garden, and just over the back

fence cows still grazed. His boyhood reading included the William and Biggles books and comics such as the Beano and Radio Fun and he was a member of the League of Ovaltineys; the whole family enjoyed Picture Post, and listened to the Home Service and Light Programme, with such names as Tommy Handley, Arthur Askey and Rob Wilton. Christmas brought presents of lead soldiers, meccano, a clockwork train set. At the end of the street was the Kidbrooke, a tributary of the Thames, and nearby Blackheath and Greenwich Park provided places to play.

Blackheath itself was still a village from a past era, with its Conservatory of Music and 'posh' girls' school. Lewis attended a local school and came home for lunch. Shopping was done in local high streets: delivery vehicles were still horse-drawn. As World War II loomed he remembers seeing the first barrage balloon going up from no.1 Barage Balloon Station; in 1939 he was evacuated with his school to Tunbridge Wells (see our June 2001 issue For an account of Lewis' evacuation years).

In January Ken Divall, who works at the Imperial War Museum in London, spoke on the history, traditions and customs of the British Army since the days of Oliver Cromwell which revealed how much of the attitudes and even snobbery attached to various Regiments goes back to their earliest formation.

Cromwell's New Model Army was a fearsome army of foot and horse. When the Monarchy was restored Charles II brought with him from Exile his bodyguard who formed the basis of the Life Guards. The old Second Foot became the Coldstream Guards, and some of their old Parliamentary loyalties still cling; the old First Foot became the Grenadier Guards, given priority over the Second Foot as they had had Royalist loyalties: prompting the Second Foot to choose *Nulle Secundus* - second to none - as their motto. A number of new regiments were formed in the time of William and Mary, such as the Yeomen of the Guard who attended at State Occasions. The Duke of Marlborough was still fighting France, the old enemy, in the Seven Years' War.

Although the Artillery Corps was formed in 1716 and is the senior British Corps, it still 'rates' after the Cavalry - a throwback in attitude to the Cavalry representing the old aristocratic mounted knights, the 'order of precedence' being first Cavalry, then Guards, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Regiments of Foot. The Royal Engineers began as the Artificers, later becoming the Royal Sappers and Miners (charged with the task of undermining enemy strongholds).

Colours were originally used as a rallying point for a particular regiment on the battlefield, and so were paraded daily so that they would be easily

recognized; Ensigns had charge of them. The Cavalry had guidons, originally a small pennant on the end of a lance. Regiments are very mindful of past honours or special incidents in their history: one has a Captain Oates day to mark the heroism of this ex-member in Antarctica; another celebrates Minden Day, marking an incident in the Seven Years War when a confused order led to a charge on the French Cavalry which was unexpectedly successful - after the victory the British soldiers picked wild roses and placed them in their hats, and wear flowers in their hats on Minden Day. The old Parliamentarian/Royalist loyalties come down even to the present day with the Loyal Toast - some Regiments such as the Coldstream Guards do not drink the Toast. Other regiments traditionally remain seated for the Toast.

Uniforms were originally provided by the Colonel of the Regiment and tended to be of inferior cloth - the old Red jackets would gradually turn to a dull tan or orange colour and become threadbare. Different-coloured facings on uniforms - blue for regiments entitled to the 'Royal' prefix - distinguished the different Regiments. Regiments were also called after their Colonel - the Green Howards and the Buffs were so-called to distinguish them because both had a Colonel called Howard. The Cavalry were the 'dandies' of the Army, their uniforms being supplied (copied from foreign uniforms) by wealthy Colonels - Lord Cardigan bought himself a regiment at a cost of £40,000.

Cap badges began to come in in the 19th century, and often reflected past victories - the Leicestershire Regiment - 'the Tigers' - who had distinguished themselves in India, had a tiger on their badge. Khaki was not worn until the late 19th century - white uniforms worn in India became a dusty brown and were eventually dyed - khaki means 'dusty' in the local dialect.

Army ranks also have much history behind them - Ensigns who held the colours later became Second Lieutenants; Warrant Officers were originally awarded a hand-written Warrant on vellum - it is now printed on paper and comes through the post; the Regimental Sergeant Major was the pinnacle of a career for 'other ranks'. The Adjutant deals with Administration within the Regiment on behalf of the Colonel - as this is a desk job it is increasingly given to women officers. The Quartermaster controls the stores: originally coming up from the ranks he was given the Honorary rank of Captain and could use the Officers' Mess, but since WWI Quartermasters have become full officers such as Lieutenant Quartermaster. The Colonel in Chief is an Honorarium given to very senior officers, often members of the aristocracy or even Royalty, and again for historical reasons the Coldstream Guards never have a Royal as Colonel in Chief, but the Grenadier Guards do.

Many Regiments have nicknames, again for historical reasons, some of them



well-known, like 'the Diehards' - the 57th Regiment of Foot, 'the Death or Glory Boys' - the 17th Lancers; some nicknames are derisory, like the RASC: 'run away, someone's coming'.

Originally medals were given by benefactors: after the Battle of Waterloo the Duke of Wellington was determined that every man should receive a 'Waterloo' medal and this began the tradition of campaign medals. The first gallantry awards were given during the Crimean War: in 1847 the DCM, in 1854 the VC.

The old garrison towns are still military centres: Aldershot, once the biggest garrison in the country, still has a garrison church, and Winchester still has its Peninsular Barracks. Auxiliary Forces still play a vital role: the biggest enrolments in the old local Militias came during the Napoleonic Wars, towards the end of the 19th century they were subsumed into the Line Regiments and became the Regiments' 'third' battalion. In 1908 the Territorial Force, later the Territorial Army, was formed, meeting and training in local drill halls. During WWI the TA replaced soldiers garrisoned in India so that the regulars could be posted to France, and in more recent conflicts such as Bosnia and Iraq the TA have been called upon to serve.

The tradition of producing sewing soldiers goes back generations in certain families, who tend to marry into other military families - they "follow the drum". For further reading, Ken recommended Regimental journals which cover Regimental events such as sporting fixtures and mention individuals by name and which can be seen at the National Army Museum, and the Society

### **Solution to Christmas Crossword**

Across: 1. Hanging; 7. Openly; 8. Uncle; 9. Eloper; 11. Elector; 13. Noting; 14. Octavo; 16. Borders; 19. Dances; 21. Lathe; 22. Courts; 23. Secures.

Down: 1. Household; 2. Niche; 3. Inept; 4. Govern; 5. Reported; 6. Flee; 10. Registers; 12 Chancery; 15. Obsess; 17. Relic; 18. Enter; 20. Anon

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## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

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I would still welcome any material submitted for inclusion in the journal. Please keep sending it in.

Deadlines for the quarterly issues of WMFHS journal are:

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

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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.

- E52 Miss S.J. Everett, 'Rooks', 11 Museum Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1BN
- F105 Mrs S Field, 13 Ardern Avenue, Dawley, Telford TF4 2AW  
*afield.family@btopenworld.com*
- G125 Mr D.F. Gray, 17 Haddon Close, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 7HR  
*ruthanddan@beeb.net*
- H219 Mr John E. Hunt, 60 West Bay Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3QQ  
*johnhunt@freeola.com*
- L96 Miss N Long, 36 Collingwood Avenue, Holgate, York, North Yorkshire  
*nikki@holgateyork.fsnet.co.uk*
- P133 Mr C.J.F. Portsmouth, No.3 Crug Du, Y Ffordd Fawr, Penparc, Ceredigion, West Wales SA43 1RD  
*colin.crugdu@virgin.net*
- P132 Mrs K Probyn, 12 Brown Heath Road, Waverton, Chester CH3 7PP  
*amberlouise@supanet.com*
- R119 Mrs P.A. Robinson, 1 Overhill Gardens, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 8ND  
*pamela@robins.evesham.net*
- W207 Miss B.K. Wyatt, 27 Briar Close, Yapton, Arundel, W Sussex BN18 0ES  
*bkwyatt@btinternet.com*

Please note the following changes of address:

- A42 Mr Peter & Mrs Wendy Andrews, 7 Langwood Gardens, Watford, Herts WD17 4PD
- F41 Mrs Yvonne Fearnley, "Whispers", 59 Kennel Ride, North Ascot, Berks SL5 7NJ  
*Yvonne.fearnley@btopenworld.com*
- H156 Mrs Anita Hooper, 3 Mendip Avenue, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN23 8HP
- R103 Mrs Susan E Rowland, 14 Foxcombe Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 5HS

We regret to advise of the death of the following member:

- B86 Mr G.W. Byles, 1 Nursery Close, Chineham North, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 8TA

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## WMFHS NOTICEBOARD

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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
AMOR	19-20C	Deptford	KEN	F105
BOSHER	After 1800	Brompton Area	MDX	W207
BRASSINGTON		Thurvaston Area	DBY	R119
CHAPMAN	19-20C	All	MDX	P132
CLARK	Pre 1820	Lewisham/Deptford	KEN	R119
CLARK(E)	19C	South Milton	DEV	F105
CROFS/CROSS	c1845	St John's Wood Area	MDX	W207
EASTHER	1810-50	Chelsea	MDX	E52
EASTHER	1835-55	Pimlico	MDX	E52
GARLAND	ANY	York	YKS	L96
GEORGE	Pre 1840	Lewisham/Deptford	KEN	R119
GOSS	19C	South Hams	DEV	F105
GRAINGER	After 1800	Kensington Area	MDX	W207
HEWETT	19-20C	Acton	MDX	F105
HEWETT	19-20C	Any	ANY	F105
HEWETT	19C	Deptford	KEN	F105
HEWETT	20C	Hove	SSX	F105
HEWETT	19C	Alverstoke	HAM	F105
HEYWOOD	ALL	Any	MDX	G125
HILDER	1800-1850	Eynsford	KEN	R119
HUNT	ALL	Any	MDX	H219
JACKSON	Pre 1820	Lewisham/Deptford	KEN	R119
KEEN	1855-90	Hammersmith Area	MDX	E52
LABAND	19C	Aston	WAR	F105
LABAND	19C	Coventry	WAR	F105
LONG	ANY	Hanwell	MDX	L96
LONG	ANY	London	ANY	L96
MARTIN	Pre 1830	Faversham	KEN	R119
MATTHEWS	19-20C	Clapham	BDF	F105



Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
MAY	ALL	Any	MDX	G125
MUMFORD	ALL	Any	MDX	G125
NEWTON	20C	Deptford	KEN	F105
PEET	ALL	Any	MDX	H219
PORTSMOUTH	Before 1838	Isleworth	MDX	P133
PORTSMOUTH	Before 1838	Brentford	MDX	P133
PORTSMOUTH	Before 1838	Hounslow	MDX	P133
PORTSMOUTH	Before 1838	Fulham	MDX	P133
PORTSMOUTH	Before 1838	Hammersmith	MDX	P133
PORTSMOUTH	Before 1838	Chiswick	MDX	P133
PORTSMOUTH	Before 1838	Across Thames from W. Mdx	SRY	P133
PYM	19C	West Drayton	MDX	P132
PYM	20C	West Drayton	MDX	P132
PYM	19C	St Pancras	MDX	P132
PYM	20C	St Pancras	MDX	P132
PYM	17-20C	All	BKM	P132
PYM	19-20C	All	BRK	P132
RANDALL	19C	West Drayton	MDX	P132
RANDALL	19C	Harmondsworth	MDX	P132
RANDALL	20C	All	MDX	P132
ROSEWELL	19-20C	London	MDX	P132
ROUSE	ALL	Any	MDX	G125
SCANTLEBURY	19C	Deptford	KEN	F105
SCANTLEBURY	19C	Mevagissey	CON	F105
SCANTLEBURY	19C	Deptford	KEN	F105
SHAIL	ALL	Any	MDX	H219
SMITH	Pre 1850	Isleworth	MDX	R119
SMITH	1850-1900	Marylebone	MDX	R119
STRINGER	1860-90	Islington Area	MDX	W207
STRINGER	After 1890	Old Brentford	MDX	W207
TELFORD	ANY	York	YKS	L96
TROWELL		Egginton	DBY	R119
WHEELER	c1890	Islington Area	MDX	W207
WHEELER	After 1890	Old Brentford	MDX	W207
WHITE	After 1800	Hammersmith Area	MDX	W207
WINGAR	ALL	Any	MDX	G125
WYATT	c1881	Hammersmith Area	MDX	W207

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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 Index and IGI** 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*

**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*

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

**Harlington Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1540-1850. Enquiries £1.00.  
*Mr P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex UB3 SEW*

**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*

**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