

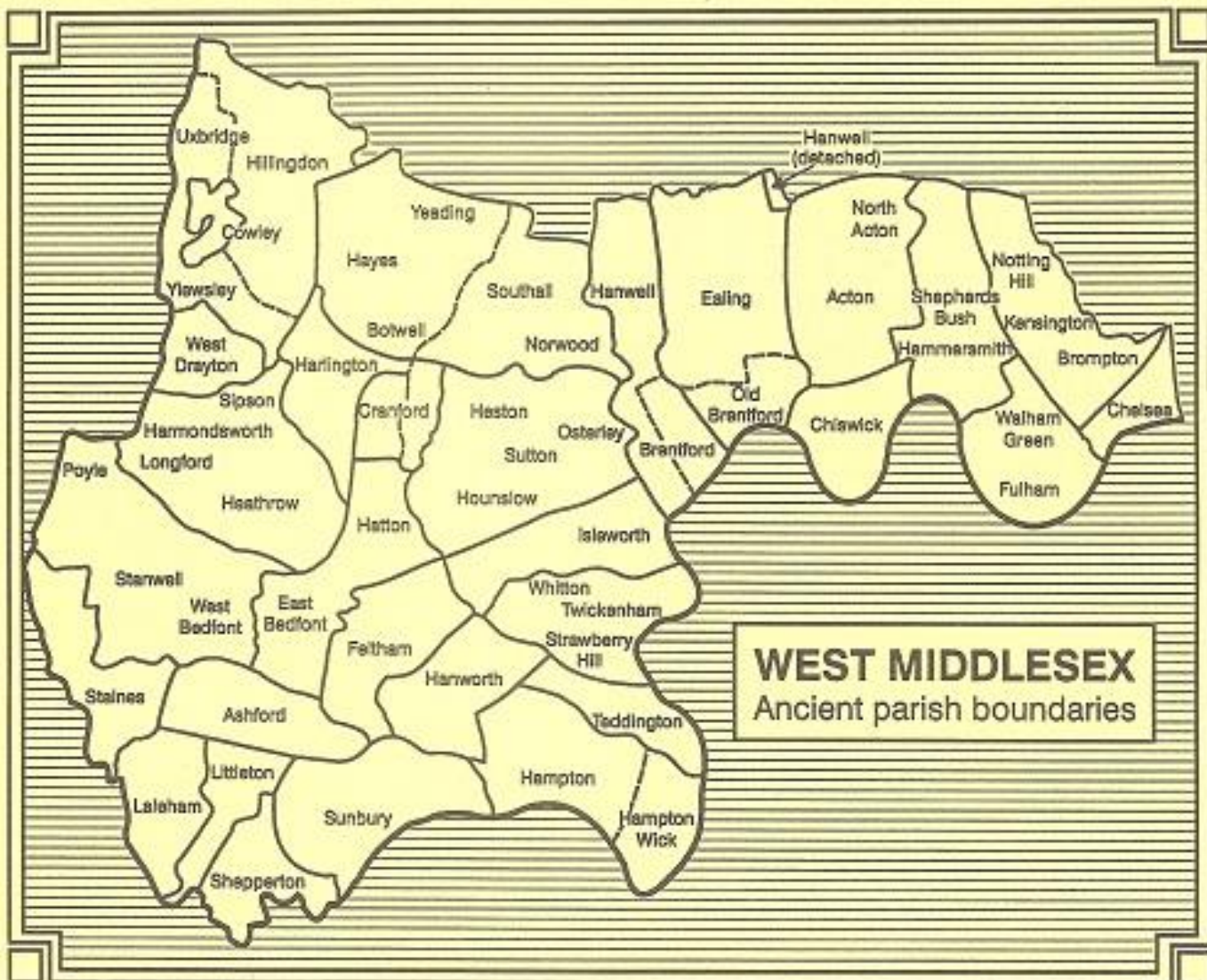


**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY  
JOURNAL**

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JUNE 2006



## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

### Executive Committee

Chairman	Mrs Yvonne Masson chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Jim Devine
Secretary	Tony Simpson 32 The Avenue, Bedford Park, Chiswick W4 1HT secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Treasurer	Paul Kershaw 241 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham TW1 4SY treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Mrs June Watkins 22 Chalmers Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1DT membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Editor	Mrs Pam Smith 23 Worple Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1DT editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Committee Members	Mike Cordery Chris Hern Maggie Mold Kay Dudman Brian Page
Programme Secretary	Mrs. Maggie Mold 48 Darby Crescent, Sunbury-on-Thames Middlesex TW16 5LA
Society Web site	<a href="http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/">http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/</a>
Subscriptions	All Categories: £10.00 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December
Examiners	Lee Goodchild 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.

**Contents**

Future meetings .....	2
News Roundup .....	3
WMFHS Noticeboard .....	4
Annual General Meeting 2006 .....	5
The Postal Service .....	11
Romanies .....	12
The West London Local History Conference .....	14
An Eccentric Will .....	18
A Family Beset by Tragedy .....	19
Directory of Members' Interests 2006 .....	22
Five Names – One Person .....	24
Richard and Agnes Wooster .....	30
Certificate Courier Service .....	35
Help! .....	36
Editor's Notes .....	40
New Members .....	40
Surname Interests .....	41
Indexes held by Members .....	44

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

Mrs Pam Smith  
23 Worples Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1EF

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:  
Mrs. Janice Kershaw, 241 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4SY

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:  
Mrs June Watkins  
22 Chalmers Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1DT

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

15 June Wills and Probate – *Else Churchill*

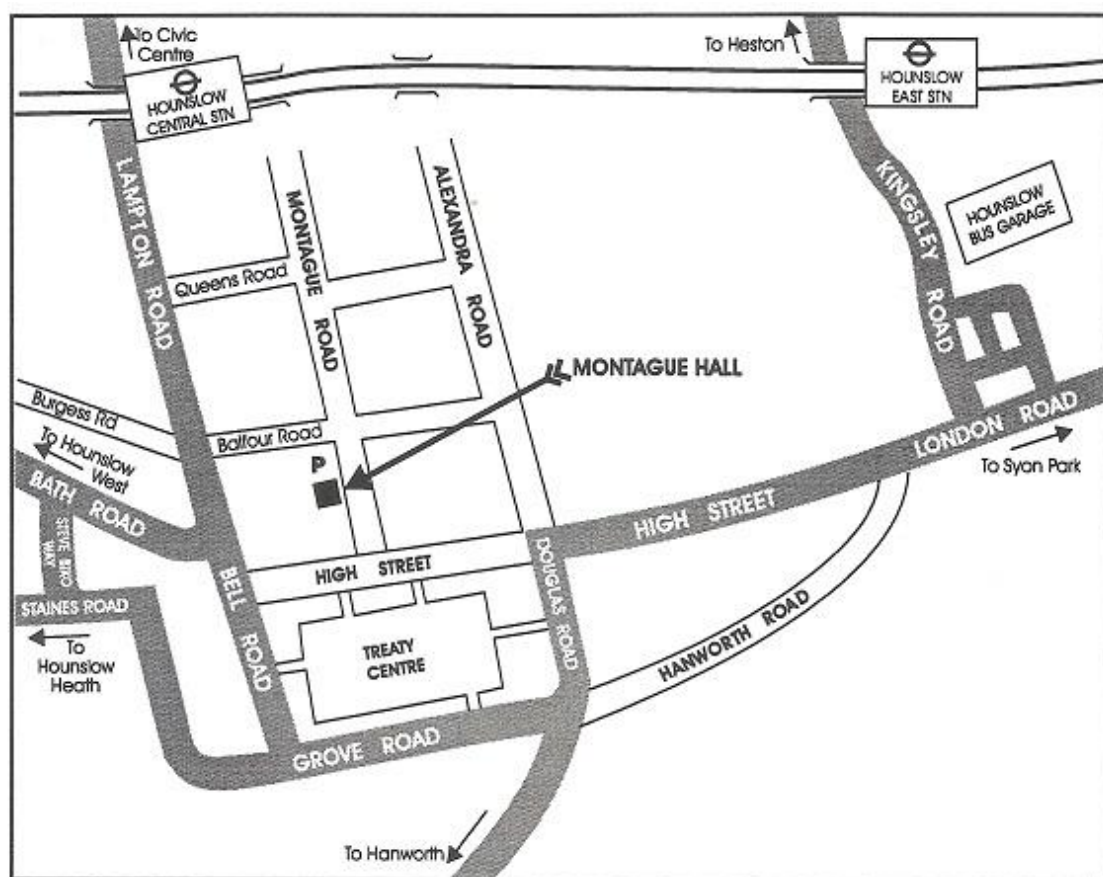
20 July Aspects of Computer Use for Family Historians – *Steve Cordery*

17 Aug The National Archive's Records – *Ian Waller*

21 Sept Research Evening plus a short talk – *Robin Purr*

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, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully Accessible.

### WHERE WE ARE







## WMFHS OPEN DAY

SUNDAY, 1st OCTOBER

The White House Community Centre  
45 The Avenue,  
Hampton  
Middlesex TW12 3RN

10am – 4pm

Guest Societies • Stalls • Indexes

*N.B. Please note the change of venue  
Adjacent Free Parking*

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### NEWS ROUNDUP

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#### Diary Dates

**Saturday 27 May:** The Central England Fair, Buxton Pavilion Gardens, St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6XN. 10-5.

**Saturday 24 June:** Yorkshire Family History Fair, York Racecourse (Knavesmire Exhibition Centre) 10 - 4.30. Admission £3.00. The largest Family History event in the UK.

**Saturday 15 July:** Kent Family History Open Day, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park off Willow Way, Maidstone ME15 7RN. Free admission.

**Saturday 29 July:** Bucks Family History Society 30th Anniversary Open day, Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury (south east of town between A413 and A41). Many attractions for Bucks researchers including full Bucks library and databases, guest societies and commercial suppliers. Free admission and free car parking at school. Tea and coffee available.

**Sunday 1 October:** WMFHS Open Day, The White House, Community Centre, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3RN. 10 - 4.



### FFHS Update

In March's Journal we listed the 15 Benefits offered to Member Societies by the Federation of Family History Societies. WMFHS will shortly be considering the benefits and be replying to a Survey on the Federation structure, present and future. We would invite our members to participate in this survey individually as well. Do visit the Federation website on [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk) and see the survey for yourselves.

### Oops!

Our membership secretary has recently discovered that an old e-mail address has sneaked into the system resulting in some e-mails not being received. It has now been corrected and apologies made to people who have made contact recently. Should there be others who have received no answer to enquiries made to [membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk) please accept our apologies and do try again.

### Tapes

Please remember that many of our talks are available on Tape from Muriel Sprott, 1 Camellia Place, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7HZ £1.60 per tape including P&P.

We hope to print an updated list in the next issue of the journal.

### Heritage Walks

This just a taste of some of the fascinating walks on offer on Sundays, June - October. All walks cost £2.00 and you do not need to book. Walks last around ninety minutes. For further information visit [www.hounslow-heritage.org.uk](http://www.hounslow-heritage.org.uk)

**Brentford to Boston Manor.** Starting from Brentford High Street and Half Acre junction, explore the history of St. Lawrence Church, and the Grand Union Canal, finish at the majestic Jacobean, Boston Manor House, where optional free tours are available. (June 25th, July 30th, August 27th, September 24th and October 29th.

**Chiswick Village.** Discover an Elizabethan timber frame building not far from a Palladian jewel, what the artist, Hogarth, called his "little box by the Thames", with an insight into the lives of Chiswick people on all levels, from paupers to Queens.

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006**

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The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow on Thursday 16th March 2006.

### **1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman Margaret Harnden opened the proceedings by welcoming all those members attending.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mavis Sibley and Sue Marsh.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 17th March 2005**

The Minutes had been included in the Society Journal of June 2005. It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as an accurate record of that meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

Do you remember ladies and gentlemen, this time last year, Rob Purr, my predecessor, urged us all to make records of our daily happenings for future historians? How many of us have? I did so mean to but maybe I will have more time after tonight! At least if we signed in, as we should have when we arrived, our presence here tonight will be recorded. This seems the ideal time to thank Mary Bickle and Mary Brown for checking us in every month and being custodians of the registers.

And now onto how our Society has fared in 2005. As with the previous year, paid up members of the society are a little lower. This may be because members have finished researching in our area or due to the availability of so many records online now, either on a pay per view basis or free. I personally think that a great deal is gained by joining a local FH society whether or not one has ancestors in the area. Chance remarks made at a meeting can often progress one's research in a way not possible by just surfing the net, no matter how adept one is at it. And knowledge gleaned from talks given by experts in their field can be invaluable and save much time and shoe leather.

It seems that many of you agree with my sentiments as numbers at our monthly meetings have increased over the last year, with the highest

recorded being 94. I look to Mary and Mary to let us know when we reach 100! We are considered by the Federation to be a medium sized organisation but I suspect that others larger than ourselves would be happy with such attendance figures.

We were sad to note the deaths of some members during the year and extend our sympathies to relatives and friends. I would particularly like to mention Marjorie Stephens, who amongst other things, looked after our map sales and was a staunch supporter. Howard has very generously donated a copy of the Victoria County History for Middlesex to our library in her memory. We are most grateful and send our good wishes to him following his illness.

We remember also Jim Childs who helped us at many FH Open Days, especially those at SOG, and Sheila Scott, our exchange journal librarian who lost her battle with cancer in October. They will all be very much missed.

In September 2005 we held our second One Day Seminar at TNA, the subject being 'The Poor are Always With Us'. It was well attended, feedback positive and admirably masterminded by Bridget Purr, Mavis Burton and Maggie Mold. The four excellent speakers spoke on different aspects of poverty but I think I will be forgiven for singling out Liz Carter's afternoon offering as Widow Carter, a Visiting Officer to a Workhouse, giving facts and figures to a group of rate payers. Her delivery, in full costume, was a tour de force!

Mike Cordery continues to monitor Federation matters and regularly updates the committee. There are many changes afoot but he will tell you about these later. Thanks for keeping the channels open Mike - it can only be beneficial for us all. Maggie Mold has the unenviable task of producing a programme of talks to suit everyone but somehow manages to succeed and last year's was no exception. It included two talks on Computing for PH, as requested following Mike's survey in 2004.

Another outcome of the survey was a request for more information on Middlesex Parishes. Bridget Purr initially rose to the challenge and produced a journal article, followed by a book on the parish of Hampton. It has been very well received and set high standards for those to follow. Books on other parishes will follow hopefully and we thank all those who have spent so much time researching them for us.

At the end of the year the BBC began a second series of 'Who do you think you are?' and invited us to participate in a Family History Open Day at the British Library. I have encroached slightly on this year as it actually took



place in February but with over 3,500 people attending I think you can see that our hobby is certainly not getting less popular - in fact the reverse I feel. We also attended five other fairs and were able to solve some if not all of the many enquiries we received.

One of the highlights of the year was a trip in July to Brookwood Cemetery, following John Clark's excellent talk in April. We were shown many fascinating sections of this overspill cemetery for London, which just whetted our appetite for a return visit.

This time last year we were warning you about possible changes to Civil Registration and their repercussions for family historians. For the time being the proposed changes will not be proceeding but we must remain vigilant.

I will be speaking later of changes to the committee but I want to record here what a pleasure it has been to chair this Society. It feels large enough to be influential and effective, yet small enough to have a real family feel about it. This makes for an excellent working relationship between committee members that hopefully filters through to you. I thank the committee for their guidance and hard work over the past year.

I have to admit to possibly being the noisier Harnden in our partnership but would like to thank my husband, Pat, for his quiet support and for getting on with many jobs behind the scenes, sometimes unnoticed but always valued.

Looking forward, your treasurer Paul Kershaw, a man of many talents, is organising the Open Day on Sunday October 1st at the White House, Hampton. It's a new day, Sunday, and venue for us so please give him all the support you can and make this our best Open Day ever.

With no permanent premises, you are WMFHS and without you it would not exist. My thanks to those who bring in all our research aids each month and to everyone else who does their bit to make this society what it is.

I send my best wishes to my successor and know he/she will feel equally at home in the job. Thank you all very much.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Paul Kershaw presented the Society's accounts for 2005. Despite some reduction in membership there was a year-end surplus of £1,180, marginally less than in the previous year, and accumulated funds of £21,240 on which the Society could draw in order to finance, for example, improvements in presentation facilities for lecturers. The Treasurer recorded special thanks to the Examiners Muriel Sprott and Chris Hern.

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2005

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Cost or Value at 30/09/1994	Accumulated Depreciation to 31/12/04	Depreciation year to 31/12/05	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/05	Cost or Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2004
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>								
1881 Census Index	1087	1011	19	1030	57	1087	1011	76
1891 Census	752	677	19	696	56	752	677	75
Fiche Reader Copier	1800	1560	60	1620	180	1800	1560	240
Film & Fiche Viewers	1080	846	59	905	175	1080	846	234
Portable Fiche Viewer	50	43	6	49	1	50	43	7
Kodak Slide Projector	315	268	46	314	1	315	268	47
Projector Stand	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
1988 IGI Fiche	75	74	0	74	1	75	74	1
Times Divorce Index	11	10	0	10	1	11	10	1
Boxes and Display Shelves	31	30	0	30	1	31	30	1
Heavy Duty Printer	95	95	0	95	0	95	95	0
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	0	0	348	348	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	262	16	278	46	324	262	62
Fiche Readers bought 2001	705	482	56	538	167	705	482	223
Lectern – bought 2002	400	231	42	273	127	400	231	169
Lap Top Computer bought 2002	1482	857	156	1013	469	1482	857	625
Overhead Projector – bought 2005	352	0	88	88	264	0	0	0
	<u>8908</u>	<u>6446</u>	<u>567</u>	<u>7013</u>	<u>1895</u>	<u>8556</u>	<u>6446</u>	<u>2110</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>								
Stocks: Bookstall				1674			1728	
Fiche				185			228	
Postal Books				56			55	
War Memorial CDs				2			4	
Family History on Line Vouchers				59			36	
National Burial Index DCs				281			116	
PRO Vouchers				41	2298		49	2216
Debtors & Prepaid Expenses								
Insurance (part) overpaid and carried forward				0			162	
Due from Inland Revenue for Gift Aid Repayments				0			0	162
Cash at Bank and in Hand								
Current Account – Barclays				202			2216	
Deposit Account – Barclays				77			2540	
COIF Account				11496			10997	
Current Account – CAF Bank				3639			949	
Deposit Account – CAF Bank				3587			511	
Cash				50			100	
Payment in Advance				100			0	
Floats				156	19307		156	17469
					<u>23500</u>			<u>21957</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>								
Subscriptions in Advance				2220			2557	
Deposits held				40	2260		40	2597
					<u>21240</u>			<u>19360</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>								
Balance Brought Forward					19360			17436
Surplus/Deficit (-) for 12 Months					1880			1924
					<u>21240</u>			<u>19360</u>

Paul Kershaw, Hon. Treasurer

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, we have examined the Receipts and Payments Account and Balance Sheet of the West Middlesex Family History Society relating to the year ended 31 December 2005. We confirm that the accounts and Balance Sheet accord with the accounting records of the Society and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. We are not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Chris Hern and Muriel Sprott, Independent Examiners

March 2006

**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005**

	12 Months to 31/12/05		12 months to 31/12/04	
<b>MEMBERS' SERVICES</b>				
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions received in respect of earlier years	0		20	
Subscriptions received for current year	3508		4242	
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>2557</u>	6065	<u>2019</u>	6281
Bank Interest		657		488
Tax refund on Gift Aid		<u>785</u>		<u>833</u>
		7507		7602
<b>Less EXPENDITURE</b>				
Open Day – Staines Sept 2004	0		758	
Less Income	<u>0</u>	0	<u>-633</u>	125
Second Bi-Annual Conference at TNA	923		0	
Less Income	<u>-792</u>	131	<u>0</u>	0
Journal Production and Delivery		3956		3977
Hire of Meeting Hall		1012		913
Speakers		460		465
Members' Interest Fiche		<u>0</u>		<u>398</u>
		5559		5878
		1948		1724
Bookstall Sales				
Plus/minus Stock Variation		81		303
Less Cost of Sales		<u>-1937</u>		<u>-2239</u>
		894		1686
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Donations		31		25
Courier Service	56		197	
Less expenses	<u>-15</u>	41	<u>-18</u>	179
Refreshments		153		100
Raffles		395		299
WM Marriage Index Searches		79		123
Tape Hire at Meetings	27		5	
Less expenses	<u>-11</u>	16	<u>0</u>	5
1881 Census Index Searches	2		67	
Less expenses	<u>0</u>	2	<u>0</u>	67
FFHS Rebate on Vouchers (one off payment)		138		
FHOL Royalties		259		146
Other Research Income		<u>10</u>		<u>9</u>
		1124		953
		3966		4363
<b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES</b>				
FFHS Subscriptions	192		205	
FFHS Insurance and Services	<u>259</u>	451	<u>284</u>	489
Bank Charges		0		0
Research Expenditure		79		128
Postage, Stationery and Telephone		424		315
Misc Equipment (not capitalised)		7		189
Mileage Allowance		11		172
Subsistence		0		0
Library Purchases		45		25
Honoraria and Gifts		201		50
Deposit for Open Day Hall 2006		0		0
Misc Expenses including Publicity		301		485
Disposal of assets		0		0
Depreciation		<u>567</u>		<u>586</u>
		2086		2439
Surplus for Year		<u>1880</u>		<u>1924</u>

## **7 Approval of the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2005**

Wendy Mott proposed that the Financial Statement be approved, which was seconded by Rob Purr. The proposal was carried unanimously.

## **8. Appointment of Examiners**

As Chris Hern was standing for the Committee, there was a vacancy for an Examiner. Diana Bradley proposed, and Bridget Purr seconded, that Lee Goodchild be appointed and Muriel Sprott be reappointed as Examiners for 2006. The proposal was carried unanimously.

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

Richard Chapman reported a pilot scheme now under way indexing baptisms and burials in the parishes of East Bedfont, Harlington and Harmondsworth. During the last year work had progressed under Ken Butler on Poor Law records in Isleworth, and more marriages had been added to our WMFHS Marriage Index (from the Society of Friends). More burial transcriptions were required before submission to FHOL. Richard was resigning from the position after five years, and thanked his team of helpers; he hoped the Society would continue to invest in Projects over the coming years. The Chairman expressed the wide-felt gratitude of the Society for Richard's invaluable Work in the role over the years.

## **10. Election of Committee**

Three Committee members, Maggie Mold, Tony Simpson and Mike Cordery had completed three years and offered themselves for re-election. Rob Purr proposed and Muriel Sprott seconded the re-election of all three - the proposal was carried unanimously. There were still four vacancies to be filled on the Committee. Valerie Walker proposed and Pam Morgan seconded the election of Yvonne Masson, Chris Hern and Brian Page - the proposal was carried unanimously. The Chairman explained that the final vacancy could be filled during the year, ideally through the cooption of a member with Finance and/or IT skills.

## **11. Any Other Business**

11.1 Votes of thanks: the Chairman proposed votes of thanks to all retiring members of the Committee, making presentations to Richard Chapman and Mavis Burton. The Treasurer expressed the Committee's and the Society's gratitude to the Chairman for her excellent year in office and made presentations to Margaret and Patrick Harnden. The votes of thanks were warmly received by those present, and agreed unanimously.

11.2 Mike Cordery updated the meeting on the Federation of Family History Societies' steps to consult its members on future direction and organisation via individual Questionnaires and Society Surveys.

11.3 Concern was expressed from the floor about the quality of sound available to speakers at monthly meetings - the Chairman explaining that this was seen as an urgent issue, currently under review.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 20:35.

**Ed note:** Mrs Yvonne Masson was elected Chairperson at the committee meeting held on April 5<sup>th</sup>

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## THE POSTAL SERVICE

*Roy Hewitt*

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In January Roy Hewitt gave a talk which imparted some extremely important information about the postal service operating during World War One between British troops posted to the front lines and their families back home. His interest began when on holiday some 30 years ago in the West Country he spotted some postcards outside a second-hand shop on the outskirts of Worcester and purchased eight of them for their vintage postage stamps. He then realised that they were all from the same person, Cecil Edward John Warne, and had been posted from the War Zone during 1918 and 1919 to Warne's wife at home in Kent. And so began a fascinating research project.

Postboxes available to soldiers in the trenches could be just a sack hanging from a nail in the trench. Both postcards and letters had then to be perused by the men's officer for censorship purposes. Once the officer was satisfied that the contents did not constitute a security threat, his having crossed out any too informative material, he signed the letter or postcard, often with just his initials, stamped it with a regulation red, oblong stamp, then sent it on to the next stage in the postal service, the Brigade Field Post Office, where it would be given a postmark, in black, with the Field Post Office's number. Field Post Offices might be just a large tin box containing stationery, cancellation stamps, etc., perhaps held at a Field Hospital. Mail was then shipped off to a local rail head to be taken from thence to the coast.

Soldiers were issued with special envelopes in which to put (unsealed) their letters and postcards. They would be sealed after censorship. Later on soldiers were permitted to seal the envelopes themselves, on trust that they did not mention anything censorable - there were random checks; anyone

who had breached security could be subject to military discipline. Soldiers were also issued with 'multi-statement' cards, with printed lines such as 'I am well' etc. Hundreds of thousands of pieces of mail criss-crossed the Channel to and from the battlefields. The Royal Engineers had special responsibility for the Postal Service, and it was their responsibility to see that mail got to the coast.

Roy Hewitt was able to obtain information from the Internet about the location of a lot of the field post offices, and was thus able to trace the movements of Cecil Warne from Northern to Southern France and then to Italy, which was on the Allied side in WWI. By 1919 it was obvious he had survived the War. Roy looked up Warne's service records at The National Archives, Kew and found he had spent some time in hospital in England before being sent back to Northern France. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal and was eventually sent to Egypt where he was made up to Corporal. In Alexandria he transferred from a Warwickshire Regiment to the RAMC, and was probably responsible for sanitary arrangements such as good drinking water. In December 1919 he was promoted to Sergeant, and in March 1920, aged 24, he was finally shipped home.

The RAMC records at Woking showed awards of the British War and Victory Medals, and using other records such as [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) Roy found other details of Warne's home life such as his marriage in 1917. But he has found no death entry for either Warne or his wife, so it may well be that they were amongst the thousands who emigrated after the Great War.

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## ROMANIES

*Stewart King*

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In February Stewart King spoke on 'Romanies and their crafts: 1000 years on the move and still a mystery'. The people long known in this country as 'gypsies', because it was believed they came from Egypt, actually originated in Northern India. For some reason they were involved in a mass migration from that area and some travelled west, settling in various countries, and finally reaching Britain about 500 years ago. They have always lived outside of normal local social life and have their own customs which vary from region to region. The Romany language resembles Sanskrit, and Romany people love the bright colours which are still very popular in India. Their word for the gypsy caravan is 'vando', which has only been in use since about 1850. Before that Romanies tended to erect a 'bender', or blanket tent, as a shelter, but worked and ate outside. Even those who could afford a wagon still actually lived in the bender tent - the wagon was like their 'front room'; canvas was sometimes hung around beneath it to provide



a sleeping space for the children. Bunk beds inside were for the youngest children or the sick.

Gypsy caravans are still being built today, the cheaper version with a canvas top. They tend to be highly decorated with traditional motifs, perhaps inspired by 18th Century baroque art; the more decoration, the higher the status. It costs between £2000-3000 to have a wagon gilded. There is usually a horse depicted somewhere: Romanies love horses. Romanies still attend traditional horse fairs at Appleby, Yorkshire, and Stow on the Wold. Or there might be a depiction of a marriage between two clans. Romanies like to romanticise events such as their own birth. There was a Romany Folk Museum at Peter Ingram's yard at Selbourne in Hampshire where there were examples of Romany folk art and wagons, etc., but it has now closed.

Crafts such as peg making were a Romany male preserve - the women then hawked, or sold, them. They are made from willow or hazel, whichever is available: hazel grows again quickly, so Romanies are working with nature. Genuine Romany pegs have a metal band round the top; 'Dolly' pegs do not, and tend to be of American manufacture. The metal band has often been cut from old tin cans etc.

The 'kushni' or large basket is also traditionally made. 'Kipsies' are small square baskets; Stewart has seen identical baskets in various countries, such as Hungary, where Romanies have settled. All Romanies have a peg knife, which is used for everything, but particularly for fashioning the heads of wooden flowers, made from elder. Romanies would also buy seconds from the potteries and sell them around country villages. Sheep ribs would be used like castanets for music making.

In Eastern Europe there are still Romany communities who carry on traditional trades, such as broom, wooden bowl or dough trough making, in some cases still using the pole lathe, which goes back to prehistory. In these countries Gypsy Festivals are still held, where traditional plum brandy is distilled on illegal stills. Tartan is a popular motif for clothing.

In modern times there are a number of travelling groups who ape the old ways of the Romanies: New Age travellers, hippies, hedge bumpers, didicois. New Age travellers have tended to adopt forms of Celtic tradition and revere such prehistoric monuments as Stonehenge.

When the last of a Romany family dies, the family wagon is traditionally burned. This may be because of a fear of spirits Romanies are very superstitious. But they usually have a Christian burial, perhaps in a churchyard.

The 26th West London Local History Conference, held on 18th March 2006 at Hounslow's Montague Hall, this year took as its theme 'Waste Not Want Not' and dealt with often avoided but very important issues of how a greatly increasing population has historically disposed of its waste, down to the very modern vogue of recycling.

First to speak was Judith Flanders, author of 'The Victorian House: Domestic Life from Childbirth to Deathbed', on the subject of 'Hogwash: waste and the Victorian Household'. It was John Wesley who said 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness'. In the Victorian era, good houses were clean houses. Cleanliness was a moral influence on the family, and went hand-in-hand with respect for the law, etc: decent houses produced decent people. The mass production of cleaning products meant more people had access to them, although this led to the daily drudgery of black-leading the grate and whitening the doorstep. It was a virtue to run a home economically: thrift was also moral; till very recently women still cut worn sheets and turned them sides to middle to prolong their use. Any new clothes were an investment as in hard times they could be pawned.

Much of Victorian rubbish consisted of ashes from the fire. House to house collections only began in 1875; before that, householders had to pay to have rubbish taken away. So housewives were encouraged to recycle. Waste paper such as old bills and letters could be made into spills for firelighting, or cut up for toilet paper. People would call at the back door for household refuse: empty boxes, tins, bottles, bones, textiles, all would be sold on to manufacturers. Magazines gave advice about disposal of items such as kitchen waste; this was called 'wash': the washman came to the house to collect it and it became 'hogwash', i.e. pig food. Tea leaves were strewn over a carpet to absorb dust before sweeping. But despite all the housewife's efforts, there were still unsanitary conditions everywhere.

Bread from bakeries was known to be filthy, bread dough lying unprotected under dust-laden, cobwebby beams leading to a constant rain of this debris onto the dough. A lot of watercress came from Camden Town, where it was grown in brickfields flooded from the sewage-laden Fleet ditch. There was constant danger from drains and water supplies, leading to many diseases, the causes of which were unknown, some being explained by the 'miasma' theory, that bad smells could cause disease. The Great Stink of 1858 led to something being done, but the Metropolitan Water Board began its first regular supply of water to households only in 1902. Flushing toilets were

demonstrated at the 1851 Great Exhibition, where a great attraction were the public flushing lavatories, discreetly called 'Waiting Rooms' which were an eye-opener to many visitors who were using them for the first time in their lives. The first public lavatory was opened in Fleet Street.

Throughout the second half of the 19th Century various improvements were made to flushing lavatories: a great development was the double-trap S-bend. By the 1870s new houses renting at around £70 per annum usually had a bathroom, or bathrooms were added when leases fell due. Geyers were installed from the 1860s. In some middle class homes, dressing rooms next to bedrooms were converted into bathrooms. So there was more regular bathing. There were also indoor lavatories, separate from the bathroom, but servants still had to use the outdoor privy.

After a break for coffee, James Wisdom, Chairman of Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society, spoke on 'Fertiliser, fuel and flagstones: sewage in Victorian Chiswick'. He pointed out that many houses built in the 18th Century still had no piped water, which had to be fetched from a well or delivered to the house. The contents of privies and ashes from fireplaces were tipped into cesspits in gardens; cesspits were designed to leak, to get rid of liquid waste - if possible they were dug down below the London clay to the water-bearing medium below. The remaining contents of the cesspits would be collected and sold on to farmers for fertiliser. But in the 1840s, bird guano from islands off Peru began to be sold to British farmers as a fast-acting fertiliser, which changed the economics of farming, and meant the contents of London's cesspits were no longer required, which caused a problem.

Added to this were public nuisances like the effluence from laundries in Acton which affected other areas as it flowed down Stamford Brook, and there were soap boilers at Barnes. After the Great Stink Bazalgette's new London sewers were constructed for the Metropolitan Board of Works. Chiswick ratepayers protested about paying for work being done further downriver in London; the protest went up to the House of Lords, but they lost the case and had to re-join the scheme. The Temperance Society pushed for piped water as they had tested some water pumps which proved to be unclean. Public sewers were initially for surface water only and local vestries had to be persuaded to connect the new flush toilets to them.

At this time four-fifths of the population of Chiswick were described as drunken and dirty; in the 1860s working class estates were still being built with privies at the end of the garden. Chiswick was allowed to raise £30,000 for materials to build a local sewage works at Corney and borrowed a further £30,000 to complete the work. It opened in 1879 and although the smells

produced led to complaints from local residents, there was a drop in the death rate, property developers were attracted to the area and the sewage works soon had to be extended. At the great treatment works downriver at Becton and Crossness liquid waste was filtered and run off into the river. Solid waste was despatched in barges, e.g. the SS *Hounslow* and SS *Bromley*, to be discharged into the North Sea. Nowadays 57% of London's sewage as the product Thamesgro, delivered by tanker, is sprayed onto farms. 32% is 'denatured' and thrown into incinerators to produce electricity, although it is less efficient than coal. The remainder is used for landfill. The Chiswick Sewage Works has disappeared under expensive flats, and former West London sewage works have all been taken over by the Mogden Works.

Lunch was followed by the traditional readings on the Conference theme given by members of the Conference Steering Committee, then archaeologists Alistair Douglas and Victoria Ridgway of Pre-Construct Archaeology spoke about 'Garderobes and glass: disposing of waste in the Archbishop of York's Palace at Battersea', a fascinating account of the unit's excavations in Battersea at the Price's Candles factory, which is being developed for housing. The excavation took place in 2002 and is in the process of being written up.

The Palace, only 100 metres from the river, was constructed from the 15th Century onwards for the Archbishops of York. Phase One in the chronology of the site covered 1470-80. The then Bishop of Durham, later made Archbishop of York, was given permission to crenellate and moat his property Bridgecourt Manor. The excavation uncovered part of a wall of the Palace, the inner courtyard or garden and a bakery. Shafts in the curtain wall had led from garderobes set into the wall; the waste from these privies went straight into the moat via semi-circular culverts which were also found; the moat was some 1.30 metres deep and would have been periodically cleaned out. The Palace was attacked during Bloody Mary's reign, and during Elizabeth 1st's reign was used as a prison for Catholics. The moat was filled in circa 1600 and built over and the garderobes were replaced by a cesspit. The bakery was replaced by a nine-bay mansion, facing north towards the river, and the old palace buildings became ancillary buildings. By the 18th Century the property was sub-divided and wells, pits and drains constructed.

In the mid-18th Century Jansen established there the Battersea Enamel Works, producing high quality enamel wares 1753-56, but he went bankrupt; some of these enamels are in the Victoria and Albert Museum, and some unfinished items were found during the excavation. This is the only post-Roman enamel works to be excavated anywhere in the world. Jansen was

also experimenting with very early transfer printing of wall tiles, and may also have been working with metal. The cellar of the old bakery was still in use as a storeroom as late as the 20th Century.

After a break for tea, Nick Goddard, Professor of Environmental History at Anglia Ruskin University, spoke on 'Rivers of Gold? Sewage disposal and water pollution in Victorian West London'. An Act of 1848 established local Boards of Health, to include water and sewage disposal. Croydon in Surrey was the first town to institute both a water supply and sewage disposal, inaugurated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1851 and operative by 1852. It was not at first successful as there was an outbreak of typhoid and trout fishing in the River Wandle was affected; the local Board was even threatened with imprisonment.

Other towns had similar problems. Uxbridge was discharging its sewage into the River Colne. But there was a growing suspicion about the link between contaminated water and disease and there were legal battles to stop sewage being discharged into rivers. Fines of up to £100 a day could be imposed to stop towns above Hampton Water Works discharging sewage into the Thames, but some were discharging below Hampton and the tides would move the material up and down. The Thames Conservators served notices on various towns not to discharge. So there was a need for workable schemes.

Sewage systems were examined for profitability, e. g. selling the waste for use on the land: it was proposed to manure Maplin Sands with London sewage plus parts of West Middlesex and Hertfordshire. There was a proposal to bring all the treatment plants down into one place, e.g. Mortlake, West Molesey or Kingston, but there were local protests and land was expensive. Another proposal was to pump sewage in pipelines all the way to Kent. A scheme for West Middlesex was finally inaugurated in 1936.

The final talk concerned the very up-to-date subject of recycling and was given at short notice by Ronny Morgan of ECT, which provides recycling services in the boroughs of Ealing, Hounslow and Brent, plus other areas such as Avon. The scheme started, with one vehicle, collecting furniture which was then sold to people on low income. The first fully paid employee was taken on in 1990; in 2006 there are 1500 employees, 300 vehicles and a £50 million turnover.

Ronny gave us some of the history of recycling. There was paper recycling as early as 1690. In 1776 New York had the first metal recycling. The 1848 Public Health Act included the regulation of waste. In 1869 the first commercial plastic was developed; in 1874 came the first waste destructor,

which burned waste, producing electricity from steam. In 1875 refuse collections became regular, from 1922 in petrol-engined vehicles. Packaging of goods goes back a long way: in 1551 a German paper maker put his name and address on a band round bundles of paper. But up to the 20th Century packaging was minimal and very little was thrown away. Then came the packaging revolution, aimed at making the customer come back. In 1937 at a refuse disposal plant in Southampton some items were salvaged.

After WWII landfill sites began. In the 1970s Pampers nappies were launched and now these form the majority of household waste. The first black sacks appeared in the 1980s. In 1892 the majority of waste was ashes, in 2002 non-biodegradable plastics. New types of waste have produced new problems, e.g. toxins produced by kitchen and garden waste. In the second half of the 20th Century concern for the environment has grown. By 2010, the Government wants kitchen and garden waste out of landfill sites, and has imposed a £3 a ton increase in tax on landfill. In 1996 Hounslow was the first borough in West London to start recycling. Most of the material is recycled within the UK; items such as shoes go overseas. The whole recycling process is now managed by a computer programme.

#### **AN ECCENTRIC WILL**

*from The Uxbridge Observer 1894*

The contents of a most eccentric will, left by M. Zalesky, a rich Polish landed proprietor, who died in the province of Taurida in March, 1889, has just been published. The property left by the deceased was valued at 100,000 roubles, and his will was enclosed in an envelope bearing the words, "To be opened after my death." On this envelope being opened the executors found a second envelope, on which was written "To be opened six weeks after my death." The stipulated time having elapsed, the second envelope was opened, and a third was found with the words, "To be opened a year after my death." At the end of the year a fourth envelope was discovered, which was to be opened two years after the death of the deceased. This continued for five years, and when at length, in 1894, the actual will was read, it was found to be as eccentric in the directions attached to its opening. The testator bequeathed half of his fortune to such one of his heirs as has the greatest number of children. The rest of his money he directed to be placed in a bank, and at the end of 100 years distributed, with the accumulated interest, among the descendants of the testator. The heirs of the deceased, however, have taken proceedings to test the legality of the will on the ground that M. Zalesky was not in sound disposing mind.

**Ed:** I wonder what happened!



Last year my sister was looking in an old copy of Whittaker's Almanac and happened to notice that several members of the family of the Grand Duke of Hesse had died in an air crash in October 1937.

We were intrigued and followed it further via the Internet. It seems that the family were not unfamiliar with tragedy, going back a couple of generations. Ludwig IV, Grand Duke of Hesse, married Princess Alice, the third child of Queen Victoria, who had nursed her father Prince Albert during his final illness in December 1861. They were married in Osborne House in 1863 and had seven children. In 1873 their son, Prince Freidrich, aged three was playing with his older brother Ernst when he fell 20 feet from a window. At first his injuries seemed slight, but he died soon afterwards from a brain haemorrhage. He suffered from Haemophilia.

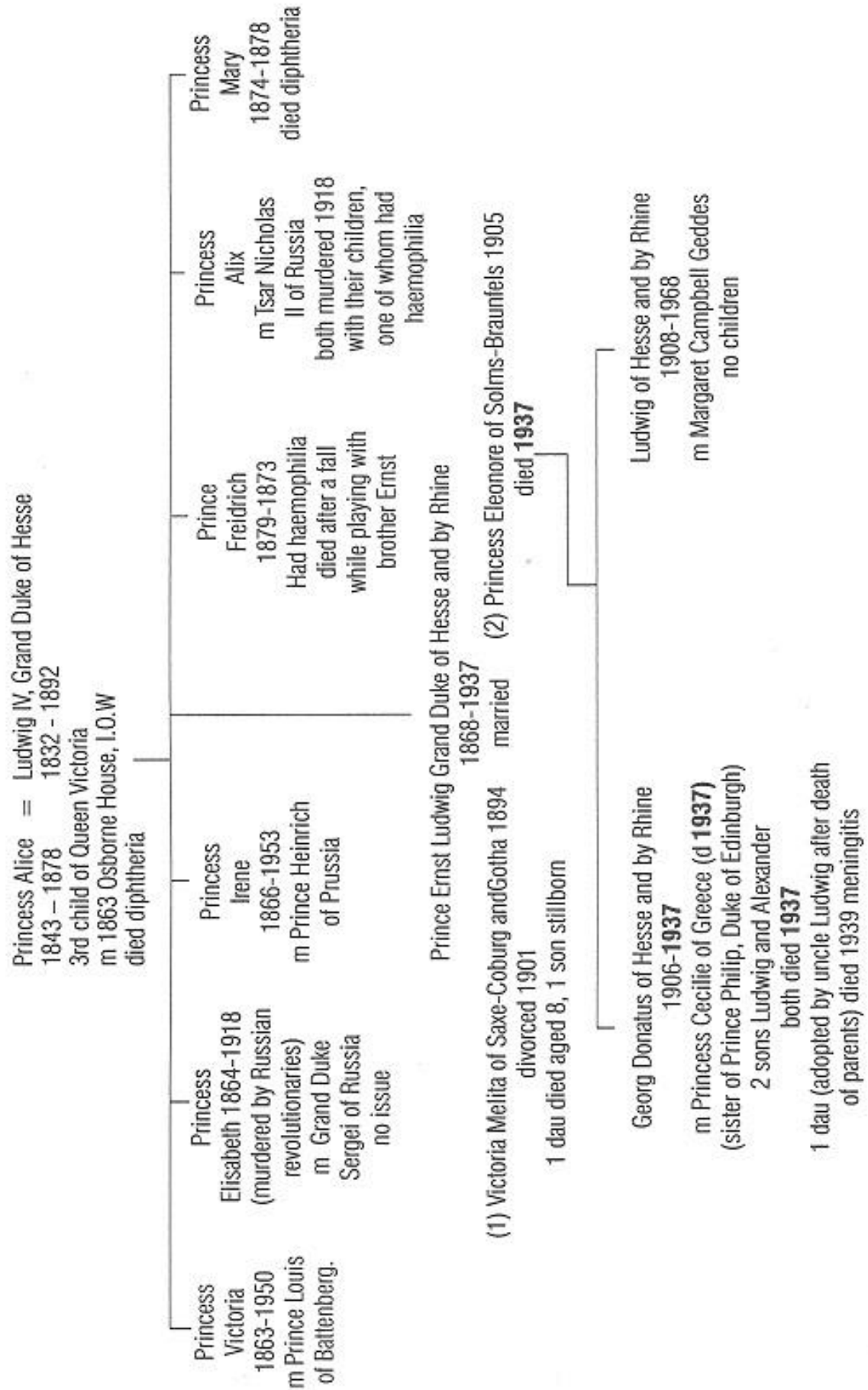
The next tragedy occurred in 1878 when there was a diphtheria epidemic and all the family (except Princess Elisabeth who was staying with relatives) contracted it. Princess Mary died of the disease on 15th November and, exhausted by nursing all of them, Alice finally succumbed and she too died of diphtheria on 14th December, the anniversary of her father's death.

Princess Alix, the 6th daughter of the family married Tsar Nicholas II of Russian and she, the Tsar and all their children were murdered in 1918 during the Russian Revolution.

Prince Ernst Ludwig, the fourth child married Victoria Melita of Saxe-Coburg Gotha in 1894. They had a daughter who died aged 8 from typhoid and one stillborn son. The marriage ended in 1901 in divorce (an almost unheard of thing in those days) on the grounds of "invincible mutual antipathy" by a special verdict of the Supreme Court of Hesse.

Ernst Ludwig then married Princess Eleonore of Solms-Hohensolms-Lich in 1905. He had two children by this second marriage, Georg Donatus and Ludwig.

Ernst, as the Grand Duke of Hesse was called away to serve at Kaiser Wilhelm's headquarters during the First World War. At the end of the war in the wake of the Kaiser's exile, all the ruling German princes and grand dukes were swept from their thrones, Ernst amongst them. But that was not all, news came from Russia that both of his sisters who had married into the Russian Royal family together with his brother-in-law, the Tsar, and his children had been murdered.



Ernst was allowed to stay in Germany and keep the Neues Palais in Darmstadt and hunting lodges at Seeheim and Wolfsgarten as his personal property. He died peacefully in October 1937.

His son Georg Donatus married Princess Cecilie of Greece (an elder sister of our Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh) and had two boys, Ludwig and Alexander, and a daughter Johanna. Georg's younger brother, Ludwig, was due to marry Margaret Campbell Geddes in London in October 1937, but due to the death of his father, the wedding was postponed until November.

So, on 16th November 1937 Georg with his mother, his pregnant wife, their two sons together with a family friend, a pilot and two crewmen were travelling by air from Hesse to London to attend the wedding. Their plane, flying in fog, hit a factory smokestack near Ostend and crashed in flames. There were no survivors. At the insistence of his aunt, the Marchioness of Milford Haven, the marriage went ahead, though it was a sombre affair. Ludwig returned home with his new wife and the bodies of his family.

Georg's daughter Johanna survived, she was not on the plane and was adopted by her uncle Ludwig. She survived her parents and brothers by only 18 months as she died of meningitis in 1939.

We sometimes think that only the poor lived tragic lives, but the rich and privileged Hesse family certainly had their share of tragedy. Maybe they were not starving, but I am sure no poor family would have experienced so many murders and fatal accidents.

All this and haemophilia too.

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## DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS 2006

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It has been decided to issue a new edition of the West Middlesex Family History Society Directory of Members' Interests as a means of promoting the exchange of family history information between members and also to a wider audience.

Information for inclusion in the Directory should be submitted using the form provided in the centre of this issue of the journal. A microfiche containing the Directory will be issued free to members with the journal later this year.

**Members who do not own a microfiche reader are reminded that many public libraries and record offices have fiche readers and will allow users to read or print from their own fiche.**

The layout of the Directory will be the same as that used in previous editions: a simple surname-period-area scheme, as is used regularly in the journal for the surname interests of new members.

The Directory will include a full listing of the names and addresses (and e-mail addresses if included on the form) of those members who return the form, plus their surname interests.

Members who have recently joined the Society should take note that the surname interests in the Directory will be based only on information returned on the Members' Interests Directory form provided in this issue; interests submitted when a member joins the Society are published in the journal on a once-only basis, and will not be automatically repeated in this Directory, so even if you have recently submitted your surname interests as a new member, and wish them to be included in this Directory, please complete and send in this form. Longer-term members may wish to take this opportunity to up-date their surname interests.

To be certain of having your surname interests included in this Directory, you should **return the form by 31 July 2006** at the latest.

Before filling in the form, please read the following instructions carefully. If you are still unsure about some aspect of completing the form, state your query on the reverse of the form before sending it in, together with an e-mail address or telephone number, or contact the Editor, Pam Smith, by e-mail - the Editor's e-mail address is on the inside front cover of the journal.

## **General**

Please complete all parts of the form in **BLOCK CAPITALS**.

Include your membership number where indicated; if you receive your journal by post, you will find your number on the address label.

The form contains space for a maximum of fifteen surnames per member.

Any additional names entered will not be included in the Directory.

Please complete all four columns for each surname interest, i.e. surname, period, area, county. Each line should be complete and self-contained.

**Please do not use ditto marks** (remember that when the overall list of surnames is 'alphabetised', lines which are adjacent on your form will not necessarily be together). Incomplete lines cannot be included in the Directory as they give insufficient information. If you are interested in all occurrences of a surname in the second, third or fourth columns, you may enter 'ALL' or 'ANY' in that column.

## **Surname**

Please enter surnames only in the first column, not the full names of individuals.

Spelling variants: it is assumed that a member using the Directory will check for likely spelling variants him/ herself. If necessary, however, a single spelling variant of a particular surname may be included in the surname column.

## **Period**

Indicate the period for which you are interested in the surname in the specified area. This should be in one of the following formats (please no 'plus' or 'minus' signs as these are too ambiguous):

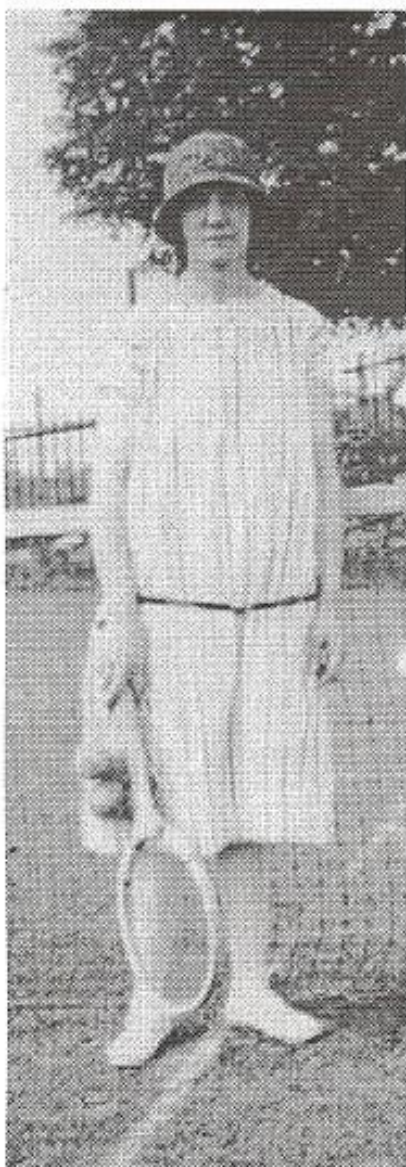
1820-90; c1750; before 1800; after 1850; from 1830; 19C; 17-18C. Please do not abbreviate further, or use alternatives.

## **Area**

Enter one town or parish only. If you are interested in a wider area, please indicate this by, for example, 'Kensington area'.

## **County**

Enter one English, Welsh, Scottish or Irish County using the Chapman county codes if possible, if the code is not known, write the County in full. Places overseas should be written in full.



(Numbers in brackets refer to the main box in the family tree)

This photograph of FLORENCE LOUISA BECKETT (5) was taken in the 1920s, not many years before her death in 1930. Her husband Percival Charles Beckett re-married in 1939, and John, one of the authors of this article, is a son of the second marriage.

### **Start of the search**

We knew that FLORENCE had been brought up in an orphanage or convent, probably in London, but we otherwise knew very little about her, largely because of the circumstances of her upbringing and her untimely death. We possessed the marriage certificate of Percival Charles Beckett and FLORENCE LOUISA PARKES (4), married at Kensington Register Office on 19th January 1920. This was the only document from which we could start the quest for more information. Percy is recorded as aged 27, a chauffeur, living at 4 Bolton Gardens Mews, his father was David Beckett, a coachman. Florence's age is also recorded as 27, living at 13 Cranley Mews, but with no information regarding her occupation, nor her father's name or occupation.

### **Censuses, orphanage archives, and birth certificates**

We began with a person search of the online 1901 census, which revealed a FLO PARKES (3) at Saltram Crescent Orphanage, Paddington, aged 10, birthplace not known. Her age in the census did not quite correspond with that on the marriage certificate, but there was no other child of that name who was living in an orphanage, so we assumed that we had found the right person. Flo was one of 61 children aged 4 to 12 in the care of Jane Ashdown, Isabella Candler, Maria Blow and Marion Tomkins, all described as Sisters of Charity. In this instance, "Sisters of Charity" were nuns, and Saltram Crescent Orphanage was one of several orphanages in London and elsewhere run by the Sisters of the Church.



The archives of the Sisters of the Church are currently held at St Michael's Convent in Richmond, and their records show that FLO entered the orphanage in October 1892 as a "foundling". The orphanage register states that she was born on 8th December 1890, the daughter of Florence Willis, Z0 Chesterton Road, North Kensington, and that her birth name was FLORA LUCY WILLIS (2).

We then turned to the 1891 census for Z0 Chesterton Road which revealed Henry Willis aged 31, his wife Mary A., and their two children and Henry's brother Frederick aged 29. In the same property, but in a separate household, were James Evered, his wife Emma E. aged 33 and their three children, and Nellie E. E. Willis, a visitor, aged 12. There was no mention of Florence or her daughter FLORA LUCY, but we felt certain that there must be some family connection because of the Willis surname.

Our next step was to search the General Register Office index for the birth of FLORA LUCY WILLIS in the last quarter of 1890 or the first quarter of 1891. However, no-one with that name was listed there, nor in any quarter from 1888 to 1892. During the early years of civil registration after 1837 many births, particularly those of illegitimate children, were not registered. But registration became compulsory in 1875, when a fine was incurred if a birth was not registered within six weeks, so it was unlikely that FLORA LUCY would have been omitted.

There was, however, an entry in the March 1891 quarter for a FLORENCE HUGHES WILLIS (1), and she was registered in the correct location of Kensington. Could this be her? After some hesitation, we obtained the birth certificate which showed that she was born on the correct date of 8 December 1890 at 220 Cornwall Road, Kensington, that her mother was Florence Emily Willis, and that her father's name was not recorded. These facts confirmed to us that we had found the correct birth certificate.

The birth was registered on 15 January 1891 by Harriet Mary Hughes of Queen Anne's Terrace, "present at the birth". So who was Harriet Mary Hughes? We returned to the 1891 census, this time for Queen Anne's Terrace and 220 Cornwall Road. At Queen Anne's Terrace lived Thomas Hughes, aged 41, a carpenter, his wife Harriet M. Hughes, aged 37, their daughter Agnes A. Hughes, aged 10, and three younger children. The birth certificate for Agnes Adelaide Hughes, born 17 May 1880, revealed that her mother Harriet Mary Hughes was formerly Willis.

At 220 Cornwall Road the head of the household was Marsella Willis, widow, aged 46. The other occupants were Florence E. Willis, aged 20, a dressmaker, FLORENCE WILLIS, (1) "daughter of the above Florence",

aged 4 months, and three brothers and two sisters of Florence E.

The birth certificate for Florence Emily Willis, born 4 January 1870, showed that her father was Robert William (subsequently found to be more usually William Robert) Willis, an omnibus conductor, and that her mother Susannah Elizabeth Willis was formerly Everett.

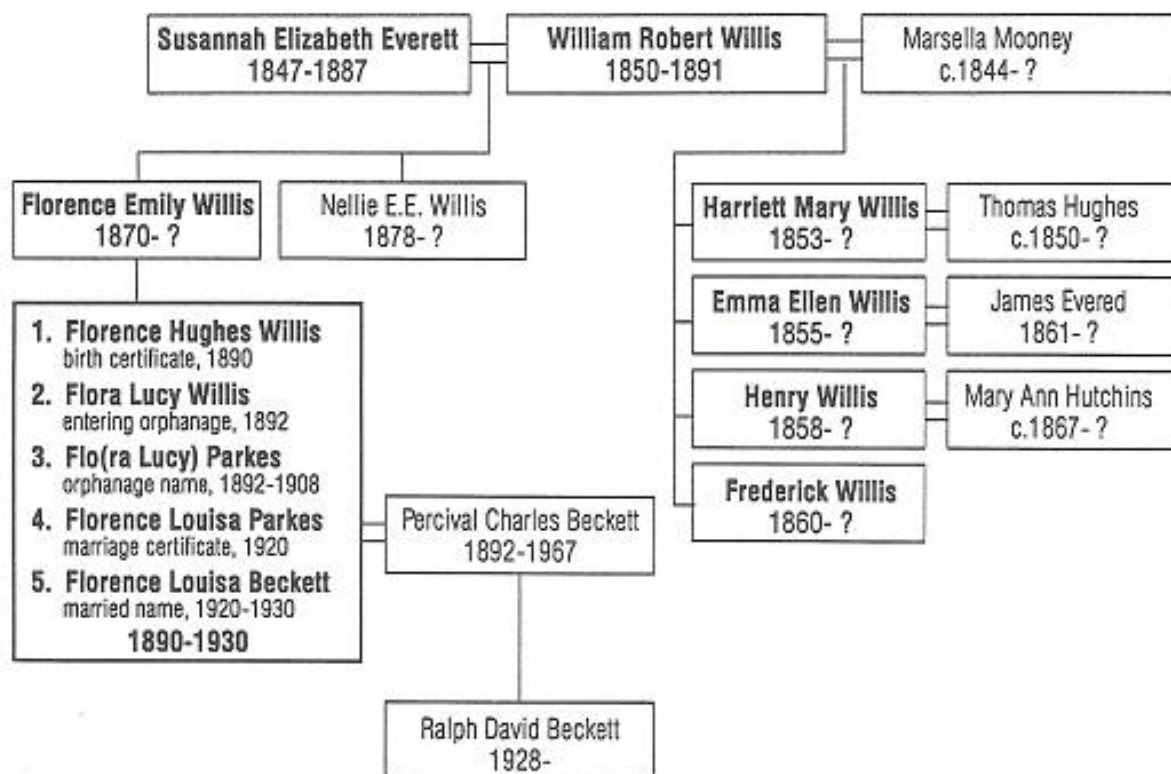
By means of the 1861 census we were able to confirm that William Robert Willis, Harriet Mary Hughes, Henry and Frederick Willis, and Emma E. Evered (nee Willis) were brothers and sisters;

by means of the 1881 census that Nellie E. E. Willis was the sister of Florence Emily;

and by means of the General Register Office indexes that William Robert's wife Susannah Elizabeth had died in 1887; he had subsequently married Marsella (nee Mooney) in 1889, he had died in 1891, prior to the census date in that year of Sunday 5th April.

Given that the birth of FLORENCE HUGHES WILLIS (1) was not registered by her mother, for reasons unknown to us, the above facts possibly explain why it was registered by her great-aunt Harriet, rather than her step-grandmother Marsella.

The five names of Florence Hughes Willis, and her relatives who are mentioned in the text

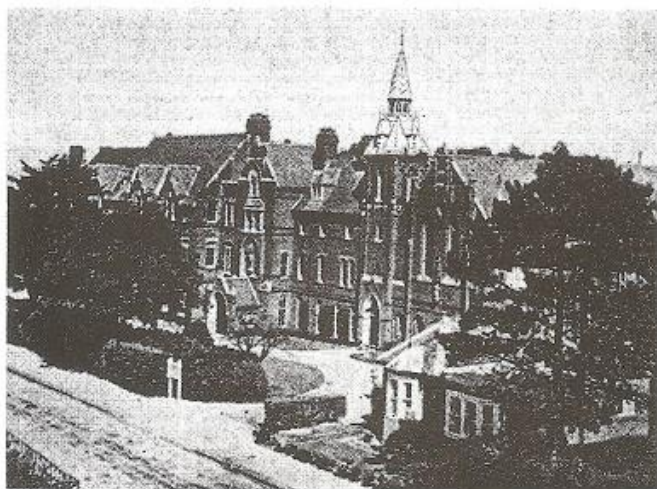


## 1892. Life in the Orphanage

We do not know why FLORENCE HUGHES WILLIS was taken into the orphanage, or why her name was given as FLORA LUCY. In attempting to find a possible reason, we searched the GRO indexes for the death of her mother but without success. We also do not know why her mother was apparently living with her Aunt Emma or Uncle Henry in Chesterton Road at the time. In the late nineteenth century, however, there would have been no public support for an unmarried mother and her child other than them both entering a workhouse: society and most charities generally believed that they would be encouraging immorality if they offered help. Fortunately for FLORENCE there was an orphanage nearby which was prepared to admit illegitimate children, then referred to, as in her case, by the term “foundlings”.

The Community of the Sisters of the Church had been founded in 1870 by Emily Ayckbown<sup>1</sup>. The Sisters established several orphanages in London, the main one being the Orphanage of Mercy in Randolph Gardens, Kilburn, opened in 1880, and this is where FLORENCE would have been received. Her entry in the orphanage register continues: “Child has been delicate, has weak bones and joints. Sent to St Mary’s Cripple Ward. 1893 - much stronger, transferred to Babies’ Ward.”

St Marys (illustrated here)<sup>2</sup> was another major home run by the Sisters at Broadstairs, Kent, opened in 1887 and used particularly for children who had been ill. It was designed to take 300 children with a staff of Sisters, nurses and domestic workers. In the summer it used to be quite full, especially when over a hundred of the orphans would come from London during August<sup>3</sup>. FLORENCE was baptized there with her new name FLORA LUCY PARKS (sic) on 22nd November 1892, by Revd



Douglas Philip Roper Nunn, curate of St Peter’s Parish Church in Broadstairs from 1888 to 1895. The baptism would have taken place in the chapel of St Mary’s, considered “worthy of a place amongst the finest Victorian parish churches in Kent, in terms of size at least”<sup>4</sup>, which was adjacent to the main building of the orphanage. The spelling of her new surname in the baptismal register was not followed exactly, for all other records use the form PARKES.

Baptism of babies with a new name was a practice which had been adopted by the Foundling Hospital established by Thomas Coram in 1741, in order to protect the mother's identity, and contact between mother and child was forbidden. Although in the case of the Sisters of the Church contact was not encouraged, sometimes children were returned to their families, and the orphanage name also often bore some resemblance to the birth name. So the reason for the complete change of surname from Willis to Parkes is not clear.

FLORENCE (known in the orphanage as FLO) remained at St Mary's until 1908 when she would have been seventeen. This was much longer than most, and she must then have been one of the "older ones helping with the younger children as matrons, etc and rendering valuable assistance to the Sisters"<sup>5</sup>, as well as "training for domestic service"<sup>6</sup>. "Ten of this party (of older girls) were confirmed by the Bishop of Dover at the parish church in December (1906), after attending the classes held by the rector for some weeks previously"<sup>7</sup>. FLO's confirmation had taken place the previous year, on 8th December 1905, her fifteenth birthday.

### **Life after the Orphanage**

After leaving St Mary's, FLORENCE put her training into practice and the orphanage register records that she went into service, firstly in Lyncroft Gardens, West Hampstead, followed by Gerrards Cross in 1910 and Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead in 1911. There is no further information about her in the register, but we know that at some point she became a shop assistant, working as a waitress in a café/cakeshop. A photograph in our possession shows her standing in a shop doorway, with two other young female assistants. The sign above the shop-window reads "HARPER'S"<sup>8</sup> and the lettering on the window reads "HOME MADE; PASTRYCOOKS & CONFECTIONERS". It was at that time, during or just after the First World War, that she met Vina Baker (born 1900) who promptly invited FLORENCE to her family home. Vina's parents Ralph and Elizabeth Baker lived at Childs Hill in northwest London with Vina's younger sister Marjorie (born 1901). Elizabeth and Ralph soon treated FLORENCE as their daughter, Vina and Marjorie became her "sisters", and she experienced family life for the first time.

It was at the café/cakeshop that FLORENCE met her future husband. Percy Beckett had been a driver for the Army Service Corps in France during the First World War, and had subsequently found employment as a chauffeur. Percy was the son of David Beckett, who had been groom and then coachman for the parents of children's author Beatrix Potter since 1875. The Potter family home in London was no. 2 Bolton Gardens, Kensington, but their house had been unoccupied since the death of Beatrix's father in 1914. Beatrix had moved her mother to be near her at Sawrey, near Hawkshead, in the Lake District, and Mrs Potter never returned to London. Percy obtained

her permission to occupy one of the mews flats in Bolton Gardens when he married. Two years later, in 1922, knowing that Percy was an experienced driver, Mrs Potter summoned him to Bowness-on-Windermere, Westmorland (now Cumbria) where she then lived, to become her chauffeur when Percy's father, aged 66 years and not in good health, was no longer fit to continue as her coachman.

### **A birth and a death**

On 19th August 1928, FLORENCE gave birth to a son, Ralph David Beckett. He was named after Ralph Baker, whose daughter Vina had befriended his mother, and his paternal grandfather David. Sadly, soon after her son had celebrated his second birthday, FLORENCE developed acute peritonitis and died whilst undergoing an operation in Lancaster Royal Infirmary on 30 October 1930. She was buried in the public cemetery at Bowness-on-Windermere.

*We can be contacted by email on [mail@beckettpost.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@beckettpost.fsnet.co.uk) or by post at Stone Lea, Newton-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6JG.*

### **Acknowledgements**

We are particularly grateful to Sister Marguerite Mae, CSC, Archivist for the Sisters of the Church at St Michael's Convent, and to her assistant Dr Brenda Hough, who answered many enquiries and provided much information about St Mary's; to librarians at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and at Broadstairs for census information and the later history of St Mary's respectively; and to Marjorie Baker's daughter Pat Ross, Florence's god-daughter, who began her own search for her god-mother's early life, and who has supported our search with great interest and encouragement.

We would be pleased to exchange further information with anyone interested in the Willis family, or in the orphanages of the Sisters of the Church.

1 See *A valiant Victorian: the life and times of Mother Emily Ayckbowm, 1836-1900*. Mowbray, 1964; article by Valerie Bonham in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

2 The illustration of St Mary's was originally published in *A valiant Victorian*, and is reproduced here courtesy of the Sisters of the Church. The buildings were completely demolished after the home was moved to smaller premises in 1957.

3 *A valiant Victorian: the life and times of Mother Emily Ayckbowm, 1836-1900*, p.107-109. Mowbray, 1964.

4 Mirams, M.D. 1986. *Old Broadstairs*, p. 30. Meresborough Books.

5 *Our Work* (magazine of the Church Extension Association, the charitable arm of the Sisters of the Church), January 1906, 14.

6 *Our Work*, Christmas number 1909, 22.

7 *Our Work*, January 1907, 12.

8 Harper's shop was at 304 Earl's Court Road from 1920 where they stayed until 1929 when they moved to 310 Earls Court Rd. In 1935 they took up additional premises at 15 Onslow Place and in 1939 they expanded to 2 Old Brompton Road and 75 Gloucester Road.

*Richard Wooster, husbandman Of Aston Clinton, C1515-1558*

*Agnes Wooster; 1523-1583*

**I**t was at Aston Clinton that the earliest definite record for our branch of the Wooster Family was found. The Victoria County History of Buckingham- shire provides the following information about the Parish. Aston Clinton is in the Hundred of Aylesbury. It is a large parish, very long and narrow in shape, lying on the Northern slopes of the Chilterns. The highest point is 817 feet above sea level and the hamlet of St Leonards in the extreme south-east corner of the parish lies at 700 feet, but the village and a large part of the parish lie in the Vale of Aylesbury at a height of 200 to 300 feet. The soil is Upper Greensand and Gault, the surface stiff loam, and the population mainly occupied in agriculture - 12,572 acres arable land and 16-21% permanent grass, but not well timbered.

The High Road from Aylesbury to Tring follows the course of Akeman Street and runs through the village and forms the main street. The Lower Icknield Way runs from Weston Turville to the village and the Upper Icknield Way also crosses the parish and a branch road connecting with Akeman Street and the Upper Icknield Way runs south-east through the length of the Parish by St Leonards hamlet and on to Cholesbury with a common, north of St. Leonards. A few houses, farms and an inn form the hamlet of Chiverrey preserving the name of an ancient Manorial division of Aston Clinton. The Church, St Michael and All Angels, lies on the edge of the park of Aston Clinton House. It was completely rebuilt in 1800 and so is nothing like it was in Richard Wooster's time.

In his time, there were still the old common fields, ploughed in the old method of starting in the centre and ploughing in a serpentine form. Richard probably had strips in these common fields. The Parish Registers for Aston Clinton do not survive before 1560, so information on Richard Wooster is scanty.

He was born about 1515 in the reign of Henry V111. No evidence has been found to show that he was descended from the Henry Wooster of Buckland and before him, John Wooster. Henry Wooster had land in Aston Clinton, the name Henry occurs in later generations of the family. If Richard did descend from them then probably the John, George and Thomas Wooster, who were living in Buckland when Richard was in Aston Clinton, were his brothers. He is known to have had two sisters Ellen & Margery.



The earliest record found is in the Muster Roll for the Hundreds of Aylesbury for 1535. This was of the local Militia, a local defence force with a semblance of military training. The entry reads:

“Aston Clynton wt Saynt Lenards  
A Ric Worsetour able man on  
harnessed”

No other Woosters are listed in this muster roll which included men between the ages of 16 and 60. Possibly Richard was about 20 at this time, in the prime of life and having perhaps a leather jerkin to provide some defence against injury. As with all the able-bodied men of that time, he would have been required to practice with his bow and arrows at the butts after service on Sundays.



*A middle class mother and her young son.  
Boys were dressed similarly to girls.*

He married probably in the late 1530s, his wife’s name being Agnes. He had eight known children who survived infancy. Their exact chronological order is not certain but was probably - William, John, Thomas, Joan, Dorothy, Ursula, Edward and James.

The mid-sixteenth century brought revived economic growth after the recession of the later Middle Ages and this had dramatic consequences for the region. The Tudor Monarchy brought a political stability and unity after the conflicts of previous centuries. England’s population began to grow again and economic growth flowed around a fast expanding London. The dissolution of the monasteries and abbeys in the 1530s and the rise of a new Protestant England meant that many lands changed hands, and new men led to a dynamism that gave the era of Elizabeth, Raleigh and Shakespeare what one writer called its spring-like air of expansiveness.

The Chilterns participated fully in this era of improvement.

They were close enough to attract London money and businessmen and they were well placed to help supply food and fuel to the growing city. Chiltern farming improved and prospered.

Among the first signs of the new era in the Chilterns was the gradual

disappearance of open fields from the hills and valleys by a process of piecemeal enclosure, a change from open arable to closed arable.

Richard Wooster was a husbandman, a small farmer, who would have managed his farm with the help of his family. He had both free and copyhold land, but because few manorial records for Aston Clinton survive we cannot tell when or how he acquired his lands. His farm was both arable and pastoral, growing wheat, used for flour, barley to make malt for brewing ale. He had both sheep and cattle. Sheep were important as an aid to the arable production rather than for their meat or wool. They grazed on the commons and wastes and were folded on the fallow. No doubt there were other animals, horses or oxen for ploughing, pigs, chickens and geese. He would have needed ploughs, harrows etc to cultivate his land. He must have prospered as he had silver spoons, pewter plates, a drinking cup bound with silver and gilt, feather beds and other furniture.

The times he lived in were of religious upheaval. He was born, as all Englishmen were at that time as a Catholic, but lived through the Reformation, the reign of the Protestant Edward VI, the nine days reign of Lady Jane Grey, and the Catholic reign of Mary Tudor. And it was as a Catholic that he died shortly before the Protestant Elizabeth ascended to the throne. One wonders how he would have viewed all these changes and what his true feelings were.

When he made his Will on 23rd October 1558 he said that he was fit of body. It was however soon after that he died. Perhaps, as frequently happened there were plagues and other infectious diseases around and being a prudent man, it was wise to see that one's affairs were in order. As a good Catholic he left money (2d) to the Mother Church of Lincoln. To his local Parish Church of Aston Clinton he left 12d for tithes forgotten, two bushels of barley for the upkeep of the altar and sepulchre lights, two bushels of malt for the bells. He also gave to the church of Aston Clinton, "the cloth called the Canopy Cloth some tyme belonging to the same Church." Why? Did he take it into safe keeping during the time of the Reformation when many treasures of the churches were destroyed? Or was he one of those who despoiled the church and now eased his conscience by returning it?

To his four younger sons John, Thomas, Edward and James he gave two ewes and £4 each, when they were 21 and to his three daughters he gave them each a heifer and £3.6s.8d, when they were 18. This would give them all a start in life. If any of the children died before receiving their inheritance it was to be divided between the others. He left £12.6s.8d to keep his sons Edward and Thomas at school. One presumes that he would have treated all his sons the same and that William and John had completed

their schooling and that James, the youngest has not yet reached school age. No such provision was made for the daughters.

His wife Agnes was to have all the items in her chamber, i.e. her bed and bedding, chest, press, etc. She would also have been entitled to a third of the rents and profits of his property as her Widow's Dower, but as we see later, he allowed her more than this.

His friend and neighbour, John Lake owed him £4. He instructed that Agnes and his son William were to have eight of the best oaks except two in John Lake's ground in a wood called "Parrettes".

His most prized possessions were his "maser" bound with silver and gilt and seven silver spoons, which his wife Agnes was to have during her lifetime and then they were to go to his son William. A "maser" is a bowl, drinking cup or goblet without a foot. Richard had two sisters, both apparently unmarried. Ellen was to have the rent of her house paid for the next three years and Margery was to have two bushels of malt and one of wheat. All his godchildren were to have 4d each.

The rest of his goods after his debts and his funeral expenses were paid were to be equally divided between Agnes and William, who were the executors of his Will. They were to hold both his free and copyhold land equally between them.

John Lake and William Lake were made the Overseers of his Will and were to have 6s.8d each for their labours. They were both witnesses together with William Welles and William Brichingshawe.

He must have died shortly after this as probate of his Will was granted on 27th January, 1558/9 to his executors, his widow Agnes, and eldest son William.

Agnes was left a widow with eight children. William the eldest was probably about 18 as he was old enough to be one of the executors of his father's Will and able to run the farm in conjunction with his mother. John would be about 16; he had finished his schooling. Thomas and Edward were still at school; they may have been 14 and 6. The girls were all under 18 and were possibly, Joan aged 12, Dorothy aged 10 and Ursula aged 8. James the youngest child was about 4.

Like all farmers' wives of the time, Agnes would have been very involved with the running of the farm with her husband and so would be well able to carry on. Two years later her eldest son William married a local girl, Joan Blackhead at Aston Clinton on 1st November 1560. He and his wife set up home at Aylesbury and it was here that their eight children were born.

Although William had a half share in the family farm he may have felt it was better to start up on his own account.

John could help his mother run the farm with the help of Thomas who by now would have finished his schooling, although at some time John died and Thomas left and went to London.

All three daughters married. Joan was married at Aston Clinton on 15th November 1565 to Edmund Durrant and had two children, Edward and Bridget, but died before 1581. Dorothy was married, possibly to Richard Lake, and had two children, Thomas and Joan. Dorothy too, was dead by 1581. Ursula was married to a man named Stybrook and had three daughters, Agnes, Mary and Joan and a son Matthew. She was still living in 1581.

Agnes' son Edward married a girl called Agnes. Although their eldest son William was baptised on 22 January 1576 at Cheddington, he then seems to have returned home to Aston Clinton where his other twelve children were born. The youngest son James, died sometime before 1581.

It may be that Edward's return home was as a result of the deaths of his other brothers John and James, which left Agnes without any male support to help her run the farm.

Agnes lived for twenty-four years after her husband's death, living to about 60 years of age.

On Sunday 20th August 1581 she made her Will. She was old and weak and sick and obviously tired of life as she said in her Will that she was willing to depart this wretched world. She asked pardon of God for all her heinous offences committed from and since her youth. Had she committed some sin that was on her conscience or was this just a form of words? She left 6s 8d to be distributed among the poor of Aston Clinton and 6s 8d towards the repair of the church. In her Will she did not leave anything to her children. They were all now established in life, apart from her son Thomas, to whom she left her featherbed, bolster, blanket, two pairs of sheets and a quarter of wheat. He does not appear to have had any children.

Agnes did, however, see that her grandchildren were given a start in life. To her daughter Joan's son Edward, she left a bullock, ewe and calf. To his sister Bridget she left a heifer, two pairs of sheets, a coverlet, blanket, bolster and mattress, two pewter platters, a salver and a kettle; all very useful for Bridget's bottom drawer. To the three children so far born to her son Edward, she left to William and Thomas, a bullock, ewe and lamb and a pair of sheets, and to his daughter Ursula, a ewe and lamb and two pair of sheets. Her daughter Dorothy's three children, Thomas, Joan and Matthew were

each left a ewe and a lamb. Her daughter Ursula's three daughters, Agnes, Joan and Mary each had a ewe, lamb and sheet. To her son William's two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth she left a sheet and a pewter plate and to his three sons Henry, William and Richard, she left a quarter of barley each, which she instructed their father to use as a stock to their advantage. She did not mention William's three eldest sons Thomas, Robert and Edward who may well all have been given something already to help them get started in life. The grandchildren were to have their inheritances when they were 21. All the rest of Agnes's goods she left to her son Edward, so perhaps he and his wife lived with Agnes and had looked after her in her old age.

Edward was made her executor and William was made a supervisor of her Will together with Richard Lake, possibly her daughter Dorothy and her husband. They were given 3s 4d each for their pains. The witnesses were John Lake, William Christmas and Thomas Lake. Agnes did not sign the will but made the following marks. Despite Agnes's wish to depart this life she lived for another two years, dying in May 1583 and was buried in the church yard of Aston Clinton in accordance with her wish, on 27th May 1583.

Mr John Wooster, 19 Percy Avenue, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2PB

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## **CERTIFICATE COURIER SERVICE**

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As previously stated, the service will continue for as long as there is a demand for it, but visits to the Family Record Centre will not be very frequent. Thank you to all Members who have used the Service over the years as it has raised welcome funds for the Society.

### **Unwanted original certificates**

Mrs J. Dean has the following certificates which she is happy to pass on.

#### **Birth**

Year	Person	Parents	Place
1866	Charles Henry Wooster	Joseph Hammond Wooster Susannah nee Beasley	Peckham
1867	Henry John Worcester	Henry John Worcester Sarah nee Gillard	Old Hoxton Town
1868	Henry Wooster	Henry Wooster Harriet nee Prince	Plumstead

*S.A.E. to Mrs J. Dean, 67 Chestnut Drive, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1QE*

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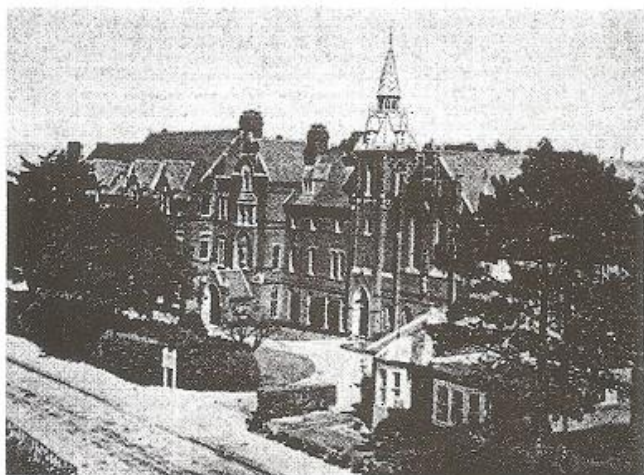
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## HELP!

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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.



Does anyone recognise The Carpenter's Arms Pub, most likely located to the west and within cycling distance of Southall about 1930? My uncle George WOOD (b1908) is sitting outside with a pint in this photograph. I would very much like to know if it still exists and its history.

*April Ashton: [ahashton@focalplane.com](mailto:ahashton@focalplane.com)*

## KEMPTON PARK ESTATE

Can anyone tell me who was the owner, or occupier, of Kempton Park, roughly 1800-1840, or where I can find this information?

My great great grandfather was employed there as a shepherd and, later, his son as a gamekeeper. The 1851 Census of Hanworth shows that he was born in Beaminster, Dorset, that his eldest son was also born there in 1823 but that his next child was born in Hanworth in 1827. I have documentary evidence of all this and of an ancestry stretching back to the 1570s. But why did he choose to make the long journey to Hanworth (before the railways!)

I have recently come across a book about the estate, entitled "Garden of Eden," by Edith Barnett (1995). Whilst no surnames are mentioned, there is an intriguing reference: "Long ago (Kempton Park) belonged to a man of (the gamekeeper's) name, but when he died childless, (Kempton Park) fell to sisters who married, and transferred ownership to another family."

The supposition is that the shepherd came to Kempton Park, because relatives lived there! He and his ancestors in Dorset were PHELPS, but his children were baptised as PHILLIPS, under which name the extended family was also recorded in the 1841 and 1851 Censuses; but by 1861 and subsequently, the descendants had reverted to PHELPS.

*Ron Phelps, "Lyndley Croft ", Bridge Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7HH*

## **LEACH**

I am trying to find the birth date or baptism for my paternal gg-grandfather George LEACH born circa 1815. The 1851-1871 censuses all show him born Kingston-upon-Thames. (He was the census taker himself in 1851 George had siblings also born in Kingston-upon-Thames: Ann (c1813), Thomas (c1816), Mary (c1819) and Sarah (c1824). Their parents were John LEACH and Lois HODD, married 4 July, 1811, Woking St Peter, Surrey.

I, and a researcher I hired in the UK, both searched the Kingston parish records and Bishop's Transcripts unsuccessfully. Birth dates for George and siblings are posted on the Pedigree Research File on Family Search but the person who did the posting does not remember where the information came from.

I wonder if the family lived in Kingston but perhaps registered the births in Hampton. Any help or information would be greatly appreciated.

*Gail Leach-Wunker, RRI Norland, Miner's Bay, Ontario K0M 2L0 Canada.*

## **LOVE**

My great great grandfather James LOVE, was born 1791 in Long Ditton, Surrey, and married Sarah LEADER at All Saints Parish Church, Isleworth in 1817. He appears on the 1851 Census living at S2 Church Street, Isleworth, with the occupation as Beadle. A cousin in Canada has a truncheon which we thought Victorian but we have no idea where it came from - would a Beadle have had one and what would his duties have been? I would also appreciate any information on the Alms House at Isleworth which is where he died in 1862.

*Mrs B. Crosby, Red Roof, 11 Burns Bridge Road, Harrogate, North Yorks HG3 1NS*

## **POTTER**

I am presently researching my Family Tree and have discovered an ancestor living in the Hammersmith area of London in the 1890s. His name was EDWIN POTTER and his profession was basket maker/journeyman. A photograph of him has come into my possession taken around this time at a photographer's named Charles Henry Shillman, 156 Uxbridge Road,



Hammersmith. I am trying to locate his address or whereabouts around 1898 when I believe this photograph was taken. I wonder if you could point me in the right direction as to how I can obtain any records or information concerning him around this period. I would be grateful for any help.

*Norman C. Potter normcpotts@aol.com*

### **ST MARYLEBONE SCHOOL**

Can anyone give the location of St Marylebone School Parochial Southall, given as Norwood, Southall Holy Trinity, West Ward in the 1901 Census? My father CHARLES L. LAING died when I was fourteen so I was never able to talk to him about his early life. I am also interested to know if there is anything still existing.

*Les Laing, 20 Vicarage Lane, Ivinghoe, Nr Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU6 9EQ*

### **THORN**

I am trying to trace my family history on my father's side. My parents separated when I was very young, and my mother would never tell me anything about him or his family. My father's name was George Edward THORN.

The details I have managed to find are that he was born in HANWELL on 10 February, 1911 and died in HAMMERSMITH Hospital on 13 November, 1979. At the time of his death he was living in EALING and appears to have lived in this area all his life. I have also found the details of his marriage to my Mother, Ivy May RUNECKLES, on 25 December 1935 at St Thomas' Church, HANWELL. In 1953 he married for a second time to Mary Theresa WORLEY at EALING Register Office. However, I have not been able to find out much about his parents.

According to my father's birth certificate his father's name was also George Edward THORN, and his mother's name was Kate Elizabeth BARTON late MAYAN. I have also found a birth certificate for, presumably, his sister named Queen Elizabeth THORN. However, the mother's name on this certificate is given as Kate Elizabeth BARTON late MERRIMAN. I have tried to find a marriage certificate for my grandparents, but without success.

I have managed to find a death certificate for my Grandfather who died in King Edward Hospital, EALING, on 23 December 1940. Prior to his death he had been living in Lower Boston Road, HANWELL. His death was registered by an M.E. GRIFFITHS, daughter, also living in Lower Boston Road.

Having no information regarding my father's family leaves a big gap in my life. I would be so happy to hear from anyone who might have known the family. I do not know if he had brothers or sisters, or if I have half brothers or sisters.

*Marion Chapman, 5 The Hawthornes, Broad Oak, Rye, E.Sussex, TN31 6EN*

## WOOSTER

Can anyone help to trace the birth date of my grandfather HENRY WOOSTER. I have repeatedly searched for his birth certificate without luck. HENRY appears on all census from 1871 aged 4 born Hammersmith, to 1961 aged 34 living at 95 Fulham Palace Road with his wife Emma Louisa (formerly MARSTON) and children Olive born 1892, Mabel born 1894 and George born 1896. A son James born 1897 died 1899. My father Lionel was born in 1903; there may also have been a daughter Maude. HENRY's year of birth on all census stated as 1867. I have HENRY and EMMA's marriage certificate 1892 (surname spelt WORCESTER) and HENRY's death certificate 1913 (name entered as HARRY WOOSTER).

His parents were CHARLES WOOSTER born 1834, West Wycombe, Bucks and SARAH formerly FORD born 1844 Bethnal Green. They were married 1862 Kensington. His grandparents were THOMAS WOOSTER born 1804, Bledlow, Bucks and CHARLOTTE formerly NEWELL her maiden name was BRADBURY. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

*Mrs J. Dean, 67 Chestnut Drive, "Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1QE*

## FOUND

In St James's Churchyard, Delhi.  
This was kindly sent to us by  
Merilyn Hywel-Jones.

"Sacred to the Memory of JULIA MARIA the beloved wife of Lt. Colonel C.L. THOMPSON, 82nd Regiment and fourth daughter of the late THOMAS HALL PLUMER, ESQ. OF CANONS PARK, MIDDLESEX, who died at Delhi on the 5th December 1861, aged 31 years".

Verse.

Apart from the Skinner Family plot (James Skinner was of mixed parentage and after being rejected by the British Army, he raised his own cavalry regiment, Skinner's Horse) there are only two or three other gravestones in the churchyard.

British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) is a charity set up in 1977 to protect European cemeteries in South Asia. It can be found on the British Library's website at [www.bl.uk/catalogues/indiaofficeselect](http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/indiaofficeselect)



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

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The stock of articles from members about their family history is getting low so please think about contributing some of your interesting stories to the journal. Short pieces are always needed and I would be pleased to receive any new material that members might care to send in; remember it does not have to be a full article. A small piece on some aspect of your research, or your views about a family history matter, are also welcome. The response has so far been very heartening thank you.

Nothing can be achieved without your input so please put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard! (Articles can always be emailed if it is more convenient.)

Deadlines for the quarterly issues of WMFHS journal are:

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

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## WMFHS NOTICEBOARD

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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.*

- B294 Mr F.E.Brooks, 19 Hewens Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex
- B277 Mrs E.M. Bruce, 37 Augustus Close, Brentford Dock, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8QE [elizabeth.bruce37@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.bruce37@btinternet.com)
- C247 Mrs M. Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 6PS
- D144 Mr K.F. Dowding, 12 St. Martins Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7SW
- F113 Mr G.P. Fazi, 27 Amherst Avenue, West Ealing, London W13 SNQ [fazigp1@yahoo.com](mailto:fazigp1@yahoo.com)
- H248 Carl D. Henny, 1057 Baseline Road, Claremont, CA. USA. 91711-1577 [pathenny@earthlink.net](mailto:pathenny@earthlink.net)
- H251 Ms M. Hayes, 5 South Road, Redland, Bristol BS6 6QP [maggie.hayes@tesco.net](mailto:maggie.hayes@tesco.net)
- H253 Mrs M.I. Howard, 10 Keeps Mead, Kingsclere, Berkshire RG20 5EZ [mary.howard9@virgin.net](mailto:mary.howard9@virgin.net)
- L105 Gail Leach-Wunker, RR1 Norland, Miners Bay, Ontario K0M 2L0 Canada [mbl@halhinet.on.ca](mailto:mbl@halhinet.on.ca)

- L106 Mrs C.M. Leader, 62 Howdale Road, Downham Market,  
Norfolk PE38 9AH *gmhampuddle@aol.com*
- P145 Mrs J.M. Puyenbroek, Whitebirch House, Markers Road, Uffculme,  
Cullompton, Devon EX15 3DZ *janetz/anbroek@aol.com*
- S247 Mrs S. Stewart, 39 Cranleigh Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4PZ  
*stephanie@stewart4344.fsnet.co.uk*
- S250 Mrs M.P. Skelton, 22 Cawston Way, Bilton, Rugby, Warwickshire  
CV22 7NR *pantomummer@aol.com*
- T80 Mr D.J. Tollman, The Cottage, Melin-Y-Grogue, Llanfair Waterdine,  
Knighton, Powys LD7 ITU *djtollman@btinternet.com*
- W229 Mrs K. Woodward, 125 Fleet End Road, Warsash, Southampton  
SO31 9HJ *grimalkin2@yahoo.co.uk*
- W231 Miss V.J.A. Waller, 43 Fairfield Gardens, Honiton, Devon  
EX14 1DW *vanessa05@tiscali.co.uk*
- W232 Mrs S. Woods, 43 Pine Grove, Church Crookham, Fleet,  
Hants GU52 6BQ *suewoods41@hotmail.com*

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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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. We would urge all those who receive enquiries to reply even if there is no connection with your research.*

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
ABLEWHITE	19C	London Area	Any	H251
ANDERSON	1826-53	Whitton	MDX	W232
ANDERSON	Before 1810	Dundonald	IRELAND	W232
ANDREWS	1820-90	Camberwell	SRY	H251
ARDLEY	Before 1790	Colchester Area	ESS	W229
ARDLEY	Before 1800	Assington	SFK	W229
BENHAM	1900-1990	Brentford	MDX	B277
BERKBECK	1800-1900	Marylebone	MDX	B277
BEST	20C	Hampton	MDX	P145
BEST	Before 1900	Wareham	DOR	P145
BLUNDELL	18C-21C	All Ireland	IRELAND	F113
BROWN	1820-90	Dalston	MDX	H251
BUCKLAND	17-20C	Hounslow	MDX	H253
BURGESS	19C	Isleworth	MDX	P145
BUTLER	17-19C	Hanwell Area	MDX	W231

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Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
CARDEW	1700-2000	Any	Any	D144
CHAMBERLAIN	1800-1900	London Area	Any	D144
CHAMBERLAIN	17C-18C	Any	BRK	D144
CHAPMAN	After 1812	Hounslow	MDX	H253
CHAPMAN	17-20C	Hounslow	MDX	H253
CLEAVER	17-20C	Fulham	MDX	H253
CLOUTER/CLOWTER	18C-21C	Any	Any	F113
DALLINGER	After 1800	Shoreditch	MDX	S247
DAWES	19C-20C	Tunbridge Wells	KEN	H251
DEAR	After 1840	London	MDX	W229
DEAR	Before 1800	Shillington Area	BDF	W229
DEVONSHIRE	Before 1790	Gravenhurst Area	BDF	W229
DICKINSON	18-19C	Brentford/Isleworth	MDX	H248
DIETZ	After 1850	Marylebone	MDX	S247
DONGER	1871	Hammersmith Area	MDX	C247
DONGER	1861	Tettenhall	STS	C247
DOWDING	1850-1900	Hackney Area	LND	D144
DOWDING	17C-19C	Southwark Area	LND	D144
DOWDING	17C-19C	Holborn Area	LND	D144
DUNGER	All	Houghton Area	NFK	C247
DUNN	1850-1900	Hammersmith	MDX	B277
FAZI	18C-21C	Any	Any	F113
GARRARD	19-20C	Shepherds Bush	MDX	C247
GIDDENS	17-19C	Odiham Area	HAM	T80
GOULD	1891-1900	Pancras Area	MDX	W229
GOULD	Before 1810	Alstonefield	STS	W229
GRANTHAM	19-20C	Gillingham	KEN	P145
GRANTHAM	19C	Beverley	YKS	P145
GRIST	c1827	Hayling	HAM	W232
HAMMOND	18-19C	Woolwich	KEN	C247
HAMMOND	19-20C	Shepherds Bush Area	MDX	C247
HAMMOND	18-19C	Kensington Area	MDX	C247
HARE	After 1835	Teddington	MDX	P145
HARVEY	All	Chobham	SRY	W232
HAYES	1820-90	Hounslow	MDX	H251
HEATH	17-18C	Chalfont St. Peter	BKM	H248
HEATH	18-20C	Brentford Area	MDX	H248
HIGGINS	17-20C	St Marylebone	LND	H253
HODD	Before 1811	Woking	SRY	L105
IZABY	17-20C	St Marylebone	LND	H253
JACOBS	1860's	Hounslow	MDX	B277
JAMES	19C	Teddington	MDX	P145
JAMES	19C	Norwood	MDX	P145
JUDD	1865-1925	Kensington	MDX	B277
KING	Before 1750	Sunbury	MDX	P145
KING	Before 1750	Shepperton	MDX	P145
KIRCHIN	After 1900	Chichester	SSX	S247
KIRCHIN	1900-50	Chidham	SSX	S247
KITSON	1870-1900	Marylebone	MDX	B277
KITSON	1800-1900	Cleobury Mortimer	SAL	B277
KITSON	After 1895	Swindon	WIL	B277
LANGSTON	18-19C	Brentford Area	MDX	H248
LAUF	1870-1920	Southwark Area	SRY	W232
LAUF	Before 1870	Stuttgart area	GERMAN	W232
LEACH	1800-1850	Kingston upon Thames	SRY	L105
LEACH	1800-1850	Hampton	MDX	L105
LEACH	Before 1811	Woking	SRY	L105
LEISHMAN	1790-1818	Any	MDX	S247
LEVERIA	All	London Area	Any	D144

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
LOVEDAY	After 1880	Fulham	MDX	W229
LOVEDAY	Before 1800	Chelmsford	ESS	W229
LYNCH	After 1800	Portsea	HAM	W232
LYNCH	Before 1820	Stoke Demeral	DEV	W232
MACLURE	1820-90	Hounslow	MDX	H251
MCNAMARA	18-19C	Brentford Area	MDX	H248
MEARNA/MERHAGH	18C-21C	Any	Any	F113
MILDENHALL	1920-40	Chichester	SSX	S247
MOORE	19C-20C	Sturry	KEN	H251
MORTON	1840-1900	Islington	WIL	B277
MULLINS	17-19C	Tisbury Area	WIL	H248
MULLINS	18-19C	Stamford	NTH	H248
MULLINS	18-19C	Brentford/Heston	MDX	H248
OVENS	16-18C	Chipping Sodbury	GLS	P145
PERKINS	17-18C	Kensington	MDX	H248
PERKINS	17-19C	Brentford Area	MDX	H248
PHEBY	After 1880	London	MDX	W229
PHEBY	After 1900	Ilford	ESS	W229
POWER	18C-19C	Aghada, Co. Cork	IRELAND	W229
PRIEST	c1840	Hendon	MDX	S247
PUDDLE	19C	Kensington	MDX	L106
RASTALL	19C	Leicester	LEI	P145
RICHENS	After 1880	Brentford	MDX	B277
RODAWAY	1830-1880	Holborn	MDX	B277
ROTH	Before 1876	All	GERMAN	W232
ROWLAND	1810-90	Portsea	HAM	W232
ROWLAND	c 1810	Chester	CHS	W232
SCHINDEL	19C	Hackney	MDX	H251
SEAR	17-20C	Fulham	MDX	H253
SHAW	1820-90	Islington	MDX	H251
SILVERTON	1850-1950	Swansea/Any	Any	S247
SKELTON	Before 1820	Chelsea	MDX	S250
SMITH	19C	Chelsea Area	MDX	L106
SMITH	Before 1800	Bethnal Green	MDX	L106
SMITH	19C	Fulham	MDX	L106
SNOWSHALL	Any	Any	MDX	C247
STACEY	16-18C	Chawton	HAM	W232
STEPTOE	17-19C	Uxbridge	MDX	T80
STEWART	1774-1847	St Geo Hanover Sq/ Any	MDX	S247
STEWART	After 1790	Kensal Green	MDX	S247
STEWART	1840-48	Willesden	MDX	S247
STEWART	1855-70	Wimbledon	SRY	S247
STEWART	1845-75	Manningtree	ESS	S247
STEWART-PRIEST	1843-65	St Martins	MDX	S247
STREDDER	19C	Kensington Area	MDX	W229
SWEETLAND	1906-20	Bromley	KEN	S247
SWEETLAND	All	Coombeflory	SOM	W232
SWEETLAND	All	Stockland	DEV	W232
THORNE	1800-1930	London Area	Any	D144
TOLLMAN	17-19C	Hampton	MDX	T80
TREDRAKE	Before 1820	St Martins	CON	W229
WARD	1800-1900	Brentford Area	MDX	D144
WARD	1800-1900	\Hammersmith Area	MDX	D144
WESTLAKE	Before 1800	Crediton Area	DEV	W229
WHEELER	17-18C	Tisbury Area	WIL	H248
WOODMAN	18-19C	Brentford Area	MDX	H248
WOODS	All	Isle of Wight	HAM	W232
WOOLDRIDGE-SMITH	1820-90	Chelsea Area	MDX	L106

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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 Society members 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.

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

**Isleworth Register of Baptisms** Brentford Union Workhouse, and Mission Church, with extracts from Register of Baptisms at Wesleyan Methodist Church, Isleworth.

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

**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 31RCs 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 A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9DJ*

**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, with 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*

**Stanwell Census Lookups:** Name database for 1841 - 1901. Parish Baptism records 1794-1871, Marriages 1751-1865 and Burials 1758- 1859 are also available.

*Postal Enquiries with SAE to Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex TW19 7JB, or email: CasSweetland@aol.com*



## **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

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