



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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Elizabeth Simpson AWARD

Encouraging excellence in family history journals

Federation of Family History Societies annual awards for the
best genealogical journals

WINNER, Small Societies

2008

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Executive Committee

Chairman	Muriel Sprott 1 Camellia Place, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7HZ <i>chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Vice-Chairman and FFHS Representative	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant Contact Membership Secretary
Treasurer	Brian Page 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6BU <i>treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Membership Secretary	Mrs June Watkins 22 Chalmers Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1DT <i>membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Programme Secretary	Mrs. Kay Dudman 119 Coldershaw Road, Ealing, London W13 9DU
Webmaster	Richard Chapman <i>webmaster@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Committee Members	Dennis marks, Pam Smith, Joan Storkey
Editor	Mrs Bridget Purr 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham Berkshire RG19 8XW <i>editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Society Web site	<i>www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
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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. Bridget Purr
8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 8XW

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

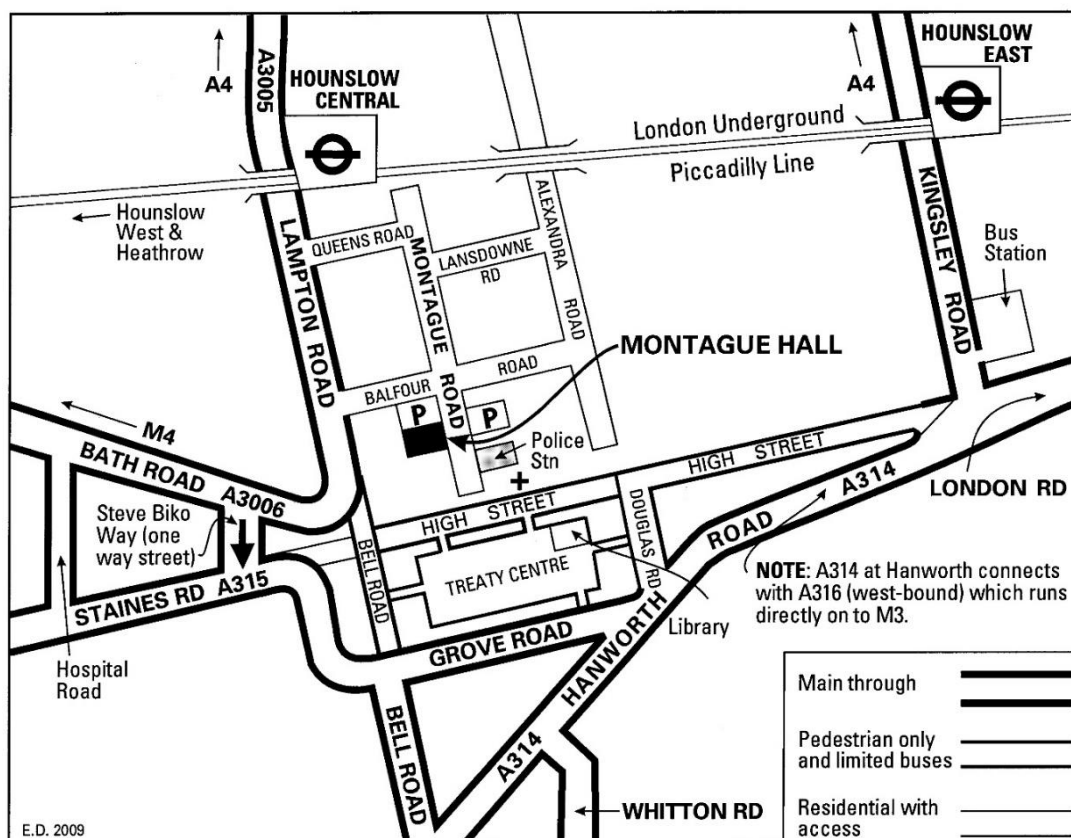


FUTURE MEETINGS

The following talks have been arranged:

- 16 Dec Harps, Haarnacks and the Naked Chef. *Moira Bonnington*
Four generations of harp makers in London
- 21 Jan Every Journey has Two Ends *Dr. Chris Watts*
A demonstration of research techniques into the migration
Of ancestors around the world
- 18 Feb Unsolved Murders in Twentieth Century Middlesex . . *Dr. Jonathan Oates*
Murders in the Metropolitan area between 1900-1960
- 18 Mar The Actress and the Chauffeur *Jeanne Bunting*
Tracing Jeanne's relationship to the chauffeur of Joan Sims:
three years of research and then ten minutes on the internet

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 on the Society laptop, e.g. Middlesex marriages to 1837 and other indexes; reference books; exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall - all can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully Accessible.



EDITORIAL



At the beginning of the new decade (although if you are of the other persuasion that will not be until next year) we have the exciting news that the Government has revived the DoVE Project. You may remember that this was the project to index and digitise the civil registration records of births, marriages and deaths from 1837 for England and Wales, which was halted when Siemens, the original contractor, pulled out with only half the records indexed. The procurement process for a new contractor will take place “over the next six months or so”. The ultimate aim is to create an online service which will include in the index the maiden name of the registering mother to birth entries pre-1911, the surname of the spouse in marriages pre-1912 and the ages of death pre-1866. (This information is already in the Indexes after these dates). No timetable for this service has been set but James HALL, the Chief Executive of the Home Office Identity and Passport Service - under whose remit the GRO Indexes fall - believes this can swiftly follow the completion of the indexing. This project was, of course, one of the arguments given for closing the Family Records Centre, so its completion is of great importance for family historians.

In October the British Library announced that it had received a Government grant of £33m to preserve and make accessible the world’s greatest newspaper collection. The present plan is to continue the ongoing digitisation of the most requested newspapers at Colindale (The British Library Newspaper Collection) and these will be available at the British Library in St. Pancras. Also the grant will enable building to begin on the new, purpose built, archive at Boston Spa in Yorkshire.

A third Government initiative is a new policy on archives, which was laid before Parliament in November. The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) reports that this is, “Designed to support archive services around the country particularly publicly funded services. ‘Archives for the 21st Century’ outlines the challenges currently facing the archives sector and highlights the important contributions that archives can make to local communities.” This is particularly welcome at a time of reduced services by many County Record Offices and Archives.

It has come to the attention of the FFHS that some local register offices impose an administrative charge in addition to the £7 cost of a birth, marriage or death certificate. The General Register Office at Southport has emphasised that the fees for certificates are set by statute and a Superintendent Registrar has no power to charge an additional fee. If this happens to you, the FFHS recommend that you inquire under what authority the local register office levies such additional charges.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

Sunday, 31st January, 2010: Bracknell Family History Fair, Bracknell Sports Centre, Bagshot Road (A322), Bracknell. 10am-5pm. The largest family history fair in the South East.

www.familyhistoryfairs.org

Friday, 26th - Sunday, 28th February, 2010: Who Do You Think You Are? Live 2010, at Olympia, London. Family and military history fair.

www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk

WMFHS will be attending Fairs at Bracknell and Olympia

WMFHS NEWS



In this edition of the Journal you will find a notice giving the date of the AGM next March. We are fortunate that we always have a good turnout to this important meeting, but I would urge everyone who can attend to do so. As you know, we are short of members on the Executive Committee, importantly we have no Secretary and our Membership Secretary is retiring having served the statutory six years. On the back of the subscription renewal form, which is this edition's insert, is a form you can use to propose a member for the Committee, either yourself or another person (but do obtain their permission first!). If you have such a nomination please send it to June Watkins with your subscription renewal.

You will remember that at the AGM this last March, it was agreed to raise the subscription to £11 for all categories. For those who have a standing order, I do hope you have contacted your bank - as a former Membership Secretary myself, I know how much more work is involved contacting those who have not amended their instructions, and all for an extra £1. Also I would plead for you to pay your subscription NOW. As I intimated, June is retiring in March, so she would like to have ALL renewals in by that date so that she is able to hand over the files in an up-to-date condition. End of sermon!

I would like to express thanks to a few of our Committee who had to work hard, in a very short space of time, when the NHS 'requisitioned' our meeting place, Montague Hall, for a distribution centre for the Tamiflu vaccine. They secured alternative meeting places (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham and Chiswick Town Hall), and contacted almost all of our members who attend the monthly meetings, so that only one or two people turned up at Montague Hall, and had to travel to Twickenham for the August Meeting.

Please check our website, or 'phone a friend' after December if you are uncertain about our January venue.

The sad news of the death of Janet HAGGER was announced in the last edition of the journal, but just after it went to press we also heard of the passing of Lewis ORTON. Our Chairman, Muriel Sprott, has written tributes to these long serving members of the Society.

Janet HAGGER, née FOX (1949-2009)

Short, blonde, tanned and chatty - if you ever attended our monthly meetings you would certainly have recognised Janet.

Janet joined WMFHS in 1987. Always a 'doer' she had served on the Committee as Programme Secretary with responsibility for booking, meeting and greeting our speakers. For quite a while she and Peter ROE were our 'tea people', serving refreshments at our meetings. Janet had also contributed articles to our Journal. At the time of her death Janet was our Vice Chairman and Representative.



Working as a hairdresser she was well known in Shepperton. In addition to her work and family history research, Janet enjoyed yoga and quiz nights. The highlights of her year were her holidays, especially when shared with members of her family.

Her death was completely unexpected and although a shock for her friends and family must have been quick and painless for her.

Janet's funeral suited her perfectly. The colour of choice was pink and much of the music was by Neil Diamond. Janet's daughter Lee, sister Sue and one of her colleagues recounted moving, amusing and very honest memories of Janet. It was even commented that when her coffin was brought in, it was the quietest entrance Janet had ever made.

Janet will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

LEWIS HORTON (1929-2009)

Quietly friendly, smiling, busy and taking care not to obstruct anyone with his wheelchair - this will be how many of us who attended our monthly meetings will remember Lewis.

He joined WMFHS in 1989 and was an active contributor to several projects. He also contributed articles to our Journal. Lewis joined the Committee in March 2002, but sadly had to resign for health reasons in March 2006.

Lewis began his working life with Fairey Aviation and when he retired he was a Director of Bell Punch.

For Lewis, family came first. Because of his daughter's membership of 1st Spring Grove Guides, Lewis helped with scenery at the Gang Shows and with loading the lorry for camp.

Lewis was diagnosed with MS 30 years ago and spent the last 25 years in a wheelchair. He remained as independent as possible, working as a Volunteer Room Guide at Osterley House and as an active member of Heston Probus Club, where he was always a welcoming face. He was President in 2000 and again this year.



Lewis' fascination with railways was emphasised by the playing of "Royal Scot", complete with full steam engine sounds, as the exit music at his funeral.

In the words of Lewis' friend, Rev. Arthur Spikins, "Lewis is an example to us all; we will remember him; we will miss him".

With thanks to Rev. Spikins for permission to use extracts from his tribute to Lewis.

ELIZABETH SIMPSON AWARDS

As one of the qualifications for affiliation to the Federation of Family History Societies, each Society has to produce a quarterly Newsletter or Journal. Elizabeth SIMPSON was one of the founder members of the Federation and she introduced her Award in order to encourage “excellence in family history journals”. One edition for the year in question is submitted and a panel of judges chooses finalists in the categories of Large Societies, Small Societies and an Overall Winner. I am pleased to inform you that the West Middlesex Family History Society Journal was awarded the Elizabeth

Simpson Award for Small Societies for 2008 at the recent Federation Meeting.



Bridget Purr receiving the Elizabeth Simpson Award: Winner Small Societies, from David Holman, Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies



Richard Chapman receiving the Elizabeth Simpson Highly Commended Award for the West Middlesex FHS Website from Muriel Sprott, Chairman WMFHS

As the new Editor of the Journal, I have built on the format and expertise of previous editors, Richard CHAPMAN, Yvonne MASSON and Pam SMITH. Thanks are also extended to Yvonne MASSON for her excellent proof reading and to Joan SCRIVENER of West 4 Printers, who ‘fine tunes’ the copy I forward to her.

Recently a new Award was added to the above list, that for “Encouraging excellence in family history Websites”. This year our new website was Highly Commended for genealogical websites for 2009. Special congratulations must go to Richard CHAPMAN, who has ‘learned on the job’ and produced such an excellent website.

WHAT KATIE KNEW: OR WHAT THE 1911 CENSUS DID NOT SAY

Geoffrey Best

BULTZ was the family's name, and no one in Shepherds Bush, or anywhere else, thought there was anything wrong with it until, one evening in September 1914, a stone crashed through the fanlight window of No. 10, Bloemfontein Avenue. By then my mother had become a BEST by marriage but her two BULTZ brothers were not going to have stones thrown at them. They metamorphosed respectively into Samuel BUXTON and Harold BROOK; and so, when their parents died, the curious name died with them, leaving its mark only on time-worn official documents and the prizes awarded to Katie BULTZ at school.

Where this name BULTZ came from, no one knows. It seems to have been invented by Katie's grandfather, when he set up in Soho as an artist-photographer in the 1860s. Before then, his name had been LUWTHER. We guess he was doing what was, indeed, common enough among artists and performers in those days: he continentalised his name to make it more magnetic and to boost his business.

There is no evidence that the dodge worked. His son, William John BULTZ, educated for the same profession, inherited the easy-going outlook on life that supported a happy home but not a prosperous one. From a brave beginning in a photographic studio of his own in Kingston, he was soon reduced to managing the studios of more business-like operators in the West End and renting the corner house in Bloemfontein Avenue. Katie told me that there was sometimes no money in the house, but since she and her siblings never went hungry, she supposed that her mother's more prosperous

relations helped them out. I note moreover, from surviving photographs, that she was always able to do herself up smartly when occasion demanded.



Katie, age 10

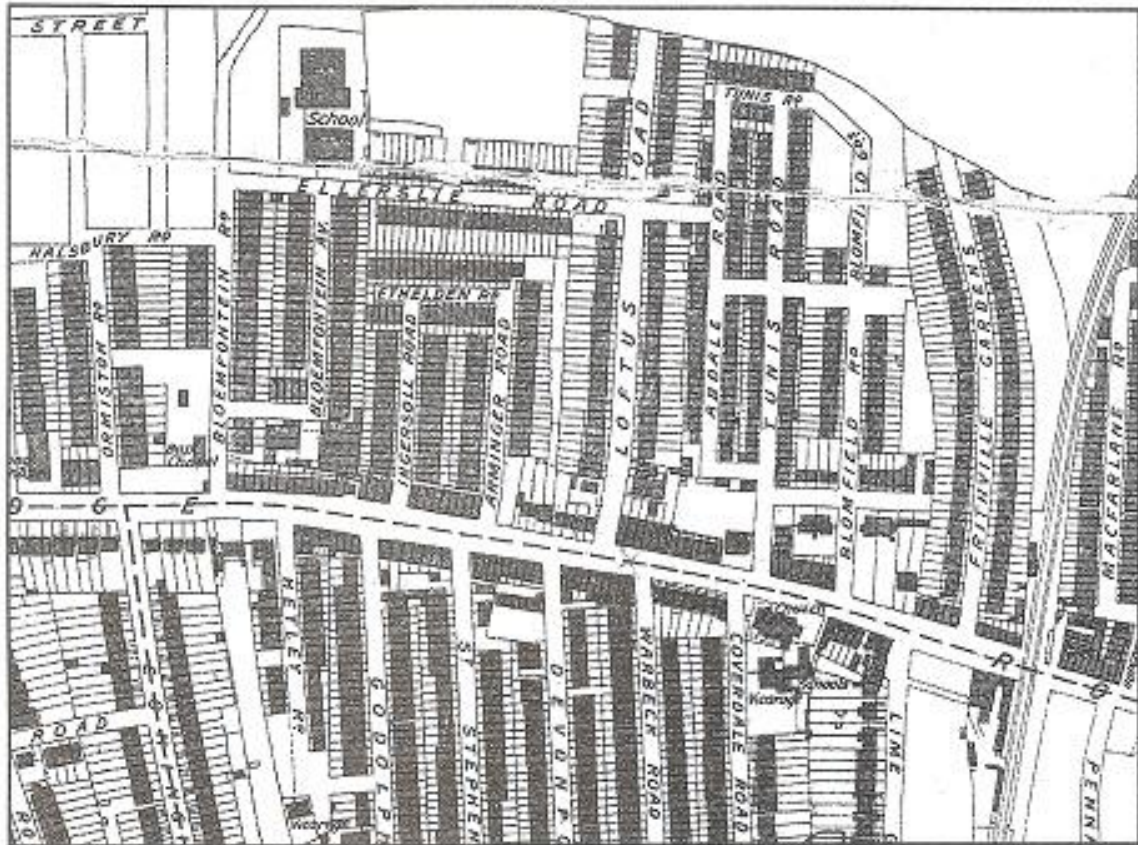
Katie was born in 1893. I asked her, when she was in her early eighties, to put on paper some memories of what life had been like in Shepherds Bush when she was a girl there. I drew up a questionnaire to prompt her: 'What was school like?', 'Where did you get milk from?' and so on. But she recalled a good deal more than I

prompted; doing so, I reckon, partly as a memory-test; she was loftily proud that her faculties were still in good shape.

I regret that I never studied what she wrote until long after her death in 1988. What she had done astonished me. She had drawn maps of her own street and the nearest half-mile of the Uxbridge Road, the local 'high street', and entered on them the names of most of the neighbours and quite a lot of the shops. She had also written down most of the neighbours' names and what she remembered of them, providing a sort of character-sketch of the street, something which is quite uncommon outside the realms of fiction or television drama, Bloemfontein Avenue lived again, an Edwardian 'Coronation Street' without the pub.

But how reliable were her recollections? I checked up on her geography of the shops. A 1901 Kelly's Street Directory showed her memory to have been excellent. She had correctly placed about 28 shops and other establishments along the Uxbridge Road: Fire Brigade, Library, 'Girl's Home' as she euphemised the 'Church Army Laundry and Needlework Home'. Of course there were changes between the making of the Directory and 1913, the year of her marriage. The Home and Colonial was not yet there in 1901, nor had 'our doctor' established himself at the corner of Warbeck Road, and neither had 'Dance Hall' yet appeared at the corner of Armingher Road. Her omission of 'David PINCH, Cats' Meat Seller' under the railway bridge surprised me, "the cats' meat man" having been listed as a regular afternoon caller in her street. Of course she had not remembered every shop - only someone like *The Thirty-Nine Steps*' Mr. Memory could have done that - but the many she had remembered were in exactly the correct order.

'When work as Historical Adviser to the Churchill programme in the BBC's "Great Britons" series a few years ago carried me to nearby White City, I took the opportunity to see what had happened to the street I so often visited, sixty years ago. The houses looked much the same. They had survived the Blitz (as had not the centre of her social life, the Shepherds Bush Tabernacle), and their facades were little changed. The side door of No.10 had been bricked up, its historic fanlight gone for ever. The short commercial stretch backing on to the Uxbridge Road was different, nondescript garages-cum-workshops having replaced the Old Oak Farm Laundry and the stables of the London General Omnibus Company. (Now I come to think of it, those stables must have made a mecca for flies). The Board School that used to close the view up the northern end of the Avenue has given way to a nondescript vista of cubes and shoe-boxes; but wishing away the parked cars as one has to do when city sightseeing, the scene could still be peopled with those modest Edwardians, in recalling whom my mother ingenuously revealed the aspirations of her girlhood.



The map is dissected by the Uxbridge Road, leading eastwards to the railway line and Shepherds Bush Green.

Taken from the Plan of the Borough of Hammersmith, 1908

The 1901 Census confirms in every detail her sketch of an upper-working-cum-lower-middle class community, more varied in occupations than I expected but overall respectable. “Mr. DEXTER, the Rate Collector, had an office in his house and we went round there to pay the half-yearly rate. I expect he knew most people in the vicinity and should imagine he had to go after defaulters.” Next door at No.8 was “Mr. MILLS ... He owned our house and a good many others ... a fairly small man with a beard, slow of speech but most business-like.” Close to the school at No.45 was “Mr. HOWARTH the Relieving Officer for the district ... we used to see poor people going down to his house for help. He was a North Countryman and had a strong accent. He was well built - gingery whiskers and red face.” And daily through the street marched, from his superior house on the other side of Uxbridge Road, the enforcer-supreme, “Mr. JACKSON, Headmaster of Ellerslie Road School. He was tall, very erect, black whiskers, sharp eyes, always went to school in frock coat and top hat and carrying an umbrella. His wife walked with him and she was Head of the Girls’ Department.”

Katie’s best friend until she left that school, was Gladys MINARDS of No.31. She knew this family very well. “Mr. and Mrs. MINARDS owned their house. He was a Shopwalker at Derry and Toms, which was then a very high class shop — so their house and their clothes were always

pecially attractive to me. They were natives of Cornwall and spent their holidays always at Polperro. A small bus used to come for them and all their luggage when they set out. He was tall, had a black beard and was a sidesman at Oaklands Congregational Church about five minutes away. Elsie was an older sister and both she and Gladys went to the best singing teacher in the neighbourhood and both were in request at all local concerts. Elsie married the son of a wine merchant. Gladys did not do so well for herself. Jack was very subnormal, poor boy, and could never do anything.”

Not much escaped young Katie’s eagle eye. Mr. BUCHANAN was a carpenter, Mrs. KEBBY a schoolteacher “. . . the son was clever, had a scholarship to Upper Latymer, (a fee paying boys’ school) was tall and died of tuberculosis at about 20. Mr. MATTHEWS “went to work with a bowler hat on and yet I think he was an artisan” (correct, Katie!) “he had a walrus moustache”, and “Mr. MEES was a tubby man with a greyish beard and owned the then called ‘Dry Cleaners’ shop round the corner in Uxbridge Road.”

“Mrs. BURGESS was tall and had rather bad teeth. She was a dressmaker and after I had left school she made dresses for me including my wedding dress.” The census ‘showed much dressmaking among the neighbours’ occupations, and not always at home: the two daughters of Mrs. CRUMP “a widow who owned her own house”, were “skilled dressmakers working for Peter Robinson in Oxford Street”, and Christine BUCHANAN, “very nice young woman, was apprenticed to a West End dressmaker.” Her brother “was rather lame”, as was one of the CRUMP sons. Perhaps they were among those helped by Bloemfontein Road resident, Mrs. WILLSON, wife of a “tall, very good-looking and sprightly” Whiteleys manager and deacon at ‘the Tab’; she “was reported to have money of her own, and certainly did a great deal for poor people in Shepherds Bush. She specially worked for the cripples, of whom there were many”, giving them “wonderful parties and outings.”

By nature superior and by total immersion a Baptist, Katie was not one to pass over the reprobate. It is surest proof of the street’s respectability that she noted only three possible fallings below that standard, and none of them serious - one, indeed, had its comic aspect. Mr. NETLEY “was the manager of the London General Omnibus Co. yard, which was opposite to our house. He was tall with a dark moustache and very grim. I don’t remember hearing him say a word . . . No doubt he had to be tough because the ostlers, blacksmiths and drivers came under his jurisdiction and they look a tough lot. If we heard a shot, we knew that some poor horse was meeting its end. Sometimes a horse would approach the gate and the next thing it would be galloping down the road. I never saw anyone get hurt but there was great excitement for a time.”

Mr. BURNETT, “rather a pugnacious man,” had “a barrel of beer delivered regularly.” This naturally excited Katie’s attention, but no impropriety seemed to follow: he was “some kind of superior sorter in the Post Office” and his wife, though “a large gaunt woman, must have been a good, busy mother.” The KEARSALL family however was “different from anyone else in the street. He often came home the worse for drink and next door neighbours could tell of rows going on in the home. He wasn’t a bad-looking man - tall and fairly well dressed. No idea how he earned his money. His wife must have been a good looking young woman - but she had a bad time with him and often had to help him along the street. They had a large family - all nice looking and looked well fed and not badly clothed. But they were not sorry for themselves and did not need, neither did they ask for, any pity. One little girl was called Poppy, which I thought was so pretty.”

Such was the street the young Katie BULTZ traversed every day for six years, to and from the Ellerslie Road Elementary School that almost all the local children attended. Her recollections of school are fascinating too, but there is no room for them here. In 1905 a London County Council scheme made it possible, by paying her tuition fees, for her to go to the newly-opened Godolphin and Latymer Girls’ School, twenty minutes walk away in Hammersmith. A similar scheme took elder brother Sam to Upper Latymer. “We were all ever so pleased to be in better schools and life then was really enjoyable.” It came to an end, however, when she was sixteen. Seemingly one of the headmistress’s protégés, she received special coaching for a



Katie age 19 as a bridesmaid to her cousin Catherine.

London County Council ‘Intermediate Scholarship’ which would have led on to a teachers’ training college, or even London University. But the family finances were so precarious, she had to leave school to work in the Post Office Savings Bank, entered by means of a national examination, in which she was placed fourteenth out of over 400 candidates. In 1913, doing better for herself than her friend Gladys MINARDS, she married fellow Post Office worker and fellow Baptist, Frederick BEST, and moved to Ealing.

Let this be her legacy, that she enabled us to put some flesh on the dry bones of what the 1911 Census tells us about the people in a certain street in Edwardian Shepherds Bush.

Having built a family tree on my husband's paternal side, we found that we had very little knowledge about any of them. My husband's father had died in 1952, and as he and my mother-in-law had only been married for eight years, four of which were during the war, she knew virtually nothing at all about his family - so we decided to look into the only person about which we had any information.

My husband was named after his father's younger brother, Alec (b.1919), who was a pilot in WWII. We had met his widow Gladys in the late 1970s and again in the early 80s, when she came over from Canada to spend a few days with my mother-in-law before travelling on to Holland to visit her husband's war grave. My mother-in-law kept in contact with her over the years and then a letter was received from Gladys and Alec's son, David, to say that she had died. By then we were looking into Alec's life but were unable to get my mother-in-law to give us David's address in Canada.

Internet forums can be a treasure trove. My son-in-law posted a message on the British Medal Forum, www.britishmedalsforum.com, asking about Alec's medal entitlement, which produced a link to the official historian of his Squadron, No.158. He did not have David's address but did have the address of the tail gunner from his crew, Ralph DICKSON, who now lived in Scotland.

Ralph had stayed in contact with Gladys and David since the War and after we had contacted Ralph, he gave us David's address. An email to RAF Hendon requesting information was unsuccessful, as we were not next-of-kin, but they did confirm that Alec's logbook was not one of the few retained by the RAF Museum.

We wrote to David, who called us, and we started to exchange information. In the meantime we had found a report on the website of an online Dutch newspaper of the interment of Gladys' ashes in Alec's War Grave in Holland. We also began the task of tracing Alec's service career in the National Archives at Kew. The Squadron Operation Records AIR27/540 provided details of each operational mission that Alec and his crew flew (aircraft serial number, bomb load, target, weather conditions, etc.). They led us back to looking at the records for the Heavy Bomber Conversion Unit (1658 HCU at Riccall, Yorkshire) from where the crew were posted but what they did not tell us was where the crew initially trained. For further details we needed Alec's Service Record.

David requested these from RAF Innsworth in Gloucestershire. The Record gave us the details of his service from enlistment in 1941 to 1945. Crucially

it told us what he had been doing from 1942 to 1944 and why he only flew eleven operational missions. Alec had passed out of pilot training with an exceptional mark and had been streamed as a flying instructor: most of his service had been as an instructor at 36 Service Flying Training School (STFS) at Penhold, Alberta, as part of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

We now knew the reason why Alec had gone to Canada and ended up with a Canadian wife. When Alec was posted back to Britain his wife and son came with him and lived with my husband's grandparents on the Staines Road in Twickenham, until Alec's death, when they returned to Canada.

The Squadron record from 36 SFTS contained a pleasant surprise in that it included a monthly newsletter containing details of life on the base. Alec was mentioned several times and had clearly become a much respected 'elder statesman' on the base at the time of the Unit's disbandment, at the grand old age of 24.



*Back Row, left to right: Ralph DICKSON, Ian CROAD, Unknown
Front row: left to right: Unknown, Alec ELLIOTT, Mick NORRIS
The two 'unknown' are Paul WATSON and Don McMAHON*

By then we had also traced Alec's promotions through the copies of the Air Force List at Kew (TNA) which details all serving officers in each quarter year, but during wartime this was published more frequently. The promotions were also verified online through the transcripts of *The London Gazette*, www.london-gazette.co.uk, where all service appointments and decorations are listed.

David had quite a collection of photographs of his father, including one of his crew while at 10 Operational Training Unit at RAF Abingdon, where they initially formed up and passed out of their course as Best Crew. In addition, he was still in frequent contact with the navigator, Mick NQRRIS, now also living in Canada, from whom we obtained many further details. Together with the tail gunner, they helped us to build a picture of the kind of person Alec was.

And his life before the War? We had always had pictures of Alec in a distinctive school uniform and from his Service Record we were able to identify this as Christ's Hospital - this is an avenue we still have to explore. Also from his Record we found that he had attended Sidney Sussex College,



Alec in the uniform of Christ's Hospital in 1938, age 18

Cambridge, where he read modern languages. The Historian at Sidney Sussex was incredibly helpful and sent us Alec's matriculation photo.

As regards further work: other investigations at Kew allowed us to follow up the Evader Reports submitted by the members of Alec's crew that escaped capture after parachuting out of the stricken plane on the German/Dutch border (WO208). Unfortunately the PoW debriefing reports of the two crew members who were captured do not survive in the archives. The other four crew members were picked up and sheltered by the Dutch Resistance until the end of the War.

The best result of our investigations is that we have re-established contact with a member of our family and we have both learnt a lot more about Alec.

Printa Inks Limited was founded in March 1934 and set up business in the Great Western Road in Westbourne Park, near Carlton Bridge, which was over the Grand Union Canal. It was a manufacturing and selling outlet for German printing inks. The inks were manufactured in a red brick building that had been the stables for horses used to pull carts for delivering various goods that had arrived from all over the country at the Great Western Railway goods yard in Paddington. There was also a long, narrow, low building that belonged to the forerunner of British Waterways, that ran along the side of the Grand Union Canal and this was where pigments and resins, used in the manufacture of the inks, were stored. The arches under Carlton Bridge were used to store tins and packaging.



In July 1936, Denis KERSHAW answered an advertisement for a Commercial Manager, to organise the office administration. He arrived by train at Westbourne Park Station, crossed the road, took one look at a “very disorganised mess”, turned on his heels and went back to the station, muttering to himself that he could not work in a dump like that! However, he discovered that he would have to wait an hour for the next train home and so returned to the factory, was interviewed and was given the job.

On 2nd September 1939, the German owners of the factory received word that war was inevitable and left rather hurriedly for the Continent. This left Denis in charge! He contacted the Custodians of Enemy Property, the Government Department that had quickly been set up to control such eventualities. The Custodians appointed Mr. E. Douglas MILLER and Mr.

J.C. BURLEY (both accountants) to oversee operations and Denis was left in charge of the day-to-day workings. They were instructed to manufacture paints for the war effort, in addition to the core business of ink manufacture.

In 1946, after the war had ended, these three key personnel negotiated with the Custodians and purchased the business. The name was changed to Printa Inks and Paints Limited, to reflect the changes that had evolved over the previous twelve years, and the business grew. A trademark of Neogene Paints was registered.

In April 1947, Cyril BLITZ, a young paint technologist, was employed to expand the paint department. It was soon realised that it was not possible to compete with the larger paint manufacturers, such as Dulux, and it was decided to concentrate on 'niche market' specialised finishes. Cyril had a flair for formulating paints for customers' individual requirements and was in his element!

He collaborated with Tom HARKNESS, who was working for his father in Kensal Road, where they sold canvas, some of which was used for cinema screens. Cyril formulated a reflective cellulose lacquer with aluminium powder that was applied to the stretched canvas and thus became the forerunner of modern day 'cinemascope'. Now on plastic sheeting, this is still manufactured by Printa Inks and Paints Limited to this day. The original purpose of the lacquer, known in the trade as 'dope' was to coat canvas used in the manufacture of small aircraft..

Another collaboration was with Britannia Stoving Finishers, also in Kensal Road and run by the ANDON brothers, and a range of stoving paints was introduced. This business has now moved out of the area, the whole of which has been cleared and is now known as Meanwhile Gardens.

On 31st August 1953, Paul KERSHAW the writer of this article, left school and commenced working for his uncle, Denis KERSHAW firstly learning the ropes in the factory and later in the office.

The business continued to expand and at one time 55 people were employed. In about 1970 a new lease for 21 years was obtained on the premises and plans were made for further expansion. But then came the bombshell! Notice was given that British Rail, who owned the freehold of the land, were to transfer the premises to London Transport, who intended to build the West London Bus Garage. It would appear that no one had realised that Printa Inks and Paints had occupied the site for nearly 40 years and was very much a thriving business. Furthermore, over 50 people would be put out of work. Naturally, the company decided to fight back. A Petition was sent to the Queen, through Parliament, and eventually a new site was found in Alfred

Road, Paddington, and sufficient compensation granted to enable a purpose built factory to be erected.

In 1973 the Carlton Bridge site was vacated, the bulldozers flattened the area and the Bus Garage was built.



For almost 20 years business continued under the Westway, where highly flammable paints and inks were manufactured. In 1983 the freehold was purchased. However, times were changing and the manufacturing basis of industry in the United Kingdom diminished to such an extent that there was little left in the area that required our specialised paints and inks.

In 1991 it was decided to make a fresh start and move out of Central London. A new site was found in Watford and the Company moved in early 1992. Even this move was fraught with problems because half way through the negotiations Crossrail announced that they would eventually require the Paddington site as an engineering depot during the building of the Crossrail project. This meant that the Alfred Road factory was blighted and could neither be sold nor rented. Fortunately Crossrail were persuaded to purchase ahead of the time when they required the land, thus saving the day. The sad thing is that the Crossrail project was put on ice and our lovely, purpose built factory, remains more or less empty to this day, although with the regeneration of East London for the Olympics in 2012, the Crossrail project has been reborn and it should be all systems go!

In 2009 the Company, now named Neogene Paints Limited, but still retaining the original Company Registration Number, continues to thrive. The trading base has changed yet again, with over half of the business being overseas. It is ready to face whatever the future holds in store, including 'the Credit Crunch'.

Illustrations by David Higginbottom of the old Carlton Bridge site.

Genealogy does not need to be all about finding your ancestors. This story indicates how it is possible to uncover living relatives too.

My husband's father was born illegitimate in 1902 in Ilkeston, Derbyshire. His birth certificate shows no father although, intriguingly, he was given the middle name Hartshorn. He never knew his mother, Sarah Ann WATSON, but was brought up by a childless couple, Fred and Ellen BINKLEY. My husband can remember the elderly Ellen BINKLEY teaching him to read at home before he went to school. Unfortunately, no-one thought to ask Ellen what became of Sarah Ann before Ellen died in 1939. So far as my husband's father was aware, he had no living relatives.

It seemed very sad to me that my father-in-law had no knowledge of his mother or her family, and indeed, I discovered later, it had also troubled him that he had been unable to discover any information about his family. Although my father-in-law died over 30 years ago, I decided recently to take up the challenge of finding out more about his mother and her family. The task has been made much easier than when my father-in-law searched, with the advent of so many online databases.

My first step was to try and find Sarah Ann in the online 1901 census, given that she had helpfully stated her occupation as "monthly nurse" on the birth certificate in 1902. I did a wildcard search using "nurse" as the occupation and immediately struck gold, as I found her living with a widowed friend, Mary A. GODDARD, and her son, William, aged 10, at 58 Sutherland Road, Normanton, Derbyshire. Her occupation was given as "(monthly) sick nurse (visiting)". She was the only Sarah A. WATSON in the census who was both a nurse and in the Derbyshire area, so had to be my Sarah Ann. Her birth year was given as 1870 and the birthplace was Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

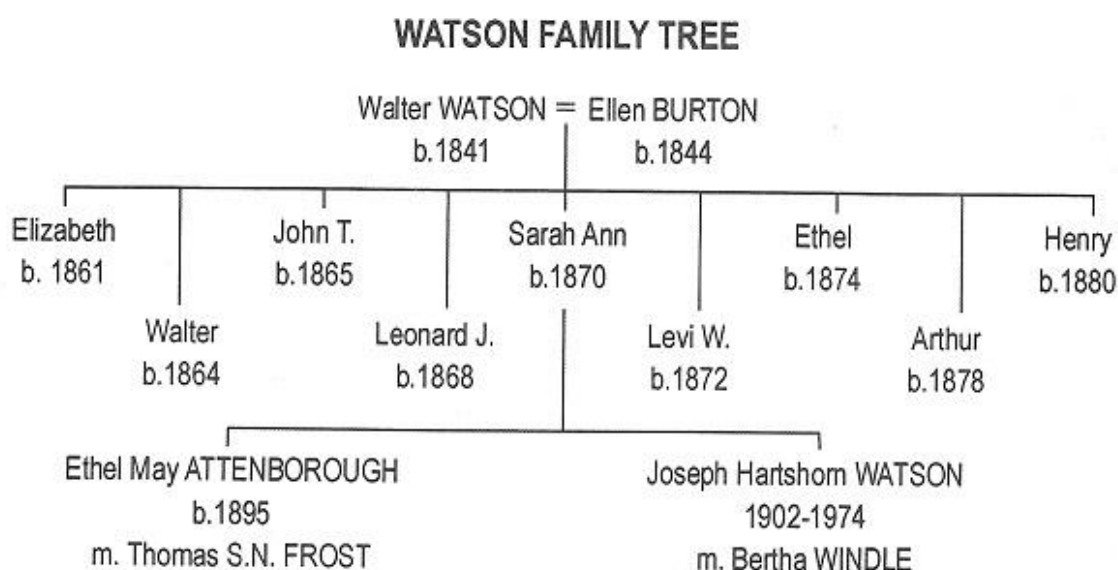
I next searched the FreeBMD website for the birth of Sarah Ann WATSON, around 1870 in the Basford area, since Ilkeston is a sub-district of Basford. I found the birth registered in the June quarter of 1870 and sent off for the certificate. From this I determined that her parents were Walter WATSON and Ellen BURTON and that her father was a railway labourer. I subsequently traced the family back another generation and from the 1881 census found that she had at least eight siblings. I had succeeded in finding out who Sarah Ann was but was no further down the road of finding out what happened to her after the birth of her son in 1902.

When the 1911 census came on line, I decided to look for both Sarah Ann and my father-in-law. I could not find Sarah, but did find my father-in-law, entered as Joseph Fred Hartshorn Watson BINKLEY, living with the

BINKLEYS in Victoria Road, Selston, Nottinghamshire and listed as an “adopted son, aged 8”. It is curious that he reverted to his birth-name in later life, so one has to conjecture that he was never officially adopted. Curious, in that case, why his mother made no contact with him. There were two possibilities, both of which would explain why I could not find her in the census. One, she had died; and two, she had married and did not wish her husband to know of an earlier illegitimate child. A trawl through the deaths in FreeBMD showed no deaths recorded, but there was a marriage between Sarah Ann WATSON and Edwin ATTENBOROUGH in the March quarter of 1906. The certificate confirmed Sarah’s father as Walter WATSON, the railway worker, although deceased. Edwin ATTENBOROUGH was a widower 23 years Sarah’s senior.

I found the couple in the 1911 census, Edwin aged 63, “unable to follow any employment, late coal miner ” and Sarah Ann aged 41. They had been married five years. With them was a daughter, Ethel May ATTENBOROUGH, aged 15, who I assumed was a daughter from Edwin’s previous marriage. However the girl’s Christian names rang a bell from somewhere. There had been a “niece”, Ethel May WATSON aged 5, living with Sarah Ann’s parents in the 1901 census. Those Christian names were such a curious coincidence that I decided to send off for the birth certificate of Ethel May WATSON, wondering perhaps if she could be Sarah Ann’s daughter? My suspicions were justified as the birth certificate showed no father and the mother as Sarah Ann WATSON. The place of birth, Eastwood, Derbyshire, agreed with the entry in the census.

So Sarah Ann had two illegitimate children! Why she opted to keep her daughter with her when she married and not her son is a mystery. It is also sad that my father-in-law lived all his life within a stone’s throw of his mother and a half-sister, about whom he knew nothing.



Further searching through the registers uncovered a marriage for Ethel May ATTENBOROUGH to Thomas Samuel Noel FROST in 1920 and the birth of a daughter in 1925. She subsequently married in 1953. Could this daughter still be alive today? If I could find her, my husband would have the opportunity of meeting her, unlike his father. The Findmypast Website has a section for searching for living relatives, using the electoral registers, and since her married name was fairly uncommon, i had no difficulty locating her. She was indeed still alive, aged 84. We got in touch and she has filled out our picture of Sarah Ann WATSON, whom she knew as a child. Later this year we are planning to call on her and exchange more information, including photographs. She was as delighted to hear from us, as we were to discover her, since she is an only child and has no children of her own.

It is fascinating to trace your family members in the past, but so much more exciting when you uncover family members who are living that you can get to meet!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given that the
Annual General Meeting**

of the

West Middlesex Family History Society

will be held on Thursday, 18th March, 2010

at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow



Reports will be presented by the Chairman and Treasurer and members will be asked to accept the accounts for the year 2009 and elect accounts examiners for the coming year.

Elections will be held for officers and members of the Executive Committee.

Members who wish to bring forward any matters at the AGM, or to propose nominations for the Committee, are asked to write to the Chairman at the address below by 4th January, 2010.

The agenda for the AGM will be included in the next issue of the Journal, to be published and distributed at the beginning of March 2010.

Muriel Sprott
1 Camellia Place
Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex TW2 7HZ

WHAT MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS DON'T TELL US *Wendy Mott*

In St. Mary's Church, Ealing, there are several memorials to the GULSTON family. The earliest is this one:

In a vault underneath / lie the remains of / Joseph Gulston Esq. who died December 13th 1737, aged 75. Joseph Gulston Esq / of Ealing Grove Middlesex / one of the representatives / for Poole in the county of Dorset / in five successive Parliaments / and a South Sea director / who died August 6th 1766, aged 72. Maria de Silva his wife / native of the kingdom of Portugal / who died November 19th, 1799, aged 84. / John Gulston their son / who died at Eton School 1764 aged 14. Joseph Gulston their son / of Ealing Grove Middlesex / and Member of Parliament / for Poole in the County of Dorset / who died July 14th 1786 aged 41 / and of Elizabeth Bridgette his wife / daughter of / Sir Thomas Stepney, Bart / who died March 9th 1780 aged 30.

Sacred to the memory of / Joseph Gulston Esq. their son / who died at Lausanne in Switzerland / and was buried there in 1790 / aged 22.

Researching, on the internet, into the people named I found some interesting facts.

Joseph, who died in 1737, was a merchant in Lisbon, son of another Joseph, who was Dean of Chichester. Joseph, Dean of Chichester, is not mentioned on the memorial but, at a 1998 auction of his portrait by George JAMESON, the following was said to have been later inscribed on the reverse.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Gulston / Chaplain and Almoner to King Charles I / painted by Jamieson 1640 / has never been out of the family. / He died 1669 will proved 1674. He was the 14th generation of Gulstons & was chaplain and almoner to Charles I and attended King Charles on the scaffold.

Joseph GULSTON (1694-1766) amassed a fortune as a financier and Lisbon merchant. He represented Poole as Member of Parliament from 1741 until his death. His wife, Mericas de SILVA, ('Maria' on the memorial tablet) was the daughter of a Portuguese merchant, and was a Roman Catholic. Mericas was a friend of Miss SIMONDI, the daughter of Joseph GULSTON's sister. Mericas came to London with the GULSTONS and lived in the family house in Pall Mall. It soon became apparent that she had fallen madly in love with the somewhat older Joseph and that he returned her affection. Because of her youth, their difference in religion and the intolerance of Joseph's sister, they married secretly in the Fleet and a second celebration was performed by a Catholic priest. So well kept was the secret

that the ensuing children believed Joseph to be their uncle rather than their father. The truth was revealed when Joseph was suddenly taken ill at Bath and was required to put his affairs in order. Such was the highly romantic story of their courtship and secret marriage in the face of his family's prejudice and intolerance, that it gave rise to the fictionalised account *Mericas* by Miss Clementine BLACK, an exciting novel that enjoyed wide popularity at the time.

The eldest son of the marriage, Joseph (1745-1786) received his education at Eton and Christ Church College, Oxford, and, on his father's death in 1766, inherited £250,000 in Funds, a Hertfordshire estate with an annual rental of £1,500, a residence at Ealing Grove, Middlesex, and a town house in Soho Square. In 1768 Joseph married the talented Elizabeth Bridgetta, daughter of Sir Thomas STEPNEY, Baronet. She was a noted beauty and an accomplished etcher.

Both she and Joseph were extravagant but she possibly more so than her husband, whom she predeceased by four years. He devoted his life to collecting books, prints, pictures, cartoons, etc., visiting private houses and public galleries to study and enjoy works of art, so that he became an acknowledged authority on these matters. Unfortunately, allied to these cultural interests, was a light-hearted extravagance, carelessness in money matters, and a physical indolence, which resulted in the dissipation of the fine fortune he had inherited.

Like his father he entered Parliament, being elected for Poole in 1780, a seat he lost four years later "by neglecting to get out of bed till too late in the day to solicit the votes of five Quaker constituents". Due to his lack of business acumen he found himself in serious difficulties, and in 1784 was obliged to sell the library he had assembled and two years later his magnificent collection of pictures consisting of 67,000 portraits, prints and scenes, came under the hammer. The sale of these took forty days. Hopes that this would solve his more pressing problems were unrealised, for the literary and artistic treasures were sold at ludicrously low figures. He died on 16th July 1786, some four months after the sale.

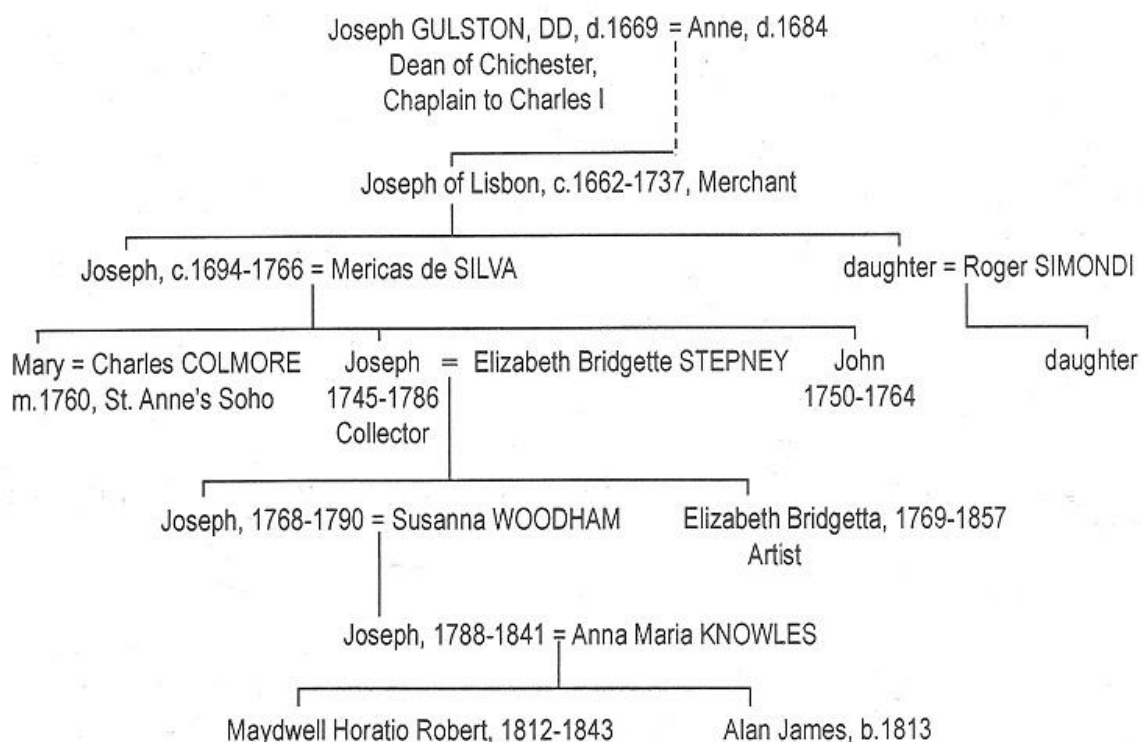
In his will he made:

'Henry Penton Esq. the sole guardian of my son Joseph during his minority and my brother in law Charles Colmore Esq. and my sister (Mary) his wife the Guardian of my daughter Eliza to live with the Colmores.'

Joseph GULSTON (1768-1790) having lost both his parents before he reached the age of 21, was made a ward of the Court of Chancery. Unfortunately, whilst at Eton, he developed a habit of hard drinking, and

having also been “beset by a nest of sharpers” he was sent abroad in April 1787. The intention was, by leave of the Court of Chancery, to reside some time in Turin with a tutor. But before his departure to the continent, he prevailed upon Susanna WOODHAM, a lady of great merit but small fortune, to marry him. They were married by Banns at St. Bride’s, Fleet Street on the 15th April 1787. Susanna followed Joseph to France, where he introduced her to his tutor as his wife.

When his Guardian was informed of this the stopped Joseph’s allowances so that the young people, who had got as far as Paris, could proceed no further. Joseph had obtained credit there of £1,200, but when no more money was forthcoming he was imprisoned in La Force Prison, in Paris. In March 1788 his wife was delivered of a son, another Joseph. A friend in London supported Susanna, Joseph and their son through this difficult time. In May 1788, after Joseph had been in prison for four months, the Lord Chancellor ordered £1,100 to be paid to release him and to bring the family to England. Joseph is reported to have celebrated this by giving a feast in the prison, with a profusion of punch and spirits," making his guests drink repeated toasts to the Lord Chancellor of England. He drank so much that he almost suffocated and a friend of his, a Dr. MACDONALD, is reputed to have revived him by copious bleeding.



After his return to England, 18 months before his coming of age, he once again fell into had company. He totally disregarded the entreaties of his friends, and scarcely saw his wife and family. He took lodgings at a coffee house where he entered into every extravagance, contracted many debts and lived in a state of inebriety bordering on lunacy. Being at last persuaded by

his wife, his friends and his physician to go to the continent, he went in May 1790, with his wife and son. They went to Holland and from there to Lausanne.

On his arrival he was attended by a Dr. TISSOT, under whose advice Joseph became truly penitent. Bitterly lamenting the errors of his life he left off his bad habits. But it was too late as he was reduced almost to a skeleton, and undergoing the severest afflictions. He did begin to mend but, when he came of age, a creditor in England started a suit against him. This threw Joseph into a state from which he never recovered. With his last breath he prayed for pardon and for blessings on his wife, his child and his friends. With two gentle sighs he died in the arms of his wife on December 18th 1790, at the early age of 22 years and one month.

Joseph's (1768-1790) sister Eliza also has a memorial in the church:

In memory of who has not in this world left her like / Eliza Gulston Stepney / who assumed the name and arms of Stepney on succeeding to her maternal uncle / Sir John Stepney's Bart Baronial estates in Carmarthenshire and elsewhere / She was the only daughter of Joseph Gulston Esq. of Ealing Grove in this parish / formerly MP for the Borough of Poole / a distinguished patron of literature and art / endowed by nature with a powerful and noble mind and heart full of benevolence / great and highly cultivated talents and encountered with firmness and courage / many and great vicissitudes and through all the changes and chances of this mortal life / ever clung to her own aspiration / In te Domini speravi / She departed this life in her house in Kensington Palace Gdns on the 24th November 1847 in the 88th year of her age / Her desire was to be buried in the same vault as her ancestors / This being prevented by the existing law, her remains are deposited in the adjacent cemetery.

Her deeply attached friend Anne Georgina Kemeystynte / has placed this tablet to the memory of her friend / as well to perpetuate her superior excellence as her own regard and affection.

Joseph, 1788-1841, lost his mother, Susannah, in 1806. In 1828 he was a High Sheriff in Wales. He married and had a family and made a success of his life.

To the memory / of / Joseph Gulston / of Derwydd in the Principality of Wales / and of Knuston Hall Northamptonshire Esq. / Born 17th March 1788 / died 24th March 1841.

References:

Carmarthenshirehistorian.org

Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century, John Nichols

My dear gentle mother, Elsie May KINMAN, was born in 1899, the third of four children of Herbert KINMAN, paperhanger, of South Kensington and Emily Jane KINMAN, née CROSBIE. Her siblings were Edwin Herbert (1884), Emily Jane (1886), William Herbert (1889) and Rosie (1893). There was a further daughter, Florence Isobel, born in 1902, but on her birth certificate her surname was given as SPELLAR and there was no entry under 'Father's name'. The family moved to several different rooms in the poorest parts of west London over the years but in the 1901 census they were living in Crescent Street, Kensington. I lost track of Elsie's father, Herbert KINMAN, after 1901 and have been unable to trace a death certificate for him, but on the marriage certificate of his daughter, Emily, in 1906, she states that her father is deceased.

My mother Elsie May, her younger sister Florence Isobel and their mother Emily, appear to have had a very hard life after Herbert left or died. Life in Victorian Britain was extremely hard for the poor in the early 1900s, no health service, money or assistance to be had. Doubly hard for a woman on her own with two small children and no husband to act as breadwinner.

In 1907 Emily was sent to prison for a week for her two children's non-attendance at school (possibly they had no shoes or appropriate clothes?) and the children, Elsie May aged 8 and Florence Isobel, aged 5, were put into the workhouse school, Marlesford Lodge in King Street, Hammersmith. When Emily was discharged from prison, she took her two little girls out of the workhouse school but six months later she was back in prison again for keeping the girls away from school and they were back at Marlesford Lodge for another week until Emily was released.

I then lost track of the family until my mother was 13 years old and her mother, Emily, married again, a soldier, Henry LEE. His father was also Henry, a rag and bone man. The story handed down to me is that Elsie was ill treated by her stepfather and was "taken away" and privately "fostered" by an elderly, childless couple, who ran a village shop in Hurtmore, Surrey. Apparently the couple just wanted poor little Elsie May as an unpaid skiwy to work in their shop.

Fortunately my Dad, Herbert Leslie WATKINS, lived in Hurtmore. He and Elsie were childhood sweethearts and married in their twenties. After Elsie's sad and traumatic childhood I am forever grateful that she met and married my Dad. They were devoted to each other and had a very happy marriage, although Dad was away at sea for long periods of time, as it was wartime and he was serving in the Royal Navy.

I do not know if Elsie met or talked to any of her family after being taken away from them, none were on her wedding photo. She did once say that her elder brother, William, went to Canada when she was a small child.

Tragically, sweet, gentle Elsie May was killed by a direct hit with a bomb in Farlington, Portsmouth, in 1941, aged just 42 years, while Dad was away at sea. Also killed were her two eldest children, Sylvia aged 15 and Arthur 13 (my brother and sister). My sister Jean and I were the only survivors.

I wonder if any of your readers have any knowledge of the KINMAN families who lived in and around Kensington in the late 1800s onwards? Most of the uncles, fathers, cousins and grandfathers were paper hangers. I believe quite a few emigrated to Canada.

My mother had a clock with "H. KINMAN" inscribed on a small brass plaque on the front (it was also lost in the bombing). She said it was her father's. Why would a humble paperhanger have been awarded a clock? As her father seems to have gone from her life in the early 1900s, when he was aged about 38 and her mother, Emily, married again, how did my mother come by the clock, I wonder?

What a joy it would be to hear from anyone with links to any of 'my' KINMANs. I have never known anyone from my mother's side of the family. All too late now, I fear!

Dorothy BARTLETT, (née WATKINS)
db.foxridge@virgin.net

FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT

The author and fellow family historian, Cherry GILCHRIST, is writing a new book, *Growing Your Family Tree*. This will be about the personal experience of researching family history, and she would like to include your stories and thoughts on your own family research. On her website is a survey containing questions as guidelines, but you can write as little or as much as you wish. Your personal details will be kept confidential. The deadline is 31 March 2010.

To see and respond to her survey, please either download it from her website, www.cherrygilchrist.co.uk or write, enclosing an sae, via her literary agents:

Cherry Gilchrist
c/o Rupert Crew Ltd, 1a King's Mews, London WC1N 2JA.

She would love to hear from you.

My cousin Rosemary lives abroad and looked for help in finding her paternal ancestors here. Our fathers were first cousins, so I knew about her grandparents and great grandfather, Edwin Pratt JONES. His having two given names helped in the search for his birth and two marriages.

We knew he had lived in the Notting Hill area, starting up a succession of small businesses, and when they prospered, selling them on and investing the profits in modest local properties, for which his name appeared in the electoral registers. Born at Turnham Green on 18 October, 1855, he married Eliza MAIDMENT in Notting Hill on 19 June, 1876. He eventually retired to the Isle of Wight, and died there in 1935.

Eliza's father, Henry MAIDMENT, was born in Mere, Wiltshire, his father dying while he was a child. We followed his trail to Gravesend, Kent, where he married Louisa COPLEY in 1851. Their first children were born in Kent and they completed their family in Notting Hill, where they had a greengrocer's shop in St. Ann's Road; Edwin Pratt JONES owned a house in the same street.

Henry MAIDMENT died of apoplexy in his sleep in 1879, aged 50 and there was an Inquest: his wife awoke in the early morning and found him stone cold beside her, as reported in the *Kensington News*. Separated by neither a new heading, nor a space, the report was followed by an item on a bicycle championship race!

Eliza was the first of seven MAIDMENT children: her sister, Elizabeth, born 1856, married Samuel Henry BROWN in 1876, and her brother John (1865) was living with the BROWNS in Averill Street, Fulham, after their mother died. James (1859) married Jane Score NEWMAN in 1880; their children were born in West London and Wandsworth. At various times James was a coalman and a cabman.

A birth brief at the Society of Genealogists showed a member with both PRATT and JONES in her ancestry - not, alas, any connection to us but she immediately sent me a page from the 1861 Census, which showed Edwin Pratt, son of Jonathan and Anna Maria JONES, living in High Road, Chiswick. Other siblings were Ralph M., Sidney and Annie. Jonathan was born in St. Albans, his wife in Hammersmith, daughter of William and Hannah BROWN, and they married in 1852. Jonathan was a corn chandler.

Children of William and Diana (JONES) were noted in the register of Dagnall Lane Baptist Church, St. Albans: Jonathan's birth in 1825 (though not of course his baptism) and that of his sister Phoebe, in 1822. Sadly the

register also recorded the parents' burials while the children were young: William in 1828, aged 42, and Diana in 1833. We wonder who looked after the children and eventually brought them up to London?

IGI FamilySearch offered a marriage for William JONES and Dianah WILLIAMS at Llangyfelach, Glamorgan, on 11 February, 1821, though we would like to be sure they were the couple in St. Albans the following year.

Another birth brief at the SoG led us to Phoebe's marriage in 1847, at St. James, Westminster, to William GREIG (1814-1897) a baker, son of Alexander and Elizabeth, and we found birth registrations for eleven GREIG children in the Turnham Green area, plus Phoebe's burial at Hammersmith in 1877 and William's 20 years later.

Edwin Pratt JONES's son, Sydney Edwin, married Emily Florence LINES in 1990 and their son, Edwin John (1902-94) was my cousin's father; he taught in Acton and later became a headmaster in Stourport, Worcestershire, where Rosemary was born.

Not knowing of any relationship between us, Edwin JONES and I were introduced on the day before a mutual friend's funeral at Ruislip. He commented on LINES being an unusual name - it had been his Mother's maiden name; we talked family all evening, having established that his Mother was my Grandfather's elder sister. This contact helped us both through the following day's ceremony, where he gave the address at his sister-in-law's funeral. Years later I met Rosemary and her family for the first time at her father's 90th birthday party; he had a phenomenal memory and at our occasional meetings he told me all he could remember.

The JONES family bible was found in 2007 and entries there filled in some gaps for us.

A family story related to two STEVENS boys, Frederick and Hedley, said to have been adopted by Edwin Pratt JONES on the Isle of Wight, where Hedley's wife had died. A chance discovery of her death in 1919 led us to probate records and their home address in Hammersmith; a year later, Hedley died at Chiswick. Brother Frederick was said to have emigrated to Australia, and he eventually administered Hedley's estate in 1924.

We still have to find the deaths of Jonathan JONES and his wife, and their son Ralph Milburn JONES. Are they on your tree?

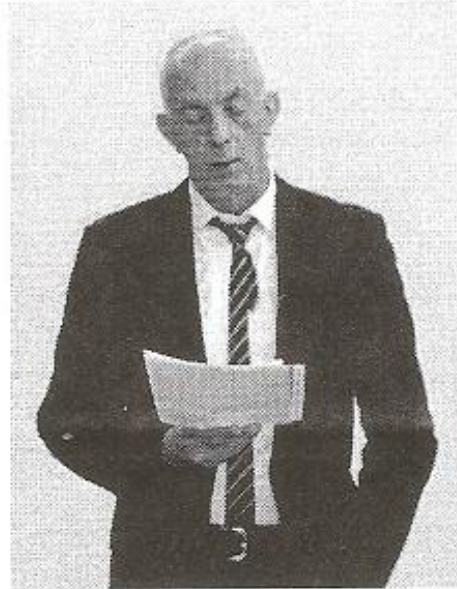
NOTICE IN GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE

Death, 22.4.1750: Mrs. Reed of Kentish Town. She had kept a mahogany coffin and shroud by her six years, when thinking she should not soon have occasion for them she sold them, and died suddenly the same evening.

WMFHS CONFERENCE LATERAL THINKING

The Society's One-Day Conference was held this year on Saturday 26th September at St Mary's Hall, Twickenham, and proved to be a success with those attending enjoying a well-balanced and Well-organised programme.

It was kicked off in his own inimitable style by renowned genealogist Michael GANDY, who spoke on "How English Records Work: what there is and what there isn't", beginning with advice on how to use the Hearth Tax and Muster Roll returns, warning that with the Hearth Tax, as the authorities did not care who paid, sometimes they did not bother to note if the head of house had died, and he might well go on appearing on the list in subsequent years. People are put off by medieval records as they are often written in Latin, but the Latin itself is not too difficult, there are courses available, and these records are gradually being made more accessible. Michael also advised looking at the records of the actual place our ancestors came from: they may well be mentioned, and a lot of local records are being digitized.



Family historians can be rather narrow-minded, not thinking for example to research the previous children of a second wife or children of a spouse from whom they are not descended, thereby possibly missing vital family links which were obvious to the families involved, but do not necessarily show up in the records. When a first wife died young after bearing a child, the second wife brought the child up from a very young age, and her relatives were also the child's relatives; a child might be apprenticed to one of these 'step' relatives. This is even more true nowadays when families are further complicated by divorce. So his advice is: follow them all up.

He touched briefly on the patronymic system in Wales, which prevailed till the early 1800s and on the similar system in Sweden. And in Sweden when a family moved to another parish this was recorded in the 'Book of Incomings'. English records are appalling with regard to movement of people, so where someone came from is often unsolvable. Not kept for genealogical purposes, Parish Registers can be somewhat minimal: early baptisms do not record parents' names as it was the child who mattered. With the introduction of settlement, the name of the father was entered as it was he who would have to pay for the child's needs. A marriage entry was

only to prove a couple were married, so a girl's maiden name was not important.

The point of birthplaces being entered in the census was also for the purposes of the settlement laws. It did not matter for instance where in Ireland an Irish person was born as they were not part of the same system. Michael explained the origin of the settlement system. With the closure of the monasteries charitable aid ceased till the Poor Law in 1596, administered locally, so a settlement had to be obtained in order to receive it. It worked through the Vicar and Parish, or the Quarter Sessions, not central government. In towns it was also through the local parish. By the early 19C the middle classes tended to be dominant, especially in the towns. Afraid of the revolutionary tendencies happening in other countries, with the Reform Acts the Government tried to improve the lot of the poor. Although since the 1830s church and state have become separated, local settlement has not stopped. It is still the basis of poor relief, although this now comes from the local council; you can only apply where you are 'settled'.



Fellow of the Society of Genealogists **Eric PROBERT** followed with **Lesser Known Sources**, which he described as information over and above the basic sources, mainly from the 19C. He listed a number of sources from which he has gleaned a surprising amount of information: magazines (not necessarily family history magazines); books; radio; hospital records; patents and inventions; societies and Post Office archives. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the Post Office was one of the biggest employers in the country. Their Establishment Books list everybody who received a pension, and there are comments about employees' characters.

There is no 100-year rule on the records. The house magazine, *St Martins le Grand* is indexed.

He advised looking at the journals of family history societies to see what indexes they have done in their area, and at the British Association for Local History website. We would be amazed at how many specialist societies exist, such as the Railway and Canal Historical Society, the railways and canals also being big employers. Each railway company, for instance the Great Eastern, has its own society. The *Gentleman's Magazine* contains not just obituaries but also 'anecdotes of remarkable persons'; it is jam-packed full of personal information about people and there is an index available, some of it online.

He advised us to look at books: their indexes especially contain lots of personal names. In a book about Edward ELGAR, Eric found a name in the index that he was interested in, wrote to the Edward Elgar Society and got a potted history of the person. You can do the same with someone mentioned in a radio programme. Biographical dictionaries, e. g. *Chambers, and Modern English Biography* by F. BOASE, do not only contain people in the upper echelons.

Parish magazines, from the 1870s onwards, are a neglected source. They are not always catalogued with other parish documents, so ask the Archivist. They do not contain just church news, but include school prizes, sports, horticultural events, etc. Company house magazines provide another wealth of information, such as the *Co-Partners Magazine*, the magazine of the Gas Light and Coke Company, another big employer, which contains births, marriages and deaths, retirements, obituaries, sports, family trees, WWI rolls, with sometimes a brief description of someone's war service giving more information than their service record. Banks have very good records and have an archivist.

Dictionaries of occupations, e.g. organs and organists, will give information about where people were born, worked etc. Local chemists' dispensary registers show what ailments customers were suffering from. Newspapers and newspaper cuttings: the National Newspaper Library Catalogue gives what publications were published in an area. ; Old Bailey Online contains accounts of trials. He saw an electrical switch in an exhibition which carried the name of the patentee and looked up the Patent Record at the British Library at Euston. Professionals all have their own institutes who hold information and some allow non-members to use their collections. Hospital Records: start with a death certificate. The London Metropolitan Archives hold Asylum Case Books (100-year rule). The Society of Genealogists Library and Guildhall Library contain much information.

Professional genealogists **Meryl CATTY** and **Audrey GILLET** then advised us to **Leave No Stone Unturned**. There is always another piece to the jigsaw, and another approach to be tried. Patience and optimism are needed, plus tenacity, but most important of all is imagination, and the skill can be acquired. It is good to share the problems and talk them through. Meryl and Audrey have both come up against brick walls but have had breakthroughs.

They advised us not to take family stories as gospel. These stories might have been transferred from one generation to another, or from one person to another. All family historians should have suspicious minds. Just because something is in print does not mean that it is true. And remember that indexes are not primary sources. If you get stuck go sideways (i.e. lateral thinking): always include brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts.



Meryl's 3 x great grandfather caused no end of trouble. She initially made the mistake of ignoring workhouse and overseers records, as she thought he was 'respectable'. Children were born every two years, as though he was 'always there', but when she did check these records she found Mary, his wife, being given money for her 'lying in' when he had been in jail for two years - he was on a prison hulk in Portsmouth Harbour. In fact two children were born while he was in jail and could not have been the father, yet the Vicar had recorded them as the children of 'Charles and Mary'. So do not take things for granted.

Meryl and Audrey cited a number of other case histories illustrating how to get round difficulties and find information. For instance, an ancestor's baptism could not be found, but a couple of the same name had more children than Meryl had found baptisms for, so a gap in this family's children could well be the missing ancestor. One ancestor was found in the index to *Changes of Name 1769-1901*, published in 1905, which can be seen at the Society of Genealogists (the licences themselves are at the TNA; from 178Z they are among the Home Office records). He had changed his surname to that of his wife as she was an heiress. He could have put an advertisement in the press, but this was not obligatory. A child can be baptised in the mother's surname and can change to the 'father's surname, and remember surnames could be spelt in many different ways, or changed altogether. Illegitimacy bonds, naming fathers, are at the local record office. Other useful sources include Death Duty records, the *Gentleman's Magazine* and the Index to Bank of England Wills - the wills are all Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills.



Finally, we were reminded that 'Family historians are not stuck: they are ancestrally challenged'.

Our last speaker was Stefan DICKERS, Special Collections Manager at the Bishopsgate Institute, who spoke on the Institute itself and the Bishopsgate Voices Oral History Project. Based on Mechanics Institutes, the Bishopsgate Institute opened in 1895. Apart from their collections, they also run classes, e.g. yoga and Spanish. SHACKLETON came and lectured in 1910.



The Library has a huge amount on London history, labour history, the co-operative movement and free thought, radicalism. The London Collection, much used by family historians, has 45,000 books and pamphlets, 4,000 illustrations and photographs, and a huge press cuttings collection. There is a full run of London trade directories on open access, plus a large and up-to-date collection of London guidebooks. These latter have been published since 1640 - they are a “brilliant” resource.

Amongst the labour history is the collection by George HOWELL (first Secretary of the TUC) of reports of trade unions, which show members moving from town to town. There is the Co-operative movement collection, especially of the London Co-operative Society, containing 3,500 volumes, 17,000 photographs, plus employment records and membership details. The Co-operative News had a ‘Women’s Corner’ about knitting, shopping etc. but from 1983 women members started their own movement, the Women’s Cooperative Guild, which has 117 branches nationwide.

George Jacob HOLYOAKE (1817-1906) became a friend of GARIBALDI, and formed a militia to go and help GARIBALDI’s cause - they have the muster roll of those who went. There are also records of anarchism, radicalism and republicanism.

With regard to Oral History, this can record memories before it is too late: books and records cannot tell us everything about the past. It captures personal memories and provides a lasting record, as well as a learning experience. It gives people a feeling of empowerment - that their stories are worth hearing. Everyone can do oral history, and it’s fun. The Bishopsgate Voices Project started in 2005. When people offer to take part appointments are given for a recording session. The tapes include reminiscences by gangland leaders as well as pensioners groups. There are already about 40 interviews lasting from 20 minutes to two hours, all indexed and catalogued and including accounts of childhood games, school, Jewish heritage, Bengalis, food and shopping, saving Spitalfields Market, the Bishopsgate bomb, the KRAYS. Future plans include trying to get a publication together, plus video recordings (for facial expressions etc.), online access and special exhibitions, perhaps posting some on You Tube.

A useful website for oral history is The Oral History Society: www.ohs.org.uk

Also look at: www.bishopsgate.org.uk www.twentiethcenturylondon.org.uk

Several members gave short talks at the WMFHS Members' Evening in July.

Brian PAGE spoke about the “WMFHS Index to the Protestations of Middlesex”, which is available on the Society’s laptop at Society meetings and Family History Fairs. It comprises a list of names from the Protestation Returns for Middlesex taken from adult males over 18 years old in February 1641/2. There is an 80% coverage of Middlesex, however Westminster and the surrounding parishes have been lost. The population which can be surmised from the Returns is 40,000. More names seem to be listed in parishes near the river, and fewer further away: for example Ashford 43 males, Twickenham 256, Cowley 27, Sunbury 111. For a printout of a particular surname the charge is £2.50 (see back pages of the Journal). Brian himself has found a number of people with the surname Page in various parishes in Middlesex.

Betty ELLIOT followed with an account of research she has carried out on her husband’s Uncle Alec, who was a pilot in the RAF in World War II. (See the article which is printed in this edition of the Journal).

June WATKINS then offered some timely advice about using the 1911 census. She had thought that this had little to offer her research as it would contain only her and her husband’s grandparents and parents, but she was wrong. Her husband Albert had known that his father had three siblings who died young, but from the entries in the 1911 census they realised that there were in fact four. They then contacted Gloucestershire Family History Society who sent details of the baptisms of the four children in Cheltenham. They found the fourth child’s death in Birmingham, which pinpointed when the family moved from Cheltenham to Birmingham. So the census yielded new information after all, and June warned us not to dismiss it lightly.

June followed with some information about getting more out of the IGI, and advised that we need to make certain where the information on the IGI came from. If you click on the Source No. and follow this through, it will give you the required information. If the information was from a parish register, contact the relevant record office to obtain a copy of the entry. Some record offices charge more than others -- sometimes a personal visit works out cheaper. One of June’s ancestors was in the Warwickshire Fencible Cavalry. June got the Muster Rolls from WO13 at TNA Kew, which gave information such as how much he was paid and how many days he was billeted, and the date of his discharge. So June said: use modern methods, but go back to the original source, and you never know what you may find.

Mary BICKLE showed us some books in her possession which belonged to her father, who was a Customs and Excise Officer. Some contain lists of figures which he had to use to work out the duties on various items. One concerned corn returns, another measurements of beer, and there was a 1921 Customs and Excise Yearbook. He even had to check on the entitlement of people who were claiming the Old Age Pension. Mary also has a book of her grandfathers, given to him by her grandmother. Her grandfather appears in the 1881 census but her grandmother mysteriously does not, yet two weeks later she gave him the book containing an inscription written by her. Mary also showed us a small box, given to her mother by one of her grandfather's sisters, possibly an apprentice piece made by her son.

Finally **Jill WILLIAMS** gave us a good deal of information about Irish Records. She warned that as many records are kept locally, we really need to know where the person lived in Ireland, in particular what county, and ideally what parish: church parish or civil parish. Was the person Church of Ireland or Catholic - the parishes had different boundaries. What townland did they live in? This is very important as there were 60,000 townlands and one needs to know both the townland and the county. The townlands were administrative units which comprised sometimes less than 10 acres, sometimes thousands of acres. A useful website is www.seanruad.com - if you put in the name of the townland, it will tell you what county, parish and barony it was in. Civil registration started in Ireland on 1 January, 1864. Pre-1921 (when Ireland was divided) the records are held in Dublin; after 1921, those of the Six Counties are in Belfast. The Mormons website www.familysearch.org has an index to Irish Civil Registration 1845-1958 online. Certificates from the Dublin Registry Office cost €10, but a photocopy of the entry only costs €6.

There are no 19th century Irish census records. The 1901 census is on micro-film, and can be seen in Dublin or at the Mormons' Hyde Park Centre, which has a good collection of Irish records. The 1911 census will be coming online free by the end of Summer 2009 (hopefully). Griffiths Valuation is also free online: everyone who owned or leased land or buildings is listed. Jill warned that the Irish are not 'hung up' on the spelling of surnames, citing her own grandmother, variously Ann QUAID, Anna QUAIDE, Anne McQUAID. Also, at various times an 'O' or 'Mac' prefix could be added or dropped - causing the surname to be at a completely different place in an alphabetical index.

The Irish Genealogical Research Society has a very good library near the Monument in the City of London and is open on Saturday afternoons. TNA Kew has Army and Navy records up to 1922, records of the Royal Ulster Constabulary 1836-1922, and State Papers up to 1979, plus some trade directories from the 19th century to 1920. The Society of Genealogists also

has a wide variety of material including parish registers, directories etc. The British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale receives copies of all Irish newspapers, although there are no plans at present to digitise them as part of their digitisation programme. Y.M.

Researching From Newspapers, Roy Stockdill - 20 August

A newspaperman for fifty years, a former editor of the Journal of One-Name Studies and member of the Board of the Society of Genealogists, Roy began by pointing out the irony of talking about newspapers just now, when they are at their lowest ebb with circulations and advertisement revenues falling, mostly because of the 'freebies' now available plus TV news and the Internet. But this talk was about family history research in 'old' newspapers. He warned that you do get sidetracked because they are full of fascinating stuff - a mirror held up to the society our ancestors lived in. It is obvious that our ancestors had the same appetite for gossip and scandal as we do.

Roy recommended reading Jeremy GIBSON's *Guide to Local Newspapers 1750-1920 in England and Wales*, published by the Federation of Family History Societies, a classic guide to where newspapers are held county by county, plus his own four-page article, 'Ancestors in Print', in No.127 (Summer 2008) of *Practical Family History*. The Colindale Newspaper Library's 19th century newspapers are searchable online through the GALE literary website, www.eogn.com available free if you are a member of a County Library; Roy got over 12,000 hits for one variant of his name: STOCKDALE, and 20 for STOCKDILL.

The first newspaper appeared in Germany in 1609, and the first in Britain was produced by Thomas Armstrong in 1621 at Popes Head Alley, London, but no known copies survive. In 1657 the *Public Advertiser* began regular advertisements, and the first Personal Column appeared in *The Times* in 1886. In the 1750s the first newspaper columnist was John HILL of Peterborough, who called himself 'The Inspector'. The first horoscope appeared in 1930 in the *Sunday Express*.

Once upon a time newspapers were virtually the only form of communication. At first bought by the upper classes, by the 19th century, they became more widely accessible; every town had a reading room. Not just the great and the good were mentioned in newspapers, but ordinary people too. If ancestors were involved in business, trade, a trade union, the church, involved in an accident, appeared in court (even as a witness), got married or murdered, they are bound to have appeared in a newspaper. Black sheep - beloved of family historians - will almost inevitably appear.

Newspapers are an excellent source of background information, covering for

example local industries where our ancestors worked. In the Births, Marriages and Deaths section, even working people announced a new addition to the family and they also feature in obituaries. The practice of reporting funerals with lists of mourners has been discontinued, but this is another invaluable source. If an ancestor was in an accident, there was always an inquest. The survival of Coroners' Reports is so patchy you are more likely to find a report in the local paper and these are sometimes more accurate than the official report. Do not think your ancestors will not appear in the *Gazettes*, produced in London, Edinburgh and Belfast, and now online. Roy found his father in the *London Gazette*, which includes the dissolving of businesses, medals awarded, military promotions etc. Reports from the *Pall Mall Gazette* were reprinted in local papers.

Roy concluded with some examples found in papers of the sort of personal information which he finds fascinating or amusing, such as a so-called 'wife sale', the marriage of two one-legged people, and the oldest surviving triplets (he found he was distantly related to them). Y.M.

Child Crime and Punishment in the Victorian Era, George Smith – 17 September

George Smith is a professional genealogist. Chairman of the Barking & Dagenham Branch of the East of London Family History Society, he took part in the Radio 4 series "What your ancestors did for a living" and was a speaker at the BBC Family History Day in conjunction with the "Who do you think you are?" TV programme.

George began by reminding us that we should never neglect newspapers and wills when researching our ancestors. Sometimes even agricultural labourers left wills. When discussing crime, we must remember that many people would have been involved - the perpetrators, their victims, witnesses to the crime, police constables, jurors and the judges. In addition, there were many minor crimes, such as failing to attend church, which could lead to people appearing in court. All in all, it is well worth looking at criminal records.

In the 19th century, many poor vagrant children could only survive by stealing or, for girls, by prostitution. If caught, they were imprisoned. Gradually it was recognised that prison could become a school for teaching these youngsters new tricks of the trade, so in March 1850, a 'Bill for Correction and Reformation of Young Offenders' was passed, which led to non-custodial punishments for first offences. However, for some young offenders, prison was preferable to normal life. In prison they were protected from the elements and were fed regularly, even if poorly. Home conditions, where there was a home, could be

appalling and several examples were given of poor and feckless parents who set dreadful standards for their children. Fagin, in *Oliver Twist*, is believed to be based on a real person.

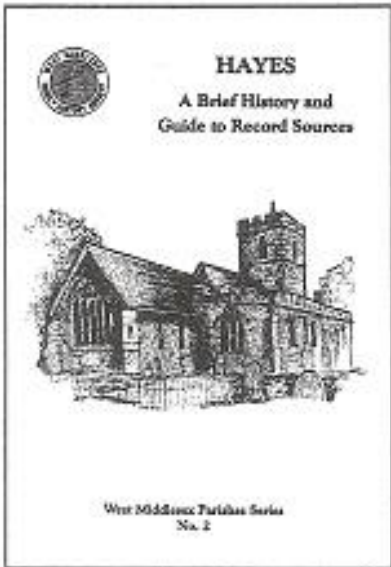
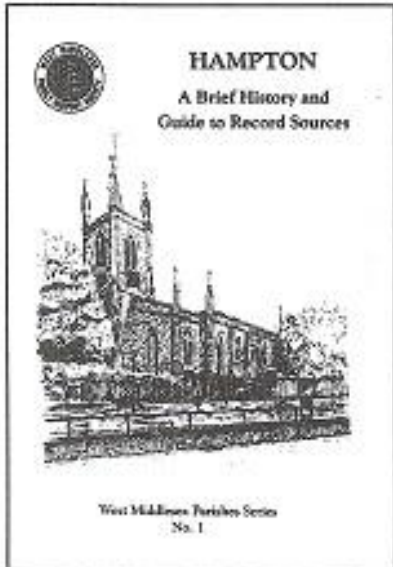
Quarter sessions and petty sessions records should be searched for incidences of child crime. In Middlesex in 1856 alone, 3,606 boys and 642 girls were committed to prison. Many children were imprisoned simply for being vagrants - they may not have been found committing any crime. In 1876 Dr. BARNARDO estimated that there could be as many as 30,000 children living on the streets of London.

Examples of records shown included cases of three year olds being sentenced to seven years imprisonment. Whilst in prison children were subject to floggings, picking oakum, working the treadmill or turning the screw. Boys could be put in a straitjacket for four to six hours if unable to turn the screw. On release from prison many child offenders were sent to Industrial Schools or training ships. Between 1841 and 1850 about 2,000 convicts, many of them children, were transported to Hobart, Tasmania.

The records which exist vary from place to place both in quality and quantity. Where records do exist they are very useful sources of personal information and some even include photographs. Check with County Record Offices and Family History Societies in the areas you are researching to find which records exist and whether any have been indexed and published. The National Archives has a series in PCON2/1132 et seq, but this has not been indexed.

M.S.

West Middlesex Parish Series

	<p>Buy your copy of these West Middlesex Family History Society publications from</p> <p>Mr. Jim Devine 35 Ravendale Road Sunbury-on-Thames Middlesex TW16 6PJ</p> <p>£4.50 for the UK £5.00 overseas</p>	
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WORLD WIDE WEB

Some new records online

- Several new indexes have been added to Ancestry in the past three months. One I think most of us will be interested in is London parishes registers from 1538-1900. The registers from 1812 onwards have been indexed and can be searched via various fields, but for the earlier years the indexes will not be available until early 2010, although the digitized images can be viewed.

If you have a man of the cloth in your family tree, you can search Crockford's Directories 1858-1932: around 250,000 names of Anglican Clergy and details of English, Welsh and Irish Benefices and Clergy.

For ancestors in India, try the East India Directory 1844, or Thacker's Indian Directory 1895.

Finally, the registers for 1.4 million criminal trials in England and Wales, containing 900,000 sentences of imprisonment, 97,000 transportations and 10,300 executions, have been added to their England & Wales Criminal Registers 1791-1892 collection.

www.ancestry.co.uk

- The images of the 1881 census have been added to FindMyPast, an alternative to Ancestry if you are seeking a 'missing' forebear. You can also search the 1911 Census on this website and they have introduced a separate annual subscription, which is the equivalent to 15 pay-as-you-go payments.

www.findmypast.com

Thanks to the member who gave me details of the next three sites at a recent meeting, I do apologise that I have mislaid your name.

- If you are seeking living friends or family, 192.com has updated 380,000 Electoral Roll records, which include the name and address registrations from the 2009 Electoral Roll

www.192.com

- Lambeth Palace archives have produced the first in what will be a three-times-a-year series of newsletters. Topics include: the Mother's Union Archive; Sion College Collection; Henry V111; writing the Middle Ages and Modern Religious History.

www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/files/newsletter_1.pdf

- If you are seeking maps showing where your ancestors lived, try this

website, although not exclusively dedicated to London, a number of London maps can be found there in high quality images.

www.archivemaps.co/mapco/

- Have you researched your medieval ancestors? There is a website containing 250,000 records of soldiers who fought in the Hundred Years War between 1369 and 1453; it includes the names of archers who served with Henry V at Agincourt.

www.medievalsoldier.org

Thanks to Muriel Sprott for this information.

- The Family Relatives website is adding school registers to its collections. Initially they number over 120,000 pupils and teachers, the level of detail providing a potted biography. The earliest records date back to 1500.

www.familyrelatives.com

- June Watkins has passed to me a notice regarding the wonderfully named Teapot Genealogy website. This is an Australian history research company that works in conjunction with State Records, New South Wales, the government body responsible for keeping historical records. They have issued a new CD (also in book form) of the Convict Index to Road Gangs. Do visit their website for details of this publication and other CDs and books.

www.teapotgenealogy.com

- Irish ancestors? All 32 counties of the 1911 census are free online at

www.census.nationalarchives.ie

- Scottish ancestors? Indexes (although not images) to modern marriage records from 1934-2006 have been added to the Scotland's People website. This now gives the range of statutory records as indexes of Scottish births and deaths (1855-2006), marriages (1855-2006); and images of births [1855-1908), marriages (1855-1933) and deaths (1855-1958)

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

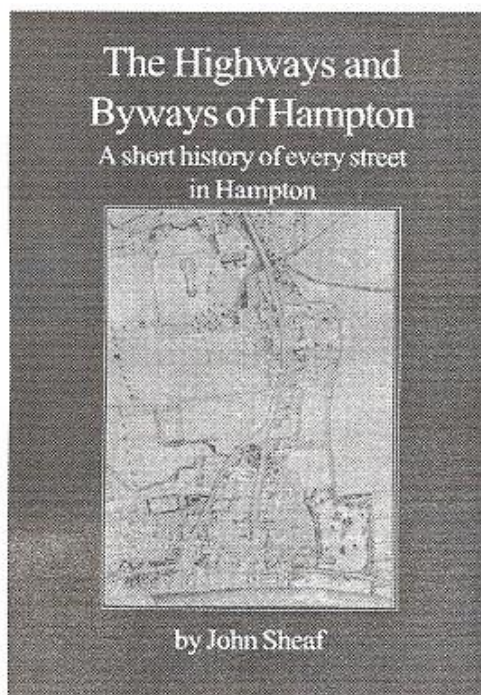
- Many of you will have Canadian family members in your tree: the Libraries and Archives Canada website has added a database of over 200,000 people who received Canadian naturalisation between 1915 and 1932.

<http://tinyurl.com/lufdd9>

- Overseas marriage records from 1861-1921 have been added to the BMD Registers service and also the Genealogist website.

www.bmdregisters.co.uk www.thegenealogist.co.uk

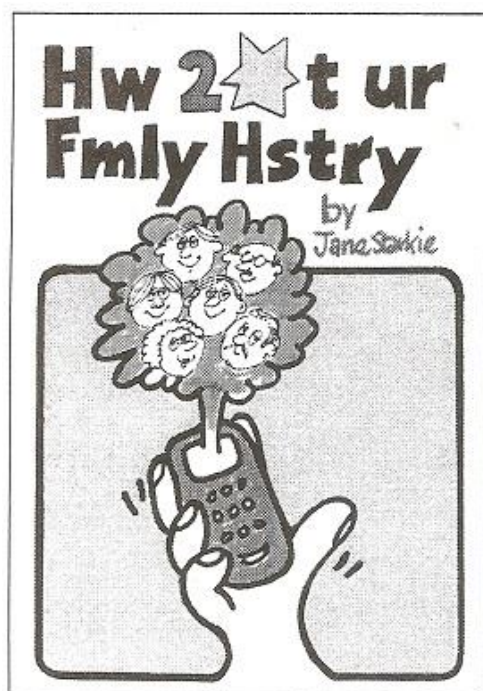
The Highways and Byways of Hampton, A short history of every street in Hampton, by John Sheaf (Borough of Twickenham Local History Society 2009) ISBN 978 0 903341 81 3 £3.50



John Sheaf has put a tremendous amount of research into the production of his latest hook on Hampton. Every street in the village is listed and given a reference to the four maps produced in the centre of the book. The date when each street was built up is noted, with a brief history of who owned the land prior to its development and, where it is known, the reason why the street was so named.

For anyone living in Hampton, or with Hampton connections, it makes a welcome addition to the history of the village.

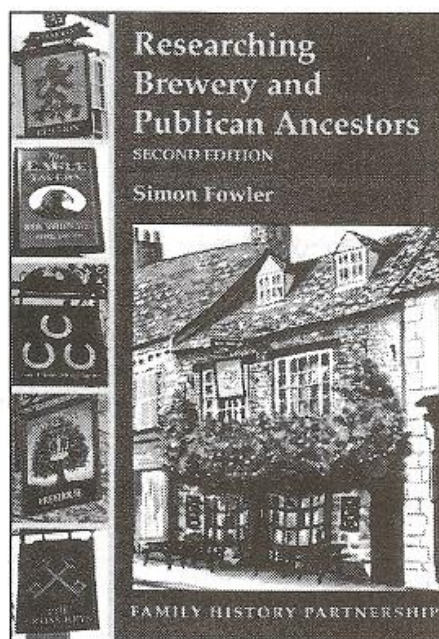
Hw 2 *1 ur Fmly Hstry by Jane Starkie (The Family History Partnership) ISBN: 978 1 906280 04 8, £12.95



A perfect Christmas present for your children or grandchildren to start them on the long road of family history. Aimed at the 9-16 age group, this lavishly illustrated book does not attempt to go into details about how to trace your family tree but does include chapters describing civil registration and parish registers. There is advice on how to set out a family tree, and to engage younger readers it includes a wordsearch and a crossword. Each chapter has a useful list of "Points to Remember" and I particularly liked the list of "Things your Great ' Grandmother might never have done" The book is written in a style to tempt all, of whatever age, to have a go.

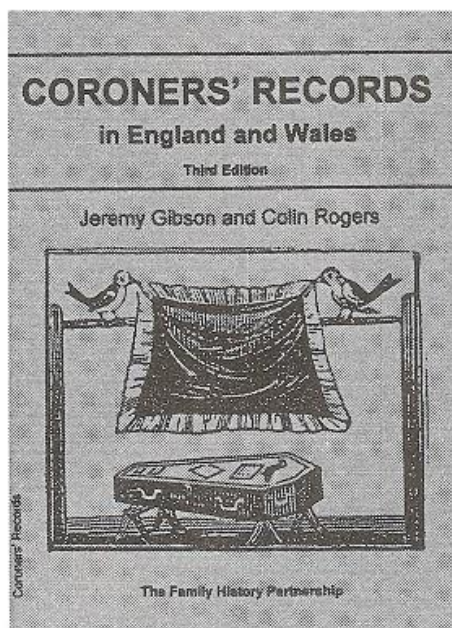
Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors by *Simon Fowler* (*Family History Partnership* 2009) ISBN: 978 1 906280 12 3, £5.95

With more than 100,000 licensees in Victorian Britain, plus those who worked in the breweries, it is not surprising that many of us have publican ancestors. This second edition of Simon Fowler's book contains a great deal of useful information in a small space. The first part gives a brief history of the public house and the terminology relating to those who worked there. The second half concentrates on where to find the relevant records, and it concludes with a glossary of terms and a list of books to further your knowledge. A useful reference book to add to your bookshelf.



Coroners' Records in England and Wales by *Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers* (*The Family History Partnership* 2009) ISBN:978 1 906280 13 0, £4.50

Coroners have had a duty to investigate cases of sudden death since 1194 and this third edition of Jeremy Gibson's well known guide, updated by Colin Rogers, attempts to list all those records still extant. The introduction explains that there are special rules covering access to modern records less than 75 years old and warns that many are destroyed when they are over 15 years old. The glossary of terms and the bibliography are useful reference points. The list of records is given county by county with the dates of records which still survive and where they can be accessed.



The Highways and Byways of Hampton can be purchased through the WMFHS bookstall: contact Janice Kershaw at 241 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 4SY. Please add £1 p&p.

Books published by The Family History Partnership can be purchased using the order form issued in the September Journal.

HELP!

The BUTLERs of Lampton, Heston and Hounslow

Rod BUTLER is urgently seeking information on some early BUTLERs who once lived around Heston and Lampton. Many of them were postal workers, farmers and brick makers. One family group ended up in Tasmania, another in Canada and a large one remained in England. His 4 x Gt. Grandfather, George BUTLER, a farmer and brickmaker, was born around 1725 and died in 1791. Rod has a copy of his Will which lists two sons, John George and William, and one daughter, Sarah. He has been looking for the names of George's parents and any other ancestors. It is known that a number of BUTLERs lived and died in the area around St. Leonard's in Heston before the 1700s but he cannot seem to connect any of them to his George BUTLER (1725-1791) and his reported wife, Elizabeth.

Rod has hopes that someone connected with the Society might be able to assist him in finding these ancestors. Perhaps one of you could get him on the right track as he seems to have arrived at the point where information is either non-existent or very difficult to uncover? Any help will be much appreciated.

Rod Butler: randjbutler@shaw.ca

John ELLIS

Frank BROOKS would like to know of any descendants of John ELLIS, aka Edward BROOKS, born Rochester, Kent, in 1847, died 1911.

Some time between 1891 and 1897 John ELLIS changed his name to Edward BROOKS. He had nine children under the name of ELLIS and a further four under the name of BROOKS. All those under the name of BROOKS have been traced, but nothing is known of the ELLIS side of the family. Most of his life seems to have been lived in the London area. He was a watch maker/ repairer by trade.

Frank Brooks: *frank.brooksl @virgin.net*

William RADCLIFFE

Brian JONES is seeking information on William RADCLIFFE who, he thinks, had a hairdressing business in or near Hampton 'Wick, some time between World Wars One and Two. It is possible that its name was, or included the word "LATASK", or something similar. William's widow, Lucy RADCLIFFE, was living in Station Road, Hampton Wick, when she died in 1951, and her daughter, Kitty WHITE, was living in Ruislip.

Brian Jones, 20 Masefield Crescent, Abingdon, OX14 5PH.
brian.jones@catfishplus.com

George John AMBRIDGE

Tricia Davies has a query regarding her Great Grandfather, George John AMBRIDGE, who was born in 1845 in West End, Northolt, and died in 1924 in the Isleworth Workhouse. From 1851 onwards the census records him as either an unskilled labourer or a gardener, living in Isleworth. George told Tricia's Father that he used to walk to Wales for work and would be away for up to eighteen months at a time. Did he go with workers from Isleworth - do any other families have similar stories?

Glamorgan Record Office has no knowledge of an influx of people from London seeking work in the latter part of the 19C, although there would have been unskilled work available in the mines or steel works.

Tricia.Davies@btinternet.com

THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY

This Society holds its meetings either at

The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road
London EC1M 7BA

or the

Hyde Park Family History Centre, 64-68 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PA
(*opposite the Museums exit from South Kensington Tube Station*)

Non-members are most welcome and WMFHS Members may find topics of interest in the programme.

Saturday, 3 Oct, 11am. John Titford - SoG.

“Ay up mi Duck”, a history of British accents and dialects.

Would you have understood your ancestors when they spoke? An in-depth look at the development of the English language and its accents and dialects, complete with examples from around the country and snippets of Anglo-Saxon, Chaucer and Shakespeare.

Formerly a teacher and lecturer in English language and literature in schools and colleges, John Titford now works as a writer, broadcaster, researcher and genealogical bookseller and is a regular feature writer and genealogical consultant for *Family Tree Magazine*.

Saturday, 9 Jan 2010, 11am. Andrew Dobraszczyc - Hyde Park FH Centre.

Making sense of the sources for genealogists working in the Staffordshire Potteries and its vicinity.

Saturday, 10 Apr 2010, 11am. Howard Benbrook - SoG.

What's in a name?

Saturday, 3 Jul 2010, 11am. Richard Ratcliffe - Hyde Park FH Centre

Wills and Inventories

HELP!

Margaret ROADS, 13 Clydesdale Crescent, Spalding, PE11 3GQ

I see from the West Middlesex FHS journal for September that you are interested in Acton Hospital. I spent the two most happiest years of my life there in the late 1960s, training to be a State Enrolled Nurse. I stayed until 1973 when I went to work on the district in Ealing.

Enclosed are a few items which you may like to see. I don't know what it looks like to-day as I left the area in 1999.

Included in the memorabilia sent by Miss Roads was a history of 'Hundred Years of Acton Hospital' produced by Acton History Group (see below). Newspaper cuttings give the story of the demolition of most of the hospital in 2002, when the discovery was made of a glass jar, hidden behind a memorial plaque commemorating the building of an extension in October 1935. It contained a report from the Acton Hospital Gazette from that time. The original facade and chapel of the hospital were retained and a 124 bed nursing home was opened in 2003. Ed.

David KNIGHTS, Secretary Acton History Group

In the latest edition of the West Middlesex Family History Society Journal, you ask about the Acton Cottage Hospital.

There is a web site that covers all the work of Passmore EDWARDS and the premises that he endowed that included the Acton Cottage Hospital, the Acton Library and Shepherds Bush Library.

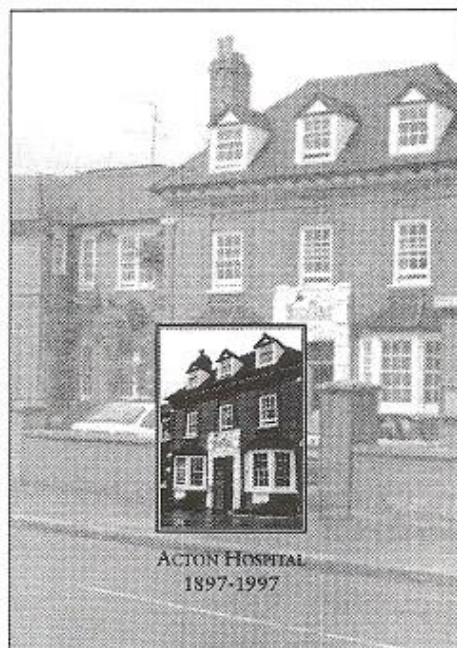
<http://www.passmoreedwards.org.uk/pages/Hospitals/Acton%20Hospital.htm>

There are also a couple of photos and a short text on my website:

www.actonhistory.co.uk at
<http://actonhistory.co.uk/acton/page4.html>

Averil Harper SMITH investigated the history in 1997 and published a booklet on the Hospital, as well as a similar book on the Library. There are copies in the Ealing Local History Library.

A copy has been placed in the WMFHS Library.



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 below.

- B324 Mrs. D. BARTLETT, 15 Beech Road, Burton Bradstock, Bridport,
Dorset DT6 4RF *db.foxridge@virgin.net*
- K61 Mrs. S.A. KEENAN, 53 Donald Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9JE
shirley_keenan59@hotmail.com
- S278 Dr. J. SEYMQUR, 17 Goodwood Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire
SN14 0SX *jonathan.seymour@btclick.com*

SURNAME INTERESTS

The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed above. 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.

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Member</i>
ABRAHAMS	17-19C	Chelsea	MDX	S278
BEESON	after 1700	All	All	K61
CHERRY	17-19C	All	MDX	S278
GENTRY	17-19C	All	ESS	S278
GILDERSON	17-19C	All	ESS	S278
KINMAN	after 1880	London	MDX	B324
ORAMS	17-19C	All	SFK	S278
SEYMOUR	18-19C	All	MDX	S278
TYLER	17-19C	All	ESS	S278

The stock of articles for inclusion in the Journal is always low, so please get those fingers typing, or pens writing, and contribute to what is, of course, your Journal. Articles long or short, on family, social or local history; your experiences of research, whether you are new to family history or have a wealth of experience; or just short snippets you may have found which you think other members would appreciate or enjoy. Do include illustrations if possible but let me know if copyright permission is needed. I am happy to receive contributions by email or through the post.

Deadlines for submission of articles, etc. are:

7 January 7 April 7 July 7 October

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 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

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

Apply to the Chairman (address inside front cover).

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

West Middlesex Family History Society Tape Library: Tapes can be hired for £1.60 per item. Cheques should be made payable to: "West Middlesex Family History Society" and ordered from:

Muriel Spratt, 1 Camellia Place, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 7HZ

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

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

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

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

Hampton Wick Records of this village collected over 40 years of research. Will search records for ancestors etc. in answer to enquiries. E1 plus SAE.

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

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

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

Norwood Green St. Mary's Births, marriages and burials, 1654- 1812

Postal Enquiries with SAE to Mr. Alan Sabey, 46 Thorncliffe Road, Norwood Green, Middlesex, UB2 5RQ

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

1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex: This has been indexed. £3 for each requested name will secure a printout, which includes variants (returned if no name/s found).

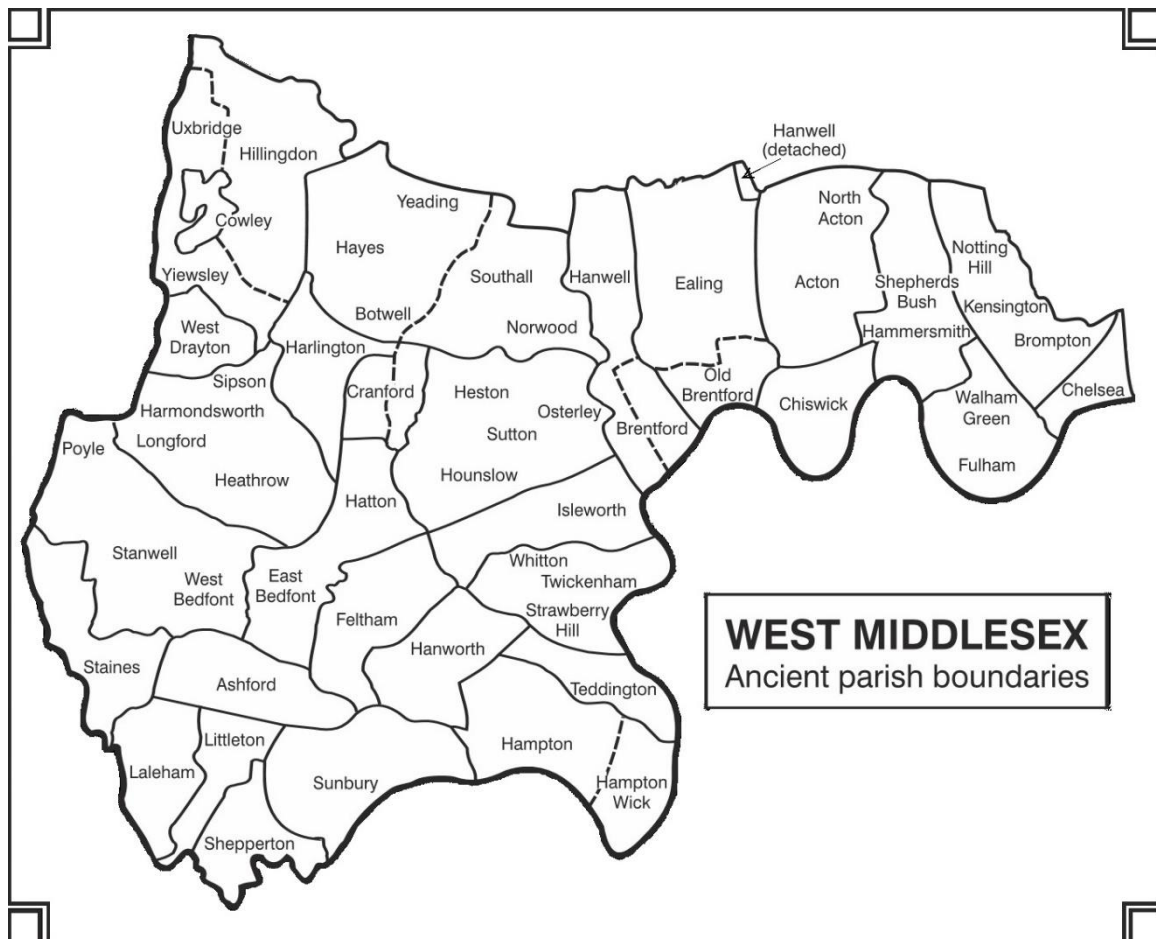
Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS, no SAE required.

Apply to: *Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6BU.*

Front Cover

Odeon Cinemas were created by Oscar DEUTSCH in 1928 and by 1930 "Odeon" had become a household name. The Isleworth Odeon was designed by George COLES in the maritime inspired art deco style. It was opened in 1937 by the Mayor, preceded by a fanfare of trumpets played by members of the 7th Hussars from Hounslow Barracks. It closed in 1957 and was eventually converted into 35 apartments: the original art deco structure was restored, the cinema entrance was retained and retail units were constructed on the ground floor.

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**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