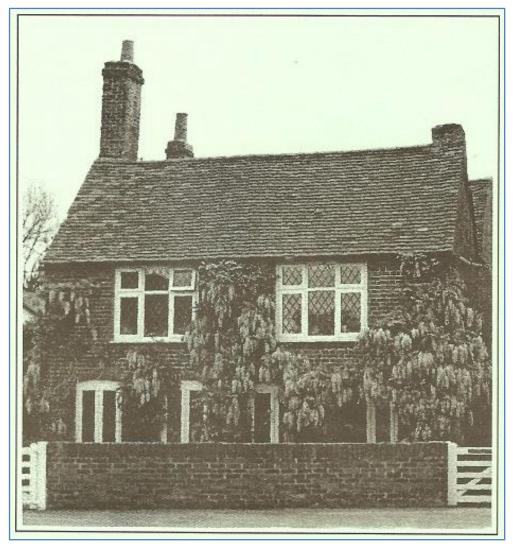


# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

Vol. 25 No.2 June 2007



The old Cottage (18th C with axial chimney), Laleham

#### WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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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.

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## **Contents**

Future meetings	2
News Roundup	3
WMFHS Noticeboard	4
West London Local History Conference	8
WMFHS Accounts	9
The Kensington Mushroom Mystery	15
Three Stovold Families in Fulham (or Just One?)	17
The Story of a Family Dispute	21
Ancestors who were Victims of Crime	27
The History of Heathrow Airport	28
Our Good Friend Google	30
Help!	31
Editor's Notes	32
New Members	33
Surname Interests	34
Indexes held by Members	36

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

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# **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following talks have been arranged:

21 June Railway Records – George Yeldon

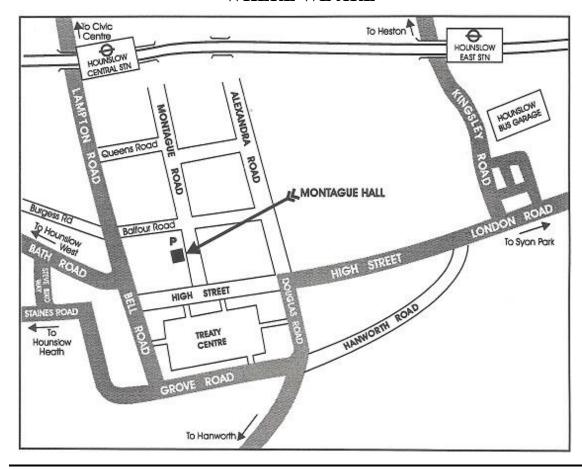
19 July Non Conformist Records – *Richard Radcliffe* 

16 Aug Research Evening plus Restoring Old Photographs – *Roy Hewitt* 

20 Sept. Grandma's London – John Neal

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



# Family History: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

A one Day Conference

# Saturday, 29th September 2007

St Mary's Church Hall Twickenham

10am – 4pm

Book the date in your diary now!

You can download a booking form from our website: www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

## **NEWS ROUNDUP**

# **Diary Dates**

**Saturday 26 May:** Central England Family History Fair, Buxton Pavilion Gardens, St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6XN 10am-5pm

**Saturday 9 June:** A Slave History Walk. Meet at LMA. Explore locations in and around the City of London linked to the slave trade and the Londoners who relied on it. 2pm-3.30pm Free.

**Saturday 28 July:** Bucks FHS Open day, Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury. (SE of town between A413 and A41). Free admission and ample free parking. 10am-4pm

**Sat/ Sun 18-19 August:** International Austin Convention, Homestead Court Hotel, Welwyn Garden City. Sponsored by the Austin Families Genealogical Society. Contact Dr. Roger B. Austin, aufa16@dsl.pipex.com www.austins.org (follow the Conventions link)

# WMFHS NOTICEBOARD



# **Original Certificates**

Many members kindly donated their unwanted original certificates to me when I was Courier and whilst we have sold a few producing funds for the Society, the others are listed on the Society's web site www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

Please check out the list and also view the rest of the site. If you are interested in buying a certificate full instructions are given. For those of you, like me, without a computer please send a SAE together with a list of those names you are searching and I will send details. I'm afraid it won't be possible to send full paper lists out as there are over 500 certificates for sale.

Details of most of the certificates obtained by me as courier are on a database and this is held on all the WMFHS laptops which can be searched at meetings and Open Days.

Miss V.Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London W4 5EN

#### WMFHS NOTICEBOARD

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow on Thursday 15 March 2007.

# 1. Welcome by the Chairman

The quorum of 45 Full Members being present, the Chairman Yvonne Masson opened the proceedings by welcoming all those members attending.

# 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mavis Burton, Richard Chapman, Kay Dudman, Maggie Mold and Chris Watts.

# 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 16th March 2006

The Minutes had been included in the Society Journal of June 2006. 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

In 2006 our Society enjoyed another busy and successful year. The average

attendance at monthly meetings was 75 which is particularly encouraging. There was however a drop in overall membership from 2005 of about 50. So while it would appear generally as if people are not using family history societies as much as they used to, our talks programme, research material and other activities are still quite a draw. Thanks to the two Marys for signing people in - it is important to do so as it does give us valuable information about attendance at monthly meetings.

May of last year saw the death of Eileen Stage who dealt with postal enquiries to the Coastguard Index which she had accumulated over many years. Her funeral was attended by myself and two other members of the Society. The Coastguard material plus much other research material collected by Eileen has been handed over to The National Archives, the handover being organised by our secretary Tony Simpson.

Thanks go to our Executive Committee for all the work they have put in over the past year, most especially our retiring Treasurer Paul Kershaw who, as well as keeping our finances in order plus a host of other tasks, organised our very successful Open Day in October which took place at a new venue, the White House Community Centre in Hampton, and this seems to have been a successful and popular choice. Thank you Paul for all your hard work, and to everyone else who helped out on the day.

Our Editor, Pam Smith, has at the beginning of this year redesigned our journal cover; she also produced the 2006 Directory of Members Interests, and with husband Brian runs our Library which they have recently streamlined. Membership Secretary June Watkins as well as keeping our membership database is responsible for distributing the journal and posting it off worldwide, and so had the recent change in postal charges to deal with.

Thanks also to Webmaster David Childs for designing an excellent website and running it for seven years; at the end of 2006 he handed over this task to Richard Chapman. Up to last March Richard was also our Projects Manager; unfortunately we have still been unable to recruit someone else for this role but Richard has been kindly overseeing some of the unfinished projects through to publication on the Federation of Family History Societies' Family History Online and for inclusion on our laptop. Thanks to all those members who have been involved in transcribing work for the Society. Richard is also a regular at Fairs and Open Days we attend and we have to thank him for researching and buying some of the increasingly high-tech equipment which will enhance our displays at these events. Thanks to those Society members who took our stall to six such events during 2006.

Last year we purchased a power point projector for use by speakers, and congratulations go to Maggie Mold for another season of excellent talks; our attendance figures indicate that members find them useful and entertaining. Our Christmas Social went particularly well with a very high turnout despite bad weather. A lot of interest was shown in the Magic Lantern Show and the table as usual groaning with food supplied by members and organised by Margaret Harnden, with wine generously provided by Mike Cordery even though he himself could not attend. Mike is our Federation representative and keeps us in touch with Federation matters. In 2006 he organised our Society's contribution to an important Federation survey on its relationship with family history societies which will help it plan its activities in future, and the Society was represented at a Federation seminar which followed up the survey. Mike also liaised with the Federation with regard to changes to our Constitution, he annually produces the journal index and prepares our Committee minutes. Not bad for someone who spends part of the year in Brazil!

Another very important contribution to our meetings of course are the refreshments, provided by our two tea men Pat Harnden and Steve Randall, who took over from Peter Roe and Janet Hagger. Pat and Margaret Harnden do sterling work making the 1881 and IGI fiche available at meetings, and Margaret was also responsible for obtaining our very effective new radio microphone which has improved the quality of talks. And thanks to all the rest of the people whom we regularly see round the perimeter of the hall, and who each month have to bring in all the material we buy, borrow or browse; unfortunately this material now has to be packed away earlier due to having to vacate the hall by 10pm sharp, and we are sorry if this means research time is curtailed, although of course we do hold an annual members' evening for this purpose.

It was found necessary to close down at the end of 2006 two long-running services offered by the Society due to decreasing use: our Courier Service run by Valerie Walker and Postal Books Service run by Jim Devine, and many thanks to both of them. Original certificates given to Val over the years are now advertised for sale on our website, and Val will search them for postal enquirers.

Looking ahead, we will be seeing a number of changes in this coming year. The annual Society of Genealogists Fair will combine with the BBC's 'Who do you think you are?' to stage a huge family history fair at Olympia in May; our Society's bi-ennial Conference will take place locally this time in Twickenham in September. The Family Records Centre is to close and move

to TNA Kew, and within the last few weeks the London Metropolitan Archives has announced its plans to digitise its records and place them online, which will impact on the area covered by this Society. Family history societies face a number of new challenges which I am sure the West Middlesex Family History Society will continue to meet. Thank you to all our members for your continued support.

# 6. Treasurer's Report

Paul Kershaw presented the Society's accounts for 2006. Although membership numbers, therefore subscriptions, were lower than in the previous year, and despite writing off £732 under 'Stock Variation' due to substantially reduced book sales, the Society still finished the year with a surplus of £613 and accumulated funds of £21,753. Wendy Mott proposed and Bridget Purr seconded a proposal to receive the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December, 2006 which was passed unanimously. The Treasurer recorded special thanks to the Examiners Muriel Sprott and Lee Goodchild.

# 7. Constitution Amendments

The Chairman explained that the Society's proposed new constitution, drawn up principally to take account of new Charity legislation, had been developed by the Committee (based on the Federation of Family History Societies' model), accepted by the Charity Commission (with minor changes incorporated in the final version) and published in the current Journal alongside the existing constitution. Once approved by the AGM the new constitution would be registered with the Charity Commission and the Federation. Muriel Sprott proposed and Mavis Sibley seconded a motion to accept the new constitution: the motion was passed unanimously.

# 8. Appointment of Examiners

The reappointment of the current examiners, Lee Goodchild and Muriel Sprott, for 2007 was proposed by Paul Kershaw, seconded by Joan Scrivener and passed unanimously. "

# 9. Election of Committee

Two Committee members, Pam Smith and June Watkins, had completed three years and offered themselves for re-election. Rob Purr proposed and Valerie Walker seconded the re-election of both - the proposal was carried unanimously. Due to the standing down after six years on the Committee of the Treasurer Paul Kershaw, the Committee would begin the current year with two vacancies. Paul would be substituted as Treasurer by Committee member Brian Page.

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

MEMBERS' SERVICES	Year to 31 Decem	ber 2006	Year	to 31 December 2005		
INCOME						
Subscriptions received for current year	2980			3508		
Subscriptions received in advance last year	2220			2557		
	and the same of th	5200			6065	
Bank Interest		809			657	
Tax refund on Gift Aid		703			785	
		-	6712			7507
Open Day - Hampton 1st October 2005		1205			0	
Less Expenditure		1064	141		100	-100
LESS EXPENDITURE			6853			7407
Second Bi-Annual Conference at TNA	0			923		
Less Income	0	0		-792	131	
Journal Production and Delivery	( <del> </del>	3454		50 <del>10101</del> 50	3956	
Members' Interests Fiche		317			0	
Hire of Meeting Hall		984			1012	
Speakers		416			460	
*F=***********************************			5171			5559
			1682			1848
OTHER INCOME			31.56 N			-your 4000
Bookstall Sales including Postal Services	2736			2750		
Plus/minus Stock Variation	-732			81		
Less Cost of Sales	-1754	250		<u>-1937</u>	894	
Courier Service	7	200		56		
Less expenses	-7	0		-15	41	
Donations		15		-	31	
Refreshments		106			153	
Raffles		271			395	
WM Marriage Index Searches		25			79	
Tape Hire at Meetings	13	055		27	155	
Less expenses	-37	-24		-11	16	
1881 Census Index Searches	0	0.00				
Less expenses	o o	0		ō	2	
FFHS Rebate on Vouchers ( one off payment)		0			138	
FHOL Royalties		310	100		259	
Other Research Income		36			10	
Other nesearch income		30	989		10	2018
			2671			2018 3868
OVERHEAD EXPENSES						
FFHS Subscriptions	191			192		
FFHS Insurance and Services		121			2454	
Research Expenditure	_ 243	434		259	451	
2000 Carlotte (2000 Carlotte C		38			79	
Postage, Stationery and Telephone		257			424	
Misc Equipment (not capitalised)		155			.7	
Mileage Allowance		36			11	
Subsistence		13			0	
Library Purchases		27			45	
Honoraria and Gifts		155			201	
Publicity, including attendance at open days		390			301	
Disposal of assets		0			. 0	
Depreciation		552	0000		_ 567	****
			2058			2086
Surplus for year			613			1780
Les Goodchild Independent Examiner				Muriel Sp	rott Independ	dent Examiner

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

		BALANC	E SHEET	AS AT 31	DECEMBE	R 2006	BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31	DECEMBE	R 2005
		Cost or Value at 30,08/1994	Accumulated Depreciation to 31/12/05	Depreciation year to to 31/12/05	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Yalue at 31/12/06	Cost or Value at 30,09,1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2005
FIXED AS	SFTS								
	isus Index	1087	1030	14	1044	43	1087	1030	57
1891 Cen	2000	752	696	14	710	42	752	696	56
	ader Copier	1800	1620	45	1665	135	1800	1620	180
	che Viewers	1080	905	44	949	131	1080	905	175
	Fiche Viewer	50	49	0	49	1	50	49	1
		315	314	0	314		315	314	1
	de Projector	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	1
Projector		75	74	0	74	4	75	74	
1988 IGI				0	10	1	11	10	- 1
	vorce Index	11	10		111,000	935		30	1
	d Display Shelves	31	30	0	30	1	31		
	ity Printer	95	95	0	95	0	95	95	0
	sworth Manor Rolls	348	0	0	0	348	348	0	348
	n Display Boards	324	278	12	290	34	324	278	46
Fiche Res	aders bought 2001	705	538	42	580	125	705	538	167
Lectern -	- bought 2002	400	273	32	305	95	400	273	127
Lap Top 0	Computer - bought 2002	1482	1013	117	1130	352	1482	1013	469
	Projector - bought 2005	352	88	66	154	198	352	88	264
	ation System - bought 2006	235	0	59	59	176	0	0	0
	int Projector - Bought 2006	428	0	107	107	321	0	0	0
		9571	7013	552	7565	2008	8908	7013	1895
CURREN	T ASSETS								
Stocks:	General Interest Books				859			718	
	Reference Books				95		93	402	
	Ordnance Survey Maps				157			233	
	Post Cards (Churches)				94			191	
	National Burial Index CDs				197			280	
	WMFHS Memorial CDs				3			2	
	Census Vouchers				35			41	
	FHOL Vouchers				47			59	
	Microfiche				79	1566		_372	2298
Cash at 6	Bank and in Hand								
Ourrer	nt Account - Barclays (Closed	0			0			202	
	sit Account - Barclays (Closed				0			77	
	Account				12019			11496	
	nt Account - CAF Bank				4482			3639	
	sit Account - CAF Bank				3734			3587	
Cash					0			50	
Floats					58	20291		156	19207
Total ass						23863		227	23400
CHEREN	IT LIABILITIES								
	ptions in Advance				2070			2220	
Deposit					40	2110		40	2260
Daposia	STIGIU					21753		(May 1982)	21140
ACCUM	ULATED FUNDS					100000000	k 5		
Balance	Brought Forward					21140			19360
	for year					613			1780
1910/01/01	101.C(10)					21753			21140
									-

Paul Kershaw, Hon. Treasurer Yvonne Masson, Chairman

# 10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 Vote of thanks: the Chairman proposed a special vote of thanks to retiring Treasurer Paul Kershaw and his wife Janice for their many activities on behalf of the Society over the years. Yvonne made presentations to both Paul and Janice, warmly applauded by those present.
- 10.2 The timing of the monthly meeting was discussed. As the hall had to be vacated by 10pm prompt, one suggestion was to begin the talk at 7:45 instead of 8pm. Extending the hire of the hall for the evening by part of an hour or a whole hour was also suggested. The Committee would discuss this and investigate what extra charges this might incur.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting closed.

# THE WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Yvonne Masson

A round up of the talks given at the West London Local History Conference held at Montague Hall, Hounslow, 17th March 2007.

In 'Gardens and Grottos: Meals out of doors 1700-1900', Philippa Glanville, VSLA Senior Research Fellow, gave us a glimpse of eating and drinking mostly in the 18th and 19th centuries, but pointed out that although there are descriptions of occasions such as parties, not a lot of research has been done on what was being drunk and eaten at these occasions. Wealthier people would escape the noise and bustle of London by going upriver to such places as Hampton Court, and there are descriptions of 18th century parties there. Outings were organised to inns on the river such as the Castle at Richmond; more luxurious wares such as porcelain and silver were provided for wealthier customers. People found pleasure in sitting on the ground for picnics as it made a change.

On the whole the poorer people had no ovens for cooking a hot meal and frequented the local pie shop for things that could not be cooked at home. At street stalls they could buy saloop, a hot, sugared drink made from a Turkish root that was untaxed and therefore cheap. Tea was heavily taxed and expensive. Working men kept going by drinking ale several times a day, and in that way got necessary calories and vitamins. At Joseph Banks' Middlesex estate, 4,000 gallons a year were brewed for servants etc. Children's parties had punch made from diluted port etc.

It became the fashion to eat delicacies at the end of a meal in particular buildings.

Pope gives a description of a party at Marble Hill in 1727 and mentions the cool breezes blowing through - coolness was very important, and ice was an important luxury. The Octagon Room at Orleans House was a place of pleasure and for eating in. 'A l'Hermitage' meant you helped yourself, usually in garden pavilions, and could gossip without servants overhearing. Grottos also provided cool places in which to eat and drink, and at Gunnersbury, the Rothschilds would take meals in their conservatory with fountains playing, so again it was cool.

Fish was eaten fresh from the river. Pope celebrates being able to catch or grow fresh food with emphasis on the freshness, as it was difficult to keep food fresh before refrigeration. At the Pleasure Gardens, ham and tongue and bread and butter might be cut so thin that it was observed you could read a newspaper through the slices. There was much adulteration of food: drinks like claret could be false, made of other ingredients, and chalk added to bread to whiten it.

In 'What we want is Watneys - the Mortlake Brewery' Murray Hedgcock, of Barnes and Mortlake Local History Society gave a history of the Brewery. The 1937 title slogan came from the 'Brick Wall' series of advertisements. In Mortlake the regular Brewery hooter provided a handy time check and the smell of hops pervaded. Local schools could use the Brewery sportsground; laid out in 1920 and a popular venue for local championships, it also saw famous cricketing names playing there and there were full-time groundsmen.

As well as being an important local industry, the Brewery was a national landmark in the Boat Race since the days of the radio commentaries. There were 600 employees in the 1920s which rose to 1,400 in the 19605. The company has only been Watney for part of its life but the name has stuck. The story goes the original Watney was a foundling on Wimbledon Common in the 17th century who was adopted by a local farmer and given the name: what name, which became Watney. He married the farmer's daughter in 1730 at Wimbledon church and inherited the estate. He became a miller, as did his three sons, who began brewing at Wimbledon. A descendant, James Watney, had a quarter share in the Stag Brewery at Pimlico.

By 1898 it was Watney Coombe Reid, which became the biggest brewing company in London. In 1889 the company came to Mortlake Brewery and in 1903 the landmark building the maltings was built. Modern technology was introduced including steam and later electric lorries. The first chemist was employed in 1900, the first such appointment by a brewery in the London

area, resented by some as brewing had been regarded as an art. The Red Barrel logo was the result of a competition - in the company magazine £100 prizes were offered for product and efficiency ideas. Between the Wars houses were built for employees, which are still there in Watney Road, plus the flats at Coombe House. There was strong emphasis on social and sporting activities there was even a pig and rabbit club. But automation was taking over and Scottish Newcastle now own Mortlake Brewery with 200 employees.

In 'Pubs and Drinking in Wandsworth and Putney' Dorian Gerhold of Wandsworth Local History Society demonstrated how ancient some of the pubs and inns in the area are. Inns were especially important in upper class social life and offered a wide range of services; ale houses just sold beer and food, taverns sold wine as well as ale. The first known inn in Putney was the 'Catherine Wheel' 1497. In the High Street from the late 16th century were the 'Red Lion' and 'White Lion'. In Wandsworth was the 'George' in the High Street. The 'Ram' associated with the Brewery of that name is first recorded in 1629 but the Brewery closed last year. At the top of Putney Hill from the 1660s stood the 'White Hart'. The various licensing laws had an effect on local establishments over the centuries, and the Quarter Sessions records show various prosecutions of those who broke the law. The 'Black Bull' at Roehampton, recorded in 1721, later became the 'King's Head' and its future is uncertain. The 'Star and Garter' in Putney was earlier the 'Cock and Hoop'. Many of the old pubs have been demolished and others have been given those rather peculiar modern names - the 'White Lion' is now the 'Walkabout'.

Gardener Bob Calder spoke on 'A.W. Smith', a Middlesex market gardener who eventually acquired 1,000 acres in Feltham, Sunbury and Ashford and was one of the biggest local employers. Much information about him and market gardening at the time is gleaned from the memoirs of his foreman Alfred Lucas. The Smiths came originally from Clewer Green, Berkshire. A.W. was born 1855; his family were at Besborough Lodge, Roehampton where his father Henry was a domestic gardener, but in 1861 is a greengrocer in Hill St, Richmond and in 1862 a market gardener at St Margarets. Henry's two sons assisted their father and in the 1881 census A.W. is at Smallberry Green with his father. There was great rivalry between the two brothers and in 1887 A.W. decided to branch out on his own next to the Staines Road at Bedfont. Beneath apple and pear trees he grew flowers, a typical practice in Middlesex. Although the land was largely gravels he used lots of horse manure, which was in plentiful supply. He also acquired two holdings of about 40 acres at Feltham, on the site of Walton Gardens, a row of labourers' cottages. A.W.'s father took a smallholding near Snakey Lane and when he retired 1891 A.W took it on. He moved to

Bunham Villa and erected very successful glasshouses, growing tomatoes and cucumbers, with large packing sheds for fruit. When in 1898 a Feltham farm near St Dunstan's church came onto the market, he decided to build a huge range of glasshouses there. Alfred Lucas describes the nasty job of digging brussels sprouts on a wet day and then packing in the sheds: aprons could freeze to the bench. From Bunham Villa A.W. moved to Feltham House. His brother Edward was still at Isleworth but moved to Redlees. Worton Road where he also had an enormous range of glasshouses. He even used a two-horse plough 'under glass. Baskets of produce were conveyed to Covent Garden and got premium prices. In 1904 A.W. bought two steam engines and everybody in Feltham would come out to see their regular progress to London. Eventually he was banned from using them as they made shopkeepers' goods fall off their shelves. In circa 1904 he bought Feltham Hill Farm, which became Poplar Farm, now the site of B.P. Sunbury. A.W. also had sheep which he fed on a special mixture and used to manure his orchards. He died 1927 and lies in Feltham cemetery.

Janet Hobbs of Acton History Group told us about the beginnings in Acton of the Waitrose Supermarkets: 'Mr Waite and Mr Rose and their first shop in Acton'. Kings Buildings is a listed Grade II row of shops on Uxbridge Road, Acton, built by Charles Oliver Hicks on the site of a house called The Wood- lands. Mr Waite, Mr Rose and Mr Taylor opened their first shop at no.263. Waite was born 1891, the son of a civil engineer from Northampton-shire. He left school at eleven and was apprenticed to a grocer at Pontypool, Wales. He saved his money and after his apprenticeship came to London with £1. Walking from Paddington Station to Blackfriars Road he got a job for 7/6d living in.

The grocery trade was known for its dishonesty, especially for adulteration of foodstuffs. Waite went to night classes and decided to run a shop with honesty - he wanted to lift the food trade to a higher plane. With two workmates Arthur Rose and David Taylor he decided to rent a shop at Acton, which opened 17th June 1904 with attractive window displays and fair prices. Waite was the main buyer, Rose looked after the finance and Taylor was the Manager, but the latter went back to his old job after two years. Employees doubled in four years and they took over the shop next door. The premises were very clean, with mahogany counters, ceramic tiles and mirrors modelled on those at Harrods. They extended to no. 267 and now had several departments. Upstairs there were ripening rooms for bananas, apples and pears; evidence of the cold room in the basement can still be seen. Orders were delivered by boys on bicycles. Mr Hicks the landlord put in capital and they were now Waitrose Ltd, a registered company. They began to open other shops and in 1912 bought 23 Gloucester Road which also became the main office for the 25 shops all over London. The Waite family moved there but also had a house at 'Belfont, Middlesex'.

Visitors came from all over the world to see the Gloucester Road shop and they now had a Royal warrant. Mr Waite would drive round in a car to see all the shops were locked up on Saturday night: he called it 'going branching'. In WWI Mr Rose served in the Army and business declined, but after the War picked up again. 267 Acton Hill closed, but 263 and 265 continued. Rose withdrew from the business, leaving Waite and Hicks as main shareholders. Waite was awarded an MBE in 1930. Waitrose later merged with John Lewis, a business with a similar ethos to its own. Mr Waite retired in 1937 and died in 1971 aged 89. A plaque has been laid in the pavement outside no.263 by the Acton History Group.

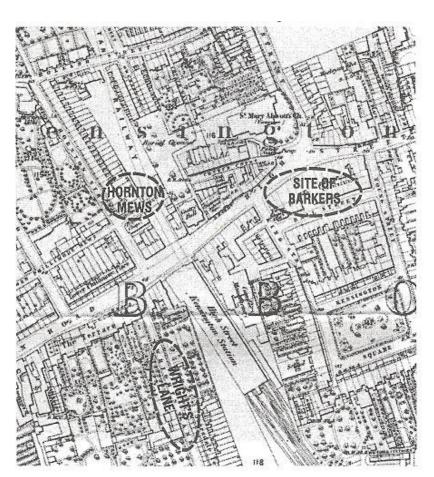
A Finally came 'Brentford Market' by Hounslow Heritage Guide Peter King. The first charter for Brentford Market was awarded in 1306 to the Prioress and Nuns of St Helen Bishopsgate but by 1351 it had fallen into disuse. At the dissolution of the monasteries it reverted to the Crown. Various owners took it on and the market was moved to the area behind the 'Three Pigeons'. Charles I abolished it but it was reinstated. The Horley family got a Charter from Charles II and moved part of the market to the south side of the High Street and built a Market House in 1666. Its weather vane may later have been placed on Perivale church.

In the 1800s a new Market House was built which later became the still-standing Court House. But by the 1870s the market had declined. An illegal market was set up by market gardeners near Kew Bridge which caused much congestion. The local Board had a new enclosed market designed on two acres of land bought from Rothschilds' estate. The foundation stone was laid November 1892 and it was opened, with much ceremony, in 1893 by the Lord Mayor of London. Inside were over 30 stalls; William Whiteley had a shop there, and there was a blacksmith. The market was a great success and developed piecemeal; an extension was built in 1905 which opened I906 for exotic fruit and flowers. A familiar sight was the procession through the High Street of carts laden with baskets. The market was a close-knit community with some old traditions, such as the hagglers who bought from the market traders and sold on at a small profit. By lunchtime the market would be starting to empty.

In 1959-60 it was decided to extend it, but in 1968 it moved to a 36 acre site at North Hyde. The building at Brentford was pulled down in 1982 but part of the structure such as some of the ironwork and staircases has been used elsewhere.

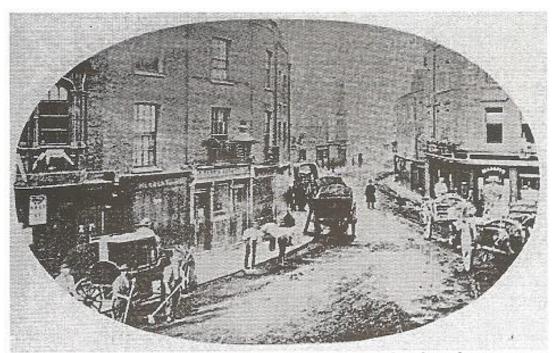
In 1972 I spent some time with an old aunt who gave me a lot of memories about our family and ancestors. About 20 years later I tried to ask her more questions and enlarge on some of her stories. She couldn't remember any of what she'd told me earlier and knew nothing of her family history. So the moral of this introduction is to interrogate all members of your family as soon as possible. The information she gave about names, locations, jobs etc has proved vital in my family history search. There was truth in most of what she told me and it has enabled me to know where to look and quickly identify family groups. Only one area of mystery remains.

She said that my g.g.grandfather, James Lally came to London from Galway



in the 1840s. He owned or managed a mushroom farm in Wright's Lane Kensington on what was to be the site of Barker's store. It was a successful business supplying many big houses and many retailers. He lost his money on a venture related to the Swan River in Australia, maybe sending money to buy land there and it being stolen. His eldest son came home from work to find his family and its possessions out on the street. What

is true in this story? James first appears in the 1851 census as a gardener in Harlesdon, born in Ireland. His wife (Elizabeth, born Isleworth) is in Chiswick with two children under two years. In the 1861 census they and eight children are living in Hornton Mews, opposite Kensington High Street station on or about the land vacant while tunnelling was going on for the Metropolitan railway. The whole family is missing from the 1871 census.



Kensington High Street at the junction with Church Street

In 1881 and 1891 James is in Kensington Workhouse. So he was Irish, he was a gardener / nurseryman and he seems to have lost his money.

But where was the mushroom farm? I've narrowed down the target dates to about 1858 to 1868. I have investigated three possible sites.

Firstly Wright's Lane. The land on which Barkers was built was not in Wright's Lane which, according to maps, was fully developed by this time except for the ornamental private gardens of Scarsdale House.

The site of Barkers is further west and on a site that was in upheaval for the whole of this period. The photo shows the old shops demolished for road widening in the 1860s. In the 1870s Barker bought and expanded into the new premises built here and into 'parcels of land'. As the Barkers records are now in Glasgow, I've not studied this yet.

Thirdly there is the house in Hornton Mews where we know he lived in 1861, in one of four houses. The railway opened in 1868 and in 1871 this land was still not developed. In the 1871 census Hornton Mews is not shown but some of the houses can be identified as part of Lower Philimore Mews. Hornton Mews is back again in 1881 probably showing that it was a confusing area in 1871. I have no illusions about any grandeur of this mushroom farm. It could have been just some old shacks full of horse manure! If James Lally and his family lived there perhaps it's no wonder the census enumerator missed them.

I've studied directories at the London Metropolitan Archives. An 1868 gazetteer says of Kensington, "Some portion of the land is still in nursery

and market gardens but the greater portion is built over". Yet I can find no mention of nurseries in that part of Kensington in directories. Kensington Library has details of some of the houses in Hornton Mews. I've looked at masses of maps. Was the fact that the family is missing from the vital 1871 census just bad luck? Or were they hiding from their creditors? If they were thrown out of their house, where are records of such court cases kept?

Come on folks! What am I doing wrong? What obvious clue have I missed? Is one of you an expert on Kensington who can give me that clue or a lead?

Stephen Lally, stephen@lally.org.uk

Photograph from "Kensington in Old Photographs" compiled by Barbara Denny, reproduced by permission of Kensington County Library.

# THREE STOVOLD FAMILIES IN FULHAM (OR JUST ONE?)

Alan Dearman

Through long hours in the Family Records Centre, the LMA and their predecessors, I gradually got to know something about my Stovold forebears in Fulham. However, the increasing and immediate availability of information on the web has now added to that knowledge and included an element of mystery and more questions to be answered.

My 3 x great grandparents, James Stovell and Eliza Brown were married on 5 December 1830 at St Mary Abbott, Kensington. They lived in North End from at least 1841 until Eliza's death forty years later. From 1851 they lived in a small group of cottages called Raven's Cottages or Raven's Place. These buildings were swept away when the North End Road was developed in the 1880s but 1 think that they were roughly where what is now the corner, of Haldane Road and North End Road.

James and Eliza Stovell/Stovold had eight children christened in either All Saints Church, Fulham or St John, Walham Green:

George (1831 - 1876) married Susannah Cassandra Alexander (1857)

Eliza(beth) (1833 - ?) married James Dobson (1860)

James (1836 - ?) married Jane Cooper nee Cartlidge (1868)

William (1837) died infant

Eliza Alice (1840) died infant

Richard (1842) died infant

Charles Richard (1844 - ?) married Anne Walden (1877)

Alice (1847) died infant

Also living with them was a grandson, James (1852 - 1887?), illegitimate son of daughter Elizabeth. He married Sarah Bristow (1871)

James died at 3 Raven's Place on 16 February 1852 aged 45 and was buried at All Saints on 23 February. His early death means that the only information I have on his origins comes from the 1851 census, when he was aged 43, a gentleman's gardener, born in Farnham, Surrey. Eliza continued to live at Raven's Place, until she was admitted to Fulham Workhouse where she died on 16July 1882, aged 78.

That much I knew, until recent electronic access to the 1851 and 1841 census revealed that the Master and Matron of the Fulham Union Workhouse were George and Mary Stovold. In 1851 George was recorded as aged 63, formerly a gardener, born Farnham. More astonishing was the revelation that on the night of the 1841 census he was Master of the workhouse and among the pauper inmates were Sophia and Emma Stovold, aged 11 and 7 respectively.

I had to know more and remembered that there had been another Stovold family with children christened in Fulham. A quick check first on my notes and then in the registers confirmed that John Stovold and Sophia Martha Clark, both "of this parish", were married on 2 March 1829 at St Martin in the Fields. Subsequently, John Stovell, a coachman, and his wife, Sophia Martha, had four children christened at All Saints, Fulham - Sophia (1830), John George (1832), Emma (1834) and Richard (1836). The entry for Richard's christening on 10 January 1836 was followed immediately by that of James Stovell son of James and Eliza.

Tragedy struck the young family shortly after Richard's christening when John Stovold, a coachman, aged 29, was buried at All Saints on 17 February 1836. John's burial was followed on 6 June 1837 by that of Richard aged 18 months and then Sophia Stovold on 14 June 1838. Sophia's death certificate records that she died of consumption in Walham Green on 9 June, aged 29 (although the parish register entry says that she was 391). Her death left orphaned, three children under the age of ten.

I do not know what happened to the children immediately after their mother's death or when or why they were in the Workhouse. However, it was clear that George and Mary and John and Sophia were connected in some way, as it was Mary who reported Sophia's death in 1838. The relationship became clearer in the 1851 census, when Emma Stovold, aged 17, dressmaker, was recorded as Master's niece and part of his household and was confirmed by George's Will: "George Stovold of Church Row, Fulham, Middlesex, gardener" left "the most northerly of my six freehold

cottages situate at Isabella Row, Putney, Surrey to my nephew John Stovold" and the "three most southern to be equally provided between my niece Emma Philpot and my great niece her daughter Emma Philpot the younger.

What happened to the three children?

Sophia Stovold married Marmaduke William Fisher on 13 August 1850 at St Peter's, Pimlico (Eaton Square). Marmaduke was a clerk in the Royal Navy. In 1851 Marmaduke W. Fisher aged Z8 was "Head" of the Eastry Union Workhouse in East Kent (serving Eastry, Deal, Sandwich and surrounding parishes). Their daughter Fanny Sophia Fisher was born in Eastry on 30 June 1851 and christened at All Saints, Fulham on 1 August.

On 15 January 1853, Marmaduke, Sophia and Esther Fisher, aged 30, with Henry and Fanny Fisher, both aged one (no relationships given) sailed for Australia and in 1856 M.W. and S.M. Fisher were schoolteachers in Warrnambool, Victoria. They had at least four children in Victoria - Frederick Eli (1855), Rosa Emma (1860), Albert Edward (1863) and Lily Blanche (1866). Sophia may have died before 1873 when a Marmaduke Fisher married Margaret Connolly.

John George Stovold married Sarah Pye in 1853 and in 1861 they were living at 12 Markham Street, Chelsea, where the family stayed until at least 1901. John, a painter and decorator, died on 22 February 1887. They had at least nine children - Kate (1855, married 1881?), Sydney Frederick (1856 - 1911, married 1. Mary Cotter, 2. Alice Sillett), Rosina Sarah (1859 - 1881), John George (1861 - 1935, married Jane/ J ennie Baker.7), Jessie Maria (1864 m Lewis King in 1884), Henry (1868 married Clara Emily Fisher), Frank (1871 married Ellen Meakins), Willie (1873 - 1934 married Annie Meakins); Alfred (1875 married 1903?)

Emma Stovold married Frederick Augustus Philpot at St Martins in 1853 but sadly Frederick, a greengrocer, died in 1855 and was buried in All Saints, Fulham on Z August, aged 30. In 1861, Emma and her daughter were lodging in the High Street, Fulham and in 1871 they were in Hackney, both dressmakers. Young Emma married William Christopher Wigg in 1872 and between 1881 and 1891 Emma lived in Ippollits, Herts, where she appears to have provided a second home for her growing family of grandchildren. In 1901 she was living with her daughter and son in law in Hackney.

And what of George Stovold? He may have been Master of Fulham Parish Workhouse before its incorporation in 1838 into the larger Kensington Union. In 1845 the Kensington Union was dissolved, Fulham and Hammersmith united to form the Fulham Union and in 1850 George

became the first Master of the new Union Workhouse in Fulham Palace Road.

Although in 1840 George had been commended for his "uniform care and kindness" to his charges, the job may have been getting too much for him or he was not suited to a new, harsher workhouse regime as the Union Guardian's minutes record on 9 February 1852 "Mr Inspector Hall informed the Board that he visited the Workhouse last Wednesday and found the boys were much neglected - that there was a want of discipline and that proper authority was not maintained in the Workhouse - that the present Master did not appear competent for the superintendence, oversight and management of the Establishment and therefore he had thought it right to communicate the same to him and intimating that he should consider it his duty unless there was a change in the officer having the control of the Workhouse to report his opinion to the Poor Law Commissioners thereon." George made no recorded submission or appeal to the Board and was dismissed. There were further complaints about poor control - in particular ensuring adequate separation of parents from children (as there was unacceptable commotion at mealtimes when parents tried to hug and comfort their children and pass them food). On 8 April 1852 Mary Stovold resigned the office of Cook and the Board agreed that, "should Mr & Mrs Stovold leave the Union Workhouse before the expiration of their Notice they be allowed the sum of 15 shillings per week till the period of such expiration and that the sum of £10 be paid him for the use of his furniture in the Master's Parlour and Bedroom since the time he was appointed Workhouse Master." Had the Guardians retained some sympathy for their long serving officer?

George and Mary seem to have been a resilient couple and in 1861 they were running a "Widows' Home" at 5 Pitts Place, Fulham. Mary died in 1864 and George, aged 81, "formerly Master of Fulham Workhouse", died on 4 February 1869.

So, I now have George (?1788 - 1869], John (?1806 - 1836) and James (?1807 – 1852). George and John were brothers. George and James were gardeners from Farnham. James and John had children christened at the same time. But I have no clinching evidence that they are all definitely related and, indeed, they may not be.

Source: Guardian's minute books for Kensington and Fulham Unions, LMA With thanks to Jenny Fawcett at Genseek Genealogy and History for the information about Marmaduke and Sophia in Australia

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The Cooper Family of Westminster and Harmondsworth.

In 1995, Douglas Rust wrote an article for this Journal in which he discussed Charles Dickens' connections with West Middlesex<sup>1</sup>. One of Dickens' schoolboy friends was Thomas Mitton, who was later to become his solicitor. Dickens also knew Thomas's sister, Mary Ann, who was the model for 'Little Dorrit'.<sup>2</sup> Some time before 1841 the Mitton family moved to the Parish of Harmondsworth. They were near neighbours of the Cooper family, who then lived at Sipson House, an imposing Georgian mansion. According to Mr Rust, John Cooper may have kept a diary in which he recorded some walks and conversations with Dickens.<sup>3</sup>. Since John was my g.g.g.-grandfather, I was keen to trace the whereabouts of the diary and learn more about the family.

John Cooper had bought 30 acres of 'waste land' on Cain's Lane in 1806, so had been farming in the area for some time. A couple of years ago I came across the (February 1854) sale particulars for this same plot of land, now described as orchard and market garden land complete with two four-room cottages and various outbuildings. It was advertised for sale by auction, the proceeds 'to be paid into the Bank of England to the credit of the cause in the Court of Chancery of "Cooper v Cooper" '. What had happened? In the last few months I have found additional documents, which have enabled me to piece together the story.

John Cooper's origins are unclear, although he may have been born on the Shropshire/Herefordshire border, in about 1773. He was married twice. His first wife, Frances Farrer was baptised in 1768 at St Julian's, Shrewsbury. Her father was a cheesemonger but a family story asserts that her mother was descended from the Hill family (of Hawkstone Park near Shrewsbury), with possible connections to the Clive family at Powys Castle. I have been unable to verify the truth of this. However, it seems possible that Frances brought some money into the marriage since in 1805 John Cooper bought a large house in Battersea for £1,100. The house was described as "a desirable residence for a genteel family, affording agreeable prospects of the country and the river." In his will, John Cooper left this property to the only surviving daughter of his first marriage, Louisa, although by that time it appeared to be being used as offices and warehouses. I am not sure whether the Coopers ever lived in the Battersea house since John's address at the time he bought the land at Heathrow was given as 12, Dartmouth Street, Westminster. He was then listed in the Post Office Directory as a bootmaker. However, I have recently learned that John was not a humble cobbler but must, in fact, have employed a large number of people since he

held a government contract, probably to supply boots to the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars<sup>4</sup>. According to family tradition there were three children from the first marriage, although we only know the names of two: Frances (born c 1806) and Louisa (21 June 1810). Frances, their mother, died around 1810/11 and John married one of her relatives (possibly her niece), confusingly also called Frances.

Frances Davies was also baptised at St Julian's, Shrewsbury, in 1793. John and his second wife had thirteen children, whose dates and times of birth are recorded in her Book of Common Prayer, 'the (Christmas 1807) gift of her cousin Isaac Farrer': John Cartwright (26 February 1813), Mary Ann (3 September 1816), Elizabeth (6 October 1818), Jane (10 May, 1820), Eleanor (21 July, 1821), Margaret (4 June 1823), Emma and Richard (twins born 19 October, 1825), a still-born boy (19 November, 1826), William James (18 March, 1828), Ellen Emily (25 April, 1830), Henry Robert (26 February, 1833) and Isabella Lucy (5 June, 1836). The first three were baptised at St Margaret's, Westminster, where their father was a churchwarden. The remaining children were baptised at St Mary's, Harmondsworth, which suggests that the family moved there some time before 1820. Some of the Cooper children are buried in Harmondsworth churchyard. Eleanor died 2 September 1822, Emma and Richard died 1 March and 13 March 1826, respectively. Frances, John's eldest daughter, died on 29 March 1840 at the age of 36.

On 9 April, 1832, Richard Weekly's diary recorded that he "gave Mr Cooper possession of Sipson House and Orchards, Mother's house", his mother being Mary, daughter of William Wild, the Sipson horse doctor. The story is that part of the price was paid in bricks, which were delivered to Longford, to build a new farmhouse for Richard Weekly<sup>5</sup>.

John Cartwright Cooper married Mary Ann Mitton in 1843 and in this same year his father cut him out of his will with the words "I declare that my reason for not giving any benefit to my eldest son ... is because I think that he has by his conduct forfeited all his claims upon me". Was this anything to do with his choice of bride? For several years after their marriage John and Mary Ann Cooper lived at 'The Cedars' on Hatton Road, Harlington. One of the outbuildings, which was later the barn of 'The Limes' (my mother's childhood home), was reputed to have housed Dickens' coach, which John and Mary Ann used to attend the wedding in 1847 of John's sister, Mary Ann, to Thomas Wild of Sipson. Like his father, John Cartwright Cooper was a market gardener and when he later moved to Southgate he seemed to specialise in growing strawberries. His wife was known locally as Mrs 'Strawberry' Cooper.

A number of letters written to the youngest Cooper child, Isabella (often abbreviated to 'Isabel' or 'Bell'), by her sister Louisa have survived. One, dated October 1845, commended Isabel for her "neat prettily written note" and for being "so attentive to Mary Ann's kind instructions." At that time, Louisa may have been a governess because she described two children, Herbert and Caroline, noting that Caroline "had her likeness taken with her doll in her arms". Another of Louisa's letters, written in 1849, related some recent events, including a thunderstorm that same morning and the hot but "thick" weather which accompanied the start of Ascot races. "There was grand doings last Tuesday on the green - donkey racing, hunting ducks — a cruel sport. There were also two poles - greasy ones. You would have been amused at seeing the men climb up them - one had a leg of mutton and the other a hat at the top. I saw the man touch the leg." She added, "As soon as ever I can afford it I will have the pianoforte tuned or will try and persuade Mother, whichever opportunity occurs first, but hope in the meantime you will practice as much as you can and also read instructive as well as amusing books and strive in every way to improve yourself'.

By the time he died, John Cooper was a relatively wealthy man, owning property in Herefordshire and Westminster as well as Harmondsworth. Shortly before his death in April 1850, he softened towards John Cartwright Cooper and left him an equal share (in trust) with his siblings in the (principal) residuary estate. It appears that Thomas Wild was instrumental in persuading his father-in-law to write this codicil. The surviving children at the time of John Cooper's death were Louisa, John Cartwright, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Jane, Margaret, William James, Ellen Emily, Henry Robert and Isabella. His wife, Frances, was the principal Trustee. The only child, apart from Louisa, who was left anything other than a share in the residuary estate, was William, who received "all that my freehold piece of land or ground and hereditaments called or known by the name of Cannon Orchard containing about one acre and situate at Sipson aforesaid". From the name, one can assume that this orchard was situated at one end of General Roy's Line.

Jane had married George Keet, a stationer and artists' colourman from Liverpool, in 1846. By 1863, George had added photography to his business. Margaret married Benjamin Newnham in 1851 but she was widowed a few years later.

In May 1851 John Cartwright Cooper petitioned the Court of Chancery. I found a copy of the bill, together with other legal documents and some of Thomas Wild's diaries, in an old tin chest which had come from 'The Lilacs' in Harlington, Thomas's retirement home. John named his youngest siblings (Henry and Isabella) as co-plaintiffs and the rest of the family (including the husbands of his married sisters) as defendants. The only question for most of the family was whether they knew of any other will or codicil, which they

were all able to affirm that they did not. John's complaints were against his mother, who was accused of failing in her duties as a Trustee by mismanaging the family business, neglecting to make an inventory of household goods and personal effects and allowing Sipson House to fall into a "very dilapidated state". William James Cooper was accused of being unfit to act as a manager of the market gardening business because he "served an apprenticeship to a Stationer which only expired two years since and [he] is wholly, or to a very considerable extent, ignorant of the proper method of conducting or carrying on the said trades or businesses, and that such trades or businesses have been in fact since the death of the said Testator carried on at a very considerable loss". He was further accused of failing to spread manure on the family estate but diverting it all to his own orchard. John asked the court to appoint a qualified manager to run the business.

Entries in Thomas Wild's diaries from several years later suggest that many, if not all, of John's complaints were justified. It appears that Thomas was eventually appointed to manage the family estates but not before a substantial sum had been swallowed up in legal fees. Frances, with her unmarried daughters and son, William (who had resumed his trade as a stationer], moved from Sipson to a house in Paddington. In the succeeding years up to Frances' death in November 1861, Thomas had to keep a close eye on her spending. For example, on June 7 1860 he wrote "I got a P.O.O. and sent it in a letter for £5 for Mrs Cooper, the letter was sent to Louisa with a few very close remarks about the expenses going on". A couple of months later he "went to Mrs Cooper and gave the girls for Mother £3 5s but required Elizabeth in the presence of Louisa to enquire of the tradesmen that Mother is in reality paying off a reasonable amount out of this money I am letting her have weekly". Thomas also lent money to other members of the Cooper family and, since his own income at the time was not always sufficient to allow this, he himself borrowed from his uncle, John Weekly.

Meanwhile, in 1859, Ellen married William Laver, a carpenter and wood-carver, and by 1860 Henry was also married, to Fanny. Henry appears to have been as financially inept as his mother. He lost a great deal of money in several ill-thought-out schemes, including what appears to have been a bottled soft-drinks business.

Following Frances' death, Thomas was charged with selling the family property and distributing the proceeds to the beneficiaries of John Cooper's will. There were a few problems along the way; for example Thomas approached a Mr Bowers and "asked the old gentleman if he would take an affidavit before a Commissioner to say that Mr J. Cooper of Sipson was the same J. Cooper that formerly lived at Dartmouth Street, Westminster, and he consented". John's married daughters (Mary Ann Wild, Jane Keet, Margaret

Newnham and Ellen Laver) also had to provide proof of identity.

The house and field in Orleton, Herefordshire, were sold to the tenants for £220 and £70, respectively. On May 13 1862, Thomas recorded that "the Sipson House Estate was knocked down to Mr G. Beson for £3,010 - and the Westminster to I believe Mr Phillips for £2,000 he being, 1 believe, the only bidder for some time, if not all the way through". It turned out that Mr Phillips was acting for the Westminster Gas Company and they dragged out the process for another ten months, finding various excuses to try to reduce the price they paid. The majority of the proceeds from the sale of Sipson House and the Orleton properties (£200 for each legatee) was distributed in October 1862, although Thomas kept some back to pay off some of his mother-in-law's debts and other expenses. Payment for the property in Westminster (now reduced to £1,863) was finally received in March 1863. Before distributing this, Thomas got the family to sign a Release document, thus ridding himself of his duty to administer the estate. John Cartwright Cooper and Margaret Newnham both refused to pay their share of their mother's debts but Louisa Cooper offered to recompense Thomas so that he would not be out of pocket. The total extent of these debts was considerable, at least £450 and possibly much more. After payment of all debts and expenses, the final distribution to each legatee was about £130 but in many cases this was reduced by repayment of the loans that Thomas had already made. For example, poor Henry ended up with less than £15 and continued borrowing money thereafter.



John Cooper (1773-1850) in c1840.



Frances Cooper (1793-1861) in c1860

Louisa, Elizabeth and Isabella never married. They made periodic visits to the Wild family in Sipson, and Thomas and Mary Ann's children sometimes stayed with their aunts. For several years Louisa and Isabella loaned their legacies to Thomas to provide capital for his market-gardening business, he paying them interest at 5% per annum. Although the Keets had always appeared prosperous, there seems to have been some sort of crisis (George's illness?) in 1865 and, shortly thereafter, the family moved to London, where George Keet died in 1868 and Jane in 1870. The older Keet children stayed in London to work but the youngest daughter was sent to relatives in Brighton. Henry and his family emigrated, in about 1870, to the United States, where he took up farming.

My parents possess a labelled photograph of Frances Cooper, which must have been taken shortly before she died. She looks rather severe! Recently, I became aware that there was a portrait of John Cooper, painted in about 1840. Both are illustrated here. There may well be photographs of some or all of the Cooper siblings in Thomas and Mary Ann Wild's photograph album. Sadly, there are no captions, so we cannot be sure.

And what of John's diary? Despite numerous enquiries, I have been unable to track it down so, unfortunately, we may never know what treasures it contained.

#### **Sources:**

- <sup>1</sup> Douglas Rust, Charles Dickens and his local connections, West Middlesex Family History Society Journal, 13, ppl 1-18, June 1995.
- <sup>2</sup> Edwin Pugh, The Dickens Originals, Foulis, London, 1913 and various contemporary newspaper articles.
- <sup>3</sup> Mr Rust says that he got the stories from David Wild. However, Mr Wild makes no reference to a diary (D.Wild, Reminiscences of Harmondsworth, recorded in The Villages of Harmondsworth, ed Philip Sherwood, West Middlesex Family History Society, 1993), nor does he give a primary source.
- <sup>4</sup> Recorded in a book of autobiographical notes written by James Reed, Thomas and Mary Ann Wild's son-in-law. A copy of this was sent to me by Mark Lawrence, James's gg-grandson.
- <sup>5</sup> William Wild, personal communication. The sale is recorded in Richard Week1y's 'day book', in the possession of W. Wild.
- <sup>6</sup> Will of John Cooper, Market Gardener and Farmer of Sipson, proved 4 June 1850, available from the National Archives, PROB 11/2114.

All other information was taken from documents owned by the Heyward family and has been checked against Parish Records, Census Returns etc, where possible. Incidentally, searching for George and Jane Keet in the 1851 census revealed the inaccuracies of the transcription process - they were indexed under the name of Reed! The portrait of John Cooper was kindly provided by Malcolm and Muriel Wild.

I have recently discovered on the internet, the website entitled "The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London, 1674 to 1834, www.oldbaileyonline.org.uk Knowing my ancestors, I did not expect to find any of them among the criminal classes. However I was surprised to find four cases where different ancestors were the victims of crime. By today's standards the crimes would be considered rather petty, but the punishment meted out two hundred years ago was extremely severe.

The earliest case occurred in Langley, just over the border from West Middlesex in Buckinghamshire. This involved a case of horse stealing, a capital crime. In August 1774, William Wild had a black gelding stolen from a field in the night. A Joseph Tilbury offered it for sale to a John Bowtell for fifteen guineas at Islington, Middlesex, and then raised suspicion by reducing the price to seven guineas. His defence was that he was selling it on behalf of another man. Sadly the verdict was guilty, and so death was to follow. This William Wild was first cousin of my 3 x great grandfather, Thomas Wild. When William died in 1782, Thomas followed him in the farm at Langley.

The next case took place in May 1818, when a Thomas Smith, aged 39 years, was indicted for stealing hymnbooks and Bibles from Harlington Baptist Chapel. The prisoner was caught trying to sell them to a second-hand bookshop in Carnaby Market. Three persons in the chapel lost books, Attlee Hunt, Weekly Philp and Thomas Wild, who lost two Bibles and two hymn books, worth twenty shillings. This Thomas was the son of Thomas from Langley. Thomas Smith's defence was that he had bought them from a man on Hounslow Heath. He was found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation.

The last two cases involve Richard Weekly, who farmed at Perry Oaks, Harmondsworth, and who lost farming stock. Richard was the brother-in-law of Thomas Wild of Langley, and his wife was Mary Wild, a niece of the same Thomas. Two hundred years ago you did not go looking far afield when seeking a wife!

In September 1806, Thomas Jones was accused of stealing a lamb. He came from Stanwell, which is only just over the river from Perry Oaks. He claimed to be innocent of the whole affair and the jury must have believed him, as he was proved not guilty. This was fortunate for him as sheep stealing was also a capital offence.

Finally in May 1827, Abraham White, aged 37 years, was indicted for

stealing ten live tame fowls price 10/-, 27 eggs value 2/-, and a fork value 1/-, the property of Richard Weekly. He was caught with the fowls in a sack by the parish constable, and all the prisoner could say in his defence was to plead distress. He was found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation.

The thing that impresses one in these cases is the speed of the justice dispensed. In all the cases there is no more than three months between the time of the crime, and the court appearance, and in the last case of Abraham White, only a fortnight had elapsed. While one may criticise the harshness and severity of the justice handed out 200 years ago, doesn't it make one question the lenient sentences of today? Most of the criminals of Georgian times were on the poverty line and were stealing just to exist.

William Wild, Oakdale, Church Road, Thorrington, Colchester CO7 8HS

# THE HISTORY OF HEATHROW AIRPORT

Nick Pollard

Following The AGM in March, Nick Pollard, from the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society, first took us back into the prehistoric era of Heathrow. People had always lived in the Heathrow area, and when the airport was first being laid out archaeologist Professor Grimes was asked to do an excavation in advance of the work and found an Iron Age settlement dating from 500-300BC. Now another archaeological dig is going on on the site of Terminal 5, where a Bronze Age field system has been discovered.

The original hamlet of Heathrow lay off the Bath Road; it is of Anglo-Saxon origin although not mentioned in Domesday Book: the first record is in 1453. Most of the buildings were farmhouses and cottages, such as Perry Oaks Farm, Perrotts Farm, Heathrow Farm and Heathrow Hall, dating from at least the 17th century. All these buildings were demolished before the airport was built.

The earliest trace of aviation on the site is a 1908 photo of a balloon ascent. But there was an aerodrome on Hounslow Heath, which was in fact London's first airport and ran the first air service, London to Paris, from August 1919 to 1920 with a flying time of 2 hours 2 minutes. It was used by Government ministers attending the peace negotiations after World War One.

Hanworth Air Park, used by flying clubs, had a visit from the Graf Zeppelin in 1939 and it was to Heston Aerodrome that Neville Chamberlain returned with his piece of paper. Most of its buildings have been demolished but it was used by the RAF during World War Two. The Fairey company had an

aerodrome at Heathrow in the 1920s, where their aircraft were tested. Their garden parties there were attended by the great and the good, who noticed the place and may well have decided, under the Second World War's emergency powers, to set up a military airport there which would remain there for civil aircraft after the War without the need for a public enquiry: Croydon Airport was considered unsuitable as there was already too much development around it.

Local farmers were offered compensation and by the 1940s the civil airport was being laid out. On the 1st January 1946 it was handed over to the Civil Authority.

BOAC flew converted Lancaster bombers which took seven passengers with probably ex RAF crews. Facilities on board were basic. The passenger terminal was a tent and the arrivals/departures board was a blackboard, but the first shop - a W.H. Smith was already there. Later the tents were replaced by single storey prefabricated buildings.

The airport was already becoming a tourist attraction and there was a viewing area. The tunnel access into the airport was constructed in the 1950s. The old 'Europa' terminal became Terminal 2, and the Queens Building was opened by the Queen in 1955; she had arrived back at Heathrow from East Africa as Queen in 1952.

The control tower has recently been replaced. The old terminal building in Kensington closed some years ago. In 1952 the de Havilland Comet started the world's first jet aircraft service London to Johannesburg from Heathrow. But the Comet had a metal fatigue problem and by the time it was redesigned the Americans had the Boeing 707, and Britain lost its lead.

In 1969 came the Boeing 747 - the Jumbo jet. Passenger capacity went up and new terminals were built. Along came Concorde, an Anglo-French design but this proved something of a dead end and no successor has appeared.

Facilities at Heathrow are now once again under pressure. Terminal 4 was built in 1986, the Piccadilly line was extended to Hatton Cross in 1975 and to Heathrow Central in 1986.

And soon we will have Terminal 5...

Recently, on re-examining some pre WW1 letters from my mother to my father, which we had found after their deaths, I noticed one of the envelopes was addressed to "The New Hampton Court Club", Molesey. Now, we knew that Dad had worked for a while at one of the boat clubs on the Thames but had never known which or when. How to find the club? Try Google, of course. And up came a history, written in 1989, of Tagg's Island in the Thames, particularly in the 19C and 20C - how it acquired its name from the Tagg family of watermen. (I should add that several well known watermen are of my father's name of PHELPS). A taste of the article follows:

During the latter part of the 19C one of the Taggs, a member of the Institute of Naval Engineers, designed and built several large launches, capable of carrying up to 150 persons, which included nobility and even the Czar. This Tagg then took up the role of mine host - first with a pub, The Angler's Retreat, and later with a splendid hotel on the island, which was patronized by the aristocracy and members of the theatrical and musical professions.

Large, gaily decorated houseboats fringed the island making a very gay scene (some of the old ones still there, I understand). J.M. Barrie, of Peter Pan fame, hired one of these, describing its layout and the attraction of life on board in an article in the "British Weekly" in 1887, and later featured this houseboat, the "Arcadia" in his first novel and his first successful play.

Around 1889 Tagg planned to build a boat clubhouse on the Molesey shore - a very grand building with dining room, reading room, billiard rooms, a members' lavatory (!!), six large bedrooms and, outside, tennis, bowling and quoits facilities.

A few years after the above Tagg's death, and around the turn of the century, trade fell away, the better-off moving away from the river. The current Tagg became bankrupt and all his assets were put up for auction. The club with boathouse didn't sell, but was eventually taken over by group of, mainly, local people who ran it under the name of "The New Hampton Court Club", opening it, after refurbishing, in 1906.

It continued as a local club until the 1920s when the site was taken over by Watercraft Ltd., which company built lifeboats and other sea-worthy motor boats there: they were one of the first firms to use fibre-glass for this type of craft. Sadly, the site is no longer used for boat building, being now divided into industrial units.

All this (and much, much more) from the address on one envelope written by

our Mother in 1913! Of course, we still don't know what job Dad had at the club perhaps a trip to L.M.A. would help, if they hold club papers.

Do go to Google - "New Hampton Court Club" - to read the history not only of the club, but of the Taggs and "their" island: the pictures will he of interest to anyone living in the area now, or who has ancestors from there.

P.A. Williamson, Membership No. W169

# HELP!

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.

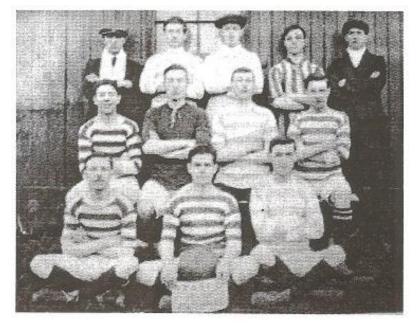
#### SOUTHALL TRUE BLUE BAND

There are a couple of items of my family history that I was wondering if anyone could help with. I have a family bible with the inscription"Thomas Walden For keeping the rules of the Southall True Blue Band August 1884" Thomas was my great Grandad. I have found a reference to the band in *The Southall News and Advertiser* for 1886 where a similar prize was donated to

another member of the band following a cricket match at Osterley Park (by the invitation of Lord Jersey). I would be interested to hear if anyone has any further information on the band.

# LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM

Secondly, I have a photo of my Grandad and one of his



brothers in "a local football team". I am guessing that it was taken pre WW1, maybe 1908- 1911? They were living in West London at the time in the Ladbroke Grove area. Can anyone help identify the team or more exact date? Tom is front centre and Jack (Dad) middle row, far right.

Keith Walden membership no. W234.

# MARY JANE BROWN

Seeking information about MARY JANE BROWN born 15 April 1869 Isleworth, Brentford. Married JAMES WARWICK on 30 April 1895 and they eventually lived in Bedfordshire.

Her parents were John Brown born 1830 Hounslow, John was a Police Constable, and Caroline Brown born 1838 Hounslow - maiden name Cooper.

Her siblings were: William born 1863, Henry J. born 1866, Sarah E. born 1871, Anne C. born 1873, Richard T. born 1878. Mary and James had four children, Ieish E. born 1897, Richard J. born 1899, Daisey M. born 1901 and William J. born 1905. If you know anything about this family please contact *Dave Warwick. Email sylviadave2@aol.com* 

# **EDITOR'S NOTES**

The stock of articles from members about their family history is always 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.

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

# **NEW MEMBERS**

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.

- B308 Mr J .Bunn, 63 Crundale Avenue, Kingsbury, London NW9 9PT bunnsrow@yahoo.co.uk
- D146 Ms M.E. Davidson, 154 Sunnyside Drive, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 1W1 Canada davidsonm@telus.net
- G147 Mr C. Gascoyne, 5 Barnes Way, Iver, Bucks SL0 9LZ colingascoyne@tiscali.co.uk
- L110 Mr S.J. Lally, 17 Hall Park, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2NU stephen@lally.org.uk
- M221 Mrs B.H. McDermott, 32 Greenacres Avenue, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8HQ barbaranneb@btopenworld.com
- M223 Mr K.F. Measures, 76 Trevelyan, Tawfield Copse, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8YD ken.measures@ntlworld.com
- P147 Mrs S.A. Pitt, Pinecroft, Copes Road, Great Kingshill, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6JE
- S257 Mr P.F. Simmonds, Frankton Villa, Lower Frankton, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4PB spacerover@hotmail.co.uk
- T82 Mrs S.R. Turner, Rugge Farm, Wigmore Lane, Horsham Road, Capel, Surrey RH5 4PT sonia-lashbrookturner@hotmail.co.uk
- T83 Prof C.W Turner, 3 Badgers Hill, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4SB shancurrieturner@aol.com

# **SURNAME INTERESTS**

The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed on the previous page. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. ANY' or HLL' 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
BAKER	1895-1925	Kensal Town Area	LND	G147
BERESFORD-HOPE	1820-90	Fulham	LND	T82
BESSANT	1862-70	Kensington Area	MDX	S257
BROWNE	1820-46	Isleworth Area	MDX	S257
BUNKER	19C	Fulham	LND	T82
BUNN	After 1897	Fulham Area	MDX	B308
CAMERON	All	Clunes in Lochaber	INV	D146
CHURCH	Before 1800	Filby	NFK	D146
COPPEN	Before 1920	Fulham	MDX	P147
COPPIN(G)	Before 1870	Any	MDX	P147
COTTOL	19C	Kensington	MDX	M223
COTTOL	18-19C	Any	Any	M223
ELROD	After 1890	Fulham Area	MDX	B308
ESHENBACH	After 1860	Hammersmith Area	MDX	B308
ESHENBACH	After 1860	Fulham Area	MDX	B308
EVANS	1700-1900	Waenfawr	GWN	D146
FRASER	All	Beauly	INV	D146
FULLBROOK	19C	Hammersmith	MDX	M223
GASCOYNE	1895-1925	Kensal Town	LND	G147
GRANT	All	Glenmoriston	INV	D146
GRIMMER	All	Filby	NFK	D146
GRIMMER	1840-50	St Marylebone	MDX	D146
GRIMMER	1820-40	Southwark	SRY	D146
HEARD	1800-80	St Pancras	MDX	D146
HOPE	After 1812	Fulham	LND	T82
HORSEMAN	1820-90	Stepney	MDX	T82
HUNT	Before 1870	Westminster	MDX	P147

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
KIDD	After 1890	Fulham Area	MDX	B308
KINGSTON	19C	Stepney	MDX	T82
LALLY	1840-1940	Kensington Area	MDX	L110
LALLY	1870-1940	Chiswick Area	MDX	L110
LASHBROOK	19C	Brentford	MDX	T82
LEACH	19C	Hammersmith	MDX	M223
LOCKYER	1850-99	Stoke-St-Gregory	SOM	M221
LOCKYER	1900-40	Brentford	MDX	M221
MACDONALD	All	Glengarry	INV	D146
MACDONALD	Before 1700	Skye	INV	D146
MACRAE	All	Kintail	ROC	D146
MARLEY	Before 1836	Any	Any	P147
McLENNAN	Before 1800	Kintail	ROC	D146
MEASURES	19C	Hammersmith	MDX	M223
MEASURES	18C	Market Deeping	LIN	M223
MEASURES	19C	Chiswick	MDX	M223
MEASURES	19C	Southwark	SRY	M223
NOBLE	Circa 1818	Chigwell	ESS	G147
OLIVER	1800-80	St Pancras	MDX	D146
OLIVER	Before 1800	Kirk-Andrews on Esk	CMA	D146
PITT	Before 1836	Any	MDX	P147
POTTER	After 1910	Fulham Area	MDX	B308
REYNOLDS	19C	Chiswick	MDX	M223
REYPERT	1800-40	Isleworth	MDX	T83
RICHARDSON	1880	Isleworth	MDX	M221
RICHARDSON	1900-30	Brentford	MDX	M221
ROBERTS	Circa 1840	Lambeth Area	SRY	G147
ROBERTS	1850-90	Camberwell Area	SRY	G147
SIMMONDS	18-19C	Kensington Area	MDX	S257
SMERDON	Circa 1925	Notting Hill	LND	G147
SPENCER	1860-1940	Acton	MDX	L110
TALBOT	19C	Kensington Area	MDX	S257
TURNER	1800-40	Isleworth	MDX	T83
WHITE	1800-1860	Isleworth	MDX	L110
WICKS	1850-90	Berden	ESS	M221
WICKS	After 1890	Brentford	MDX	M221

# **INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS**

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, Fulharn, Hammersrnith, 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

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

If undelivered, please return to:

West Middlesex FHS c/o Mrs June Watkins, 22 Chalmers Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1DT