



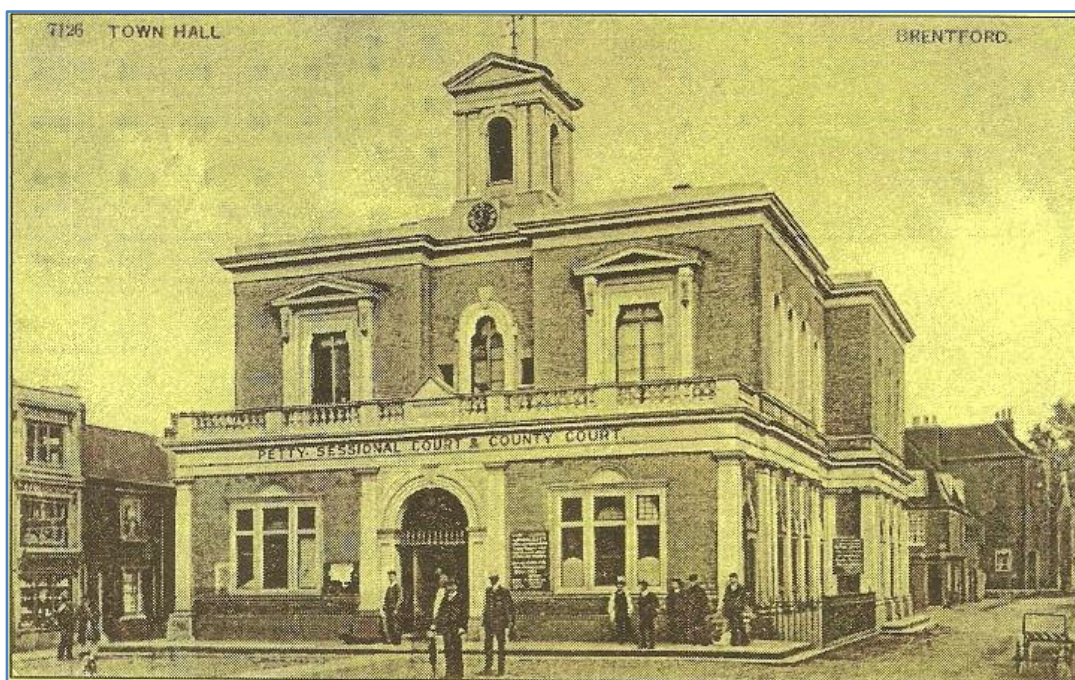
# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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*Brentford Town Hall*



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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Examiner	Paul Kershaw

In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE/IRCs must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

**Contents**

Admiral Hawke, the Battle of Quiberon Bay & Sunbury ...	9
Archive Services at the City of London .....	24
Bookshelf .....	38
Brentford High Street Project .....	16
Editorial .....	3
Family History Fairs .....	6
Future Meetings .....	2
Help! .....	46
Indexes Held by Members .....	48
Letters to the Editor .....	45
Monthly Talks .....	26
More About William Le Queux .....	22
New Member and Surname Interests .....	47
Notice of AGM .....	5
Sorting Out My Dad .....	10
The <i>London Gazette</i> .....	40
Wedding Photographs .....	32
WMFHS News .....	4
World Wide Web .....	36

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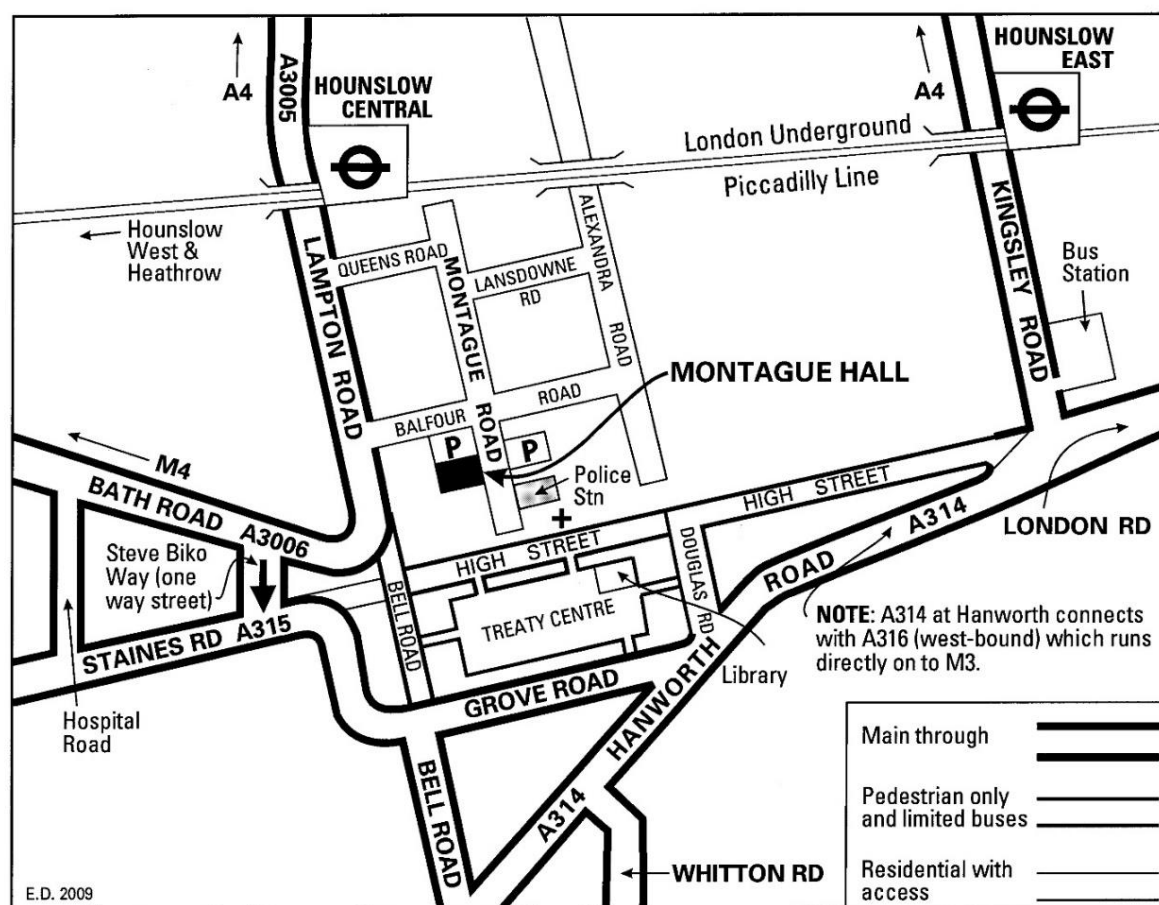
## FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

- 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
- 15 Apr      Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and Local  
               History Centre ..... *Anne Wheldon*
- 20 May      The London Family History Centre ..... *speaker to be arranged*
- 17 June      The Great White City Exhibition ..... *Jane Kimber*

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.





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.





We are pleased to inform you that we can return to Montague Hall for our monthly meetings in March, thus we hope that the usual high number of members will attend our AGM on 18th March. We thank all those who travelled to Chiswick during our banishment, and look forward to seeing Once again those members who, for one reason or another, were unable to attend the last few meetings.

The White House in Hampton has been booked for our next Open Day, Sunday 26th September, details are below. Book this date in your diary now and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



# **WMFHS OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 26th September 2010**

**10am to 4pm**

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

*Adjacent free parking*

**Guest Societies ♦ Stalls ♦ Indexes**



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Notice of Agenda**

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

The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 19th March, 2009
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2009
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Any other Business

M. Sprott, Chairman

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

### **Election of Officers**

Having served for six years, June Watkins is standing down from the Committee.

Kay Dudman and Brian Page, having served more than three years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

Richard Chapman, Dennis Marks, Pam Smith, Muriel Sprott and Joan Storkey, having served less than three years on the Committee and willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

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## FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

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Have you ever attended a family history fair? They are held all round the country: some are organised by the local family history society, as is our Open Day (to be held this year on 26th September); some are organised by a group of family history societies in the local area, the large Fair held on the York Race Course is one of these; and some are commercially run, i.e. Who Do You Think You Are? Live at Olympia and the largest Family History Fair in the south-east, held each year in Bracknell.

All of these Fairs or Open Days have the same format: stalls manned by individual Family History Societies where you can get expert advice; commercial CD suppliers; second-hand post cards; second hand books and many miscellaneous stalls with a family history theme. Also at many there is the opportunity to attend lectures, to seek expert help - perhaps to find that elusive someone on the census records or have your family photographs dated - and to undertake individual research.

So if there is a Fair in your area but you do not have any local ancestors, you are very likely to find a family history society from further afield with experts who can advise you and books and CDs you can purchase. At our stall we find many of our customers are interested in books on local history, particularly those filled with old photographs, and they often find reminders of their own childhood - the school they went to, the church where they were married, or even the road they lived in.

Why not attend one this year in a locality near you?



*Here is our stall at the Who Do You Think You Are? event at Olympia, manned by Brian Page, Yvonne Masson, Valerie Walker and Wendy Mott.*



Another event we attended was Bracknell:

This time our team was Yvonne Masson, Kay Dudman, Pam Smith, the late Janet Hagger and Janice Kershaw.



Late in the afternoon at the Buckinghamshire Family History Society Fair in Aylesbury with Pam Smith and Brian Page still holding the fort.

And finally, Janice Kershaw, our Bookstall Manager, at the Barbican.



## **FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS FOR 2010**

**Saturday, 17th April:** Gloucestershire Family History Society Open Day, Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Tuffley, Gloucester. No.10 bus from City centre. 10am-4pm. Free admission and free parking.

<http://gfhs.org.uk/opendays.htm>

**Saturday, 24th April:** Sheffield & District Family History Fair. Details to be confirmed. [www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk)

**Saturday, 5th June:** Shropshire Family History Society Open Day and Fair. The Shirehall, Shrewsbury. 10am-4pm. Further information to be posted as it is available. [www.sfhs.org.uk/openday2010.asp](http://www.sfhs.org.uk/openday2010.asp)

**Saturday, 26th June:** Yorkshire Family History Fair, Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, York Race Course. 10am-4pm. Admission £4, free parking. <http://yorkshirefamilyhistory/fair.com>

**Saturday, 24th July:** Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, I-IP21 7NH. 10am-4pm. Free admission and parking. [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk) \*

**Saturday, 11th September:** Gateshead National Family History Fair.  
CANCELLED

**Saturday, 18th September:** Bristol 81 Avon Family History Society Open Day, Thornbury Leisure Centre: just north of Bristol. 10am-4pm. Free admission and parking. [www.bafhs.org.uk](http://www.bafhs.org.uk)

**Sunday, 26 September:** West Middlesex Family History Society Open Day. The White House Community Centre, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, TW1Z 3RN. 10am-4pm. Free admission and parking. [www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk) \*

**Saturday, 2nd October:** Oxfordshire Family History Society Open Day. Marlborough Enterprise Centre, Woodstock. 10am-4pm. Free admission and parking. [www.ofhs.org.uk/OpenDay.html](http://www.ofhs.org.uk/OpenDay.html)

**Saturday, 16th October:** Hull Family 81 Local History Fair, Hull University, Inglemire Lane, Hull, HU6 7TS. 10am-4pm. Admission £2, free parking. <http://yourfairladies.ning.com/events/hull-family-local-history-1>

**November:** West Surrey Family History Society. Details to be advised. [www.wsfhs.org](http://www.wsfhs.org) \*

To keep an eye on family history events near you, go to:  
[www.geneva.weald.org.uk](http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk)

\* WMFHS will have a stall at these events.

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## ADMIRAL HAWKE, THE BATTLE OF QUIBERON BAY AND SUNBURY

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John Seaman

Many readers will remember *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis STEVENSON, including the Admiral Benbow Inn, John Trelawney, Jim Hawkins and Captain Flint. Soon after John Trelawney decided to search for the pirate treasure he purchased *Hispaniola*, prepared her for sea and engaged a crew. It included a ship's cook who had one leg. His name was Long John Silver and he claimed the missing leg had been lost "under the immortal HAWKE". John Trelawney considered this a recommendation but during the voyage to Treasure Island Jim Hawkins, hidden from sight inside an apple barrel, heard Silver tell some members of the crew how he lost his leg while a pirate.

*Treasure Island* was written in 1883, over 100 years after the death of Lord HAWKE in 1781. Who was he and why did Robert Louis STEVENSON write about him without the need for further introduction? Admiral HAWKE probably became well known in this country after the battle of Quiberon Bay, which was fought on 20 November 1759. HAWKE ordered the ships in his fleet to follow the French ships through the shoals and sandbanks in the bay. Even so two Royal Navy ships, *Essex* and *Resolution*, were lost. So important was this victory that a special Prayer and Thanksgiving\* was printed and sent to churches with instructions that it was to be said at the next service.



Admiral HAWKE purchased a house in Sunbury (now known as Hawke House in Green Street) during 1767. He retired from the Royal Navy in 1771 and moved to Sunbury. In May 1776 he was created Baron HAWKE of Towton. He died at Sunbury in 1781.

To mark the anniversary of the Battle of Quiberon Bay and Lord HAWKE's association with Sunbury, the bells at Saint Mary's Church, Sunbury were rung on Friday, 20 November 2009, exactly 250 years after the battle. The Mayor of Spelthorne, Councillor Mrs SPENCER, visited

Saint Mary's Church and was welcomed by the Vicar, Rev Paul DAVIES, and the Tower Captain, Dennis BROCK. The Mayor met the bell ringers, who included Maggie MOLD, a member of our Society.

*\*A.... Prayer and Thanksgiving ... for the Victory gained by His Majesty's Fleet under the Command of Sir Edward Hawke.... 20th November last.... (1759)*

Portrait of Admiral HAWKE © National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.



My name is Joan Dorothy ASHLEY, neé LAY; I was born in Ashford, Middlesex, in 1942, the middle one of three children. I have a brother approximately two years older and a sister two and a half years younger. I have researched a number of branches of the family, mother's side and father's side, and here I would like to tell of the LAY family search.

I wanted to sort out my Dad's family. He was Wilfred Henry LAY, an uncommunicative kind of bloke and he never talked of any relations. He appeared to have no close relatives like aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. and when I was growing up I knew no others with the surname LAY. I believed the name to be very rare. I now know that it is a very common name especially in London and in Berkshire.

I began my study when I retired, knowing that my mother had done a lot of work on her side of the family, so I had a few ideas of how to begin. I also had the benefit of the internet, which of course she did not have; I can remember her trekking off to all sorts of places to find original records.



*Wilfred Henry LAY*

I started with the 1901 census when it first came on line. Remember how the site crashed when so many people logged in? Easy peasy I thought, I will soon crack this. First hurdle was that I could not find my father's father at all!

Not so easy after all. I went back to basics. My grandfather's name is Henry John LAY, he was a bus driver, lived in Shepherd's Bush, and was still alive when Dad got married. There are photos. I know when he died because I was an adult by then, so I knew his age and could estimate his birth year. Back to the internet. By this time I had found the 1881 census on the [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) website, but my father had died and I could not ask him his grandfathers' names. I am not sure he would have known, as I have said, he talked very little about his family.

I discovered Henry John's marriage certificate amongst Mum's stuff and from this I could see that his father's name was George, and that he was dead by the time of the marriage. He had been a car man, he made deliveries by horse and cart. I vaguely remembered something about there being a



greengrocer in the family tree, but it turned out that he worked for a greengrocer. Henry John was also described as a greengrocer on his marriage certificate, but he soon became a bus driver and remained so for the rest of his life.



*Henry John and his bus*

So I went back to the 1901 census; I had heard that the transcription was far from perfect, and eventually I found the family by putting in just the surname and London and came up with a George LAY who seemed to be in a possible area of London, who at the time was 45. I paid the fee to see the family group and the other two members, his wife, Mary and his son, Henry John, had the surname of HAY! George's name was at the bottom of one page and his wife and son at the top of the next, and whoever had transcribed the page had interpreted the somewhat curly L as an H.

Bingo! I had discovered my great grandfather and his wife; also that Henry John appeared to be an only child, at any rate the only one living with them at that time. Henry John was 17, had been born in Islington in 1883, so he did not appear on the 1881 census. Now that I had more information I could look up George LAY and there he was, in Islington with his wife Mary, and no children. Looking up their marriage, I found it had taken place in 1880. I sent for the certificate, was able to find all the usual information, including George's father's name.



At this time I did not have access to the 1891 on line but I was able to visit the Family Records Centre in Myddleton Street, and did so many times, hunting up census records, births, marriages and deaths etc. Eventually I found them on the 1891 census, and the surprise here was that Henry John had had a younger brother, Frederick. Further searching found the death of Frederick when he was six years old from one of those high temperature respiratory infections that claimed many children in those days. I could find no other births attributable to George and Mary, so I presumed that Henry John was their only surviving offspring. No wonder Dad had no other family I thought at the time, an only child of an only child. I had however heard a rumour that my Dad had had a brother who died in infancy, and sure enough there is a birth registered, the little boy Stanley George, died aged three months. My Dad would not have remembered him as he was only 15 months old himself at the time. Then my Granny appeared to have no more pregnancies, certainly no more living children. Not surprising when you know that my Dad weighed in at 13lb birth weight, and Granny was less than 5ft tall! Ouch! He was born at home though, and he grew to a height of 6ft.



*Henry John with George and Mary and probably nephew Walter*

Back to George LAY - his father's name was John James, and he had worked as a carriage driver and lived in Islington. Thank goodness for the knowledge of his second given name. George's wife was Mary WOOD and she had originated from Limpsfield in Surrey, which incidentally, had also

been transcribed incorrectly on the 1901. I was able to get George's birth certificate and all the information that they can provide, I was progressing very nicely really, taking many months as one cannot research exclusively however much one would like to!

Looking at the 1881 census, I could not find John James at all, but because George's mother's name Caroline, formerly TUCK, was on his birth certificate, I looked her up on the 1881 census and found her living with a son called Willie in Islington. I had not come across him before but found some records of him; he was George's younger brother, had lived to be an adult and had his own family. On the 1891 census, the brothers were actually sharing a house in Lambeth along with their respective families. And little Frederick was alive at this time. The other bit of information from the 1881 census was that Caroline was born in West Challow, Berkshire. In 1891 she was living in Lambeth and in the 1901 census she was in hospital, and died a year later.

At this point I had seen three censuses 1901, 1891, 1881 and many relevant birth, marriage and death certificates. In looking for more births for George and Mary, I had some certificates of children of the LAY surname, but different parents, and put them to one side as being irrelevant. I could not search earlier censuses very well not knowing where people were living.

A lot of water had gone under the bridge and more and more data was becoming available online, and whilst I agree that one should look at the original documents, the online stuff helps you to place people so that you know where to look. For instance, who would have guessed that George had moved from Islington to Lambeth between two censuses?

One day I happened to look into Documentsonline and searched the 'Wills before 1858' database. I put in LAY, and got a few hits. Most of them were not possibly my relatives for one reason or another, but one was of a John LAY of Twickenham, a gardener. I splashed out the £3.50 and anxiously awaited the download - I was on dial-up then and it was rather slow. It turned out to be treasure. John LAY had written his will in 1845 because he had a little market gardening business and he obviously wanted it to go to a son other than the eldest. In this will he named not only his wife but also each of his eight children and one of the sons was called John James! He detailed the bequests to each of them and it was Henry, his youngest son, who got the tools of the trade. Later I found that it was Henry who worked with him in the gardening business, and his other sons did other things.

I found John LAY's marriage on the IGI, (International Genealogical Index). It took place in Richmond, Surrey, to Sarah BCYWYER, but, I cannot find the baptisms of any of his children. I assume they took place in Twickenham where they were born, the nearest churches were St. Mary's or

All Hallows. I cannot find any parish records for Twickenham at the moment, and they do not appear on the IGI. It may be that some fire or flood befell them and they are lost forever (the parish records not the people).

I remember being in the Local Mormon Church Research Centre one day and the kind helper was assisting me with something, and she said, "Have you looked on the 1851 census?" I said, "No, I had no idea what area to be looking in really so had not ventured there." She said, "They came online today, lets have a look!" And lo and behold a whole new world opened up. She put in Caroline LAY and West Challow, and eventually we came up with a whole extension to the family. John James and Caroline had had their first child in 1845, called Mary Ann, and subsequently, by looking at the 1861 and 1871 censuses I found a total of seven children, five of whom survived to be adult, including George and William who I already knew about. I was astonished, for ages I had assumed they were the only two offspring. So now I could pin down the dates a bit more accurately, and moved the possible marriage back to about 1843 or so, but however much I search and by whatever means, I cannot find a marriage for John James LAY and Caroline TUCK.

Mary Ann, their first child was born in West Challow, her mother's home village, and all the others were born in London, mainly Islington, but a different address for almost every one of them. I got some Bishop's Transcripts for West Challow and found Caroline's baptism, the marriage of her parents and also the second marriage of her father at which she was a witness, but cannot find either the birth/baptism of Mary Ann or the marriage of Mary Ann's parents. What has happened to the Parish records of West Challow? The Berkshire Record Office has not got them. Currently I am supposing that John James and Caroline were never married and they did not register the birth of their first child, as it is not on General Register Office's Birth Register.

Recently I researched Mary Ann to see what happened to her. She worked as a servant, then married a Herbert THOMAS. Her name on her marriage certificate is Mary Ann Tuck LAY, which helped to identify the right Mary Ann, but the question arises: was she originally Mary Ann TUCK and did she take her father's name later? Did her parents marry later in life? I do not know, may never know.

I wondered how John James and Caroline had met, he being from Twickenham and she from Berkshire. Did he have family in West Challow, or had she been working in Twickenham? I looked at the 1841 census: I found John LAY and Sarah in Staken Lane, together with their daughter Mary (actually Mary Ann), and son Henry. Here I saw that Henry was a costermonger. He must have sold the produce from the market garden



around the streets. I noted that John was not born in Middlesex, so was he from Berkshire? John LAY is a very common name in that part of Berkshire, so without the records I may be stuck. Not to worry there are plenty of other things to do while I puzzle over the problem.

I went through all of the pages of the West Challow census of 1841 and I found neither John James nor Caroline there. Tantalisingly, there are two pages where the writing is completely bleached out. Is one of them on those pages? I found a John LAY of the right age lodging and working in Bethnal Green, quite near to Islington, who had been born in Middlesex and was a truck maker. This sort of relates to his later occupation of carriage driving: he was variously a coachman, a gentlemen's carriage driver, and a funeral carriage driver, so could this be him? I found a Caroline TUCK in Old Bailey but she was born in Middlesex, so cannot be the one.

The final mystery of John James is that his death cannot be found on the GRO Death registers either. I do not see how you could get away with not registering a death, as a burial must take place, but there is not a match to be found. I have not yet looked in the burials for Islington. Another job yet to do.

On investigating the descendants of John James' offspring - first, the males as it was easier to follow the LAY name - I found a whole raft of people who would have been second cousins to my Dad, nephews and nieces of George, and of course William's children who were cousins to my grandfather, and whose children were second cousins to my Dad. During this phase I was able to fit in nearly all of the 'irrelevant' certificates that I had bought.

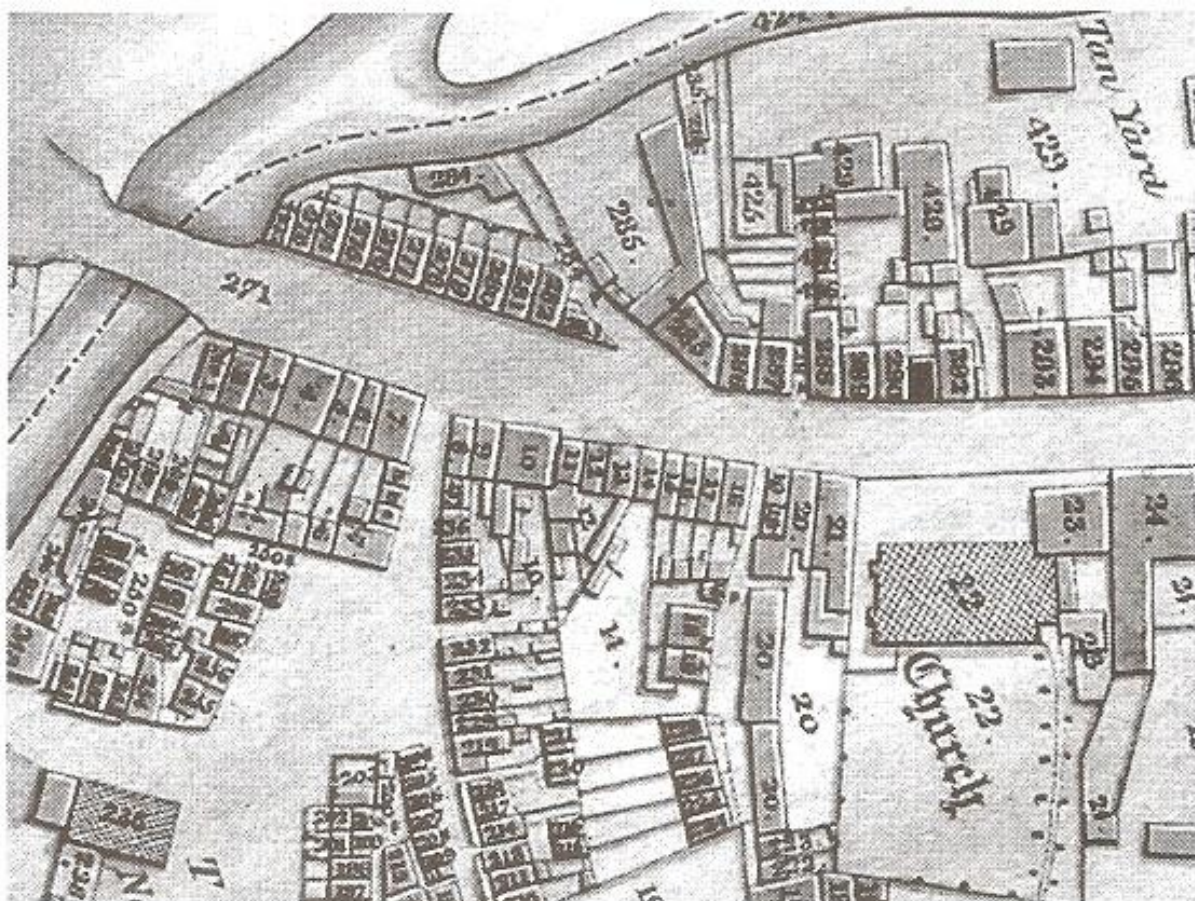
I joined Genes Reunited and eventually was contacted by a living relative who was also researching his tree. He is a third cousin and we share John James as our great great grandfather. His great grandfather is William, the youngest child of the union, and his Grandad LAY is a cousin of my Grandad LAY! We have met and shared information and photos, it is a joy because I get on really well with him.

So I have discovered that my father really did not have any uncles, aunts or cousins on his father's side and indeed, although his mother had a sister and a brother, I have found no marriage or children for either of them, meaning that he had no first cousins at all, only the more distant ones. I continue to research the various branches, and hope that I will get a breakthrough to find the answers to the questions that are still unanswered. If anyone out there has light to shed on it, I would love to hear their views.

Jo Ashley: *phyl177@yahoo.com*

My paternal grandparents were born in Brentford and when I traced their parents I found I had several families who lived in Brentford from around 1840, most of whom lived on the High Street at some point. I hoped to find photos of where they lived but this proved to be tricky. Yes, there are lots of photos of Brentford High Street in local history books, but it is not always possible to tell which house numbers are shown. Yes, I could find my families living on the High Street in various censuses, but it wasn't easy to work out where they actually lived, particularly in the earlier censuses before the High Street was numbered.

I have always liked a puzzle and here was the ideal one: to try and piece together a picture of the whole High Street from around 1841 (the first census) up to 1940 (the date of the latest street index I copied at Chiswick Library). The dates covered 100 years, which seemed a reasonable target. And so the Brentford High Street Project was born in 2002.



*The Western Part of the Tithe Map of New Brentford, 1838. The property numbers on the map are those used in the tithe apportionment and are not the same as the house numbers allocated in 1876.*



I contacted the Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society and received a prompt and encouraging reply and offer of help from Janet McNAMARA, followed by regular mailings of material: I live 100 miles from Brentford and Janet's local knowledge has been invaluable. Seven years on the project has broadened and taken turns unimagined. In the process I have gained a real sense of the place where my ancestors lived.



*Dock Road (High Street, Brentford)  
Postcard provided by Dee TICKNER*

In 1841 Brentford High Street was in two parishes: the western part in St Lawrence, New Brentford, the eastern part, known as Old Brentford, was in the parish of St George (until 1828 it was part of St Mary's, Ealing). Old Brentford gained two further parish churches: 1868, St Paul; 1907, St Faith. Brentford borders the Thames and in the 19th century had river, rail and canal transport, a large gas works, breweries, market gardens and many public houses. The High Street is about a mile long and was the main road from London to the west until the Great West Road opened in 1925. In 1876 it had 411 properties, numbered sequentially.

The main challenge was fitting people into properties before the High Street was numbered in 1876. I tackled this by identifying 'markers' which survived

until 1876, such as pubs and banks, roads off, families who stayed put and continuity of trade (a bakery often remained a bakery as it had a baker's oven out the back). '

Then I tried to fit census households between markers into the properties that existed between them, which often left anomalies: too many households for the number of properties might mean a yard off the High Street had been enumerated as part of the High Street; too few households might point to an empty property that I had missed in my transcription, or a misinterpretation of the end of household / end of property census marks.

To tie properties into exact locations I used maps, postcards and local history book photos. A pub, a particularly wide house or alley shown in a map might be visible in a photo. The 1909/10 Valuation descriptions helped too: a reference to an 'old oven' fixed the location of an 1871 census entry for a bakery.

I stored findings in an Excel spreadsheet (one row per house, one column per census) plus a column noting any sightings in local history books, A2A etc.

The project used sources such as:

- ☐ Census returns 1841-1901: brief details of each household head, their occupation and size of household; if time permitted age and/or birthplace too (in early days of the project very few records were available on line)
- ☐ Trade directories: Chiswick Library provided photocopies of C20 trade directories. Earlier trade directories on the Historical Directories web site were useful for deciphering any unclear names and occupations from censuses.
- ☐ Alan Godfrey's two maps for 1894 showing individual properties.
- ☐ 1909/10 Valuation records at TNA (The National Archives), Kew. Based on the 1894 GS map, each property was described: construction (often 'stock brick'); number of storeys; rooms on each floor; outbuildings; name and address of owner; sometimes occupier's name; rental charge and valuation; also age (often 'old', 'very old') and state of repair - frequently 'dilapidated'. Assessors occasionally included comments about the occupants.
- ☐ Contacts: 'can you help?' requests in the WMFHS journal and Family Tree during 2003 brought many very helpful responses.
- ☐ Postcards: heaps of postcards were sent in the early 1900s, the



equivalent of today's text messages, and there are many views of the High Street from this era.

- Tithe apportionment and enumeration: Richard CHAPMAN pointed me to this valuable resource. Brentford was covered by two maps showing each property and its garden or yard. The Old Brentford apportionment includes names of owners and occupiers of each plot.
- On line resources: the AZA website, FreeBMD, Documents Online and Ancestry web sites in particular were useful; contacts sent links to other web sites showing Brentford trams, historic Brentford photos; *London Gazette* and more.
- Local history books: invaluable for photos of Brentford as well as text.
- National Monument Records Centre, Swindon, for photos of properties.

Early in the project I knew this had to be published as a website, not a book, as it was clear the point when I could claim 'that's it, all sorted!' was a distant milestone that might never be attained. How to pull together all this information? I split the High Street into 33 sections, each covering a block of properties with a 'marker' at one or both ends. I could be confident which section a family lived in even if unsure exactly which property.

New Brentford						Old Brentford																					
Sections	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33							
						St Paul †												St George †									
House num 159					224	225																411					
High Street																											
House num 158					86	85																1					
						St Lawrence †																					
Section	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1														

I created a Word document for each section comprising its history, any rebuilding and names of roads and alleys that led off, followed by notes on individual properties, including occupants and often a summary from the 1909/10 Valuation. I added a list of any photos and references from local history books and other sources.

Each Word document was turned into a text-based web page. I created separate pages for images: OS maps annotated with house numbers, photos, tithe maps. These pages formed the bones of the web site and were published during 2005.



*Ladies, Pier House Laundry workers, 1920s*

*Sandra GRAVE provided this cheery photo of workers at the Pier House Laundry. The lady on the left, middle row, is Charlotte GRANT, who was 28 in the 1901 census. In front of her, the lady on the left of the front row is Annie GRANT, Charlotte's daughter-in-law*

From 2005 onwards I added pages for family research and memories provided by others. Photo and postcard images were set up as separate pages, with notes to identify which buildings were shown. Other pages were created for name indexes: e.g. 1909/10 property owners, 1841 household heads, 1928 trade directory.

Would people find the web site? Emails started to come in and in total over 200 people have made contact, bringing new information, new families, new memories - and so the site has grown.

Janet McNAMARA generously provided notes from her research into local people and businesses. Dave STONELEIGH took over 30 photographs of New Brentford in 2008 which he keyed to a map. Other contacts provided photos of works outings, family snapshots from the 1930s and colour photos of the High Street in the 1960s.

One of the delights has been the range of material people have provided, often leading to connections between families being established. Several second, third and fourth cousins have found each other through the site, in some cases meeting up for the first time at Brentford local history days.

The project has required several hours 'work' each week, initially collecting and interpreting information, latterly working on material sent by others. I try to add to the site each week and it now has over 400 pages including over 250 images.

There is still plenty to do. I would love to create a 'virtual High Street' showing how it looked during the C19 and C20: I think the technology is available and hope, one day ...

If I were to start this project today, with all censuses accessible online, I would go about it more systematically:

- ☐ start with later directories, maps, 1909/10 Valuation and census returns
- ☐ work back through earlier censuses
- ☐ use tithe map and apportionment to 'root' people and properties circa 1840.

As it was I hoovered up census returns piecemeal as and when I could.

Finally, as well as knowing exactly where my TAYLOR, FOORD, PARSONS and ANTHONY families lived, I now have a precious photo of 237 High Street, captured before it made way for International Stores.

If you have any Brentford High Street families, or are happy to share your memories or old photos of Brentford please get in touch.

*[www.bhsproject.co.uk](http://www.bhsproject.co.uk)*

Map of New Brentford, 1838 reproduced courtesy of Corporation of London, London Metropolitan Archives.

*Following the article in the September Journal regarding Le Queux's connections with Sunbury, here is a copy of an article which first appeared in Sundial, the Isleworth Parish Magazine, showing further connections with West Middlesex.*

Locally LE QUEUX's claim to fame was as editor of the *Middlesex Chronicle* from 1885 to 1890, although he had little experience of journalism before his appointment. He later drew on this work in his novel *Scribes and Pharisees* (1898), early parts of which are set in the offices of the fictional *Hounslow Standard*, where the novel's hero, Bertram Rosmead, is appointed editor. LE QUEUX describes Hounslow as a "Dull, uninteresting, suburban town" with a "long straggling high street ... The most miserable (town) perhaps of any within the twelve mile radius ... mean and meagre ... notable for three things - its barracks, its great gunpowder factory, and the number and variety of its lower-class public houses."

Isleworth, however, receives a somewhat better opinion, being "that quaint, old-world riverside village, untouched as yet by the hand of the vandal" and later he writes of walking with a friend "across the brown fields to old-world Isleworth, that quiet peaceful village by the river side" and the friend returns to London and relates of having spent "a day in the country".

While LE QUEUX was editor of the *Middlesex Chronicle* a number of his short stories, and indeed serialized novels, appeared in the paper. He left in 1890 to become foreign editor of the Fleet Street newspaper *The Globe*. It is probably significant that LE QUEUX's entry in *Who's Who* carefully omits mentioning his work on the *Middlesex Chronicle*.

Nationally LE QUEUX is remembered more as an author than a journalist. Between 1891 and 1931 he published over 150 novels, many of them in the crime and espionage genre - the latter of which he is one of the earliest proponents - together with forty volumes of short stories and fifteen works of non-fiction.

Having studied in Paris and Italy, and travelled widely both as foreign editor of *The Globe* (1891-1893) and later privately, many of his books have authentic European settings, while his interests in criminology and espionage - he claimed "an intimate knowledge of the secret service of the continental powers" - also show in his writing. Today his works seem rather melodramatic and sensational, but they had a large contemporary following. The titles published in one year, 1905, may serve to indicate his style: *The Valley of the Shadow*, *Who Giveth this Woman?*, *The Spider's Eye*, *Sins of the City*, *The Mash*, *Behind the Throne*, *The Czar's Spy* and *Confessions of a*



*Ladies' Man: being the Adventures of Cuthbert Croom, of His Majesty's Diplomatic Service.*

One work, *The Invasion of 1910* (1906) predicts the forthcoming first World War, and he lectured widely on the dangers of German ambitions and what would later be called, "The Fifth Column".

Internationally LE QUEUX's European travels brought him into contact with many prominent people, from crowned heads to Albanian brigands, Prime Ministers to criminals. His autobiography reads like a gossip column of international high and low life. He claimed to have been "consulted by the government" on espionage matters and to have made a "special government mission" to Albania.

It was written that he was "popularly believed to be a spy" and even suggested that he "inspired the character of James Bond in Fleming's books". He certainly took an interest in espionage and played up his knowledge and connections, though I would have thought anyone actively involved in spying would have kept a lower profile. He may have provided the British Government with some useful information and contacts but probably played up his position to help publicise and sell his books.

He was an enigmatic and intriguing character, described as "a stout, genial man, whose good humour overflows in his reminiscences", as the contemporary caricature seems to show. A man who wrote mysteries, who was himself a man of mystery.



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## ARCHIVE SERVICES AT THE CITY OF LONDON

*David Pearson, Director of Libraries, Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery*

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The City of London manages outstanding archive resources, with some 80 kilometres of research materials covering almost 1,000 years of the capital's history. They include not only the archives of the City Corporation itself (dating back to 1067), and many of the livery companies but also those of thousands of London based organisations, from the Greater London Council to over 800 City and Metropolitan Church of England parishes. These collections, officially designated by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council as being of national and international importance, are used by tens of thousands of people every year from every walk of life, for all kinds of reasons - academic research, legal and business enquiries, tracing one's ancestors, illustrating history lessons, writing books. Access to the archives, depending on their origin, has in the past been delivered by three separately managed City organisations and from three sites, London Metropolitan Archives in Clerkenwell, the Corporation of London Records Office at Guildhall and Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section.

These three services are now being amalgamated to form one co-ordinated archive service under the name London Metropolitan Archives. We have already started bringing together the staff to form a single team and have begun developing unified approaches to acquisition and cataloguing, most recently in the areas of business archives and for the Church of England diocesan and parochial collections. We have also moved the former Guildhall Prints and Maps collection to the Clerkenwell site and it is being developed there along- side the metropolitan holdings to create a major new graphic collections centre.

These links across all our holdings have led us to review how best to make access to these archives as co-ordinated and straightforward as possible for all our users, both on site and remotely. While this has inevitably had to be assessed against the need to consider financial savings in the current serious economic situation, we have made arrangements which I believe will be to the long term benefit of all our researchers.

By Easter 2010 we will be concentrating physical location and access to archives at the London Metropolitan Archives site in Clerkenwell. LMA has been redeveloped significantly over the past two years; the purpose-designed public research facilities there are excellent and are supported by expert staff, conservation studios and high quality copying facilities. In early 2010 a new permanent exhibition area will be opened and over the following two years we will be introducing a dedicated area for studying our audio-visual collections.

In parallel two developments to make our archives more widely available through the digitisation of key material are moving forward. A digitisation agreement with Ancestry means that increasing quantities of more popularly consulted documents, such as parish registers, are now available online as high quality facsimiles with much improved indexes. When the project is completed there will be information available on over 77 million people who have lived in the City and Greater London over the past 400 years. At the same time we are planning a programme to digitise archive resources regularly used by the academic community. This will build on earlier projects such as Old Bailey Online and will initially cover documents currently already available on microfilm such as the mediaeval archives of the City of London collections and modern series such as the Middlesex Deeds Registry (1709-1938]. We will then be working with scholars in a number of academic disciplines to agree future collections to digitise. Alongside the existing access to such resources at LMA we are also creating a digital research base at Guildhall Library where all the City's digitally held archival sources referred to above will be accessible free of charge.

We do recognise that for some users it will be more convenient to work at Guildhall, particularly in the case of some archives (such as the Lloyd's of London and the Stock Exchange collections) where it may be essential to consult them alongside printed material there. We have arranged that archives formerly in the care of the Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section will also be made available on request at Guildhall Library in the Rare Books consultation area. Exceptions will normally be where documents are too fragile or large to be transported safely across London or already exist in surrogate form.

Further details on these developments, and particularly how to access archival material at Guildhall, will be available by the end of January on our website or by contacting the archives enquiry team based at Clerkenwell. The enquiry team can be contacted by email on [ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk) or by tele- phone on 020 7332 3820 (Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.45pm).

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. 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**



**In and Out of London: Ian Waller**

Well-known genealogist Ian WALLER gave us a goodly number of suggestions for places in the records to look for our ancestors which we might not have already tried. He warned that London research is challenging, but not impossible. It requires knowledge of where the records you want are held and also patience as the volume of records is so large.

In 1800 the population of London was +/- 1 million, in 1900 +/- 6 million. The 1901 census reveals that at that time some 65% of London's population had been born in London, but 26% had been born elsewhere in England and Wales. The advent of the industrial revolution in the late 18th and early 19th centuries offered high employment possibilities for those who migrated into the towns, especially London, from those areas with a population of less than 5,000, comprising approximately 60% of the incomers. Some migrants were seeking anonymity, far easier to attain in towns. Later on the growth of the suburbs led to outward migration from London, often by the children or grandchildren of those who had first moved into the city.

To research effectively ideally you need to know the name of the parish; the county in which it is situated (pre- and post-London County Council 1888) ; the administrative hundred; the registration district (former and modern); the London Metropolitan Borough; the modern London Borough; the relevant probate jurisdiction, and the address of the family history society covering the area. You should also acquaint yourself with the contiguous parishes to the parish in question — ancestors had a habit of using the nearest church, which could be in an adjacent parish, rather than their own parish church. Google 'Gen Docs' is also useful for various pieces of miscellaneous research data.

A number of Record Offices cover London: the National Archives (TNA) at Kew; London Metropolitan Archives (LMA); Westminster Archives; Guildhall Library; Essex Record Office; Centre for Kentish Studies; Surrey Heritage Centre; the local Borough Archives and the Bishopsgate Institute. Always check before visiting that the archive does have the information you require. Telephone numbers and email addresses are on their websites (or in the WM PH S Leaflet *Local Archives Holding Records for West Middlesex*. Ed)

What tools are there for finding one's ancestors? Just some of them are: Civil Registration (i.e. the central registration of births, marriages, deaths); Parish Registers (i.e. baptisms, marriages, burials in church); Censuses;

Directories and tax lists; Poor Law records; Wills; occupational records; business records;

newspapers (in local Borough archives or at Colindale British Library Newspaper Library); deeds (e.g. the Middlesex Deeds Registry); apprentices and Livery Companies; militia records; estate and manorial records; school records; hospital records; the International Genealogical Index (IGI) — although the latter contains less than 15% of all London baptisms and marriages. A lot of records to look through, so look out for an available index of a record to speed up research. An increasing number of sources have been or are in the process of being digitised.

## Sources

- ❑ **Baptisms:** Pallot's Baptism Index 1780-1837 (incomplete as some of it was destroyed): not as good as the Marriage Index, it covers only 22 parishes.
- ❑ **Marriages,** the following indexes are worth looking at: the West Middlesex Family History Society Marriage Index; Boyd's Marriage Index; Pallot's Marriage Index 1780-1837 (covers 103 of 105 parishes in the City). Fleet marriages (i.e. irregular marriages) pre 1754 are at The National Archives, Kew. Ian warned, "Don't assume that because your ancestors were too 'respectable' a marriage didn't happen in the Fleet marriage system: it may well have done and the churches of Holy Trinity Minories and St James' Dukes Place, were at the time just a more legitimate part of the same system."
- ❑ **Burials:** London churchyard burials ceased by 1854 and moved to cemeteries such as Abney Park, Brompton, Highgate, Kensal Green, Brookwood, Nunhead, etc. If the actual funeral service was still held at the local church, then that church will have a record in its burial register. The City of London burials index 1742-1904 is on [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) and there are the country-wide burial indexes produced by the Federation of Family History Societies. Some cemetery indexes are held at individual cemeteries. Boyd's Burial Index 1538-1853 covers mainly the Cities of London and Westminster plus some Middlesex parishes. A good guide is: *London Cemeteries and Crematoria* by Cliff Webb.
- ❑ **Wills:** many wills pre 1858 were proved by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) - these are at TNA; the LMA has wills proved at the Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex (1660-1810) and the Consistory Court of London (1362-1858); the Commissary Court and Archdeanery Court of London; Westminster Archives has the Royal Peculiar of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster; Lambeth Palace Library (holding a huge amount

of Church of England records) has Deanery of the Arches (the Appeal Court of the PCC) and the Deanery of Croydon.

- **Estate Records:** two big landowners in London were the Duchy of Lancaster (records at TNA) and the Peabody Trust (at LMA); various other landlords whose records have been deposited.
- **Miscellaneous:** Middlesex Deeds Registry Indexes 1709-1919, Livery Companies circa 1580-1880, some deposited business records, various other archives and parish maps are all at the LMA. Some Record Offices hold a guide to alleys, passages and yards.

### **Flora Thompson - Beyond Candleford Green: *John Owen Smith***

Beginning with an extract from *Lark Rise to Candleford*, by Flora THOMPSON, set in the 1880s, John explained that the character Laura is Flora herself and Edward is Edwin, her brother; she used pseudonyms for everyone. She wrote it when she was over 60. What was she doing in between?

Born in North Oxfordshire, she left school at 14 and instead of going into service she worked in the Post Office in the next village. At about 20 years old, she left Oxfordshire and we lose track of her for about a year (c.1897) but pick her up again taking a train and passing through London, where she bought a hat to make a good impression on her new employer! He failed to turn up at Haslemere station to meet her, so she walked from the station, seeing heather for the first time. She was going to work at the Telegraph Office in the Hindhead/Grayshott area on the Surrey/Hampshire border, and she grew to love the locality, the inspiration for her book *Heatherley*.

Considered a very desirable area to live in at the time because of the pure air, people were moving in, houses were being built and they needed services, thus the communities of Grayshott and Beacon Hill grew up to serve them. The inhabitants included some famous scientists, politicians and writers and



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*This is the house. The Ferns, where Flora lived in Grayshott. Her room was on the first floor, on the right hand side.*

*A blue plaque commemorating Flora can be seen in the porch.*

*Photograph taken by the current owner in 2009.*



Flora must have been sending their messages. Conan DOYLE and George Bernard SHAW were amongst well-known authors living there and they would occasionally converse with each other on the station platform. Flora, who had begun to write by this time, thought her own work would not match theirs, and burnt some of her writings. When she first arrived she had to lodge at the house of her employer Walter CHAPMAN, who was unfortunately rather unbalanced and later murdered his wife but by this time Flora had moved her lodgings.

Flora had a boyfriend in Grayshott, to whom in *Heatherley* she gave the pseudonym Richard BROWN LOW but he was probably William ELWES, who died a bachelor. Flora was made redundant when the Telegraph Office was resited and she moved on.

In 1903 she wed Post Office employee John THOMPSON, for unknown reasons at Twickenham Parish Church. In the 1901 census she had been in Yateley and John in Aldershot, where perhaps they met. They lived in Bournemouth in a house they called *Grayshott* and had a daughter, Winifred, and a son, Henry Basil. By this time Flora was having stories published in magazines. In 1916 John THOMPSON was promoted and the family moved back to Liphook, next to Grayshott, where Flora had her third child in 1918.

She was now producing a regular column of nature notes *Peverel Papers* (a pseudonym for Liphook?) for *Catholic Fireside* magazine, as well as literary criticisms. She had her first book *Bog Myrtle and Peat* published in 1921. She also wrote a guide to Liphook, and an unpublished romantic novel *Gates of Eden*.

Flora and John lived in Liphook for twelve years and now that employees no longer had to live on Post Office premises they were able to buy a house. In 1927 they had to leave Hampshire as John was promoted to Dartmouth and they spent ten years in Devon, where Flora went on writing short stories. Told that readers liked stories about her childhood, she produced *Lark Rise to Candleford*. Whether it was fact or fiction, it was an instant success, and she wrote a successful sequel.

WWII now came, in which Flora lost her son. She was living in Brixham which was being bombed due to the proximity of Naval installations, and she was having problems with her heart. She went on writing books, including *Heatherley* and *Still Glides the Stream*. She died in 1947, and the latter book was published in 1948; *Heatherley*, unpublished, was found amongst her effects and has now been published. John survived her by only a year. Asked if he thought Flora would have liked the TV series of *Lark Rise to Candleford*, John Owen SMITH thought she probably would; the show's website gives information about who the real people were.

## Harps, Haarnacks and the Naked Chef: *Moira Bonnington*

Moira started her talk with a short film clip of TV chef, Jamie OLIVER, visiting a restaurant at 10 Charlotte Street in London's West End - she had found out that this was formerly her HAARNACK ancestors' harp workshop, although she had not at first known of the connection of harps with her family. This restaurant has since closed down - she wonders if the HAARNACK name is still under the fascia board?



Moira then showed us a newspaper photograph, taken in that same workshop, of Henry David HAARNACK, age 91, her Great Great Grandfather, who in 1926 was the oldest man plying the trade of harp maker. A cousin remembers receiving a shiny new penny for helping in the workshop. HAARNACK was Moira's Great Grandmother's name. Four generations of the family had been involved with harp making.

Her Grandmother had a box of family photographs, including some of herself and her siblings, plus a fading photograph of Moira's Great Grandmother.

Another picture shows her Great

Great Uncle posing with a small harp, also made by the HAARNACKs, of a type used to accompany folk music. Some of the photographs were 'cabinet photographs', with a lot of detail about the photographer on the back. Two of her Grandmother's sisters were in matching dresses, possibly borrowed from the photographer. The information on the back, plus fashions and props, can be used to date a photograph, and the Dictionary of London Photographers can help date the studio.

Also in the box were postcards from Moira's Grandfather in France during WWI; these had a flap under which was a personal message. Fortunately the gravestone of the family plot in Highgate Cemetery survives with HAARNACK names upon it (the cemetery records are in Camden Local Studies Centre).

In the 1960s Moira obtained a newspaper cutting about a man with a shop in Kensington High Street full of harps. This was Clive MORLEY, whose

family company had been connected with harps since 1817 and were business rivals of the HAARNACKs. She was disappointed to learn that some books listing former customers, given by the HAARNACKs to the MORLEY family have disappeared. Another firm of harp makers, MUNSON & HARBOUR, has moved its premises from London to Sandycombe Road in Kew.

Moira looked in old magazines to do with the music trade and found advertisements placed by her family. People in the music world have been very generous in supplying her with information and she has even been invited to attend concerts. From *The Times Digital Archive* she found that the HAARNACKs had placed small advertisements in *The Times* about three times a year, thus revealing their various addresses since the 1840s: this led to looking at 19th century street directories, on open access in the library of the Bishopsgate Institute. She looked up firms which were in business at the same time as her family, such as musical instrument makers in London who mainly traded in the Tottenham Court Road area, particularly piano and organ makers. HAARNACK family members had originally worked for the well-known piano and harp maker Sebastian ERARD of Great Marlborough Street.

Henry David's father was Christian HAARNACK, who was married at St Martin in the Fields and lived in Tottenham Street. Where does the family name come from? She is still not sure but it is certainly of European origin. In the early 19th century fashionable young ladies played harps so the instruments were much in demand, but now there are only a few harp makers left. With harps going out of fashion in the late 19th and early 20th century her Great Uncle learned the violin and played in a 'Hungarian' band - these central European bands were very popular, but at the start of WWI they had to change their pseudo military 'uniforms' to dinner suits.

Costing about £20 in the 19th century, a new harp is now over £4,000. Each one is numbered so its history can be traced. It took about six months to make a harp and inside the decorated pillar is a complicated rod system connected to the seven pedals at the base of the harp. Several trades were involved in making a completed instrument. Moira has acquired a HAARNACK harp, made in the 1860s by Henry David and his son and she is learning to play it.





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## WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS

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*Mrs.M.Sibley has extracted wedding photographs from local newspapers. If anyone is interested in receiving the newspaper cutting of any couple in the list below, she will be pleased to forward same upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Please refer to her address at the back of the Journal.*

This is an ongoing series. 1925-part 1931 can be found in previous Journals.

### Part of year 1931

Mr. A.V. BAILEY, West Ealing, to Miss Betty CARTER, Guildford†  
Mr. William Henry BEAN, West Ealing, to Miss Olive Mary LEE, Colchester\*  
Mr. L. BELCHER to Miss Dorothy LIDDINGTON\*  
Mr. William Ernest BENDING, Culmstock, Devon, to Miss Sarah Louisa LOVELL, Southall†  
Mr. Wilfred BERNARD to Miss Gertrude BRADBURY\*  
Mr. G.E. BLACKWELL to Miss McCOY\*  
Mr. Ernest W. BOLLEN to Miss Christina STANDEN  
Mr. Charles S. BONSALE to Miss Evelyn May FLINT, both of Southall†  
Mr. Thomas Edwin BRADLEY, Hanwell, to Miss Dorothy Mary WEST, Ealing  
Mr. Francis Chudleigh BRAKE to Miss Olive Ada OTTWAY\*  
Mr. Sidney BROTHERTON to Mrs. Edith SANDPORD, both of Southall\*  
Mr. R.C. BROWN to Miss B. WELIAS\*  
Mr. James H. BRUTON to Miss Irene M. HYSLOP\*  
Mr. Edward Patrick BUCKLEY, Dublin, to Miss Dorothy Anne PRIDEAUX, Southall  
Mr. Reginald A. BURBRIDGE to Miss Evelyn WESTAWAY  
Mr. James H. BURTON, Seaford, Sussex, to Miss Ivy Rosina Florence BAXTER, Tetbury, Gloucester†  
Mr. Cecil Stanley BUSH to Miss Hilda Louise JONES\*  
Mr. George Leslie BUSH, Acton, to Miss Gladys COCKMAN, Hanwell†  
Mr. John A. CARPENTER to Miss K.L. HENDERSON \*  
Mr. Allan Clifford CARTER to Miss Annie Christina WITNEY, both of West Ealing†  
Mr. Frank Douglas CARTER to Miss Lilian Grace HOOD, both of Southall  
Flt.Lt. Ronald Hartley CARTER to Miss Eileen Mary Dorothea BOWEN\*  
Mr. E.J. CATO to Miss Marion WHITTAKER\*  
Mr. Harold CHAMPION to Miss Mabel RYDER 8: Mr. E.J. RYDER to Miss Grace CHAMPION\*  
Mr. Edward George CHAPMAN to Miss Marjorie Ethel SPEED, both of Ealing  
Mr. Sidney Lawrence CHAPMAN to Miss Minnie Evelyn ("Peggy") ELLIOTT, both of Southall  
Mr. R.E. CHURCH to Miss H.M. CLASSEY\*  
Mr. Sidney CLARK to Miss Dorothy SMITH\*  
Mr. EH. CLEVERLY to Miss P.M. M.JAKES\*  
Flt.Lt. Adrian Harry William James COCKS, Cornwood, South Devon, to Miss Esme Maud LAMOND  
Mr. Edward COGGINS, Ealing, to Miss Gladys May JOHNS, Hanwell

\*Photo only    †No photo

Mr. Henry G. COPE to Miss Grace THURKETTLE\*  
 Mr. Herbert William CROUCH to Miss Mabel Florence BLOOMFIELD, both of Hanwell  
 Mr. Arthur David CURSON S to Miss Matilda Louisa WRIGHT, both of Southall  
 Mr. Phillip Montague COUTANCHE to Miss Dorothy Vera STAMFORD, both of Ealing  
 Mr. James DALGLIESH, Govan, Glasgow, to Miss Dora Esther PATERSON, Greenford†  
 Mr. Walter Glyn DAVIES to Miss Margaret Berrell BARNETT\*  
 Mr. Reginald Samuel DOLLIMORE to Miss Louie LEVER, both of Southall  
 Mr. Charles William Frederick DUF FIELD, Notting Hill Gate, to Miss Lily Eva STANDISH, Ealing†  
 Mr. Horace Willie EAGAR to Miss Dorothy Amy WEEKS, both of Southall†  
 Mr. WB. ELEN to Miss A.M. DARNELL\*  
 Mr. Frank Stuart ETHERIDGE, Droxford, Hampshire, to Miss Annie BLAKE, Hanwell  
 Mr. David John Rowland EVANS to Miss Kathleen Edith HUTT, both of Ealing  
 Mr. James FAULKNER to Miss Winnie FROST\*  
 Mr. John FIELD to Miss Doris Mary ANDREWS\*  
 Mr. William Arthur FIELD to Miss Kathleen Olive PIDDINGTON, both of Hanwell  
 Mr. Alan M. FISHER to Miss L.M. WOOD\*  
 Mr. Arthur Maurice F ITZ-GIBBON to Miss Elsie Mary CARTER, both of West Ealing  
 Mr. Francis William FLETCHER, Ealing, to Miss Winifred Edith HURD, Southall  
 Mr. Joseph Arnold FOSTER to Miss Marjorie Lydia GRANT\*  
 Mr. Henry Edmund Laurence FOX, Hounslow, to Miss Doris Lucy JORDAN, Ealing  
 Mr. Eric F REEBREY to Miss Vera BRACKLEY\*  
 Mr. Ernest Richard Cyril FULWELL to Miss Esme Rosina WEARE, both of Ealing  
 Mr. Reginald Douglas GIBBS, Gerrards Cross, to Miss Betty Maude LONG-PRICE, Ceylon†  
 Mr. Cecil GILBERT to Miss Lucy STARK\*  
 Mr. Charles Trevor GOLESWORTHY, Southsea, to Miss Ellaline Iris IGGULDEN, Ealing  
 Mr. R.W GOODWIN to Miss E.WEBB\*  
 Mr. William Arthur John GORRINGE, Shepherds Bush, to Miss Thelma HUNT, Greenford  
 Mr. A. GOSTAGE to Miss E. TAYLOR\*  
 Mr. David GOSWELL to Miss Marjorie ARNO\*  
 Mr. Frank GOWER to Miss Winifred PUTMAN\*  
 Mr. Kennett GRAHAM to Miss Doreen DOWIE\*  
 Rev. A.A.W GRAY, late of Ealing, to Miss Audrey Mary Grace PATRICK of Broadway, Worcestershire†  
 Mr. W. GRIFFITHS to Miss D.H. LARDNER\*  
 Mr. R.A. GRISTWOOD to Miss E.M. REED\*  
 Mr. Clifford GROVES to Miss Ivy DAVISON\*  
 Mr. Leslie Ronald HALL to Miss Ada Ellen MOODY, both of Southall  
 A/Sgt.Major Wilfred H.HALL, Denham, to Miss Doris Lilian POTTER, Uxbridge†  
 Regt.Sgt.Major Frank John HAMMOND to Miss Ena Marguerite SMITH\*  
 Mr. Frederick Thomas HARRISON to Miss Mabel Edith BROOKS\*  
 Mr. Richard Francis HARRISON to Miss Nellie May WILLIS, both of Southall  
 Sgt. James William HARTZIG, RAF, Harlescot, Shrewsbury to Miss Winifred May CO LDWE LL, .Hanwell†  
 Mr. Henry Robert HEARD, Iver, to Miss Ivy RICHARDS, Ealing Common\*  
 Mr. John A. HICKMAN to Miss Muriel WOODS\*  
 Mr. Harold HIETT to Miss Beatrice MARTIN \*  
 \*Photo only    †No photo

Mr. John HILL to Miss Hilda SHIRVELL\*  
 Mr. H. HOBSON, West Kensington, to Miss R. BLAKE, West Ealing†  
 Mr. Norman Greville HODGES, Osterley Park, to Miss Sylvia LEGGE, West Ealing  
 Mr. Charles Francis HOOKINS, Hastings, to Miss Ruby Ivy Louise SIMPSON, Ealing†  
 Mr. Victor HORNE to Miss Daisy HUNT\*  
 Mr. Dennis Reginald HOUSLEY to Miss Doris Emily FARROR, both of Southall  
 Mr. Edward William HUMPHREY to Miss Kathleen Elizabeth SHELDON, both of Ealing  
 Mr. R.H. HUNT to Miss Catherine JESSETT\*  
 Mr. William George IRWIN to Miss Violet Louise DAWE, both of Ealing†  
 Mr. Francis E. JARMEY to Miss Gladys F. SCARRATT\*  
 Mr. Percival Raphael JENKINS to Miss Violet Lucy Hood BATCHELOR, both of Ealing†  
 Mr. Cyril JOHNSON to Miss Nancy CRISPE\*  
 Mr. Benjamin J. JONES to Miss Jessie M. STEVENS\*  
 Mr. George Samuel JONES, Acton Vale, to Miss Ellen Dorothy BUCK, West Ealing†  
 Mr. R.W. JULYAN to Miss Gladys BLOCK\*  
 Mr. John KETTLE to Miss Marjorie CLARKE\*  
 Mr. J .S.H. KING to Miss Violette HICKMAN\*  
 Mr. Marcel Edward KING to Miss Dora Carey STANBROOK\*  
 Mr. Terence Henry LAMBERT to Miss Lizzie Emily (Elizabeth) AMHERST, both of Ealing†  
 Mr. Henry J .A. LAST to Miss Nellie E. KNEE\*  
 Capt. LEES, RE, to Miss Madeleine WERMECKE, Twickenham\*  
 Mr. Raymond H.W. LEGG, West Ealing, to Miss Gwendoline Beatrice K. PETERS, Hanwell  
 Mr. William LEWIS, Melksham, Wiltshire, to Miss Elsie M. RICHARDSON, West Ealing  
 Mr. Ralph Thomas LILLEY to Miss Ethel Norah Theresa SAVAGE, both of Ealing  
 Mr. John W. LOADER to Miss Dorothy E.B. REES\*  
 Mr. W.H. LOBJOIT to Miss Kathleen WATT\*  
 Mr. William James LOMAS to Miss Phyllis Burgess RAWLINSON, both of Southall  
 Mr. Francis John MACMILLAN to Miss Winifred Mary KIFF, both of Ealing  
 Mr. Martin Henry MAGGS, Bristol 81 Calcutta, to Miss Cecelia Emily PETTIFER, Ealing  
 Mr. Frank MARTIN to Miss Winifred REED\*  
 Mr. Henry James MAURICE, Brentham, to Miss Kathleen Ruby GOULD, West Ealing†  
 Mr. E.C. MAY, West Ealing, to Miss Edith Winifred WRIGHT, Colchester†  
 Mr. Stanley MIDDLETON to Miss Edna HOBSON\*  
 Mr. Reginald Thomas MILLER to Miss Evelyn Mary McCLEERY, both of Greenford  
 Mr. W. MOSELEY to Miss E.C. KAISER\*  
 Mr. Reginald Edward MOSS to Miss Kathleen Julia HURLEY, both of Ealing  
 Mr. Benjamin Robert MOSS, Ealing, to Miss Elizabeth Walker WILLSON, Brentford  
 Mr. Noel Leonard MUGFORD, Harlesden, to Miss Gladys Ivy I/VEBB, Southall  
 Mr. Frank MURRAY, Greenford & Canada, to Miss Hester JONES, Tweed, Ontario (Photo of Mr. MURRAY only)  
 Mr. Alfred P. NEWELL to Miss Florence E.F. GOODFELLOW\*  
 Mr. A.G. NEWETT, HMS Endeavour, to Miss Hilda BISHOP\*  
 Seaman Stanley OAKE to Miss Doris May MOORE\*  
 Mr. George T. OGILVIE to Miss Emily L. SEXTON  
 Mr. Valentine George Williams PARMETER, Ealing, to Miss Marjorie FRANKLIN, Hendon  
 Mr. Charles PARR-HEAD to Miss Marion CHARMAN\*  
 Mr. S.J. PARSONS to Miss I.A. BROWN\*  
 Mr. J.C. PARTRIDGE to Miss H.M. GOWER\*  
 \*Photo only    †No photo



Mr. Donald PATON to Miss Gladys SMITH\*  
 Mr. Oswald William PAS SINGHAM, Hounslow, to Miss Ada Florence COVER, West Ealing  
 Mr. Reginald J .W PEARCE, West Ealing, to Miss Mary Amelia ROWLINGS, Cliftonville†  
 Mr. Kenneth WPERRETT to Miss Helen Olive PEACHEY\*  
 Mr. Richard John PERRY, Ashford to Miss Violet Mary HANCOCK, Norwood Green†  
 Mr. Philip POOLE, Pulham to Miss Emily C. BICKNELL, Southall  
 Mr. Stanley POOLE to Miss Maud GAY\*  
 Mr. Ernest Ralph POULTON, Hackney, to Miss Isabella Rutherford MURRAY, West Acton  
 Mr. Prank L. POWELL to Miss Alice E. FORDHAM\*  
 Mr. Albert PRESTON to Miss Kathleen OLDPIELD\*  
 Ldg.Seaman George Dennis PRICE to Miss Irene Mildred FRY, both of Southall  
 Mr. Edwin PROSSER, Plumstead, to Miss Alice Winifred MOORE, Southall  
 Mr. Charles Aubrey PUDDICOMBE, Ealing, to Miss Jessie PAVEY, Hanwell  
 Mr. William Richard RANDALL to Miss Violet Emily WHITE, both of Ealing†  
 Mr. R.K. RASHBROOK to Miss Ruby PALMER\*  
 Mr. Charles RAYMOND to Miss Dorothy GORTON\* \_  
 Mr. Harry REED, Shepherds Bush, to Miss Lily ("Peggy") HUDDLESTONE, Southall  
 Mr. Percy Henry RICH, Brent Knoll, Somerset, to Miss Florence Marie GODDARD, Southall  
 Mr. Albert Edward RINTS to Miss Val SEATON\*  
 Eng.Comdr. ROBERTS, RA, to Miss Vera COWIE\*  
 Mr. Arthur ROBERTSON, Southfields to Miss Violet LEWIS, Ealing  
 Mr. Andrew Sutherland RODGER, Dundee, to Miss Edith May DRAKE, Southall  
 Mr. William ROSE to Miss Doris May SMITH, both of Ealing  
 Mr. Alfred Charles ROWLAND to Miss Violet May TIMBERLAKE, both of Southall  
 Mr. F.J. RYDER to Miss Grace CHAMPION & Mr. Harold CHAMPION to Miss Mabel RYDER\*  
 Mr. Robert SANDERS to Miss Marjorie CHURCH\*  
 Mr. WW SAVAGE, Southall, to Miss E.J. BEADMAN, South Wigston, Leicestershire\*  
 Mr. C.R. SHARE to Miss Edna MARTIN\*  
 Mr. William George SHEA, Southall, to Miss Vera THOMAS, Camborne, Cornwall†  
 Mr. A.E. SHELTON to Miss D.E. MACKLIN\*  
 Mr. WE. SHERRY to Miss Vera STENT\*  
 Mr. Cyril Harry SHORT, Southall, to Miss Patricia O'BRIEN, New Barking†  
 Mr. Carl Rupert SIDAY to Miss Hilda Mary Betty McMORRAN, both of Ealing†  
 Mr. Edwin A.M. SMITH to Miss Doris M. YOUNG\*  
 Mr. G.W SMITH to Miss Mena DAVIES\*  
 Mr. Gordon John SMITH, Aberdeen, to Miss Valentine Strange WADDINGTON, Southall  
 Mr. Horace James SMITH to Miss Letitia Mary DAVIES, both of Southall†  
 Mr. Harold SQUIRES to Miss Blanche BUCKMASTER\*  
 Mr. Alfred E. STRAFFON to Miss Eva SCOATES\*  
 Mr. J. STUBBS-WALKER, Altrincham, Cheshire, to Miss Mildred WRIGHT, Hanwell†  
 Mr. John Leslie SUMMERS to Miss Evelyn Laura FRANCIS, both of Southall†  
 Mr. Bernard SUN LEY to Miss Mary GODDARD\*  
 Mr. Arthur Stanley TALBOT, Southall, to Miss Constance FEAST, Ealing†  
 Mr. Christopher John Eyre TANNER to Miss Eileen BARRY, both of Hanwell†  
 Mr. S J. TELPER to Miss Rita TEMPLEMAN, both of Hanwell  
 Mr. G.F.E. TETT to Miss Amy WELCH\*

\*Photo only    †No photo

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## WORLD WIDE WEB

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Some new records online

- Do you have Irish ancestors? The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has added pre-1901 Belfast street directories, 1766 Religious Census Returns, 1775 Dissenters' Petitions and the pre-1901 Coroner's inquests to their website.  
*[www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)*
- Irish Roots, the journal which covers Irish ancestral research for the whole of Ireland, is now available on Facebook. Links through:  
*[www.irishrootsmedia.com](http://www.irishrootsmedia.com)*
- Over 190,000 Welsh wills have been digitized and are on the website of the National Library of Wales. The wills were proved in the Welsh ecclesiastical courts before 1858 and are free to view.  
*<http://cat.llgc.org.uk/probate>*
- Records of European soldiers who served in Bombay are now free to search. Transcribed by the Families in British India Society they give a wealth of information about men who served from 1795 to 1862.  
*[www.fibis.org](http://www.fibis.org)*
- Family Relatives boast of a million military records in their database, including medal rolls for the Peninsular Wars (from 1801-1814) and De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1918. And medical ancestors? More than 1m records of doctors, nurses and midwives at work in the UK between 1853-1943 from medical registers can be searched.  
*[www.familyrelatives.com](http://www.familyrelatives.com)*
- BMD Registers offer the GRO Miscellaneous Foreign Returns, 1831-1946 with free searching but a fee to download images. The records are largely of non-statutory documents of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials abroad on British and foreign ships of British subjects, including nationals of the Colonies, the Commonwealth and countries under British jurisdiction.  
*[www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk)*
- These records are also offered by The Genealogist, plus the Victoria Cross and Distinguished Service Order records 1857-1923, a different collection of births, marriages and deaths onboard ships compiled from ships' official logs of bmd's of passengers at sea.  
*[www.theGenealogist.co.uk](http://www.theGenealogist.co.uk)*

- Ancestry have “re-grouped” their Parish Records so that you can search by region, which they hope will make it easier for you to find the record you want. They also claim to have “the complete works” of British Army WWI Service.

*[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)*
- Thousands of photographs were taken by Allied aircrews during the Second World War and are now being made publicly available. The first batch of 4,000 photos are online now and eventually visitors will be able to view up to 10m. photos.

*<http://aerial.rcahms.gov.uk>*
- Records of nearly 100,000 RAF officers who were either killed or discharged before the end of 1920 have been added to the National Archives Documents Online database.

*[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline)*
- If you are interested in 20th century history, Security Service files covering a period up to the late 1950’s can be viewed on the TNA website. Log on to the security history research signpost, which offers a good overview of the files and offers some tips on searching them.

*[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)*
- I wonder how many of you have reached the 14th and 15th centuries in your family history research? TNA have established a Medieval Soldier research project, and together with researchers at Reading and Southampton Universities have produced a database of over a quarter of a million service records for soldiers who took part in the Hundred Years War (1369-1453).

*[www.medievalsoldier.org](http://www.medievalsoldier.org)*
- The Original Record company produces an extraordinary collection of indexes from a great variety of different sources and covering a multitude of subjects. Just a few that have been added in the last three months are, in no particular order: Aldenham School Register 1885-1968; Register of Veterinary Surgeons 1890; British Area Telephone Directory 1957; Howdenshire Poll Tax 1379; Fettes College Register 1870-1922; Kelly’s Directory of Bournemouth 1934; Steam Engine Maker’s Society Membership Lists 1910; the Yachtsman’s Annual and General Register 1845; the Christian Miscellany Tabular Record of Mortality and Memorials of the Dead taken from the monthly publication *The Methodist Christian Miscellany and Family Visitor*; The Clergy List for 1858. Free unlimited search of 8.9m records.

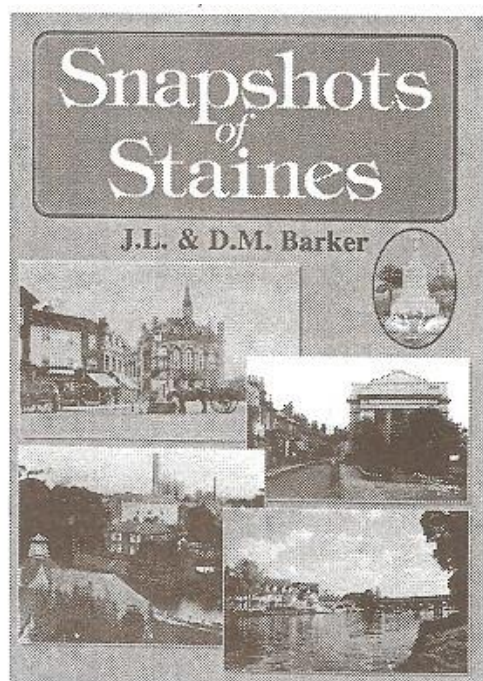
*[www.theoriginalrecord.com](http://www.theoriginalrecord.com)*
- Find My Past is changing its web address (although links will be in place for some time) from [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) to [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

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## BOOKSHELF

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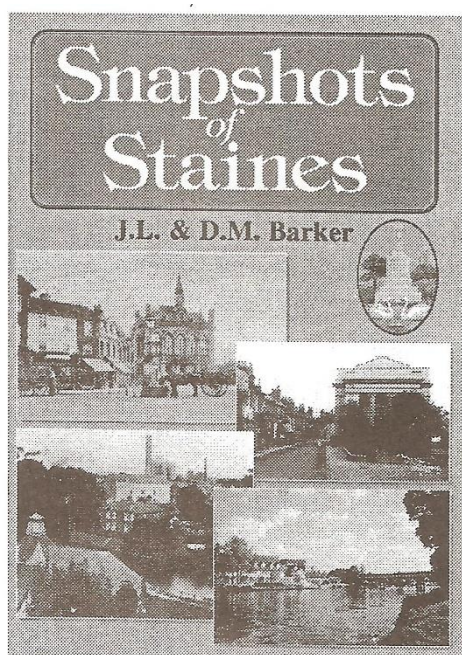
**Aspects of Ashford** by D.M. & J.L. Barker (Borough Books 2006) ISBN 13:97809537547-1-7 £8.95



Now part of the London sprawl, Ashford was once a rural Middlesex village. This attractively produced book of photographs concentrates mainly on the first 30 years of the 20th century, with a few images in the 1950s and '60s.

Each picture has been meticulously researched and the descriptions add much to the knowledge of local history of the area, so useful to add 'flesh on the bones' of your ancestors.

**Snapshots of Staines** by J.L. and D.M. Barker (Borough Books, 1999] ISBN 0 951865897, £7.95



Produced for the new millennium, this book of black and white photographs covers over one hundred years from 1865 to 1980, and will be a delight for anyone with connections with Staines.

It depicts all aspects of life: buildings, streets, occupations, leisure, the Thames in flood and frozen, from archeological digs to the 1957 train crash there is something for everyone. There are aerial views and two maps.

This book is an excellent overview of activities in this Thames-side town. An excellent addition to any bookshelf.



**Looking Back**, a personal look at the history of South West Middlesex, *from the popular Chronicle articles of Eddie Menday* (Ad Pontes Books), ISBN 0 95153763 7, £6.

This is a series of 68 articles reprinted from the author's weekly column in the *Middlesex Chronicle*, written after he retired. It covers the 'villages' of south-west Middlesex that are not so well known as those which lie along the Thames: Feltham, Ashford, Heston, Bedfont, Colnbrook, etc. Most of the articles are looking back and revisiting personal and national memories.

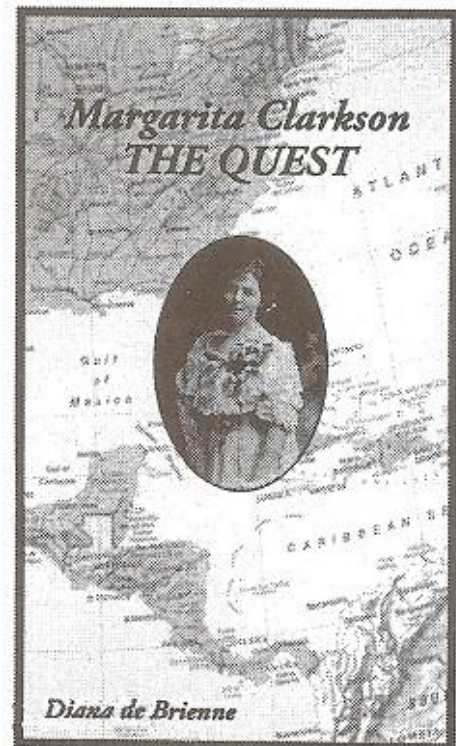
The topics are as varied as the numerous illustrations and the book as a whole makes a delightful and nostalgic read.



**These three books can be obtained direct from Janice Kershaw, our Bookstall Manager. Her details are inside the front cover of the Journal. Please add £1 p&p**

**Margarita Clarkson, *The Quest* by Diana de Brienne**, (Brienne Publications 2008) ISBN 978 0 9559526 0 9 £6.99 (incl. p&p). Available direct from Mrs. Diana Sexstone, 3 Guernsey Mead, Heywood, Westbury, Wilts. BA13 4LT

After attending the memorial service for Thomas CLARKSON, Abolitionist, (1760-1846) at Westminster Abbey in 1996, the author of this book decided to find out whether her Grandmother, Margarita, was related to this august gentleman, as she believed. Thomas CLARKSON's grandson Henry was born in Harlington but Diana's research ranged from Yorkshire to Cornwall, via Wisbech and the Isle of Wight, and of course the main record depositories in London. This is a real story of family history research with discoveries narrated as the author found them.



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## THE LONDON GAZETTE – TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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Richard Goodwin

*“This day, the first of the Oxford Gazettes came out, which is very pretty, full of news and no folly in it. . . ”*

With this brief diary entry, Samuel PEPYS recorded the first issue of Britain’s oldest continuously-published newspaper, the *London Gazette*. It has recorded significant political events, the everyday working of government and to some extent the lives of ordinary everyday people. Its birth was an accident of history, a result of which, even nearly 350 years later, historians can only imagine the impact. In the early spring of 1665, Charles II removed himself and the Royal Court from London to Oxford, whilst plague set about killing more than 100,000 Londoners. Such was the fear of contamination that people would not attempt to have any contact with any object or person from London, this included letters and newspapers. Royal authority was sought to publish a news sheet for the Court and issue No.1 of the *Oxford Gazette* appeared in November 1665. When in February 1666 the Court returned to London, the title changed to the *London Gazette* which it bore from issue 24. ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/1/pages/1](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/1/pages/1); [www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/24](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/24))

A two-sided sheet printed in a two column layout, published twice weekly on Monday and Thursday, early issues reflected the preoccupations of the Court and a nation expanding its world trade routes. News from abroad - guaranteed reliable as it came from British ambassadors - and records of shipping movements in and out of half a dozen British havens or ports were supplemented by advertisements for the lost dogs, stolen horses and runaway servants of the gentry. Thus in the *London Gazette* of January 1692, we can read “Richard FITZGERALD - alias GERALD aged about 20, middlesized, pale countenance, down looked, thick fair lank hair ” who on the 19th stole “great sums of gold and silver, jewels, rings, medals, seals and watches”. His master, not surprisingly, was offering a reward for the whereabouts of the goods and Richard FITZGERALD. ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/2838/pages/2](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/2838/pages/2))

With a monopoly of the printed news, the Gazette also carried some major domestic stories: the issue of September 10th 1666, is a detailed report of the inexorable spread of the Great Fire of London, despite “His Majesties (sic) own personal plans to apply all possible remedies to prevent it” ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/85](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/85))

From the beginning the *Gazette* readership was not the general public but the mercantile classes, the legal profession and officers of state serving at home and abroad. Whilst this guaranteed a large circulation - 6,000 copies by

1704 - over 1,000 of these were provided free to office holders and often sold on for a profit. By the early 18C regular contributors included the Treasury and Privy Council, whilst the Admiralty and War Office submitted details of the appointments and promotions of their officers, a process continuing even today and known as “being Gazetted”.

Published three times a week from June 1709, although still a single, two-sided leaf, in 1712 the *Gazette* assumed one role it still fulfils today when an “Act to Relieve Insolvent Debtors” required publication of insolvency announcements in the *Gazette*, with a resultant doubling of size to four pages on most publication days. In the words of the *Gazette*’s historian, “the businessman losing money must publicise the fact and the *Gazette* was to be his pillory”. This public penalty, also confusingly referred to as “being Gazetted” or “being in the Gazette” was mentioned in the literature of such diverse figures as Lord BYRON and Charles DICKENS. In the same year the newly-introduced Newspaper Stamp Duty caused publication to revert to twice weekly (Tuesday and Saturday) and taxed the placing of advertisements - spelling the end of appeals for lost dogs, horses and servants, but increasing revenue from statutory notices. These early years of the 18C saw detailed information on the price of grain and an increasing number of public notices of a legal nature, encroaching on space once given to foreign news and shipping arrivals. By 1785, the *Gazette* varied in size between four and eight pages but had assumed a shape recognisable to modern readers.

With the publication of the first daily English newspaper - London’s *Daily Courant* in 1702 - the *Gazette* lost its monopoly of news and throughout the 18C and early 19C circulation declined. As a cost-saving measure the *Gazette* staff were all housed under one roof from 1811, but by 1828 fewer than 600 copies were sold: a later Comptroller of the Stationery Office was to comment “No-one buys it for amusement or as pleasant reading...it is only taken by those who cannot help it”. But the *Gazette* maintained a lead in military matters with British Commanders in the field being its impeccably authoritative sources. During the Napoleonic Wars despatches of particular importance began to be published as *Extraordinary Gazettes*, two examples recording NELSON’s death at the Battle of Trafalgar and the first news of WELLINGTON’s victory at Waterloo, a report which The Times simply republished verbatim. ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/15858](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/15858)) ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/17028](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/17028))

In the middle years of the nineteenth century the *Gazette* gradually assumed its modern form. Usurped as a newspaper by the daily press, it was the growth of legislation and the rise of a Civil Service to administer that legislation that made it an essential part of the government’s communication machine. Whilst *Gazettes* of 24 pages were regularly published, the railway building boom of 1845 saw a bumper 548 page issue and the number of

advertisements rose to 26,000 a year by 1857. Legislation on Patents and Company Law in the 1850s and 1860s required the regular publication of information to interested parties, and from 1870 the newly-created Civil Service Commission, appointed to oversee the recruitment and examination of government employees, published details of Civil Service appointments at all grades in the *Gazette*. This continued through the first half of the 20th century and included bodies, such as the Post Office, that we do not today regard as Civil Service; for example the appointment (without competition) of Henry William PRESTON, as a Learning Postman at Henley-on-Thames, is thus duly recorded in the Gazette of September 8th 1899. Perhaps the last remnant of this past role today is the Imperial Service Medal, a supplement to the Gazette published on an occasional basis announcing awards to officials on their retirement. ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/58889](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/58889))

In 1899 a Naturalization Act ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27039/pages/13](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27039/pages/13)) resulted in the regular publication of lists of those granted British citizenship and in 1925 the Trustee Act ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/33120/pages/84](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/33120/pages/84)) picked up pre-existing practice by specifying certain legal privileges for executors giving notice of deceased's estates in the Gazette. Notices of this type are placed even today, providing family historians with a rich trail of information.

Perhaps the greatest growth change in the *Gazette* during the nineteenth century - now of great interest to many family historians - were the increased notifications of honours and awards to the armed services, active throughout the century in an expanding and often troubled Empire. From the eighteenth century, published despatches from commanders in the field had noted the distinguished service of officers of senior rank, but it was not until 1843 that a British commander mentioned rank and file soldiers (what the army called Other Ranks) by name. With the introduction during the Crimean War of three medals to be awarded to Other Ranks for brave conduct, details of the actions for which they were awarded - known as citations - were published in the Gazette. The best-known of these is the Victoria Cross, the first examples being awarded for service in the Crimean War. ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/21971](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/21971))

At the turn of the century despatches from the Boer War were frequently accompanied by regular lists of those awarded medals or whose conduct was to be noted. Whilst the names of those whose conduct was noteworthy are sometimes recorded within the text of a despatch, it became common practice to provide a separate list of such names after the main despatch, an appearance in such lists becoming known as a "mention in despatches". Awards of a new medal for naval officers, the Conspicuous Service Cross (later the Distinguished Service Cross) were Gazetted from 1901 ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27328/pages/4330](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27328/pages/4330)). To fit in with the Gazette's publishing schedule (still twice-weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays]



lists of awards were published as supplements to the regular *Gazettes*, often a day or two later.

In 1910, HM Stationery Office, established in 1787, won a long battle to become the publishers (although not yet the printers) of the *London Gazette* and four years later began expansion to meet the demands of The Great War. With the official publishing days still Tuesdays and Fridays, the scale of the conflict resulted in almost daily publication of the *Gazette* and print runs of over 5,000 copies. Apart from the despatches received from military commanders and legislative changes affecting an expanding industrial sector, the First World War brought changes to the Honours and Awards system, reflecting the nature of the conflict. Existing medals for bravery were extended by the creation of the Military Cross (MC) in December 1914 ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29024/supplements/7](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29024/supplements/7)) and the Military Medal (MM) in March 1916 ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29535/supplements/3647](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29535/supplements/3647)), the Royal Warrants instituting both awards appearing in the *Gazette*. By 1920 over 120,000 MMs and 40,000 MCs had been Gazetted. Although most of these awards did not include detailed citations, for a short period the name of the home town of the award winner was published within the *Gazette* entry.

A permanent and wide-ranging change to the British honours system resulted from the introduction by King George V of the Order of the British Empire in June 1917. Ranging from Knights and Dames Grand Cross (GBE) to the simple British Empire Medal [BEM], these awards rewarded British and Empire civilians who were helping the war effort and for the first time recognised the contribution of women. Divided from 1918 into Military and Civilian Divisions, the order recognised outstanding military service of a non-combatant nature or a distinguished contribution to the State in the arts and sciences, public services outside the Civil Service and charitable work. With these regular awards came the institution of the Birthday and New Year Honours Lists, published as Gazette Supplements ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/30111/supplements/5453](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/30111/supplements/5453)).

Between the wars the *Gazette*, printed from 1923 by HM Stationery Office, settled back to its twice-weekly schedule, recording the dates of bank holidays, the appointments of Lords Lieutenant, High Court and Circuit Judges, probate notices, the designs for coins and banknotes, the dissolution of partnerships, pending registrations of freeholds with the Land Registry, and the appointment of Royal Warrant Holders. A second world war saw a similar expansion to the *Gazette* as that of 1914: daily publication, extensive lists of promotions and regular supplements of Honours and Awards. In January 1942, an alteration to the *Gazette* indexes introduced a separate heading for Honours and Awards, which had formerly been listed within the State Intelligence section under the name of the award.

Although it has been available in public libraries for many years, the official nature of the material recorded in the *Gazette* has meant a limited circulation, making access difficult. The Gazette recognised this and recently began a programme of digitising past copies and 99% plus of *London Gazettes* are available online, with most being key word searchable and the small balance of mostly 17C and 18C *Gazettes* retrievable by searching on a date or issue number.

Two tips to remember to get the most from the web archive are that a search without a search term will give you all *Gazette* issues within a specified date range which you can browse through, and that the publication date of a supplement will differ by a few days from the date of the *Gazette* with which it was published - so always look at the dates on the front pages of *Gazettes*. Alternatively, many libraries carry Gazette archives and the printed indexes which provide an additional way to locate historical information.

Today's *Gazette* continues to carry a wide range of official notices covering details of state, parliamentary, ecclesiastical, transport and planning matters as well as the long-established corporate and personal insolvency notices ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/59109/pages/10873](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/59109/pages/10873)) and regular supplements covering honours and awards ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/documents/qb09](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/documents/qb09)), armed forces officer commissions, promotions and retirements and details of unclaimed Premium Bonds. Although now a newspaper only in a very specialised sense, the Gazette has evolved to meet the needs of government and its readership whilst providing a fascinating record of the changing face of Britain. The lists of unclaimed Premium Bond prizes published since 1956 ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/58868/supplements/1](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/58868/supplements/1)) recall Queen Ann's instruction of 1694 that notice of her royal approval of the lottery must be included in the Gazette. Gazettes of 1900 publish the local prices of wheat ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27150/pages/13](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27150/pages/13)) alongside the diets for workhouse inmates, whilst the growth of property ownership is reflected in the notices placed by the Land Registry since the 19C providing details of freehold properties awaiting registration ([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29360/pages/11079](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29360/pages/11079)). Whether you are researching a person or a social trend, the *Gazette* is a treasure trove of family and other history and will probably have something of interest.

For more information about the *London Gazette* visit [www.london-gazette.co.uk/about](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/about), a special search facility is available for beginners at [www.london-gazette.co.uk/search/steps/1](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/search/steps/1) or use advanced search [www.london-gazette.co.uk/search](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/search).

## References

Handover, P.M.A History of the *London Gazette*: 1665-1965 HMSO; London 1965 Abbott, P.E., Tamplin, J.M.A., *British Gallantry Awards* London 1971

With thanks to John Mills, author and publisher of *Civilian Life* WW2

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### **Brian Randall**

I have been following my family history for about six years and originally wrote a web site published on Yahoo-Geocities. That is now closing but fortunately I commenced a major update and a new website of my information using the latest versions of HTML-CSS-JavaScript, which has now been published at *www.randallfamilyhistory.com*. The site covers 250 years of RANDALL genealogy and includes the names: RANDALL, MUNRO, WILLIAMS, MCGUCKIAN, PAYNE, PAIN, CUTLER, LITTLETON, GLENNY, WESTHEAD, BUCHAN, DADSON, GARNSWORTHY, GRIFFITHS, and HUGHES.

Since the 1911 Census has been issued I have added over 20 new RANDALLs and DADSONs to my tree and ask if it is possible for your members to have a look to see if they have parents/grandparents in my databases. (I say parents, because my mother is 99 years old and still alive!).  
*brianran@btinternet.com* tel: 01704 568565.

### **John Seaman**

The report (WMFHS Journal, December 2009] of Michael GANDY's talk at the Society's "Lateral Thinking" Conference included, "The point of birthplaces being entered in the census was for the purposes of settlement." I understood that detailed information given in the censuses (except for '1911' that was released early) was, and is, confidential for 100 years. If not, who had, and has, access to information that was given with a Government guarantee of confidentiality for 100 years?  
*seaman\_john@hotmail.com*

### **John Woodward**

I have a marriage certificate for a marriage at St. James Norlands in 1855. Recently I had reason to query the entry but the London Metropolitan Archives only hold marriages from 1880 (and baptisms from 1846). Does anyone know whether the earlier marriage registers still exist, if so where they were held, or if not, how they were lost?

Volunteers at the LMA are compiling a database of information on parish churches, their records and history of the area. I would be grateful to know of information about four Acton churches. Were any baptisms, banns, marriages or burials performed there, do any records or registers exist?

St. Aiden's Mission Church, Fletcher Road served from All Saints  
St. Andrew's, Salisbury Street Chapel of Ease of St. Mary, Acton  
St. Cuthbert's Mission Church, Osborne Road served from All Saints  
St. Martin, Hale Gardens.

*john@woodwardj.fsnet.co.uk*

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## HELP!

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### **Thomas HAWKINS**

Wendy CUMMIN is seeking information about her ancestor, Thomas HAWKINS. He was a gardener and possibly had the middle name of Henry, but Wendy has been unable to find out anything else about him. He married Susanna AUSTIN in Heston of 26 February, 1837. She was baptised on 6 June, 1819 at St. Dunstan's, Feltham, the daughter of William and Martha.  
*jandw@blueyonder.co.uk*

### **GORDON family of Hammersmith**

Daphne TIBBITT is trying to trace the GORDON ancestry in her family. She has found the marriage between Rebecca GORDON and George STANHAM on 6 October, 1825 at All Saints, Fulham. One of the witnesses was a John GORDON, who married Martha BUTLER in 1821 at St. Paul's Bennet, Upper Thames Street. Daphne has evidence to support the belief that John is Rebecca's brother. Has anyone any information about this branch of the GORDON family?

*daphnetibbett@btinternet.com*

### **Blackhorse Inn, Ealing**

Tammy NORCOTT is researching her husband's family history and has discovered that in the 1861 Census his 2 x Gt. Grandmother, Mrs. Mary A. NORCOTT, widow, was the Landlady of the Blackhorse Inn, Uxbridge Road, Ealing. Tammy has been unable to locate this Inn and presumes it has either been demolished, changed its name or the property has had a change of use. Does anyone have any knowledge of the Blackhorse?

Tammy Norcott, Brown Roof, Seaton Road, Colyford, Devon, EX24 6QW  
*norkyl@tiscali.co.uk*

### **George PORTSMOUTH**

Colin PORTSMOUTH is unable to identify the parents of his 2 X Gt. Grandfather, George PORTSMOUTH, who married Mary KENDRICK in Teddington on 2 January, 1831. He has his baptism on 14 July 1805, in Bedfont, son of John and Sarah. He has a marriage between a John PORTSMOUTH and Sarah ATKINS, again in Bedfont on 16 March, 1778, but feels that it is unlikely that the first child was born 27 years after the marriage, so is there a generation missing?

*colin@omnis4.plus.com*

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## **APPLICATION FOR PATENTS**

12,161 H.T. STRANGE, Lion House, Weadstone (sic) R.S.O. Middlesex - the telescopic foster mother. *Acton & Chiswick Gazette*, 4 June, 1897.  
(Any ideas of what this could be? Ed.)



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## NEW MEMBERS

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

B326 Mrs. M. BEER, 47 Oak Avenue, Croydon, CRO 8EP  
*eric@ebeer.wanadoo.co.uk*

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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*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.*

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
ALLUM	18-19C	Hayes	MDX	B326
AYRES	17-19C	Farnham Royal	BKM	B326
BURNHAMS	17-19C	Farnham Royal	BKM	B326
DUMMER	17-19C	All	MDX	B326
FINCH	17-19C	Bermondsey	SRY	B326
HARPER	17-19C	Tewkesbury	GLS	B326
KIRBY	16C-1850	Twickenham	MDX	B326
MOXHAM	16-19C	All	HAM	B326
NINER	17-19C	All	HAM	B326
PETTY	17-19C	All	HAM	B326
PHILLIPS	18-19C	Plymouth	DEV	B326
PINK	17-19C	All	HAM	B326
REDKNAP	All	All	MDX	B326
RICHARDS	All	Petersham	SRY	B326
THURNTON	17-19C	Cheltenham	GLS	B326

### Valerie Payne

Many of our earlier members will be saddened to learn of the death of Valerie PAYNE. She and her husband, Tom, used to attend our meetings until his death, when she found it difficult to travel to Hounslow. Her main interests were genealogy and campanology. Valerie and Tom used to visit a number of local churches, together with a group of bell-ringers, in order to ring the various peals. She also visited family history societies to give talks on the subject. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family in their sad loss.

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## INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members fees are as stated (please quote membership number); for non-members they are twice what is indicated below, except where specified. Please note that all enquirers must include a SAE (or IRC). Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

**West Middlesex Marriage Index** Pre-1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Search for one specific marriage reference: £1 (non-members £2); listing of up to 20 entries for specific surname: £2 (non-members £4). Please supply places/dates/surname variants if known. All enquiries must contain SAE [minimum 220x110mm). Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.

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

**West Middlesex 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 Sprott, 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. El 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).

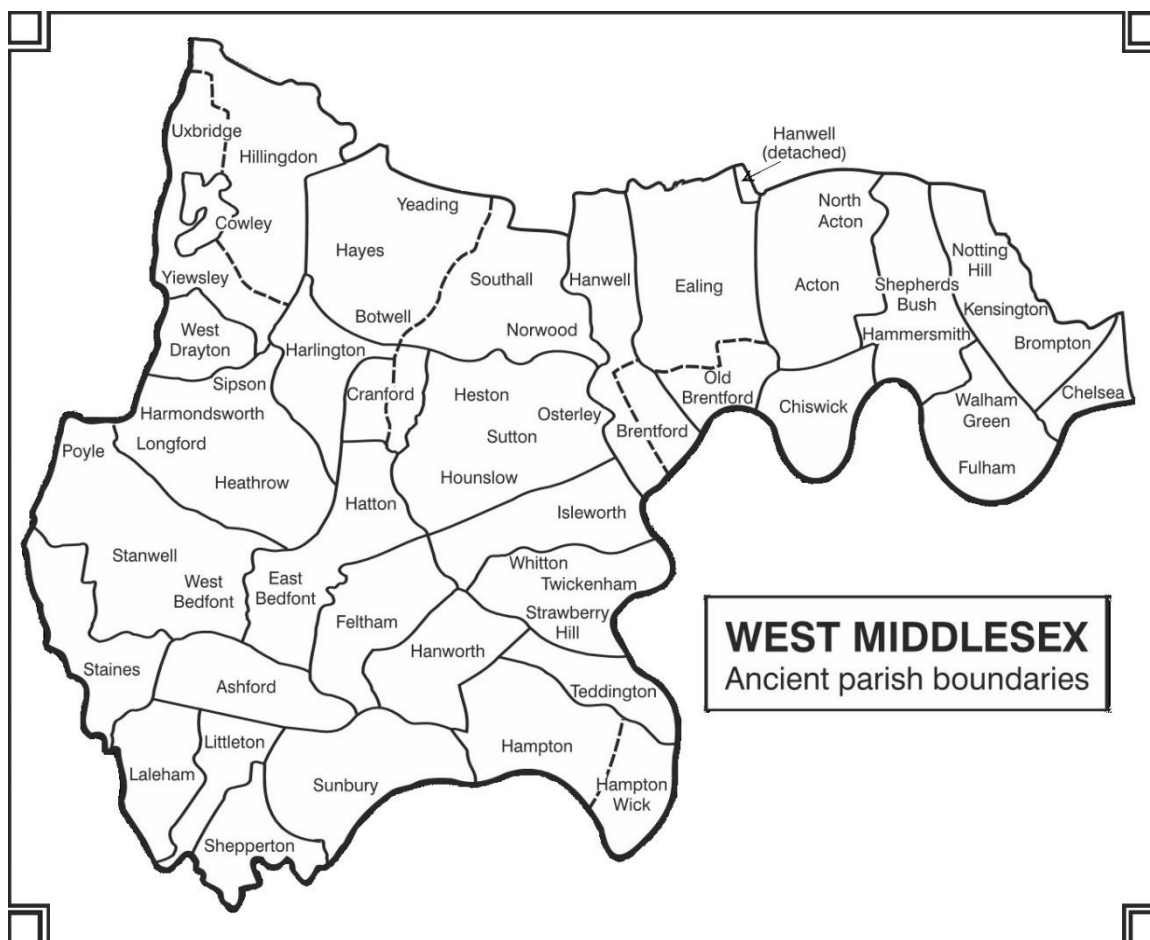
Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS, no SAE required.

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

## **Front Cover**

Brentford Town Hall was erected in 1850 on the site of the old Market House, in front of which was held a Tuesday market. It was renovated in 1929-31 and given a new front. Built as a speculative development it was never used as a Town Hall but for over forty years housed Magistrates Courts, a library and reading room, several banks, shops and meeting facilities used for public entertainments. The Brentford Local Board met there until they moved to Clifden House and in 1891 it was purchased by the Middlesex County Council for use as a full time Magistrates Court. With some additions the building is still in use today and the area is still called Market Place.

The post card used on the front cover is from Celia Cotton's collection.



## 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