



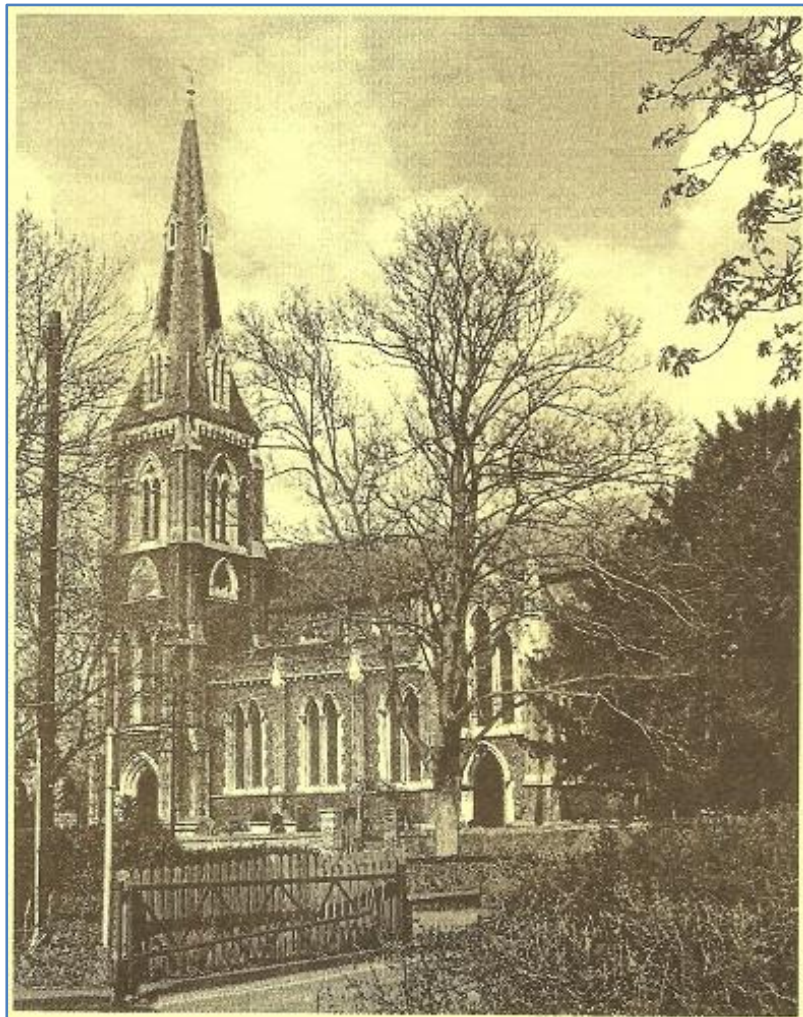
# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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Vol. 26 No.1

March 2008

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*St Mary's Church, Hanwell*

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

### Executive Committee

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Chairman             | Yvonne Masson<br>chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk   |
| Vice Chairman        | Jim Devine  |
| Secretary            | Tony Simpson<br>32 The Avenue, Bedford Park, Chiswick W4 1HT<br>secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk       |
| Treasurer            | Brian Page<br>121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6BU<br>treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk       |
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| Committee Members    | Kay Dudman      Chris Hern  |
| Society Web site     | <a href="http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk">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.

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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

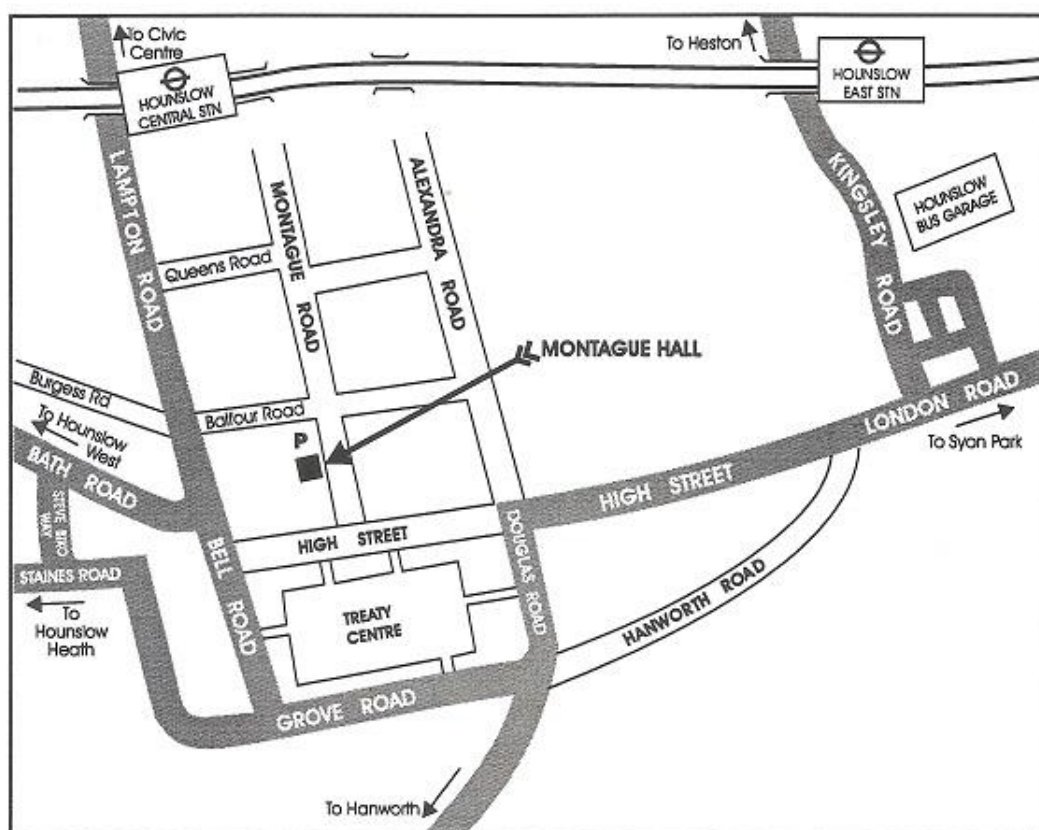
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The following talks have been arranged:

- 20 Mar AGM *plus*  
Unsolved Murder in Victorian Middlesex – *Jonathan Oates*
- 17 Apr Damned Civil Servants; Is your ancestor in the Public Service –  
*Alan Rushton*
- 15 May Manorial Worth – *Ian Waller*
- 19 June Non Combatants in WW1 - *Christine Kendall*
- 17 July Members' Evening *and* Stanmore and its Environs - *Carol Sweetland*

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





## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Notice of Agenda**

The Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on Thursday 20 March 2008 at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow. The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 20th March 2008
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2007
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Any Other Business

**A. Simpson, Secretary**  
32 The Avenue, Bedford Park, Chiswick W4 1HT

### **Election of Officers**

**Yvonne Masson, Maggie Mold and Pam Smith are standing down from the committee.**

**Mike Cordery, Tony Simpson, and June Watkins, having served more than three years on the committee, offer themselves for re-election.**

**Jim Devine, Kay Dudman, Chris Hern and Brian Page will continue to serve and having served less than three years, do not need to be re-elected.**

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### Diary Dates

**Sunday 9 March:** The Merseyside 81 Cheshire Family History Fair. Hulme Hall, Botton Road, Port Sunlight Village, Bebington, Wirral. Merseyside CH52 5DH. Large free car park. Refreshments. Admission £2.

**Sunday 6 April:** Stockport Town Hall FH Fair. Wellington Road South, Stockport SK1 3XE. Good parking and refreshments available. 10am-5pm

**Sunday 20 April:** South Coast Family History Fair. Worthing Pavilion Theatre, Marine Parade, Worthing BN11 3PX. 10am-5pm

**Friday, Saturday 8: Sunday, 2-4 May: Who do you think you are? Live at Olympia, London.** WMFHS will be attending.

**Sunday 18 May:** Kent Family History Fair. Market Hall, Lockmeadow (next to market) Hart Street off Barker Road, Maidstone ME16 8RG Kent's Largest Fair - has up to 100 stalls. Easy free car park next to Hall and a cafeteria. 10am-5pm

**Saturday 28 June:** Yorkshire Family History Fair. York Racecourse (Knavesmire Exhibition Centre). All the usual stalls with such a major event. Free car parking. Admission £4.00. Cafeteria facilities. 10am-4.30pm

**Sunday 28 September:** WMFHS Open Day. White House Community Centre, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex TW18 3RN. 10-4pm.

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## WMFHS NOTICE BOARD

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### WMFHS Christmas Social

The WMFHS Christmas Social went off very well as usual, thanks to the hard work especially of Margaret Harnden who coordinated the more-than-adequate food donations. Her husband Pat and Richard Chapman helped by dispensing wine (kindly donated by Mr Mike Cordery) and soft drinks. Before guests descended on the loaded table, Jean Bunting, in a change to her pre-announced talk, gave a very entertaining talk entitled 'The Rich, the Famous and the Bizarre: a lighthearted look at the census', in which with the aid of selections from the Victorian censuses she pointed out some very interesting connections she had found between famous families, as well as some amusing, unusual or remarkable names.

## **Index**

Every year we produce an Index (see the yellow-coloured insert in the Journal) based on the four editions of the Journal published during the previous year. The Index is aimed at providing references to the topics covered both in the Journal and at monthly meetings, and at facilitating your search for places and names that appeared in print during 2007. The Index, then, lists the 19 printed Articles on Family/Local History, 6 Reports on Talks, 24 Photographs, the 105 Place Names and 190 Individual Names appearing in the 19 Articles, and finally 133 Surnames culled from the regular "HELP!" and "Members' Interests" sections throughout the year.

There should be enough material here to merit all readers' curiosity! Copies of the 2007 Journals are available from the Membership Secretary, or the Editor can supply a copy of a particular item.

### **THE WAY WE WERE?**

#### **National Family History Conference 2008**

Presented by the Family History Societies of Essex and Suffolk at the University of Essex, Colchester, Essex on Friday 29 August to Sunday 31 August 2008

Explore the lives of your ancestors in urban, rural and coastal areas and meet family historians from round the world. There are two streams of talks, sales outlets, a banquet and the Federation General Meeting.

All-in residential (en-suite accommodation) cost is £210 but session rates also available.

Speakers include Pamela Horn, Brian Oldham, Clive Paine and Joan Grundy.

The programme is available at [www.esfh.org.uk](http://www.esfh.org.uk), where you can also download and print out a booking form. Otherwise contact Mrs Heather Feather, 52 Symons Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 5QE (Tel: 01702 522992, E-mail [heather@feather1.demon.co.uk](mailto:heather@feather1.demon.co.uk)).

### **Stray MIs with thanks to Keith Searson**

Found in the Churchyard of St Nicholas Church, Upwey, Weymouth, Dorset.

### **A ground table top tomb:**

In loving memory of Kenneth BANKS elder son of George and Ada GREENWOOD Late of Riseley Enfield Middlesex DoB 23 Oct 1889, DoD

20 June 1911 at Clearmount Broadwey (this is just outside Upwey) and George GREENWOOD MRCS LRCP father of the above late of Bush Hill Park DoD 16 May 1935 and

Ada Elizabeth GREENWOOD widow of the above DoD 12 Oct 1942 at Harrow.

The following were found in: St Mary the Virgin, Chickerell, Weymouth, Dorset.

**Tomb:**

In loving memory of George ROGERS, of FORTY HILL, ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX, seventh son of John and Hannah ROGERS of EARL STERNDALÉ DERBYSHIRE, who was borne DECEMBER 3 1815 and died FEBRUARY 3 1881 and was buried at CHESHUNT

Also

Helen PIERPOINT ROGERS, widow of the above and daughter of George and Helen PEIRPOINT MOREWOOD of THORNBRIDGE, ASHFORD DERBYSHIRE, who was borne DECEMBER 7 1809, and died MAY 30 1900 aged 90 and lies buried here.

“Forever with the Lord”

**Cross on Plinth**

ORBIT APRIL 10 1905

In loving memory of REV George Edmund ROGERS, VICAR OF SHOUTHWATER, SUSSEX, the son of the late George ROGERS ESQ of FORTY HILL MIDDLESEX, and

Helen PIERPOINT ROGERS his wife

I hope these are of some use to someone in your catchment area, every little helps in the end. If any of your members have any relations or forefathers etc in this area I would be only too willing to help them with look ups and/ or photos. I am a member of the Online Parish Clerks for Dorset, and at the moment I am covering the Churchyards in and around a 20 mile radius of Weymouth.

We at the Dorset History Centre (I am a volunteer transcriber) are transcribing 1000s of Admission Papers for, at the moment Paupers, the Paying inmates have yet to be started from 1846 to 1900, the inmates were admitted to the Herrison Asylum. I have completed a task of the inmates that were sent to various parts of the globe from the Dorchester Prison as convicts in the late 1740s onwards, if any of your members think that their



forefathers were sent from this area please use my e mail address to get in touch with me, if they write "CONVICTS" in the subject space I will have a look up for them.

Keith Searson, *email: keith@searson.fsnet.co.uk*

**DISCOVER THE STORY OF YOUR FAMILY**



**Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE**, sponsored by **Ancestry.co.uk** and supported by **The Times**, will be held from 2-4 May 2008 in the Grand Hall, Olympia, London.

You'll have the chance to discover who your ancestors are and how they used to live with the help of the largest collection of TV historians, family history experts and celebrity enthusiasts than anywhere else.

Special guests at the show this year include **Allstair McGowan**, **Nicky Campbell**, father and son duo, **Peter and Dan Snow**, as well as Time Team presenter **Tony Robinson**.

Plus, we are delighted to announce the launch of two new show areas – **Military History LIVE** and **Discover Archaeology LIVE** – taking place in the same venue and included in the ticket price!

Last year's Who Do You Think You Are? Live show at Olympia, incorporating the annual Society of Genealogists family history fair, was a great success, and this year's show promises to be bigger and better. The organisers are offering a large discount on pairs of tickets for parties of 20 or more from the Society. Could you please email us at [chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk) before 18th March if you would be interested in being included in this offer.

## Death

We regret to report the death in December of member Mrs Bartholomew of Chertsey Lane, Staines.

In October well-known family history speaker Lady Teviot gave us a thought-provoking talk entitled 'A second look at problems', whose alternative title, she informed us, could be 'I never thought of that'. Using a number of case histories from family history research carried out for various clients, she gave a number of examples of ways around various 'brick walls' which might occur in people's research. When she began with her own family history back in 1969, she found Somerset House, then the home of the birth, marriage and death registers, such a daunting place she looked instead at the records of London's Abney Park Cemetery and found it a great source of information, especially for East London burials. But she does wonder with all that is available nowadays if some of the fun has gone out of family history research.

Researchers should be particularly wary about information on certificates. On the marriage certificate of one very honest Victorian lady it was found she had put down her age as 28 when she was actually 40. The inaccuracies could be lies or just sins of omission.

The Education Act of 1870 was not generally popular as it was considered the working classes might get above themselves. But school records, which can be consulted at the London Metropolitan Archives, give a lot of information. During one investigation, she found a school close to where the person being researched was living, and found him in the school register. He was in fact illegitimate and had been given his mother's name; the register also gave his date of birth.

Another great source is the Foundling Hospital, started in 1742 by Captain Coram. Before it closed in 1954, 27,000 children had passed through its doors. The helpful records are also at the London Metropolitan Archive, but there is a closure period. After being given an admission number children were baptized, renamed and often sent out to wet nurses as far away as Yorkshire. At five they were brought back and attended reading and writing classes and were eventually apprenticed. A lot of the boys went into the armed forces. One person being researched had been killed in WWI. In the 1891 census he was in the Foundling Hospital, and in 1881 had been boarded out. The Hospital Admission Register gave his date of birth. Sometimes the records even mention where a child was conceived: Hampstead Heath figures very much!

The International Genealogical Index, prepared and made available by the Mormon Church, is a great source but can be a trap for the unwary, particularly if it is assumed a baptism entry is that of a baby as people were

often baptized late: the oldest person being baptized Lady Teviot has come across was 78 years old, and was buried four days later. Sometimes several siblings were baptized on the same day.

Sometimes it is necessary to come forward in time to get further back. For instance, researching someone married before Civil Registration began in 1837, she found two possible baptisms for him in a parish register. After checking first to see if either of these children had died young, she went forward and looked at the census which revealed the person had been widowed and by 1881 had remarried. On this marriage certificate was his father's name which led to the correct baptism in the church register. As many men married two or three times subsequent marriages should be looked for. And some people married after the birth of the first child. In one case when searching for a marriage, first going back to when the two parties would have been about 12, she then came forward and found they had married 28 years after the birth of the youngest child. An allowance for married couples of five shillings introduced by Lloyd George caused a number of couples living together to get married.

Some people 'flirted' with non-conformity, sometimes using non-conformist chapels as well as Church of England churches, so check all types of church registers.

There are many other records such as Military Records, which often give a physical description, lunatic asylum records, which unfortunately sometimes only give a patient's initials, and records such as the now available Ellis Island records for those entering the USA. A warning to all researchers is: never accept information until original sources have been checked.

### *Postcards of West Middlesex Churches – New church added*

A series of pen and ink drawings of several of the parish churches in our area of interest. There are now 17 in the series, Hayes Parish Church being the latest addition, and they have been produced as postcards, 105mm x 148mm (A6). They are:

|                             |                         |                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ashford, St Matthews        | Hayes Parish Church     | Staines, St Mary's    |
| Feltham, St Dunstan         | Heston, St Leonards     | Stanwell Church       |
| Greenford, Holy Cross       | Laleham Church          | Sunbury Church        |
| Hampton Church              | Littleton Church        | Teddington Church     |
| Harlington, SS Peter & Paul | Northolt, St Mary's     | Twickenham, St Mary's |
| Harmondsworth, St Mary's    | Shepperton, St Nicholas |                       |

They cost 70p each including postage and can be obtained from:

*J. Scrivener, 88 Wheatlands, Heston, Middlesex TW5 0SB*

or from the bookstall at our monthly meetings

**Please make cheques payable to West Middlesex Family History Society**

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## THE BURIAL OF BENJAMIN AND CATTO BLAKE IN SHEPPERTON

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John Seaman

*'Here in foreign earth softly lie the bones of Benjamin Blake, scatter slight dust idle reader, and do not blush if you can cry a little. For a slave sleeps under this turf more suited to his master's wishes ... '*

This is a translation of the first part of a Latin inscription on a headstone in the churchyard in Shepperton. It marks the grave of Benjamin and Catto Blake. The weather has eroded the inscription and today some is very faint and some unreadable. Fortunately it has been transcribed.<sup>(1)</sup>

Benjamin Blake was owned by Sir Patrick Blake a baronet of Langham in Suffolk. Unlike most slaves he was a servant. The inscription records Benjamin's character, his honest morals, his ready obedience and his faithfulness. He sailed across the Atlantic from the 'island first explored by Columbus' to serve his master in England and here 'the sky changed his ground not his spirit'. The inscription states that Benjamin Blake died "cal. mai 1781" when he was 29 years old.

The inscription also records that Catto Blake was skilled at embroidering and spinning and when she was told of Benjamin's death she wasted away with a sense of loss until she died from a fever. She wanted to be buried with Benjamin. The inscription implies that she was Benjamin's wife and remained abroad when he travelled to England. She was 32 years old when she died "Cal. Sept. 1781".

If "Cal" is an abbreviation for Calends then Benjamin and Catto died on the first day of May and September.

So far everything seems to be straightforward. However when the Church register<sup>(2)</sup> was examined it records that "Benjamin Blake a black man"<sup>(3)</sup> was buried on 23 May 1781. If he died at the beginning of May why was his burial delayed for about three weeks? Also why was he buried at Shepperton? No association between Shepperton and Sir Patrick Blake has been identified.

The next entry in the register records that "Catherine Blake a black woman"<sup>(3)</sup> was buried on 10 June 1781. This is before the date of her death as recorded on the headstone. If she died abroad a significant delay would have occurred between her death and her burial. Did she die before September and in England?

Although the inscription refers to the burial of the ashes of both Benjamin and Catto Blake the register records they were buried in wool. The Burial in

Wool Acts required this to help protect this country's woollen industry and if another cloth was used a fine had to be paid. The comment about the burial of ashes is certainly poetic licence.

Is it possible to identify the island they came from? The island first explored by Columbus.

Sir Patrick Blake's Will was proved on 24 July 1784 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. [4 The first bequest refers to his property on the Island of Saint Christopher in the West Indies. In 1493 Christopher Columbus was the first European to discover this island and he named it Saint Christopher. It is now known as Saint Kitts. A printed map of the island based on a survey made in 1753 by Lt Samuel Baker RN includes Patrick Blake as one of the map's sponsors. The map shows natural features, roads, mills used to crush sugar cane and the houses of the important residents. Patrick Blake's house is in the Parish of Saint George. Although this may be a relative of Sir Patrick Blake it helps establish the family's connection with the island.

This is almost certainly the island where Benjamin and Catto Blake lived. If their ages were recorded on the headstone it is likely they were born there. Were they the children, perhaps even the grand or great-grand children of slaves who were transported there from Africa? We shall never be able to trace the histories of their families nor will we know the details of the journeys which brought them to England and to the churchyard in Shepperton.

#### **Notes and References**

- (1) Daniel Lysons 'An historical account of those parishes in the county of Middlesex which are not described in the Environs of London' (1800) pp 222-223
- (2) London Metropolitan Archives X077/070
- (3) Readers should note these are the words that were written in the register in 1781
- (4) The National Archives (TNA) PROB 11/1119
- (5) TNACO 700ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS5

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## **SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS ON-LINE RECORDS**

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The Society of Genealogists have recently entered into an agreement with Frontis Ltd, the supplier of the Frontis Archive Publishing System. This will allow the Society to publish for the first time on its own website, transcribed records, digitised documents, facsimiles of books and other material held in our library. This data will appear in an exclusive "members only" section of the website, thus giving Society members even greater access to the library and its records.

Our Chairman says that this is a big step forward for the Society, a significant number of our members are from overseas, and within the UK live some distance from our library and are thus unable to visit the library as often as they would like. We can now begin to make records available to them via the internet and the first of these should appear shortly. Our members have been asking us to publish more of our material exclusively for them and we are now in a position to do this.

The Society will still be making records available on both the Origins and Find My Past websites as we have to generate income to enable the Society to expand the services that we wish to provide to members, and to allow the Library to acquire even more records. Record offices and other libraries often wish to dispose of material that is not directly related to their activities, but these can be of great value to the family historian and when these are offered to the Society we feel in a number of instances that we should save them. This takes up a lot of time and requires funding.

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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY TAPE LIBRARY

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| <i>No.</i> | <i>Title</i>  | <i>Speaker</i>                      |
|------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 88/1       | A Metropolis in transition                                    | John Landers                        |
| 88/2       | They came to London   | Anthony Camp                        |
| 88/3       | Compelled to weep (Apprenticeship)                            | Jim Golland                         |
| 88/4       | Docklands   | John Neal                           |
| 88/5       | Where to find London records                                  | Geoffrey Swinfield                  |
| 91/1       | Irish research  | Richard Reed                        |
| 92/1       | One name study – Waddel                                       | Freda Bingley                       |
| 92/2       | In search of Golden Thompson (Merchant & Royal Navy research) | Norman Holding                      |
| 92/3       | Curious last requests   | Julian Litten                       |
| 92/4       | Family history can be fun                                     | Jim Golland                         |
| 92/5       | Was your ancestor a publican?                                 | Judith Hunter                       |
| 93/1       | Coastguard Ancestors  | Eileen Stage                        |
| 93/2       | Railway Records at the PRO                                    | Cliff Edwards                       |
| 93/3       | British & Foreign Schools Society                             | Brian Seagrove                      |
| 93/4       | The Name Game   | Mrs M Catty                         |
| 93/5       | Local Military Records  | Dr Ian Beckett                      |
| 93/6       | The villages of Harmondsworth                                 | Philip Sherwood                     |
| 94/1       | Teddington  | David Neller                        |
| 94/2       | 300 years of mud and crime                                    | Ron Cox                             |
| 94/3       | The Victorian Sailor  | Mike Fountain                       |
| 94/4       | Wandsworth & Fulham postcards                                 | Pat Looby                           |
| 95/1       | Boats and boaters   | Avril Lansdell                      |
| 95/2       | Australian Records  | Heather Garnsey &<br>Martyn Killion |
| 96/1       | Researching military ancestors                                | Peter Boyden                        |

| <i>No.</i> | <i>Title</i>  | <i>Speaker</i>   |
|------------|---|------------------|
| 96/2       | The Times divorce index . . . . .   | Annie Weare      |
| 97/1       | Seeing it through their eyes . . . . .                                    | Michael Gandy    |
| 97/2       | The days of horse traffic . . . . .                                       | Robert Barltrop  |
| 97/3       | Fire insurance records . . . . .  | David Hawkins    |
| 97/4       | The Poor Law and the parish . . . . .                                     | Peter Park       |
| 97/5       | Chelsea . . . . .   | John Neal        |
| 97/6       | Irish records . . . . .   | Bill Davis       |
| 98/1       | Sources at the PRO . . . . .  | Simon Fowler     |
| 98/2       | Lloyd George's 1910 "Domesday" . . . . .                                  | Peter Park       |
| 98/3       | Feltham as a parish study . . . . .                                       | Peter Watson     |
| 98/4       | Letterboxes . . . . .   | John Smith       |
| 98/5       | A tour of Chiswick and Brentford . . . . .                                | Christine Diwell |
| 98/6       | Hammersmith & Fulham archives . . . . .                                   | Jane Kimber      |
| 99/2       | Mills of Heathland . . . . .  | Eddie Munday     |
| 99/3       | Irish Ancestors in England . . . . .                                      | Michael Gandy    |
| 99/4       | Portobello past and its people . . . . .                                  | Shaaron Whetlor  |
| 99/5       | Roundhead or Cavalier . . . . .   | Col I Swinnerton |
| 99/6       | Railwaymen and their records . . . . .                                    | David Hawkins    |
| 00/1       | Hillingdon Heritage library sources . . . . .                             | Carolynne Cotton |
| 01/1       | Where there's a will there's a row . . . . .                              | Jean Debney      |
| 01/2       | Sex, lies and civil registration . . . . .                                | Audrey Collins   |
| 02/1       | "Up with the lark" – 19th Century agricultural labourers . . . . .        | Ian Waller       |
| 02/2       | Records of the Imperial War Museum . . . . .                              | Sarah Paterson   |
| 02/3       | Four short talks  |                  |
|            | Certificate courier service . . . . .                                     | Valerie Walker   |
|            | Upstairs, downstairs-Osterley House . . . . .                             | Lewis Orton      |
|            | The Temple family of Cumbria . . . . .                                    | Diana Bradley    |
|            | Tracing living people . . . . .   | Toni Davis       |
| 02/4       | The Jews of Notting Hill . . . . .  | Shaaron Whetlor  |
| 02/5       | The late Victorian sailor – the story of Percy William Fountain . . . . . | Michael Fountain |
| 03/1       | Illustrated History of Harefield . . . . .                                | Eileen Bowlt     |
| 03/2       | Thames Watermen . . . . .   | Pat Hilbert      |
| 03/3       | Finding your poor ancestors . . . . .                                     | Jean Debney      |
| 03/4       | Four short talks(faint) . . . . .   |                  |
|            | Links between local & family history . . . . .                            | PaulBarnfield    |
|            | How to get the best out of S o G . . . . .                                | Tony Simpson     |
|            | The WMFHS journal . . . . .   | Yvonne Masson    |
|            | World War I records . . . . .   | Roy Hewitt       |
| 03/5       | It gets easier every day . . . . .  | Michael Gandy    |
| 03/6       | Sources at the PRO . . . . .  | Chris Watts      |
| 03/7       | A Corner of a Foreign Field . . . . .                                     | Roy Hewitt       |
| 04/1       | An insight into Regimental & Corps histories & traditions . . . . .       | Ken Divall       |
| 04/2       | Tracing Merchant Seamen . . . . .   | Chris Watts      |

| <i>No.</i> | <i>Title</i>                                  | <i>Speaker</i>    |
|------------|---|-------------------|
| 04/3       | The perils of census transcription .....      | Jeanne Bunting    |
| 05/1       | Brookwood Cemetery .....                      | John Clarke       |
| 05/2       | "What have they left behind" .....            | Joyce Finnemore   |
| 05/3       | A memento from Fernando Po .....              | Maggie Mold       |
|            | <i>and Happenstance and serendipity</i> ..... | Rob Purr          |
| 05/4       | The civil war in Hounslow .....               | Andrea Cameron    |
| 05/5       | Computers for family history .....            | Jeanne Bunting    |
| 05/6       | What's in your parish chest? .....            | Jean Debney       |
| 05/7       | Apprenticeship .....                          | Richard Harvey    |
| 05/8       | The workhouse visitor in 1890 .....           | Liz Carter        |
| 05/9       | The Victorian way of death .....              | Tom Doig          |
| 06/1       | L/cpl Cecil Warne on active service .....     | Roy Hewitt        |
| 06/2       | Romanies & their crafts .....                 | Stuart King       |
| 06/3       | Sex & death in Hanwell CD .....               | Dr Jonathon Oates |
| 06/4       | Computer use for family historians CD .....   | Steve Cordery     |
| 06/5       | The National Archive records CD .....         | Ian Waller        |
| 07/1       | Our grandmothers' war (WWI) CD .....          | Christine Kendall |
| 07/2       | Heathrow – Iron age to jet age CD .....       | Nick Pollard      |
| 07/3       | Up with the lark (Life of ag.labs) CD .....   | Ian Waller        |

Due to technical problems and reduced demand, the talks will in future not be recorded.  
The current list will be available for the next twelve months.



## **WMFHS OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 28th September 2008**

10am to 4pm

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

*Adjacent free parking*

**Guest Societies ■ Stalls ■ Indexes**

**Note in your diaries NOW!!**



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## WEST MIDDLESEX BAPTISM AND BURIAL INDEXES: AN UPDATE

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The aim of this note is to provide an update on the progress of project work towards the development of baptism and burial indexes to complement our long-established West Middlesex Marriage Index.

Several dedicated and hard-working members of the Society have put in a great deal of effort over the last two years by inputting data from existing transcripts of parish and non-conformist registers for our area. The results of these efforts have now been assembled into the first versions of the baptism and burial indexes.

### **Baptisms**

Transcripts of the baptism registers for the following parishes and non-conformist chapels have now been digitised and compiled into a searchable database - the first version of the West Middlesex Baptism Index - with about 16,000 entries in all.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| East Bedfont, St Mary . . . . .                   | 1695-1 |
| Harlington, St Peter and St Paul . . . . .        | 1540-1 |
| Harmondsworth, St Mary . . . . .                  | 1629-1 |
| Hillingdon, St John the Baptist . . . . .         | 1813-1 |
| Sunbury, St Mary . . . . .                        | 1545-1 |
| Hounslow, Ship Lane Chapel . . . . .              | 1827-1 |
| Uxbridge, Providence Chapel . . . . .             | 1789-1 |
| Hammersmith, Ebenezer Chapel . . . . .            | 1773-1 |
| Hammersmith, Trinity Chapel, West End . . . . .   | 1780-1 |
| Hammersmith, Wesleyan Chapel, Waterloo Street .   | 1806-1 |
| Stanwell, Poyle Chapel . . . . .                  | 1820-1 |
| Brentford, Albany Chapel . . . . .                | 1831-1 |
| Uxbridge, Independent and Presbyterian Chapel . . | 1790-1 |
| Hammersmith, George Yard Chapel . . . . .         | 1759-1 |
| Kensington, Horton Street Chapel . . . . .        | 1825-1 |
| Staines, Independent Chapel . . . . .             | 1785-1 |

At present this index is only accessible on the Society's laptop at our monthly meetings or at one of the open days and family history fairs that we attend. It is hoped to make it available for Internet access in the future, when its coverage has been further increased.

## Burials

Considerable progress has been made here, with work being conducted within the framework of the National Burial Index project. All the data has been transferred to the NBI Co-ordinators for use in any future CD version of this index. However they are accessible now through FamilyHistoryOnline (<http://www.familyhistoryonline.net/>) or FindMyPast (<http://www.findmypast.com/>). The coverage details are:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| East Bedfont, St Mary . . . . .                     | 1678-1838 |
| Hammersmith, St Paul . . . . .                      | 1666-1837 |
| Harlington, St Peter and St Paul . . . . .          | 1540-1837 |
| Harmondsworth St Mary . . . . .                     | 1629-1837 |
| Hillingdon, St John the Baptist . . . . .           | 1813-1838 |
| Isleworth, All Saints . . . . .                     | 1566-1838 |
| Hammersmith, Ebenezer Chapel . . . . .              | 1786-1787 |
| Hammersmith, Trinity Chapel, West End . . . . .     | 1784-1837 |
| Hammersmith, Wesleyan Chapel, Waterloo St . . . . . | 1814-1854 |
| Hounslow, Ship Lane Chapel . . . . .                | 1829-1833 |
| Stanwell, Poyle Chapel . . . . .                    | 1826-1835 |
| Uxbridge, Providence Chapel . . . . .               | 1812-1837 |

These sources give a combined total of almost 49,000 burial entries.

The Society has been pleased to receive a copy of the NBI inputting work carried out since 2000 by members of the Spelthorne U3A group under the direction of Ron Hewitt.

In addition to the Internet options noted above, a database with all this material - the first version of the West Middlesex Burial Index - can be accessed via the Society's laptop at monthly meetings, open days and family history fairs.

The work of the following contributors to the project work described in this note is gratefully acknowledged: Diane Bilson, Diana Bradley, Jim Devine, Maggie Hurlll, Yvonne Masson, Maggie Mold, Peter Roe, Tony Simpson, Pauline Skegg, Jeanne Whitby.

Finally, you may be aware that the post of Project Co-ordinator for the Society has been vacant since March 2006. If you would be willing to undertake this important role, or would like to know more about what might be involved, please make yourself known to a member of the Executive Committee. There is a lot more work to be done, even if we limit ourselves to the digitisation of existing parish register transcriptions.

On Christmas Eve 2000 I was pleased to receive a card from my cousin Patrick. I hadn't heard from him for a long time and he had moved to a new address. On the back of the card was a little note, which began "Have you ever tried tracing any kind of family tree?"

I had thought about it occasionally, but aged 58 and with no children, it wasn't a priority for me. I couldn't change my ancestry and perhaps I wouldn't want to if I could. I thought my sister was joking when she said we'd be meeting our ancestors quite soon, anyway, and perhaps we should find a skeleton in a cupboard and rue the day! She insisted that she was very much in earnest. Patrick had three sons I had seldom seen and for them a family tree would be much more interesting. It would be easier for me to do some research, living near the National Archives at Kew and there was the possibility of a flight to Ireland from Heathrow.

In childhood, my sister and I heard very little about our father's ancestors and I think I missed some of the opportunities to ask. My grandfather died seven years before I was born, so I didn't hear any of his recollections. A few anecdotes had come down to us and there was the biscuit tin in which my mother kept the few old photographs that came her way over the years. A postcard sent by one of my father's sisters in 1917 survived and showed a Dublin address, so Dublin became the destination for my next holiday.

During this holiday in Ireland in 2002 I discovered that my father was born in Dublin in 1913, the youngest of 10 children. He had three sisters, Mary Ann (known as Daisy) Bridget and Eileen according to the 1911 Irish Census. I called at the National Archives in Bishop Street, Dublin to make the search and was told that I could queue to see the genealogist if I wished. This was a splendid piece of good luck and it was Worth the wait. It is difficult to follow someone else's patchy family history but the help I received was marvellous. Staff brought me the reels of microfilm for the relevant district and my moment of success came just after 3 p.m.

I decided to try and find out more about Bridget, who was born in 1900 and on returning home asked my sister Eileen and cousin Patrick what they had been told about her. We knew she had died at a young age in an accident at work - "an anthracite stove" - my cousin had heard. We had one photograph that could have been taken on her 21st birthday in 1921 and I recalled how my father once said she was very good at dancing. My mother observed that she looked Spanish, like a Flamenco dancer, but my father quickly said it

was Irish dancing. I presumed the accident had happened in Ireland and wondered had she been working in a laundry or as a domestic servant? Did she train as a nurse? Perhaps she had auditioned successfully for the stage?

I went to the Family History Centre at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Kensington, to look at Irish civil registration indexes. Probably Bridget was under 25 at the time of her death, so it was necessary to look for all women named Bridget O'Sullivan who died young between 1915 and 1925, and more likely between 1918 and 1924. There were fewer than I expected. I noticed that most Bridgets died at a good age and one had been a centenarian. There were two "possibles" on my shortlist, in the year 1922, but neither proved to be my Aunt Bridget.

So did she come to England? Lots of young women went into service in London in those days. My mother's sister had a situation in Acton in about 1920 before she married. Soon I began a search of English death indexes. An entry in December 1922, recorded in Bromley, seemed Worth investigating and I applied for the death certificate.



This time I had guessed correctly and it was confirmed that Bridget had died by misadventure, due to "*Septicaemia following burns received through her clothing catching alight by coming into contact with a fire on 14th ultimo*".

She had died on 3rd December 1922. I wondered if it would be possible to obtain a local newspaper report of the inquest and thought of going to Colindale. Instead I decided to send an Email to the Bromley Central Library and soon a librarian replied saying they could do a short search if I paid a fee of only about £1. I was grateful to receive a photocopy very promptly. This was my first contact with a

public library in connection with family history and a reminder that I should consult libraries when I go to Ireland again in 2008.

My grandfather had attended the inquest. Bridget had been employed as a parlourmaid at a house in Bromley, but the newspaper didn't say how long she had Worked there. The accident occurred at about noon on November

14th 1922. Other staff had hurried to help her and a doctor was called. She was taken to the cottage hospital. At the inquest a doctor described the severe burns from which she had been suffering. For a time she seemed to be going on satisfactorily, then showed signs of septic absorption and died on Sunday evening, the cause of death being septicaemia following burns. The Coroner recorded a verdict of "Death by Misadventure".

I am still trying to find Bridget's grave and have a few more enquiries to make at Roman Catholic churches in and near Bromley. Bridget's death had been a profound shock to my grandfather and I think older members of the family did not want to cause him or themselves any further distress by mentioning it. On the rare occasions when I asked about Ireland, my father wagged his hand in a dismissive gesture, saying "Oh well it's a long time ago. There's nobody we know in Dublin now."

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## **HENRY WOOSTER 1569 - 1613**

*John Wooster*

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Henry Wooster was born in 1569 in the time of Elizabeth I. He was the son of William Wooster and his wife Joan nee Blackhead. On Sunday 8th May 1569, he was taken to the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Aylesbury to be baptised. The picture below shows the 15th Century West Window with the Norman Font below in which he was baptised.

The entry in the registers reads:

"1569 Baptism Henry Woster the sonne of Willm Woster the vm day of May."

Henry had three older brothers, Thomas, Robert and Edward and an older sister Mary. His grandmother Agnes Wooster was still alive, living at Aston Clinton, where his Uncle Edward also lived with his family. He also had an Uncle Thomas who lived in London and three Aunts who were married, Joan Durrant, Ursula Stybrook and Dorothy Lake.



When Henry was 14, his grandmother Agnes Wooster died and was buried at Aston Clinton on 27th May 1583. In her Will she left him a quarter of barley (equivalent to 8 bushells). This was to be delivered within a year after her

death and to be employed by his father as a stock for his advantage. Barley was used for brewing ale.

Henry was 26 years old when he was married at Tring on Monday 17th November 1595. Tring was not far from Aylesbury and there was a main road, which ran from one town to the other. The name of the bride is given in the register as Anne Kingham. She was probably the Agnes Kingham, daughter of John, baptised sometime after 9th April and before 21st May 1570 at Aston Clinton. (The register does not give the exact date.) Henry's wife is called Amy in his Will, but later evidence does tend to show that this is the right marriage.

Henry's father William was a farmer and this was the occupation that Henry followed. Henry and Anne settled at Walton, a hamlet of Aylesbury, and Henry had land there with strips in the Common Fields.

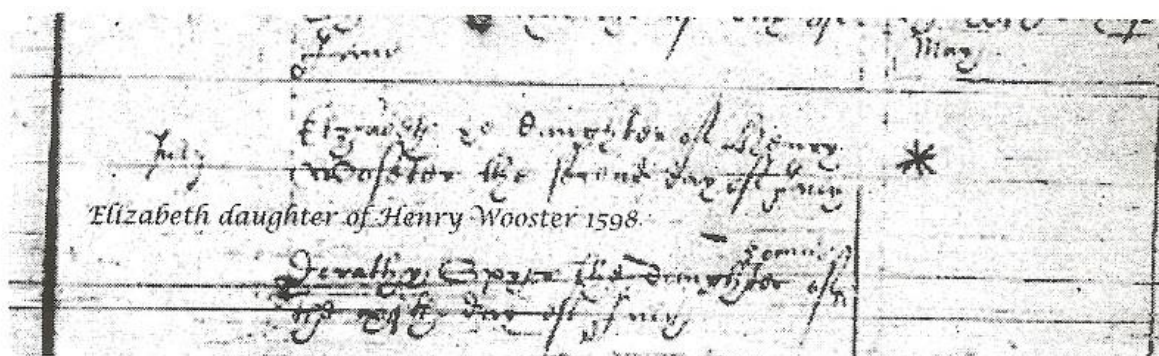
The following description comes from the Victoria County History. Walton is a hamlet on the Wendover Road. It was outside the bounds of the borough of Aylesbury, but within those of the ecclesiastical parish. On the road from Aylesbury to Walton called Walton Street are some 17th century cottages and the White Swan Inn and Bear Inn are of this date. Along the Walton Road in Walton are some 17th century cottages close to the village green with its pond. Walton House is an 18th century building but some of the outbuildings and wall are 17th century and the malting (consisting of a house and barn) is also 17th century. Walton Grange is a 16th century timber and brick house. Further north is a 17th century farmhouse of timber and brick.

It was at Walton that Henry and Anne spent their married life, but exactly where is not known.

Henry and Anne's first child was baptised at Aylesbury on 26th September 1596 and named William after Henry's father. Two years later their first daughter was born. The entry in Aylesbury parish register reads:

#### 1598 Baptism

*"Elizabeth the daughter of Henry Wooster the second day of July"*.



However from Henry's Will it is clear that his eldest daughter's name was Mary, so the entry in the register, was incorrect.

A similar error occurred in the baptismal entry of their next child, a son on 15th January, 1601/2. This entry reads : "*111 601 Baptism Henry the sonne of Henry Woseter the xvth day of January* ".

Again from Henry's Will this child's name was Robert. Luckily Henry was very specific in his Will and says that Robert was his second son. It might be possible to squeeze in two other children but that would mean that two baptisms and two burials are missing from the registers and that seems less feasible than that incorrect names were written.

Another son, Thomas was baptised on 10th March, 1603/4 and a daughter Margaret on 17th August 1606. A third daughter followed in 1608 baptised with the name of Dorothy on 15th December.

On 31st January, 1609/10, Henry's mother Joan was buried at Aston Clinton. Six weeks later his seventh and last child was baptised at Aylesbury on 16th March, 1609/10 being given his father's name of Henry. This was the only child of Henry and Anne to die in infancy, being only six months old when he was buried on 25th September.

Henry was now a prosperous yeoman farmer and had several items of property in Aylesbury. Apart from his own house he had three houses, which he let, one to William Heynes, one to Henry Wilkinson and one to Thomas Lorwood and Edward Heynes. He also had a number of strips in the Common Fields of Walton. Three acres and three roods of arable land in various fields, which he used himself, and another three acres of arable land, which he possessed and, which were occupied by his father. These were one acre in Abbothill Furlong, one acre in Deane Furlong in Deane Field, half an acre in Deane Furlong in Deane Field and half an acre in Deane Furlong in Bedgrove Field.

A furlong usually meant a furrow length in the open fields. The common fields of Walton, Aylesbury were divided into strips among the tenants. Everyone had to grow the same crop on their strip as the other owners of strips in that field and this was usually decided by mutual agreement. There were usually two or three open fields belonging to the village and a rotation of crops was implemented, barley one year, beans or peas the next and then the land was left fallow for one year and the beasts of the owners were turned onto it to manure the ground.

All seemed set fair for Henry and Anne and their family of three boys and three girls, but by Tuesday 20th April 1613, Henry was ill and it was obvious

he would die. He therefore decided to put his affairs in order and called his brothers, Robert and Edward, his wife's brother William Kingham and Robert Bell, a friend or neighbour to come to his house to witness his Will. He was leaving a wife and six children under the age of 17 and was anxious to see their futures safeguarded.

Each son was to have property and out of that property was to pay to a sister a legacy of £6.13s.4d (£6.68). This seems a strange sum but it was the equivalent of 20 marks. His eldest son William was to have the two houses in Aylesbury occupied by William Heynes and Henry Wilkinson and one acre of arable land in Abbot Hill Furlong and half an acre of arable land in a furlong called Deane Furlong, both occupied by Henry's father William. The half acre is described as being the "fieldmost land of myne in the said furlong". This must mean the part which was farthest away. William was to give his sister Mary her legacy out of the one and a half acres. Henry's second son Robert was to have the house occupied by Thomas Lorwood and Edward Heynes, one acre of arable land in Deane Furlong and an acre in Deane Furlong in Bedgrove Field, both occupied by Henry's father William. The half acre was described in the Will as the "homermost land". Robert was to pay his sister Margaret her legacy out of the one and a half acres. There were no more houses left for Henry's third son Thomas and so he was left more land, three acres and three roods of arable land which were scattered in the several common fields and were occupied by Henry himself. Thomas was to pay his sister Dorothy her legacy out of this.

Henry's wife, whom he names as Amy, was to have the use of the houses and lands for the upbringing of the children, keeping the houses in good repair, until the sons reached the age of 24. If, by the death of the mother, the sons received their properties before this, they were to pay their sisters their legacies when the sisters reached the age of 21, if not then within a year after the sons received their inheritances. If any of the sons defaulted on these payments then the daughters were to have their lands. If any of the daughters died before they received their inheritance then their legacy was to go to the daughters who survived.

As a good Christian Henry left 20s to the poor and 6s.8d towards the repair of the church. The rest of his goods he left to his wife Amy, whom he made executrix. He appointed his brothers Robert and Edward to be the Overseers of his Will and left them each 3s.4d for their pains. The original Will does not survive so we cannot know whether Henry could sign his name.

Henry died two months later and was buried on Thursday 8th July, 1613, he was 44 years old.



Henry left a widow and six children, William 17, Mary 15, Robert 11, Thomas 9, Margaret 7 and Dorothy 5. Amy obtained probate of her husband's Will on 1st October. There was a farm to run and young children to bring up, so not surprisingly she looked around for another husband. On 9th January, 1616/7, she was married at Aston Clinton to John Fornace, a widower, her name was given as "Anne". John Fornace was also known as John Bently or as John Bentley alias Fornace. Their marriage had only lasted for 18 months before he died and was buried on 7th August 1618. In his Will, as well as mentioning his brothers and kinsmen, who have the surname Bently alias Fornace, he mentions his brothers William and Thomas Kingham. These are likely to be his wife's brothers, which is some of the evidence which tends to confirm the marriage of Henry Wooster to Agnes Kingham as being correct. Also John Bently alias Fornace called his wife Amy as Henry called her in his Will. John left Amy the residue of his goods and chattels and made her his executrix.

Anne, Agnes or Amy, whatever her name was, had now survived two husbands and inherited their goods and chattels. What happened to her after this is not known. No further records have been found for her under any of these names or as Bently, Fornace or Bentley alias Fornace.

Of Henry and Anne's children, William married Magdalen Edmunds on 20th November 1625 at Aylesbury. He was still alive in 1641 when he was left money by his Uncle William Wooster of Buckland, Aston Clinton. Mary married on 2nd May 1625, Henry Bell, who was a tailor of Aylesbury. They had three sons and Henry Bell died in 1638. Robert married Katharine Harris in 1620. Thomas married about 1630 to Elizabeth, by whom he had four sons, two of whom died in infancy. Margaret married William Edmonds on 10th October, 1630 and Dorothy married John Smythe on 16th February, 1629/30.

**From Midweek County Times, 22nd June 1971**

"...The Plough at Norwood Green, Southall, is an old pub, so old its origins are lost in time. The first known record of The Plough is in 1349 when an application was made for a food licence to serve some workmen repairing St Mary's Church opposite. As parts of St Mary's date back to the 11th century, it is possible The Plough is 700 or more years old. When The Plough was enlarged in 1924 it was found it had been built of hand cut wooden bricks. The early craftsmen worked so successfully that, although wooden, the building still presents no fire risks. Through the years the bricks have become almost petrified and are so hard it is impossible to drive a nail into them..."

The Plough is still there today serving the people of Norwood Green.

The King's Evil, otherwise scrofula, is an old term for tuberculosis of the lymph nodes especially of the neck, that is most common in children and is usually spread by unpasteurized milk from infected cows. In the Middle Ages it was believed that the "royal touch", the touch of the sovereign, could cure the disease hence the name "King's Evil". It was thought that the sovereign had received the power by descent from Edward the Confessor, who was believed to have received it from Saint Remigius.

From 1633 the Book of Common Prayer contained a service for this. The relevant part of the Service, as given in the time of Queen Anne, was:

"Then shall the infirm persons, one by one, be presented to the Queen upon their knees, and as every one is presented and while the Queen is laying her hands upon them, and putting the gold about their necks, the Chaplain that officiates, turning himself to her Majesty, shall say these words following:

GOD give a blessing to this work; and grant that these sick persons on whom the Queen lays her hands may recover, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

After all have been presented, the Chaplain shall say,

O LORD, save thy servants;

Answer. That put their trust in thee.

Minister. Send unto them help from above

Answer. And evermore mightily defend them.

Minister. Help us, O God our Saviour.

Answer. And for the glory of thy Name deliver us," be merciful to us sinners, for thy Name 's sake.

Minister. O Lord, hear our prayer

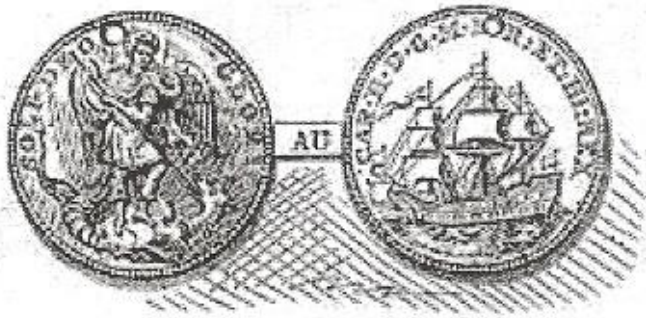
Answer. And let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, who art the Giver of all health, and the aid of them that seek to thee for succour, we call upon thee for thy help and goodness mercifully to be showed upon these thy servants, that they being healed of their infirmities may give thanks unto thee in thy holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

It was traditional for the monarch to present a coin, usually an Angel (value about ten shillings).

King George I stopped the practice of 'touching' as being 'too catholic'.



*Touch-piece (time of Charles II)*



*Touch-piece (Time of Queen Anne)*

Few records of the practice exist but Harmondsworth has a Parish Register with a list of those receiving a certificate for the King's Evil. This was in the time of William III.

**1694:**

June ye 1st Daniel Brent for his Daughter Susanna (*no relevant details in the parish register*)

July ye 5th Mary Westbrook for her Daughter Elizabeth (*no relevant details in the parish register*)

Eodem (*the same day*) John Howard for his daughter in law Elizabeth Goddard

(John married Hannah Goddard wid. January 9th 1681. *No other relevant details*)

Ye 11th John Tillear for his daughter Rebecca (*Rebecca was baptized 23 February 1675 but no further entries exist for her.*)

**1695:**

August ye 25th Anne ye daughter of Elizabeth Kent widow (*no relevant details in the parish registers*)

**1696:**

August ye 7th Mary Bevins widow (*no burial recorded for Mary*)

Ye 11th Magdalen ye Wife of James Tillear Yeoman (*Magdalen was buried November 20th 1719*)

September 11th Ann Day (*no burial recorded for Ann*)

**1697:**

June ye 23th John Guydon and Elisabeth his wife. (Elizabth, wife of John Guidon, mat maker, was buried June 17th 1700. John Guydon Senr, a matmaker, poor, was buried June 22nd 1708)

Ye 30th Elisabeth ye Daughter of Elisabeth Goslin. (*She was baptized March 1684. May 5th 1704 Elizabeth Goslin, a servant, was buried.*)

**1699:**

September ye 6th Hannah wife of Richd Bartlett. (*'Ann' Woolford and Richard were married 29th May 1671. Hannah was buried November 18th 1705. Richard was buried only 8 days later*)

Eodem Richd Bartlett for his Daughter Hannah (*no trace of a marriage, or burial, for Hannah*)

**1704:**

October 9th to John Vial a carpenter, for himself. (*John was buried May 23rd 1709*)

Unfortunately there are too few examples, and lack of burials, to reach any conclusion on life expectancy or whether the sufferers were cured. One amazing fact about the King's Evil is that none of the monarchs died from this highly infectious disease. Some of the kings of England and France 'touched' thousands of sufferers.

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**FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE**

*Shirley McLaughlin*

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Family Tree magazine started as a bi-monthly in November 1984, and I subscribed from the following year. Family history societies were starting up and producing quarterly journals, but here was a glossy, national, magazine with articles by expert genealogists to help a fast growing number of enthusiasts to 'put flesh on the bones'. It was a 'must have'!

Just riffling through my large collection of magazines - although I have the indexes which Family Tree magazine produced for the earlier volumes to October 1992 - I come afresh to a range of articles which remain useful. There is the excellent series on old occupations, crafts such as shoemaking, ironworkers, lead miners, brushmakers, chair bodgers, which continues covering a huge number of trades and professions; background articles by Iain Swinnerton on many periods of military history - the 2005 article on British prisoners in the Napoleonic Wars was of particular interest to me - and many contributions by Chris and Michael Watts on merchant seamen and their records. In 1993 journals I find articles on Land Tax Assessments, Certificates of British registry of vessels, Family history from the billhead. I enjoy another look at Anthony Camp's and John Titford's articles and regular columns. Most issues have at least one article which still grabs my interest.

Information on sources and on the use of computers has quickly dated, with the growth of internet access, and many documents themselves on-line. The history is here! London repositories have moved - no more cramped viewing of census microfilm in the basement of Portugal Street, nor sadly at their newer, convenient venue at the Family Records Centre - but details of what you can find when consulting original sources in such archives as at the TNA, Kew, so easily accessible for members living in the West Middlesex area, are as informative today as they were twenty years ago.

Reader - I need the room occupied by these magazines. If you would like these paper copies (and the free CD5), please contact me. To collect from an address in Stamford Brook, London W6.

*Shirley McLaughlin, email: s.stambrook@care4free.net*

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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.*

## EMMETT

My Grandfather Thomas Henry Emmett joined the HOUNSLOW BOROUGH BRIGADE in 1890 as a driver/fireman progressing through the ranks to CO in 1925, he retired in 1933 after 43 years with a commendation from the Mayor and Councillors of the Borough. My father Alfred Frederick was born in Montague Road in 1902, he joined the Brigade in 1921 under his father, progressed to 3rd Officer rank moving to the new Central Fire Station in London Road where I was born in 1939. He moved to GILLINGHAM, KENT as CO in 1941. As you may know, a large number of documents were destroyed during the





war so any definite documents are hard to come by, I am hoping that someone has written and published about that period of time, any information would be appreciated. I have a few photos that some of your members may be interested in.

*David A. V. Emmett, daveemmett@blueyonder.co.uk*

## **GODDARD**

Henry Goddard 1844-1924, my wife's Gt Grandfather, was born at Bulls Bridge, Norwood, to Richard and Mary Goddard (nee Hanscombe). He became a Boatman, like his father, and married Ann Gardner at BRAUNSTON in 1868. He travelled the Grand Junction Canal but does not appear on any censuses along this canal until 1901. Any information on his whereabouts or boats/butties he travelled on between 1860 and 1905 when he became Captain of the FMC narrowboat The King would be appreciated. The King has an interesting history and is still afloat; it is currently moored at Anderton in Cheshire where we recently visited it.

*Frank Beaumont, 118 Canesworde Road, Dunstable LU6 3PZ*

## **JENNINGS**

I am seeking any information about the Jennings family; in the 1901 census Thomas 40, a bricklayer, his wife Emmeline 31 and their son George Arthur Jennings 9, were living in the Acton area although they were all born in CHISWICK. The son, George Arthur, married Emma Susanna Ellis (1915)

Edmonton. After Emma's death George married for a second time to Elsi? Harriet Rose Ellis [nee Symonds) in 1924 in Edmonton. Elsi also died and George then moved to Devon. At some time he worked for "TYNE & SELBY ENGINES, Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham.

*N. T Bond, 14 Barn Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6QG*

## **ST NICHOLAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL, SHEPPERTON**

This year will be the school's 175th Anniversary. In May and June, we will be celebrating this event with different activities. We are trying to find out as much information about the village and the old school, and what life was like for children 175 years ago. If anyone has information for us please contact:

Sarah Beal *mark@watersplash.freeserve.co.uk*

## **TAYLER**

When my great grandfather William Tayler died in 1896, he was the landlord of THE WINDSOR CASTLE public house. His father, another William Tayler was landlord of THE HAND AND FLOWER, OLD BRENTFORD.

While THE HAND AND FLOWER is well documented and I have a picture of it, I have been unable to find any mention of THE WINDSOR CASTLE; I'm not even sure where it was, but assume it was in the Brentford environs.

I do know that there was a public house on Old Brentford High Street called THE CASTLE, but I don't think this is the same one as THE WINDSOR CASTLE. I would be greatly appreciative of anyone who could help me.

*Susan Parkinson, gpwetherby/@ntlworld.com*

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## **A TIME TO WEEP . . . A TIME TO MOURN\***

*Valerie Walker*

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I don't think I am the only person to regret the decision of the Powers-That-Be that it was "time to cast away" the Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers in October from the open shelves at the Family Record Centre to storage in Christchurch, Dorset, presumably never to be seen again. Before they were taken away, it seemed that everyone was having one last search to find the elusive ancestor or just wanted to check on something they had meant to do years before. The queues for certificates were back, as not everyone ordered online. The staff were sad too as they had never thought the registers would go. Their employment was no longer safe.

During my years as Courier for the Society, the registers were my friends and my enemies. Friend when I easily found the reference provided by a

member, and enemy when the reference was wrong which meant I had to consult more than one register keeping the muscles in trim! BUT over the years, I appreciated the beautiful handwriting in the early volumes and gave thanks that these scribes had done the work so diligently. Yes, I know there are mistakes and omissions but that was all we had before technology took over. I confess to finding Freebmds wonderful as I have found entries which would have taken years of searching the registers. I gather digitilisation is a year behind schedule but we do have the 'difficult to read' fiche and various sources online so why am I complaining?

Over the years, it was wonderful to hear cries of joy across the benches when someone found an entry they might have been looking for for years. I met people from all over the world who went to St Catherine's House and later FRC to trace their family. This was the only way. It was only last September I heard two separate adopted children (adults) asking advice from people around them also searching registers. I got them together and one offered to help the other, sharing experiences, and they exchanged contact details. That won't happen online!

I first went to St Catherine's House in the Aldwych in 1982 - I worked nearby and sometimes could go in at 8.30am before starting work. By 11am it became more and more crowded and hotter and hotter, not only in summer, but at all times because of the number of people. At one stage, to make more space, the Death Indexes were moved up Kingsway to Alexandra House but in 1985 St Cath's was refurbished, the Death Indexes returned and a new room, without air conditioning, provided for the Marriage Indexes. There was still not much room and the volumes were heavy and liable to topple when others were removed. This resulted in volumes being returned to the easiest place and thus many were out of order, tempers frayed, and bruises suffered. Fights began as people, perhaps on a day visit to London, tried to find THAT register. White gloved monitors tried to keep the registers in order.

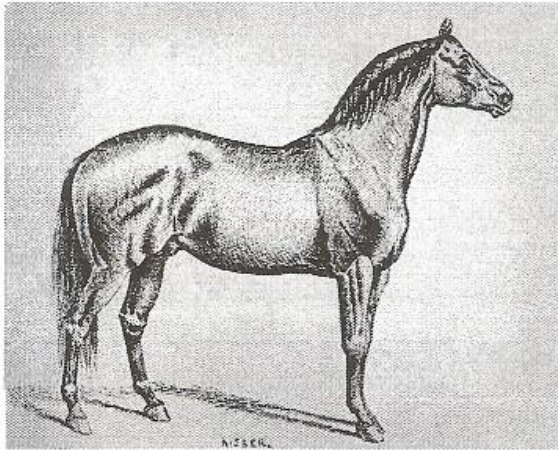
I took over as courier from Pam Morgan in the spring of 1996 and luckily within a year, the Family Record Centre in Clerkenwell opened. There was so much more space, although there were a few areas which still got congested. The general facilities were better and, of course, the PRO material previously in Chancery Lane, was upstairs. And now that is moving to Kew in March and the Family Record Centre will be no more.

*\*Ecclesiastes 3. 1*

PS A reminder to members that lists of original certificates for sale appear on our website at [www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)

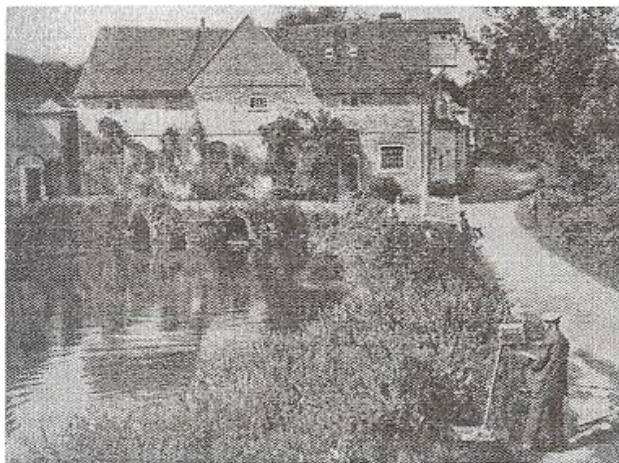


Some years ago, when my grandmother died, I was left a few early paintings done by my grandmother's elder brother Sydney Amos Driver, born 1865 in London. Among them was an oil painting of his sister (my grandmother)



aged about two or three, painted when he was about 17. Another was a copy of a painting in the National gallery and another a small landscape of Hampstead Heath. There was also a sketch of a horse called Kisber done on the back of a calendar for the year 1883 issued by W King & Sons of 390/392 Euston Road NW They were all in a damaged state and were very early works. There was also a newspaper

cutting showing Sydney Amos painting at Flatford Mill. No date on the cutting, but from an advert on the back could he 1920s.



*Caption: Artists at Flatford Mill – Flatford Mill and House and Willy Lott's Cottage, immortalised by Constable, were given to the Nation by Mr. T.R. Parkinson for the use of artists, so that they might stay there on reasonable terms and paint. An artist painting the Mill ("Morning Post" special photograph).*

I thought I would like to find out more him and his paintings and my cousin in Australia some years ago found an entry in a *Who's Who* (she did not say at the time which one it was and I never thought to ask at the time). This stated:

“Sydney Amos Driver. Born August 31 1865. Son of Henry

(actually his father was David) Driver. Born in London. Married Sarah Ann Curtis. Educated Archbishop Tenisons School, Leicester Square. Studied Art at St Martins, Lambeth, Slade, Legros, British Museum and National. Full Certificate South Kensington examinations. Landscape painter in oils formerly sub librarian and architectural photographer for publishers.

Painting interrupted for ten years and now beginning art career. Exhibited at Manchester City Art Gallery under Duveen school; Ipswich Art Club. Work

published in photographs in *Old Houses and Village Buildings in East Anglia* by Basil Oliver and photographs in other works published by Messrs. Batford. Principal works: Woringford Mill, Essex; Willie Lotts House, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt. Recreations. Art books, daily press, cycling, improving other people "including myself". Address Ingleside, Ardleigh, near Colchester, Essex. Exhibited in 1928. Death unknown."

In fact he died in 1936. My sister visited Ardleigh a few years ago, but found no trace of the house. She enquired at the post office and they had not heard of it.

I wrote to Manchester City Art Gallery but they had no knowledge of him exhibiting there. I also wrote to the publishers, Batsford, because I believe he was employed there as a librarian, but their records did not go back that far.

I wrote to the Department of Paintings at the Victoria and Albert Museum as someone told me there was a possibility they might be able to help. No luck there either, but they suggested I try the Witt Library at the Courtauld Institute which had boxes of photographs of work by virtually all artists. No luck there either.

I did get to see a copy of the book *Old Houses and Village Buildings in East Anglia* containing some of his photographs at the Suffolk Record Office at Bury St Edmunds and I shall have a look at the Amazon website to see if I can track down a copy (not too expensive hopefully).

I also looked on the internet and found that the horse Kisber, a Hungarian bred horse, was an Epsom Derby winner. Also on the internet there was advertised for sale a print of Kisber from the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of October 1882. (I imagine that was the year he won the Derby.) Sydney Amos' pen and ink sketch looked remarkably similar and he could have copied it from there, but I wonder what he could have been doing with the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*? I remember my mother telling me that Uncle Harry, Sydney Amos's brother, had theatrical ambitions so perhaps that was the origin of the paper.

Then I had a brainwave, perhaps Sydney Amos himself might also appear on the internet, and sure enough he did - in the catalogues of two different auction houses, but the auctions were several years ago. One picture was sold and the other not. I wrote to them in the hope that they would be able to tell me who had bought the picture, or owned the one that didn't sell, but I have had no replies to the letters I wrote.

You might say I now know quite a lot about Sydney Amos, but I would love to have one of his paintings that I could hang on my wall.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

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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 as are photographs or illustrations for articles. Thank you to those who have already contributed and I'm waiting for your next articles!

Please email 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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## NEW MEMBERS

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

- B311 Mr N.T.B. Bond, 14 Barn Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6QG
- C259 Mr M Cox, 12 Martins Close, Blackwater, Camberley,  
Surrey GU17 0PH *michval.cox@ntlworld.com*
- D150 Mrs PA. Davies, 41 Cherry Orchard Road, Lisvane,  
Cardiff CF14 0UD *tricia.davies@btinternet.com*
- G149 Mr B.D.F. Grumbridge, 49 Helen Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex  
*brian@bgrumbridge.freeserve.co.uk*
- L112 Mrs M.E. Lawrence, 65 Pinewood, Somerton,  
Somerset TA11 6JR *margaret@meltcl.plus.net*
- P151 Mrs M.A. Pennell, 96 Marsh Lane, Farndon, Newark,  
Nottinghamshire NG24 4SZ *maureenpennell@ntlworld.com*
- S262 Mr C.J. Smith, Fernside, The Holloway, Minehead,  
Somerset TA24 5PB *pharoah1@btinternet.com*
- W236 Mrs J. White, 5 Oakley Gardens, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2DF

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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 |
|------------|-------------|------------------|--------|--------|
| ALDRIDGE   | 18-19C      | Hammersmith Area | MDX    | D150   |
| ALDRIDGE   | 18-19C      | Isleworth        | MDX    | D150   |
| AMBRIDGE   | 18C         | Tolworth         | MDX    | D150   |
| AMBRIDGE   | 19-20C      | Isleworth        | MDX    | D150   |
| AYRES      | 1750-1950   | Brentford        | MDX    | D150   |
| BATES      | Before 1860 | Camberwell Area  | SRY    | G149   |
| BAYLIS     | 18-19C      | Isleworth        | MDX    | D150   |
| BROWN      | Circa 1828  | Hammersmith      | MDX    | L112   |
| BROWN      | Circa 1860  | Ealing           | MDX    | L112   |
| BROWN      | Circa 1865  | Heston Area      | MDX    | L112   |
| BROWN      | After 1884  | Houston, Texas   | USA    | L112   |
| BURDETT    | Circa 1800  | Ealing           | MDX    | L112   |
| BURGESS    | 1750-1850   | Cowley Area      | OXF    | D150   |
| COX        | 19C         | Hounslow         | MDX    | C259   |
| DALY       | 1948        | Bedfont          | MDX    | P151   |
| EDGECOMBE  | 16-19C      | Ashburton Area   | DEV    | G149   |
| ELLIS      | 19-20C      | Edmonton         | MDX    | B311   |
| ELLIS      | 19-20C      | Tottenham        | MDX    | B311   |
| GRUMBRIDGE | 16-19C      | All              | SRY    | G149   |
| GULLY      | Before 1850 | Mudford Area     | SOM    | G149   |
| HALL       | 19-20C      | Fulham           | MDX    | W236   |
| HARRISON   | 16-19C      | Yeovil Area      | SOM    | G149   |
| JENNINGS   | 19-20C      | Chiswick         | MDX    | B311   |
| JENNINGS   | 19-20C      | Edmonton         | MDX    | B311   |
| JENNINGS   | 19-20C      | Tottenham        | MDX    | B311   |
| JONES      | 18-19C      | Hammersmith Area | MDX    | D150   |

| <i>Surname</i> | <i>Dates</i> | <i>Place</i>         | <i>County</i> | <i>Member</i> |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| JONES          | After 1820   | Isleworth            | MDX           | D150          |
| KAIL           | Before 1800  | Heston               | MDX           | P151          |
| KERSWELL       | 16-19C       | Crediton Area        | DEV           | G149          |
| KETCHELL       | After 1812   | Hounslow             | MDX           | C259          |
| LANGSTONE      | 18-19C       | Fulham               | MDX           | W236          |
| MIDDLETON      | After 1850   | Isleworth            | MDX           | D150          |
| MIDDLETON      | 1850-1900    | Harrow               | MDX           | D150          |
| MITCHELL       | Before 1860  | Kingsteignton Area   | DEV           | G149          |
| MORGAN         | After 1812   | Brentford            | MDX           | C259          |
| PATRICK        | Before 1850  | Hemel Hempstead Area | HRT           | G149          |
| PEAT           | Before 1850  | Chichester Area      | SSX           | G149          |
| PEEK           | 1750-1850    | Isleworth Area       | MDX           | D150          |
| PINK           | After 1750   | Isleworth            | MDX           | D150          |
| PRATT          | After 1912   | Stanwell             | MDX           | C259          |
| REEDER         | Before 1850  | Isle of Wight Area   | HAM           | G149          |
| SERJENT        | Before 1860  | Wells Area           | SOM           | G149          |
| SHEPARD        | Before 1800  | Any                  | MDX           | P151          |
| SHEPHARD       | 1860-90      | Fulham               | MDX           | W236          |
| SHEPHARD       | After 1900   | Mitcham              | SRY           | W236          |
| SMERDON        | 16-19C       | Ashburton Area       | DEV           | G149          |
| SMITH          | 1880-1901    | Acton                | MDX           | S262          |
| STAMMERS       | 1840-90      | Fulham               | MDX           | W236          |
| SUNDERLAND     | Before 1800  | Any                  | MDX           | P151          |
| TEBBUTT        | Before 1860  | Islington Area       | MDX           | G149          |
| THOMAS         | 19C          | Hanwell              | MDX           | D150          |
| WEEKS          | 16-19C       | Bath Area            | SOM           | G149          |
| WEEKS          | 19C          | Canning Town Area    | ESS           | G149          |
| WHEELER        | 1780-1900    | Isleworth            | MDX           | D150          |
| WILTSHIRE      | 18-19C       | Fulham Area          | MDX           | W236          |

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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*

**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.

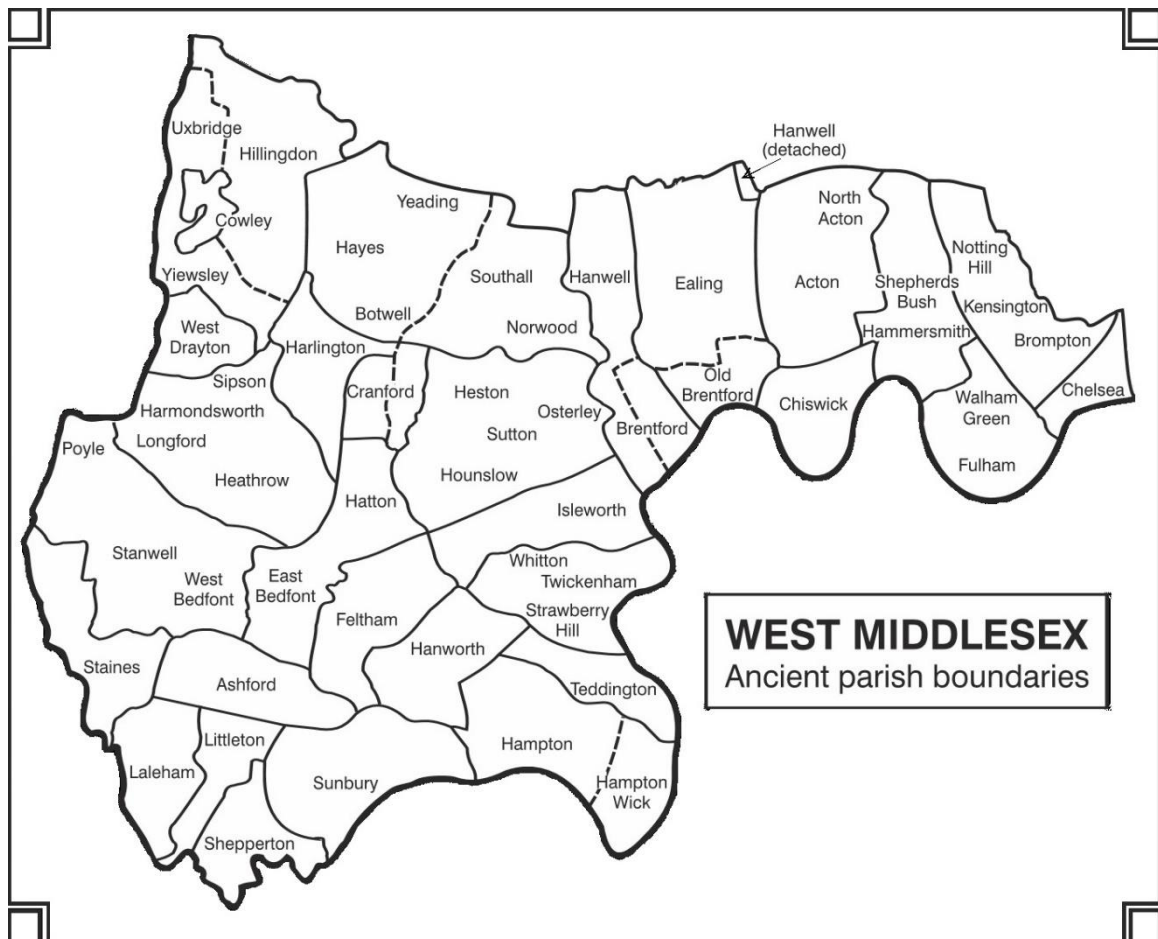
*All enquiries, with SAE, to: Ted Dunstall, 43 Elers Road, Ealing, London W13 9QB*

**Hampton Wick** Records of this village collected over 40 years of research. Will search records for ancestors etc. in answer to enquiries. £1 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