



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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Vol. 28 No.2

June 2010

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*Free Library, Hounslow*



ISSN 0142-517X

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	All Categories: £11 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December
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In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE/IRCs must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

**Contents**

A Visit to Grandma .....	7
Annual General Meeting .....	20
Ashford County School War Memorial .....	35
Book of Remembrance, St. Nicholas, Shepperton .....	43
Bookshelf .....	40
Editorial .....	3
Family History Fairs and Events .....	36
Future Meetings .....	2
Help! .....	42
Indexes Held by Members .....	48
Letters to the Editor .....	35
Monthly Talks .....	26
New Members and Surname Interests .....	44
Our 3,000 <sup>th</sup> Member .....	6
Sport in the 1890's .....	34
The Flowerpot Inn at Sunbury .....	12
The Odeon Cinema in 1935 .....	10
W.F. Kirby .....	14
West London Local History Conference .....	31
WMFHS News .....	5
World Wide Web .....	38

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

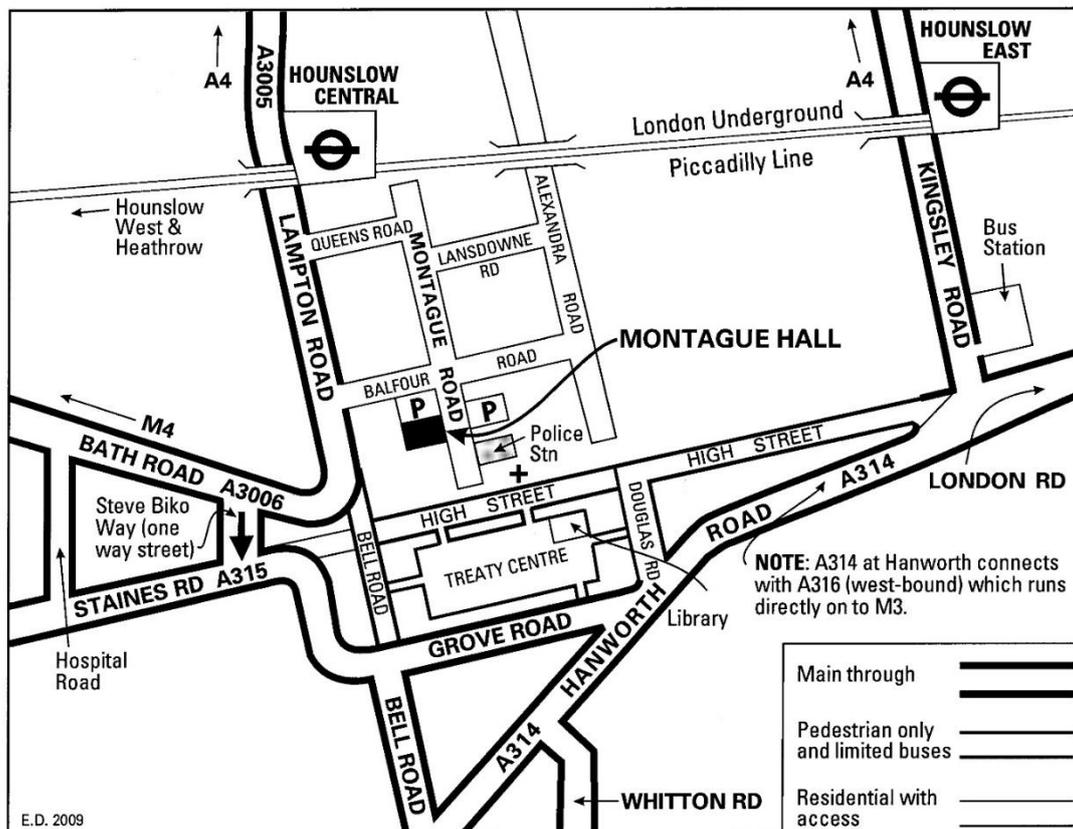
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The following talks have been arranged:

- 17 June      The Great White City Exhibition . . . . . *Jane Kimber*  
 15 July      Members Evening  
                  Displays, short talks, research indexes and discussion  
 19 Aug      The Lloyd Geoprge Domesday  
                  And National Farm Survey . . . . . *Paul Blake*  
 16 Sept     My Ancestor was a Photographer . . . . . *Michael Pritchard*

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.





If you propose to embark on one of the most delightful aspects of family history - a visit to a County Record Office or Archive - do telephone them before you go, as there is good and bad news about opening hours. The bad news is that the Carlisle Record Office is closing at the end of April and not re-opening until January 2011, when it will be at a different location and that access to the London Borough of Redbridge's Local Studies and Archives will be by appointment only. The good news is that a brand new History Centre opened in Hull in January, and that an e-petition against the announced closure of the Brighton History Centre has been so successful that the Council have pledged to keep it open for the time being. Also, following the refurbishment of the People's History Museum in Manchester, the Labour History and Study Centre has re-opened.

When planning to visit to the National Archives at Kew by car, from 27th April it is necessary to pre-book the car park to ensure a space. This can be done online or over the telephone. The cost has remained at their formerly announced price of £5 per day.

If your research at the moment is online, and you are going to buy certificates, more bad news is that the GRO have put up their fees. If you are ordering from the GRO it is now £9.25 per certificate, but you can order from the Superintendent Registrar of the appropriate district at a cost of £9.

Do you have a copy of the National Burial Index? You can update to the new edition for £15 by posting your old disc to FFHS Services Ltd. If you wish to buy the Third Edition of this marvellous resource, which contains more than 18.4 million records of burials recorded from English and Welsh parish registers, nonconformist, Roman Catholic, Quaker and cemetery registers, the cost is £30. It can be obtained via Genfair, [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk).

You may know that the 1931 Census no longer exists and the 1941 was not carried out due to WWII, but for a precursor to an identity card scheme, the National Register of the NHS, a 'census' was taken on the night of Friday, 29th September 1939. It recorded age, address, occupation and whether an individual was in the armed forces or on the Reserves List. The NHS Information Centre has now made it possible to obtain information on an individual if they are deceased and you know where they were living on the census night. It costs £42 and you need to download a form from: <http://tinyurl.com/ygf6jgw>.

Finally, something to look forward to! A new database of UK surnames is being developed by the University of the West of England. Starting in April, this four year project with 150,000 names, will have a global emphasis, hoping to discover how the current UK population evolved.



# **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**



You will have noticed a new look to this quarter's Journal. We decided to change the cover for two reasons and the first was because of difficulties experienced with the current postal regulations. The Journal now has more pages than previously, so in an attempt to keep the cost of postage at the lowest possible rate we are using a lower grade paper, although this is still of a high quality. We found that the laminated cover not only increased the overall weight but also would not remain flat with the increased number of pages, thus increasing the overall size of the Journal and preventing it from going through the GPO regulation 'slot'. Even if the postal authorities our end were satisfied that the Journal fulfilled the criteria for the lowest rate, we have heard that at least one member had to pay a penalty for under pricing by their local post office - and this, of course, is not acceptable. The second reason for the change was the problem of resourcing the different coloured paper used each quarter for the cover over the past few years: thus we had to have different blues and different greens, which was not the intention when this scheme was introduced. We hope you like the new look.

Later in the Journal you will find a report of the Annual General Meeting, which was well supported. We are sad to lose June Watkins, our retiring Membership Secretary. Her wealth of knowledge about family history, as well as her efficiency in this particular post, has made her a very valuable member of the team. We are delighted that Betty Elliott has volunteered to take over as Membership Secretary in her place. In her report, our Chairman raised the question of having to cancel our proposed Open Day on Sunday, 26th September, as we had no-one prepared to organise the event. I am pleased to report that two of our Committee members, Betty Elliott and Kay Dudman, have agreed to undertake this task, so we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the White House in Hampton on this day.

We were pleased to be back in the newly painted Montague Hall in Hounslow after our ejection by the NHS, and hopefully all our monthly meetings will now be held at that venue in the foreseeable future.

**The deadlines for the submission of articles for the Journal are:**

7th January      7th April      7th July      7th October

The Editor is happy to receive articles, long or short, on family, social or local history; your experiences of research, or just short snippets you may have found which you think other members would appreciate or enjoy.

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## OUR 3,000<sup>th</sup> MEMBER

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We are delighted to announce that with a joint membership, we now have our 3,000th member of the Society, starting from its formation in 1987. We are delighted to welcome them.

Ursula and Hugh DOMMETT have lived in Chiswick for over 36 years. Ursula is a musical academic. After completing her PhD as a part-time student at Goldsmiths' College, University of London, she worked as an Associate Lecturer with the Open University for 22 years and as a singing tutor with Richmond Drama School. She now concentrates on playing the organ and choral directing. Hugh is a retired architect and a talented artist. He came to London as a student and stayed. As a young man, he worked in the early 1960s at Chiswick Town Hall.

Both are interested in researching family history. Hugh has a comparatively easy time. The literature on his west-country ancestry - WYATT architects and HOUNSELL netting manufacturers - is quite extensive. Ursula has a more



*Ursula Dommett*

difficult task. Despite family associations with Middlesex stretching back nearly 200 years, she faces the proverbial brick wall when researching the genealogy of her great grandfather, George Brodie CLARK of Syon Park House demolished in 1953. She joined WMFHS in November 2009 to get a few ideas and has not been disappointed; she finds that the talks have been interesting and says that everyone has been extremely pleasant and helpful.

Ursula's interest in family history was initially inspired by another great grandfather, WF. KIRBY. An author, entomologist, linguist and poet, he lived in Chiswick for over 30 years.

The KIRBY family is now so scattered that she has had to travel to Germany, Ireland, South Africa and California to gather information. Exploring ancestry and meeting foreign relations continues to be a fascinating journey. You can read the results of her travels further on in this edition of the Journal.

From the age of about three I lived with my parents in a new house built in 1928 in Greenford. It was the first estate built by WIMPEY's. In terraces for four, five and six, with an alleyway between wide enough for a car, they swept up Mornington Road in a great curve. For us they were a revolution in modern living. We came from a miserable hovel in Pit Field Way, that had even left a two- and-a-half year old with a mental picture of being small, mean and dark with a sewage treatment works on the opposite side of the road, into which I fell one day while out walking with my elder brother. I can still see it clearly after 74 years and it could be the reason for being a sickly child.

Mother was the eldest of 20 children, not all of them survived babyhood but she had a hard early life being 'mother' and helping with the younger ones. Exactly where she came from I cannot say, but there seemed to be a country beginning. How I wish I had asked more about those early times.

I remember her mother, Grandma SHELTON as being plump, attractive and outspoken but quietly so and the bearer of biscuits. She had a huge Airedale, Bob, who would bark a deep, chesty woof at the first squeak as the cast iron gate opened on its hinges. There was a short, tiled path of red and black



*Grandma SHELTON on the left, Daisy GINGER née SHELTON  
back row far right, Ivan GINGER middle row centre*

diamonds with a white border, leading to three very white scrubbed steps. We scrambled up these with the aid of a cast iron handrail set in a low brick wall to what seemed a huge front door. We squabbled as to who had the honour of banging the knocker - a great iron lump that seemed to shake the entire house.

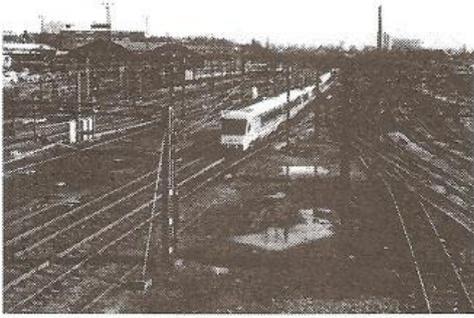
This done, there would follow more chesty woofs as Bob came thundering at the door, hitting it with a hefty thump as he tried to pull up by digging his toes into a long runner carpet lying on the tiled hallway. He never did learn that he always slid into the door with his feet buried in yards of carpet. This little scene was then followed by exasperated threats from Grandma as she once more pulled the carpet back to where it should be.

It seemed an enormous house to me with a long, narrow hallway from front to back leading into the kitchen and beyond that was a scullery, in its day the servants' domain. Outside was a yard with a brick built loo. I am sure Grandma never had servants, although she may have had help years before. (I suspect she may have served in a 'big house' herself, most likely as a cook). There were huge rooms with high ceilings and fancy cornices and plaster patterns around the light fittings, originally for gas, in the centre of the room. How Grandma came to be living there I cannot say.

In her back kitchen was a shiny, black, cast iron range, with an always burning fire. This provided heat for the house, hot water, top plates for cooking on and an oven for baking. There was also a kettle gently steaming on the hob. She seemed able to make this range do anything with a skilled flick of her hand. It filled the recess in which it stood with flue pipes, dampers and warming cupboards.

Above it was a long mantel shelf upon which stood boxes of matches, candle sticks with candles and spare gas mantles (the kitchen was lit by gas), large plates with blue patterns, hair grips, brushes and combs. A clothes brush also had pride of place, hanging on its own wooden stand. The mantelshelf itself had its own fringed green velvet skirt and above that on the wall were pictures [one I remember was 'Monarch of the Glen'] and photographs of stately looking, elderly people, as well as one of Grandma when much younger, a very handsome woman.

At the lower end of Grandma's road, Rucklidge Avenue, was the railway Willesden Junction, a huge goods yard. Twenty-four hours a day there was the clank of trucks being shunted on to the various lines for loading with coal, stone, timber, petrol and steel. Almost everything went by rail. The 'sorters' and 'shunters' moved thousands of tons of goods with an ease and certainty little short of miraculous. On occasions I would be permitted to watch this complex scene as smoke and steam belched into the air, "Don't touch the railings, they are filthy!" and they were.



*Willesden Junction*

Also at the end of Grandma's road was the corner shop, a dairy. In the door of this shop was an iron cow, into which you put two pennies, placed the jug you had brought with you under a spout and a measured quantity of milk would flow into your jug. I can only just remember that for I was dragged there under protest by my brother. From that same dairy Grandma had her milk delivered by a

man pushing a three wheeled cart with a gleaming churn sitting in its middle. The wheels were wooden with iron tyres and it was painted cream with bright green lettering. The fancy carpentry of the cart and wheels was also picked out in the same colour. You would take a jug to his cart and using a dipper, he would measure out the quantity from the churn. You could buy as little as a gill (a quarter of a pint) for a halfpenny.

Grandma had cronies - elderly ladies who brought a small bottle with them. Gin or stout was always a treat and Grandma and her cronies would foregather in the snug of a popular ale house near the Hippodrome, a music hall a few hundred yards up the road where the trams ran past Jubilee clock. My Grandfather was said to be the manager of the Hippodrome when it was converted to a cinema at about the time of the end of the First World War.

Where Granddad vanished to after that I do not know. If it was mentioned it was in whispers, as was Grandma's supping of ale with her cronies in a pub and 'Uncle Ted', an engine driver, said to be a lodger for a time. He would go off to work in blue overalls and a black leather hat, with a billycan of tea prepared by Grandma. He was a big, kindly man and was always attentive to us children. Grandma also blotted her copybook by putting up music hall stars in her house while they were performing at the Hippodrome but free tickets and the odd pound were always welcome.

Knitting was one of the things Grandma was never without and socks were her stock in trade. Using three or four steel needles and with bewildering dexterity, a sock would take shape before your very eyes. She could turn a heel, hold a conversation and drink a cup of tea all at the same time. Apparently being an engine driver was very hard on socks and 'Uncle Ted' needed a continuous supply.

Our visits to Grandma diminished as my parents spent more time and money on the house and us children as our prosperity improved. Grandma vanished when I was about 8 or 9 and I was never told she had died: this was one of the things about those times, that children were not involved but I look back on my childhood now as a wonderful adventure.

The picture of the Odeon Cinema, London Road, Isleworth, on the front cover of the WMFHS Journal, dated December 2009, prompted some research into my own family history.



*Nicholas MEEK and Irene PATTERSON*

My mother and father, Irene PATTERSON and Nicholas MEEK, were married at St. John's Church, Isleworth, on Saturday, 27th April 1935. I was told that as they had little money for a wedding reception, they took all their guests to see the film show at the new Odeon Cinema in London Road. The Cinema had been opened a month earlier, on 20th March 1935 (not 1937 as stated in the Journal), by the Mayor of Heston and Isleworth, Councillor C.L. LEWIS.

I was curious to know what films the wedding party saw on that Saturday afternoon and a microfilm of the Middlesex Chronicle dated 20th April, available at the Hounslow Library Local Studies Desk, revealed the following film review:

### **Middlesex Chronicle Saturday 20th April 1935**

#### **Next Week's Round of Amusements**

#### **The Odeon**

*Happiness Ahead* perhaps the brightest of this week's releases, starts a six-day run at the Odeon on Monday. It is an entirely pleasing Cinderella romance with Josephine HUTCHINSON, an attractive new screen personality, sharing honours with Dick POWELL. The story is of a wealthy society girl who falls in love with a window cleaner. The second important film is *Ready for Love*, a comedy which pictures the adventures of Ida LUPINO in a small town where Richard ARLEN is the editor of the local newspaper.

**ODEON THEATRE**

**ISLEWORTH**

Telephone: **Hounslow 1099**      **THE CINEMA SUPREME**      Manager: **Swan E. Shaw**  
 The Latest B.T.H. Extended Range Sound System

**WEEK COMMENCING APRIL 22nd      FOR SIX DAYS**

Doors open 1.45      Commence 2 o'clock.

**DICK POWELL & JOSEPHINE HUTCHINSON**  
 in (The New Wonder Star)

**HAPPINESS AHEAD (U)**  
 Screening 8.20, 8.44, 9.50  
 also

**IDA LUPINO & RICHARD ARLEN**  
 in

**READY FOR LOVE (A)**  
 Screening 2.10, 5.15, 8.20  
 and

**LA CUCARACHA (U)**  
 Exceptionally Fine Musical Short  
 Screened 2.11, 6.17, 8.23

**FREE CAR PARK.      REDUCED MATINEE PRICES UNTIL 3.30 p.m.**

It was also interesting to find included in the advertisement "The Cinema Supreme" with "The latest BTH Extended Range Sound System". And to see that there were, "Reduced matinee prices until 3.30 pm"; I do not know whether my Mum and Dad were married earlier in the afternoon! They were happily married for 46 years.

27th April 1935 was also FA Cup Day, not that my parents were Football fans. The FA Cup 1934-5 was the 60th staging of the world's oldest football cup competition, the Football Association Challenge Cup, commonly known as the FA Cup. Sheffield Wednesday won the competition for the third time, beating West Bromwich Albion 4-2 in the Final at Wembley, winning through two late goals from Ellis RIMMER.

Also on that day Brentford Football Club were enjoying their triumph of being Champions of Division 2 (with 61 points) and gaining promotion to the Football League Division 1.

My thanks to Mary BROWN for providing the information about the Odeon Cinema.

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## THE FLOWERPOT INN AT SUNBURY DURING THE 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES

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John Seaman

For many years the Flower Pot Inn has been important in the life of Sunbury.

John MULSO was the Vicar of Sunbury from 1747 to 1760. He and Gilbert WHITE, the naturalist and author of *The Natural History of Selborne*, became friends when they were students at Oriel College, Oxford. Gilbert WHITE was expecting to visit Sunbury and on 17th November 1759, John MULSO wrote "I must bespeak a bed for you at ye Flower-Pot, or some such genteel place, for as you know I have but one spare bed." Unfortunately there is no indication where Gilbert WHITE stayed during his visit.<sup>1</sup>



*The Inn Sign of 2009*

On Sunday, 5th May 1799, eight gentlemen, members of the Walton Association, returning from Hounslow, stopped at the Flower Pot. Crossing the River Thames later "flushed with liquor", they overturned their boat and three were drowned.<sup>2</sup>

The Commissioners of the Hanworth, Feltham and Sunbury Enclosure Act, announced on 4th October 1800, that they would meet on 28th October at

the Bear Inn in Hanworth, on 29th October at the Red Lyon in Feltham and on 30th October, at the Flower Pot Inn in Sunbury, to receive claims on the wastelands and grounds in those parishes. A completed form contains the claim of Miss Ursula DISTING, of the Manor of Kempton, in the Parish of Sunbury. Another document describes the land allotted to her.<sup>3</sup>

Inquests were often held in public houses and inns. One, into a most strange and distressing death, was held at the Flower Pot. On Monday, 14th October 1839, TAPP's coach from London arrived at the Flower Pot. On board was a band box addressed on a card with the name "Miss GALE", to "Mr. T. OSBORNE, Sunbury, near Richmond". Mr. OSBORNE was a grocer and the Overseer of Sunbury. The parcel was taken to his house and when unpacked was found to

contain the body of a female child. Enquiries were made and an inquest was held by Mr. WAKLEY at the Flower Pot on the following Wednesday. The parcel had been found at the stables of the Blackwater Coach, Bridge Lane, Fleet Street, and taken to the booking office at the Bolt-in-Tun. There was no information to identify the child or how she died and the jury returned a narrative verdict.<sup>4</sup>

A freehold smock mill and the miller's residence (lot 1) and a nearby house (lot 2) at Sunbury were due to be sold at the Flower Pot on 27th July 1847. The mill had three pairs of stones, machinery and a room for storing 100 sacks of flour. It had been let for £65 per annum. The other house with four bedrooms had been let at the low rent of £12 12s. per annum.<sup>5</sup>

The sale of land associated with the settlement of the Will of Francis MORGAN was to be held there on 5th June 1866.<sup>6</sup>

An annual Licensing Meeting of the Spelthorne Division was held at the Flower Pot on 9th March 1865. Various licences were renewed, transferred or refused. The names of applicants were recorded.<sup>7</sup>

In 1870, while the Petty Sessions were being held at the Flower Pot, a number of those attending took shelter from the rain under the sheds around the stable yard. "A globe of electric fluid" fell into the yard and glanced off a carriage. The people in the yard were shaken.<sup>8</sup>

Other inns and public houses had similar, but less extensive roles in Sunbury life. Information about properties to be let or sold during 1709 and 1710 were available at the Swan Tavern. Entries for horse races to be held at Sunbury Common during September 1730 were to be made at the Three French Horns. Inquests were held at the Railway Arms, the White Horse and the Three Fishes. The Magpie was the first meeting place of the Grand Order of Water Rats in 1889 and in 1894 subscribers to a memorial for Edward and Charles LENDY met there. (The restored memorial is now in the nearby Walled Garden.) POWELL, a well known competitive walker, trained at the Castle Inn and The Friends of Labour Loan Society, a friendly society, held meetings there.

### References

1 Rashleigh Holt-White (Ed) *The Letters to Gilbert White of Selborne ...* from the Rev. John Mulso. (1907) p.147.

2 *The Times*, 8 May 1799, p.3 col.d.

3 The National Archives, C106/239

4 *The Times*, 21 April 1847, p.16 col.a

5 *The Sussex Advertiser, Sussex Gazette & West Kent Courier*, 13 July 1847, p.4 col.c

6 *The London Gazette*, 8 May 1866, p.2836

7 *The Era*, 12 March 1865, p.7 col.c

8 *The Pall Mall Gazette*, 2 August 1870

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## W.F. KIRBY (1844-1912) – Ferreting Fact from Fantasy

Ursula Dommett

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On the corner of Sutton Court Road and Barrowgate Road in Chiswick, fenced in behind a leafy hedge, stands a large house, its continental-type facade giving it individuality. The comparatively small size of its site has probably saved it from developmental destruction - but then, an adjoining orchard once used by its residents, disappeared under the nearby A4 many moons ago. At first-floor level, overlooking Barrowgate Road, is a bay window - indicating the position of the study where W.F. KIRBY (my great grandfather) wrote his final entomological works and translated the Finnish national epic *Kalevale* into English. Who was this mysterious author of collectable books?



W.F. Kirby

The 1891 census shows the KIRBY household living nearby at 5, Burlington Gardens, Chiswick: William Forsell KIRBY (head), Johanna Maria KIRBY neé KAPPELL (Wife), William Egmont KIRBY (son), August Wilhelm KAPPELL (brother-in-law), Johanna Wilhelmina KAPPELL (niece) and Mary BRADY (general domestic servant). The 1901 census finds them in Sutton Court Road, minus Johanna Maria (d. 1893) but joined by William Egmont's Wife (he had married Grace Phedora Louisa Brodie CLARK, of Syon Park House on 2nd August, 1894) and their two young sons - William Edward Kappel KIRBY (age 5) and Augustus Egmont Brodie KIRBY (7

months). Ordnance Survey Maps (1894/6), Rates Books (1896) and letters (1895-6) tell us that the Sutton Court Road house was newly-built when the family first occupied it in 1896.

The 1894/6 Ordnance Survey Map shows a wooded area with speculative building apparently in progress. Successive letters from W.F. KIRBY to Dr. Kaarle KROHN of the Finnish Literature Society indicate that the whole family moved there in 1896. On 24th December 1896, writing in German, KIRBY says, "My son is practising as a doctor and we must therefore take a corner house; so please note our new address." Nearly 30 years later, William Egmont and his two sons would all be there practising as medical doctors (Kelly's Directory, 1925). William Egmont's two daughters, Johanna Mary Edith



*"Hilden", Sutton Court Road*

Forsell KIRBY (b.1907) and my mother, Kathleen Sibilla Louisa Forsell KIRBY 1911) were still minors.

The phantom KIRBY family loomed large in my childhood. Their life-size portraits looked knowingly down on us in our small dining room while my mother eulogised over her ancestors' perfection and wealth. In fact, she had never known any of them in

adulthood. Orphaned at the age of 13 and, as I later realised, traumatised by the events of her youth, she had cocooned herself in an idealised fantasy world. Her knowledge of the family had come from the elderly Irish housekeeper, Mary BRADY, who had looked after and mothered her during her teenage years. Her fables inspired me to find out more about these unknown ancestors, but I had to check out the facts. "Why can't you just believe what I say?" she would ask. "If my account is to have any credibility," I would answer, "I have to back it up with other evidence." Kathleen remained unconvinced, but I had to keep her on board as she was my only source of information. She had distanced herself, and us, from other members of her immediate family, creating a blank wall of silence. She had quarrelled with her elder brother, who had emigrated to South Africa; her second brother was dead, and her sister was closeted in a convent. To find hard facts, I would have to engage with the fantasy, taking her with me on my journey. From London, we would visit Germany and Ireland. Later, I would visit South Africa and California in my search for truth.

## **London**

We began by perusing newspaper obituaries and thumbing through massive tomes of births, marriages and deaths at St. Catherine's House. William Forsell KIRBY was the eldest of five brothers, born in Leicester, to Samuel KIRBY and Lydia FORSELL. His younger siblings were Francis Forsell, Charles Forsell, Arthur Forsell and Alfred Forsell. Kathleen said that Lydia was Finnish; my uncle (whom I never met), said she was Danish. I am told on good authority that the name FORSELL is Swedish. Lydia's nationality remains an open question.

Next, an American cousin sent me a book written by Mary KIRBY, a cousin of W.F. KIRBY. From this, I gleaned snippets of the earlier family history. The

KIRBYs were not originally wealthy, although great great grandfather Samuel may have been a well-to-do banker when Lydia married him as his second wife. One of fifteen children, and good at writing and figures, he was apprenticed to a banker when old enough to earn a living. He worked hard and made good. Sadly, Samuel died when the precocious William, already passionately interested in natural history and lepidoptera, was just ten years old. Lydia remarried one Lewis SLIGHT, and the whole family moved to Brighton. There she continued educating her five sons at home. A family account records that William never went to school, but the 1861 census shows two younger brothers, Francis (14) and Charles (12) boarding at the London Road School in Leicester. William, then aged 16, had to find his own way in the world. Like his father before him, he set out as an apprentice, spending six years with a firm of London publishers, Williams and Norgate. They were to publish his first book, *A Manual of European Butterflies*, in 1862 when he was just 18 years old.

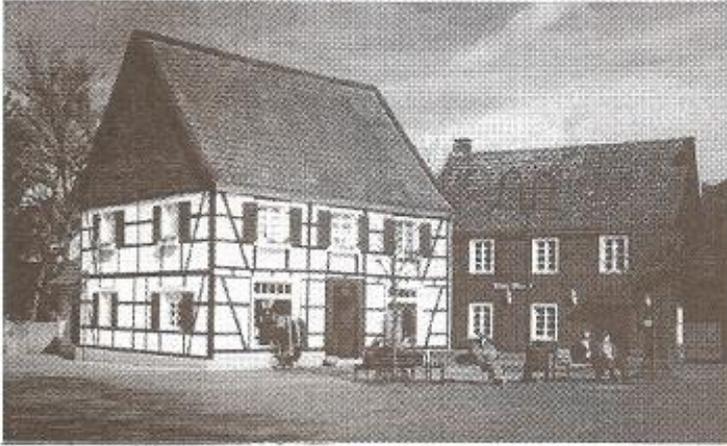
### **London: the young entomologist**

The Entomological Library of the Natural History Museum (London) was our next port of call. There we found a series of letters from W.F. KIRBY to the eminent H.T. STAINTON. They give useful insight as to how William got started as an entomologist. Outside the publishing house he had spent every minute of his spare time pursuing his interest in lepidoptera and had joined the Royal Entomological Society of London. The elders of the Society had encouraged the young lad. STAINTON, in particular, gave him help and advice with his first scholarly publication. At the end of the volume a list of 60 subscribers reveals that William had the unequivocal support of family and friends. His mother bought six copies, his stepfather four, and his brother, Charles and Uncle William, one each. STAINTON himself bought two.

### **Germany**

Love intervened. While in London William had met a young German girl, Johanna Maria KAPPEL, at a friend's house. Having completed his apprenticeship, he threw up his job and went chasing over to Germany after her. Hoping to find employment there, he obtained letters of reference from STAINTON but his timing, given the events of the Austro-Prussian War, was inauspicious. Undeterred, he married Johanna (called Hannchen) on 31st May 1866. He stayed there nearly a year, increasing his knowledge of European insect life while learning German, Italian and Persian. Meanwhile he worked on his second book, *Ed Dimiryah*, a set of oriental poems, published by Williams and Norgate in 1867. This was the start of a lifelong interest in the Persian culture.

Searching for family records we followed William to Germany. Kathleen's childhood home in Sutton Court Road had been named 'Hilden', after Hannchen's home. Hilden is a small town close to the Rhine, not far from



*The KAPPEL family home in Hilden*

Dusseldorf. There we visited the Evangelischkirche, fortunately undamaged by war.

The baptismal and marriage records produced surprises. Hannchen was born in 1835 and was therefore nine years older than William. He disguised this embarrassment by lying

about his age: the marriage certificate gives it as 32 instead of 22, making him appear one year older than his new wife. Later, when living in London, she pretended to be just two years older than William. The tombstone in the cemetery of St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, gives her age of death in 1893 as 51 instead of 58. Kathleen,

reluctant to accept that any member of her perfect family could live a lie, was scandalised but mollified when age explained another puzzle. Hannchen, unable to have further children, had unofficially adopted a baby niece, Johanna Wilhelmina KAPPEL, in 1884.

Hannchen's biological clock had expired, but exactly who was that baby?

Some years later we visited a German cousin in Haltern. Hanna MEYER (nee NEUBAUER) was six years older than Kathleen and had spent time with the family in Chiswick. I was hoping that she would be able to tell me

more about them. I had underestimated the strength of Kathleen's determination to cover up anything she considered distasteful. Preferring to remain in the safety of her unblemished fantasy world, she interrupted, raising the blank wall



*The Evangelischkirche, Hilden*

of silence once again. It was a valuable opportunity lost. However, I did ascertain that baby Johanna was the daughter of Hannchen's unmarried brother, August. Presumably to avoid scandal in Germany, he had brought the baby to England. The KIRBY family had given both father and daughter a home.

### **Ireland: first employment as an entomologist**

Late in 1866, the newly-married William successfully applied for the post of Assistant Naturalist in the museum of the Royal Dublin Society. Archival evidence reveals that once there, he began capturing and writing about Irish lepidoptera and he wrote the work that was to make him famous, *A Synonymic Catalogue of Diurnal Lepidoptera* (London 1871-7). In Dublin too his only child, William Egmont, was born. Knowing the KIRBYs were of the Unitarian persuasion, we visited the Unitarian Church overlooking St Stephen's Green. There we found William Egmont listed in the baptismal records of 27th August 1867. We were lucky. Not every Unitarian is baptised. When not trawling through records, we drove round the countryside, my mother showing me where she had spent her teenage years on a farm and at school in Bray and later at University College, Dublin.

### **Back to London: the British Museum: entomology and *The Arabian Nights***

Political change in 1877 meant the British took responsibility for Irish cultural affairs (*The Dublin Science and Art Museum Act, 1877*, chapter 234) and William became an employee of the state. This enabled him to transfer in 1879 to the British Museum in Russell Square, London, where he had always wanted to be. The 1881 census shows the family in Islington, at 5 Union Road. That same year, the zoological collections of the British Museum were moved to their present site - the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. The family move to 5 Burlington Gardens, Chiswick before May 1884 (Rates Books), would have made the journey to South Kensington on the District Line Tube easy. Now, William further pursued his dual interests in entomology and folklore. Kathleen's 'fairy-tale' accounts of visits by Sir Richard and Lady Isabel BURTON to the family home in Chiswick are probably correct. Between 1885 and 1888, W.F. KIRBY would contribute over 100 pages of bibliographical and other notes to Burton's translation of *The Arabian Nights* - this in addition to his own entomological publications. All along, he was helped by his wife and her brother August, also an entomologist and by now librarian of the prestigious Linnean Society. Hannchen's somewhat premature death in 1893 must have been a bitter blow to them all.

### **California: correspondence with DARWIN and Sir Richard BURTON**

Kathleen always insisted that W.F. KIRBY had had correspondence with Charles DARWIN, whom he admired. "As a child, I used to hide under the table and listen to the conversation," she said. "They sold the DARWIN letters after my father died in 1925 to help pay death duties." I believed her, despite DARWIN experts denying the existence of any such letters. Later, I would discover there were indeed two letters from DARWIN to W.F. KIRBY, lodged with the Huntingdon Museum in California but in private ownership. Since the owner would allow no photocopies, I would have to go there to read them. Two of William's brothers, Charles and Alfred, had emigrated to the USA. My husband and I decided to combine a visit to the Huntingdon with seeing the family. To get into the library, I had to make arrangements in advance and take with me letters of reference.

The two letters written to the young W.F. KIRBY were inconsequential - short but encouraging. Of greater interest was an unexpected find: a series of letters between KIRBY and Sir Richard BURTON concerning *The Arabian Nights*. I found BURTON's writing virtually illegible. Struggling with it, I was grateful to the person who had deciphered it and done a typescript transcription.

### **South Africa: family papers**

Clearing estates after two sudden deaths, I managed to trace my South African relatives through a solicitor. In life my mother had disallowed contact with her elder brother and his family. After her death I visited them and discovered a great bunch of people. It was fantastic for us first cousins to meet and enjoy each other's company. They showed me the family papers, which did not tell me much about W.F. KIRBY, but I did learn quite a lot about his grandson (my uncle Edward) who, as a medical doctor, had been much respected and admired. Kathleen need not have worried about our meeting: She and Edward had successfully concealed any proverbial skeletons deep within the darkest recesses of an unknown cupboard.

*Photographs are taken from the family photograph album or by the author.*

My grateful thanks to Carolyn Hammond (Librarian, Chiswick Archives) and Gerry McCarthy (Hounslow Council) for assistance in accessing Rates Books and Maps. I hope to complete a more extended biography of W.F. KIRBY in time for the centenary of his death in 1912. If any readers know anything of the KIRBY family who lived in Sutton Court Road; or the Brodie CLARK family of Syon Park House, later of Grange Road, Chiswick, I would love to hear from them.

*ubdommett@hotmail.com*

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, on Thursday, 18th March, 2010.

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

Muriel Sprott, the Chairman, welcomed members to the AGM and thanked them for attending, saying the aim was to get through the official business as quickly as possible so that we could enjoy Jeanne Bunting's talk, "The Actress and the Chauffeur". She reminded members that they could only vote if they had paid their subscription for the year. As there were more than 45 members present, the meeting was declared quorate.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Debbie Arundell, Mary Bickle, Alison Blundell, Mavis Burton, Margaret Harnden, Sue March, Pam Morgan, Brian Prior and Tony Simpson.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 19th March, 2009**

The Minutes were published in the Society's Journal of June 2009. Proposed by Wendy Mott and seconded by Maggie Mold, it was agreed unanimously that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as an accurate record of that Meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

"As with all organisations, we have had good things happen and not such good things. Sadly, I have to report several deaths: Richard Knight, a former treasurer; Janet Hagger, a former programme secretary; Lewis Orton, quiet and hardworking; Jean Gale, John Giddens and Robert Cook, founder members and honorary members.

"On a much happier note, it was an exciting year for our Journal Editor, Bridget, as our Journal won first prize in the Small Society Category in the Elizabeth Simpson Awards. Our Web-master, Richard, earned a Highly Commended with our website. These awards can only bring kudos to our Society. Our thanks and congratulations go to Bridget and Richard. There was a full report with photographs in our December 2009 Journal.

“We were also thrilled to celebrate the fact that we enrolled our 3,000th member, Dr. Ursula Dommett. We were pleased to present her with a small gift as a commemoration.

“We had a disrupted year with Montague Hall being requisitioned as a Tamiflu distribution centre. Our meetings were held in Chiswick Town Hall during that time. We had hoped that the move might attract more of our members who live in the Hammersmith and Fulham areas, who feel that Hounslow is just too far to travel, but sadly our optimism was misplaced. Not only did additional members not appear, many of our ‘regulars’ found the longer journey impractical, so that attendances at our monthly meetings dropped.

“During the year we have attended several family history fairs. Our attendance at these is seen as a public relations exercise, and if they also happen to earn us income from the sale of publications, so much the better. We do have a hard-working team of volunteers who regularly attend such events, but if anyone else would like to ‘try their hand’ please let us know. We are often asked lots of questions, so the wider the variety of experience we can bring, the better.

“We also held our bi-annual Conference in September. It was a very successful day. We were slightly disappointed by the attendance but the feedback from those who did attend was that they enjoyed the day. We certainly had some very good speakers. Twickenham Museum stayed open longer than usual and was rewarded by several of our delegates paying a visit - thank you. It means the Museum is more likely to stay open for us again in the future.

“So that is what we have done in the past year. I offer a big thank-you to all who have helped us, either on the Committee or in the numerous behind the scenes jobs which help our meetings and events run so smoothly.

“What of our future? We would like to hold the Open Day, which you will have seen advertised in the Journal. However, we have not been able to find anyone to co-ordinate this for us. Can someone here tonight offer to take on the co-ordinator’s role? If you can, be assured we will support you all the way. If no-one does volunteer, it is with great sadness that we shall have no option but to cancel the event.

“I would have preferred to end with a positive message, but must be realistic. These are the facts we face with such a small committee - no Vice-Chairman, no Secretary, no Projects Co-ordinator, maybe no Open Day. How long before we have no viable Society?”

## 6. Treasurer’s Report

Brian Page reported that this was the easiest of the three years he has been

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 291906

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT

	31 December 2009			31 December 2008		
	Cost or Value at 30.09.94	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31.12.09	Cost or Value at 30.09.94	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31.12.08
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
1881 Census Index	1087	1069	18	1087	1063	24
Kodak Slide Projector	315	314	1	315	314	1
Projector Stand	1	0	1	1	0	1
Times Divorce Index	11	10	1	11	10	1
Boxes and Display Shelves	31	30	1	31	30	1
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	310	14	324	305	19
Lectern – Bought 2002	400	360	40	400	347	53
Lap Top Computer – Bought 2002	1482	1334	148	1482	1284	198
Overhead Projector – Bought 2005	352	269	83	352	241	111
Amplification system – Bought 2008	235	161	74	235	136	99
Power Point Projector – Bought 2006	428	292	136	428	247	181
Lap Top Computer – Bought 2007	795	460	335	795	348	447
Viewing monitor for Lap Top – Bought 2007	170	99	71	170	75	95
Display Stands & Table Cloths – Bought 2008	<u>1409</u>	<u>616</u>	<u>793</u>	<u>1409</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>1057</u>
	<u>7388</u>	<u>5324</u>	<u>2064</u>	<u>7388</u>	<u>4752</u>	<u>2636</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Stocks/Books		1375			1070	
Ordnance Survey Maps		365			350	
Postal Books, Memorial CDs		65			25	
Microfiche		<u>25</u>			<u>30</u>	
			1830			1475
Deposits and WDYTAY? Fair 2010/2009			557			353
Cash at Bank and In Hand						
COIF Account		13550			13386	
Current Account – CAF Bank		916			1658	
Deposit Account – CAF Bank		3135			4109	
Cash		11			85	
Floats		<u>26</u>			<u>26</u>	
			<u>17638</u>			<u>19264</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>22089</b>			<b>23728</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>						
Subscriptions in Advance			<u>1725</u>			<u>2040</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<b><u>£ 20364</u></b>			<b><u>£ 21688</u></b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>						
Balance brought forward			21688			22881
(Deficit) for Year			<u>-1324</u>			<u>-1193</u>
			<b><u>£ 20364</u></b>			<b><u>£ 21688</u></b>

Brian E. Page, Hon. Treasurer

Muriel Spott, Chairman

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 291906

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2009

	<u>Year to 31 December 2009</u>	<u>Year to 31 December 2008</u>
<b>MEMBERS SERVICES INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	4760	4670
Bank Interest	196	1026
Open Day 2008 surplus	0	32
Tax Refund on Gift Aid	<u>807</u>	<u>393</u>
	5763	6121
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Conference 2009 loss	140	0
Hire of meeting hall	1129	1218
Journal production and delivery	4798	3902
Open Day 2008 loss	120	0
Speakers	<u>625</u>	<u>698</u>
	6812	5818
	-1049	303
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Bookstall – net sales	1127	892
Courier Service	0	6
Donations	224	100
Refreshments	100	90
Raffles	105	249
WM Marriage Index searches	31	13
FFHS rebate on vouchers	0	60
FHOL Royalties Genfair	18	0
FHOL Royalties Find My Past	1336	557
Other research income	<u>50</u>	<u>41</u>
	2991	2008
	1942	2311
<b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES</b>		
FFHS Subscriptions and Insurance	356	319
Research expenditure	6	0
Postage, stationery and telephone	688	496
Equipment repairs and maintenance	557	432
Mileage allowance and subsistence	84	181
Membership of other societies	38	27
Library purchases	21	13
Honoraria and gifts	92	74
Publicity, including attendance at open days	852	875
Disposal of assets	0	326
Depreciation	572	761
	3266	3504
Deficit for year	<u>£ -1324</u>	<u>£ -1193</u>

Treasurer, but also the year with the greatest loss. This was largely due to the enormous drop in the amount of interest earned on our deposits.

Our attendance at Family History Fairs is not intended to make a profit, being more of a public relations exercise. As long as we do not make too large a loss, we are happy to keep attending.

We were right to put up our subscriptions for this year and we do not feel the need to propose a further increase just yet. We look forward to another busy year.

Adoption of the Report was proposed by Jill Williams, seconded by Joan Scrivener and carried unanimously.

### **7. Receiving Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December, 2009.**

The Committee recommended that the Financial Statements for the year to 31st December should be accepted, this was proposed by Bridget Purr, seconded by Eileen Small, and carried unanimously.

### **8. Appointment of Examiner**

Paul Kershaw expressed his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner. Our constitution requires “one or more ... Examiners”, so we can continue with Paul alone. That it was acceptable to the members was proposed by Valerie Walker, seconded by Maggie Mold and carried unanimously.

### **9. Election of Committee**

Our Society is run by a Committee of willing volunteers. However, more are needed to come forward and bring new ideas to the Society. Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Committee membership does not require attendance at every meeting but ideally we would like people who are able to attend most meetings. Our Constitution limits the time any individual can serve to a maximum of six years, so we are not asking for a lifetime of commitment. Members were asked to give this some thought.

June Watkins was standing down, having served for six years. She was thanked for all the work she has done over the years.

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

Kay Dudman and Brian Page, having served more than three years on the committee and being willing to continue, offered themselves for re-election. This was proposed by Wendy Mott, seconded by Jill Williams and carried unanimously.

Betty Elliott had offered herself for election to the Committee and was willing to take on the role of Membership Secretary. Nominations from the floor were requested for members who would be able to take on the positions of Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Projects Co-ordinator. There being no further nominations the election of Betty was proposed by June Watkins, seconded by Joan Scrivener and carried unanimously.

## 10. Any other Business

Rob Purr proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee as a whole for its work during 2009 - agreed unanimously.



On behalf of the Society, the Chairman made a special presentation in recognition of the services rendered by retiring Committee Member and Membership Secretary, June Watkins, which was warmly applauded.

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

*Muriel Sprott presenting a bouquet to retiring Membership Secretary, June Watkins*

## ERRATA

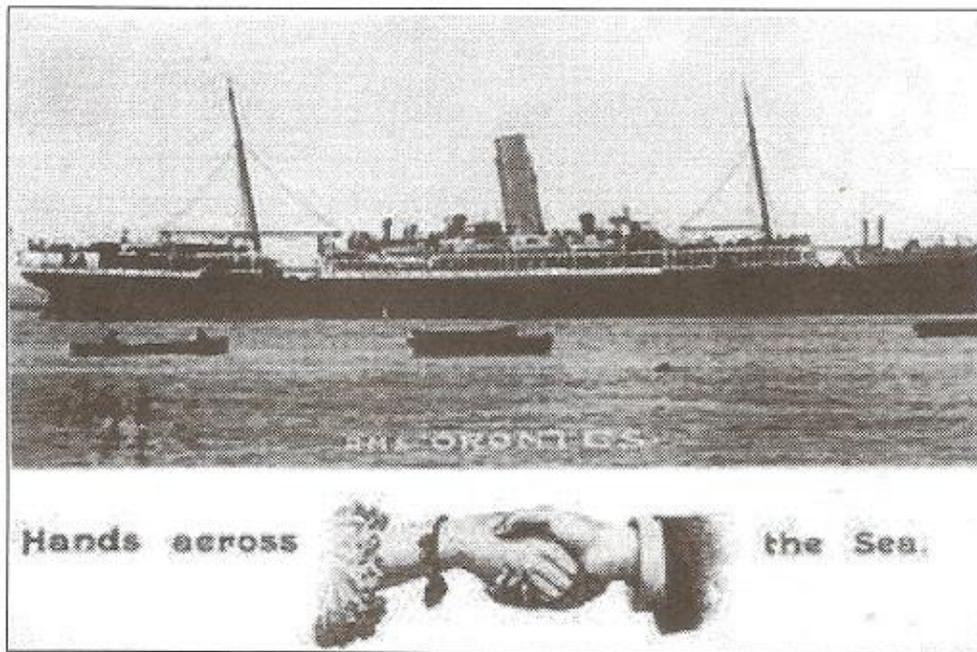
I apologise that there was an error in the spelling of the name of John WOODARD in the "Letters to the Editor" section of the March Journal. John was asking for information regarding the whereabouts of various records of four Acton churches. If you have any information about these please note his correct email address below.

John has informed me that Registers, PCC minutes and Parish magazines for St Martin, Hale Garden, Acton, have recently been deposited at the London Metropolitan Archives and should soon be available for consultation. In particular: Baptisms 1903-1988; Marriages 1907-1958; Banns 1907-1982; Confirmations 1920-1971; Parish Magazines 1909-1971.

*john@woodardj.fsnet.co.uk*

**Every Journey has Two Ends: Dr. Chris Watts**

When the sun never set on the British Empire, soldiers and administrators had to get to the colonies and the only way was by ship. Another reason for leaving these shores was emigration. From the 1870s to the 1960s, 30 million people emigrated from the UK. Some people say, "My ancestor emigrated," but where to? They do not know. It is becoming increasingly possible to find out. Chris showed a film clip of the *Titanic* preparing to set sail and suggested that the same sort of accident which befell this ship may have happened to our ancestors - after all, they just sailed away and disappeared.



There are two sides to these journeys, emigration and immigration and it is becoming possible to merge these two events. An increasingly available resource for tracing these journeys is ships' passenger lists and there are various research sources. Those emigrating to the New World in the late 19th century arrived at the US immigrant processing centre, Ellis Island, off New York. Online are arrival records, naturalization records, etc. Earlier US immigration records, from 1830-1892, are on the Castlegarden website. Many passenger list records are available on both Ancestors On Board, part of the Find My Past website and on the Ancestry website.

If the name of the ship, or when the person travelled is known, consult Lloyds List, which deals with ships' voyages and gives which ports a ship visited: an index is on microfilm at the Guildhall Library and the National Maritime Museum. Lloyds List indexes go up to the 1920s; for 1927-1975 consult Lloyds

Record Cards at the Guildhall Library. At the National Archives (TNA) one can also consult ships' logbooks, especially for births, deaths and marriages on board. There are also naturalization and passports records but these are incomplete and are not indexed but by searching it is still possible to build up a picture of a family's journey.

Chris gave an example of a family - husband, wife and child - who went to New Zealand in the early 20th century. People bound for New Zealand often sailed to an Australian port first, then went on to New Zealand. So look for ship arrivals and Australian entry passenger lists. Only disembarking passengers are listed, not those staying on board to travel onward, so if they are not in the list, one must search in other ports: again, it is useful to know where a ship put in.

Some of the records available for Australia are: indexed passenger arrivals in Western Australia; an online index to vessels arriving in Sydney; inward and outward passenger lists for Victoria. Some Australian newspapers are being indexed and they include shipping and passenger lists. Sometimes husbands or wives are found travelling on their own - they did not necessarily travel together for various reasons. Sometimes the head of the family went out first to pave the way, or a spouse's journey was delayed for some reason. They did not always travel under the same conditions: Chris's 'sample' husband went cabin class and the wife, when she travelled, went steerage and gave birth to her first child on board. Births were not added to the passenger list and Chris consulted the Marine Register of Births for the State of Victoria.

This sample family came back to England and went out to New Zealand again (see New Zealand Shipping Company lists), so people went back and forth. It is possible to check when people were residing in a country, for example online at Ancestry.com are Electoral Rolls for Australia (Australian census records are not retained). Another useful website is that for the National Archives of Australia.

Incoming passenger lists to the UK are at TNA in BT26 - there is a research guide on the TNA website. It is also possible to consult ships' records and passenger lists for departures and arrivals from and to non-UK ports, Chris traced a passenger sailing from Sweden to Brazil to obtain work as a maid.

**Websites:** [www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org)    [www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org)  
[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)    [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)    [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)    Y. M.

### **Unsolved Murders in Twentieth Century Middlesex: Dr. Jonathan Oates**

Dr. Oates is the Archivist for the London Borough of Ealing, and he entertained us with two unsolved murders and two solved minor crimes committed by one very well known murderer.

In the first half of the 19th century, large houses were built in Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill, aimed for the wealthy, rising middle classes, but by 1931 they had been converted for multiple occupation. The PAGE family occupied one of the three flats in No. 22: Charles William PAGE, b. 1892, married Isabel ESSEX in 1918 and in 1921 they had a daughter, Vera Isabel Minnie PAGE, known as Vera, who attended school in nearby Lancaster Road. Also living at No. 22 were Arthur and Annie RUSH, who had married in 1891 and had five children.

Late on the afternoon of 14th December, 1931, Vera paid a visit to her Aunt, further along Blenheim Crescent at No. 72, to show her some newly acquired swimming certificates - she never returned home. The last sighting of Vera was at 6.30 pm that evening when she was looking in shop windows on the corner of Blenheim Crescent and Portobello Road. Later that evening her concerned parents went looking for her and eventually reported her missing at Notting Hill Police Station at 9.50pm. An appeal was made on the BBC radio the following day but it was not until 9.50am, on the morning of the 16th December, that Joseph SMITH, a milkman, found her body in the front garden of 89 Addison Road, some distance away. He stated that he was quite sure that it had not been there when he had made his first delivery that morning at 6am.

On examination the pathologist discovered that Vera had been sexually assaulted, then manually strangled, and that a cord had been used to move the body after death. 200 detectives were involved in the case but the only clues were the discovery of a bloody finger bandage and candle wax on the corpse. Early in the morning of the 16th December, a Mrs. KING saw a man wheeling a wheelbarrow, covered by a rug, along Holland Park Road, a major thoroughfare between Blenheim Crescent and Addison Road - had this held the corpse?

The main suspect was a Percy Orlando RUSH, a laundryman, who had been observed loitering in the neighbourhood. In 1923 he had spent a month in prison and again in 1929, for exposing himself in Notting Hill and Ealing. His house and clothing were searched: semen was found on his clothing and he had a cut on his finger, which he said occurred at work several days previously but he had discarded his bandage in order to let the air heal the wound. Bandages and lint found in his house did not match the discarded bandage found on the corpse. Furthermore he was not picked out by Mrs. KING in an identity parade.

At the Inquest, RUSH claimed that he had left work on the 14th December at 5.55pm and instead of taking the bus had walked home, arriving around 8.15, but no witnesses came forward to verify this. He said he knew the child, who he most likely saw when visiting his parents in the same house as the PAGE family, and that he thought she was a sweet little thing. RUSH was the only enough evidence to secure a conviction, and a verdict was recorded of murder by person or persons unknown.

Letters were sent to the police over the next 20 years with suggestions for the killer of Vera PAGE but the police always viewed RUSH as the chief suspect: he had a record and he knew the locality but he always claimed he was innocent.

In 1964/65 a serial killer known as the Hammersmith Nudes Murderer, strangled and stripped six prostitutes - could he also have been the perpetrator of the murder in 1959 of Elizabeth FIGG, whose corpse was found near Barnes Bridge in Dukes Meadow, Chiswick, on 17th June? The pathologist reported death by strangulation between 12.30pm and 2.00am. Elizabeth was born in Cheshire in 1938, where she lived with her father after the divorce of her parents. She moved to London and worked as a prostitute for her lover, Penwick WARD, a black boxer. He was the first suspect but eventually suspicion fell on Ernest Patrick FORREST, a builder and decorator. He had been with Elizabeth early on the night of the 16th June and had made a further appointment with her for 4.00am on the following day, as she claimed she already had a prior appointment for 2.00am. The Groundsman of the sports ground at Dukes Meadow, said that it was a popular place for prostitutes and that there were many cars around the ground between 12.00 and 1.00am. FORREST claimed that Elizabeth never turned up for her second appointment and when he volunteered this information to the police they searched his flat and car but no evidence against him was found. No one was ever charged with the offence and once again the verdict was given as murder by person or persons unknown.

The first of the solved crimes referred to by Dr. Oates was the theft from a school in Uxbridge of a bicycle in 1924, and the second, the theft of a motor car from his employers in 1933; John Reginald CHRISTIE was charged with both offences and received sentences of three months in prison. CHRISTIE married Ethel SIMPSON in 1920 and in 1936 he rented rooms in Rillington Place, Notting Hill, where eventually the victims of his murders were discovered. B.P.

### **Jeanne Bunting: The Actress and the Chauffeur: basic sources, red herrings and beware of stories by elderly relatives**

When Jeanne first started her family history, the usual questions she was asked were, "How far back have you got?" and, "Have you found anyone famous?" Well she had not got very far back at all at that time but her children claimed that their grandmother had said they were related to Joan SIMS, the actress. This was news to Jeanne so she questioned her mother about her family and received a long list of statements about her family, including the fact that a cousin had been chauffeur to Edward VIII. Somewhat sceptically, Jeanne set out to check the list.

This was long before everything was on the web and Jeanne made many trips to Portugal Street (to view microfilms of the 1881 census, the only one available at that time) and to St. Catherine's House for the births, marriages and death records. Slowly, urged on by her mother repeatedly asking whether she had found the connection with Joan SIMS, Jeanne pieced together a complicated family tree linking the SHEPHERD, LADBROOK, NUNN, ELDRED and CORDER families.

They all came from a few villages in south-east Essex and so Jeanne paid several trips to Southend, to visit the Record Office, the Library and the churchyard at Wakering. While looking for tombstones in the latter she found herself talking to a lady who not only had been at school with Jeanne's sister, but whose mother was a fount of information about the local families and knew all about Joan SIMS - Jeanne went to visit her. She gained much local knowledge, including being put into contact with a cousin whose father turned out to be the elusive chauffeur, and she was able to fit him into the embryonic tree she had drawn. He was able to verify the story Jeanne's mother remembered about a christening mug received from Edward VIII, which the King had said could be used for milk when he was a child and beer when he was grown up!

The Wakering parish registers had not been deposited and were still in the custody of the church but an offer was made to have these searched for any baptisms, marriages and burials relating to any of the names of interest. The information she received was tremendous and filled in some of the gaps, and answered some of the questions Jeanne's own research had posed.

While searching the card index at the Record Office Jeanne found reference to an obituary, containing a photograph of her Ag. Lab. Gt. Grandfather, as apparently he was a well known Wesleyan Methodist Local Preacher. Also in local papers she found stories about the chauffeur to Edward VIII. Unexpectedly she found an article which explained the more common and uncommon nick-names for Christian names and the discovery that 'Nancy' was a pet-name for Ann, and 'Pat' or 'Patty' for Maud, explained two more mysteries in her mother's original list.

Recently Jeanne looked up Joan SIMS (she was a third cousin), on the internet, and there was her original name and date of birth, Irene Joan Marion SIMS, b. 9 May 1930, facts it had taken Jeanne months to ferret out, and in ten minutes she had sourced the information that it had taken three years to uncover! However, without going to the local record office and also searching the local papers, she would not have discovered the obituary and photograph of her Gt. Grandfather, and if she had not been searching for gravestones she would not have made contact with her cousin and found out at least some of the 'facts' that her mother had given her, were in fact true!

B.P.

The annual West London Local History Conference was held on 27th March, 2010, at the Musical Museum, Brentford, on the theme of “Discovering West London’s History”. Several of the very interesting papers given referred to places in West Middlesex and here is a resume of those talks.

**Unearthing West London's History**, *Jon Cotton of the Department of Early History, Museum of London*

Jon Cotton concentrated on some of the archaeological discoveries in the area. He pointed out that archaeology is simply another branch of local history, in that it attempts to achieve much the same ends in dealing with people and place. Mortimer WHEELER said archaeology is “digging up people”.

There have been a number of big archaeological projects in West London during the last 20 to 30 years. At Heathrow huge amounts of archaeological work have gone on around and under the Airport, the gravel terraces being the site of many prehistoric remains. A number of ancient monuments such as barrows, perhaps acting as markers, occur on local parish boundaries, such as Harmondsworth’s Shasbury Hill, dubbed ‘Caesar's Camp’ by 18th century antiquarian William STUKELEY. It was excavated in advance of the start of the Airport in the 1940s by W.F. GRIMES and found to be Bronze Age. This area had always been farming land, even up to the 20th century, and the annual Middlesex ploughing matches were held at Heathrow until 1937.

In advance of Terminal 5, the biggest engineering project in Europe, came an extensive archaeological excavation. Besides traces of early settlements, two parallel lines were found; taken at first to be a Roman road it was subsequently realised that they marked a Bronze Age cursus, a bank and ditch construction 2½ miles long. This had been a major engineering project in the 4th millennium BC, requiring a large number of people and ‘project managers’: engineers, priests and leaders, but what it was for is a mystery. In a ditch surrounding an enclosure which may have been used for ceremonies, a woman from 3500-3100 BC was buried. Her leg bones gave evidence that she was often in a squatting posture and her teeth had traces of lead, suggesting she had been born elsewhere. Around 2000 BC there was a change in land use in the area from open parkland to enclosed fields and roundhouses within enclosures.

Excavations carried out in advance of construction on Brentford High Street found evidence of the Iron Age, and under Morrisons’ Supermarket was part of the roadside ditch of the Roman road out of London; rectangular buildings had fronted it. Further west, on the site of the Syon Hotel (still under construction)

another Roman site has revealed part of the road plus roadside buildings with ovens to the rear. In the fields behind, a water channel (an arm of the Thames) originally swept around the site of Syon House, which stands on what was originally an island. Part of this channel was later manicured into a lake by Capability BROWN. Brentford is one of the many claimants to 'Caesar's crossing'.

The Thames itself is a very long archaeological site, with many discoveries made on the foreshore. Perhaps some of these were thrown into the River to 'appease' it and there has recently been a return to this kind of activity, involving offerings of clay lamps and figures of gods. Anyone wishing to take part in work along the Thames can get involved through the Thames Discovery Programme: check out their website. Also visit the Museum of London's 'London Before London' gallery.

### **Rediscovering Gunnersbury Lodge: the Boddingtons' Country House,** *Chris Allen, Worthing History Research Group*

Chris became interested in the history of Gunnersbury Lodge when researching a Worthing scandal in which one of the residents of the Lodge was involved. The key occupants over 50 years were the wealthy BODDINGTON family. ROCQUE's map of 1741 does not show a house on the site so it was apparently built after that date. It was first a farm run by the BLAKE family, and Thomas BODDINGTON purchased it in 1845. The BODDINGTONs were Middle East merchants and also had plantations in the West Indies (there is a database of slave owners). Thomas' father was a Director of the Bank of England and his uncle Samuel was an MP. They were patrons of the arts and book collectors. Thomas became head of the business; he married twice but had no issue. Two of his several sisters, Harriet, and Emily, and Emily's husband, lived with him. Emily lived on in the house after Thomas's death and when she died in 1895 it was sold. A religious man, Thomas raised money in the 1860s for the rebuilding of St. Mary's Church, Ealing. He did a course in stained glass and it is possible he made some of the windows. The church contains a memorial to his first wife.

At the London Metropolitan Archives Chris discovered a folder full of sketches and drawings relating to the Lodge. The original small house had gradually become grander. Sketches of room layouts, perhaps executed by Harriet, offered clues to the occupants' lifestyle. Thomas had a chapel between his study and his bedroom, plus a library. At the back of the house were domestic quarters and upstairs a suite for Emily and her husband, plus a painting room and a photo room (photography was a rich man's hobby). One sketch shows now lost family portraits. There were also some buildings in the gardens such as a Gothic-style Dairy, perhaps also a hobby.

When the house was sold there was an auction of the fine furniture and a sale of the valuable books. It became a finishing school run by the SPARK sisters who had photographs taken for a Prospectus (now in Gunnersbury Museum), the only ones in existence of the house, although Chris found an earlier drawing. When the sisters retired the school closed. Sold to a developer in the 1920s, the estate is now covered by housing.

**“There was Chiswick’s Water Mill? a familiar place seen with new eyes,**  
James Wisdom, Chairman of Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society.

Having seen a reference to a former watermill at Chiswick, James had at first assumed it was on the Thames. Another possibility was the Bollo Brook which flows down from Ealing and Acton towards the Thames - the Chiswick Vestry minutes of the 1840s mention nasty material from Acton floating in it. However old maps prove that Bollo Brook did not run through Chiswick but entered the Thames at the parish’s eastern boundary. Had a hitherto unknown stream flowed through Chiswick and why was Fishermans Place in Chiswick formerly known as ‘Sluts Hole’ when research showed that some of the fishermen were wealthy? Why was Lord BURLINGTON’s Cascade at Chiswick House such a failure - dubbed “Lord Burlington’s piddle”?

Certain clues started to come together. The adjacent Sutton Manor House had originally belonged to St Paul’s. The Manor records (in Latin) refer to a “boiling stream rising north out of the west end of the strand” (i.e. at Kew Bridge). James realised that Strand on the Green is higher than the land behind it, so the stream could not flow into the Thames there, but was forced to flow through Chiswick. It gushed into the Thames near St Nicholas’ Church. Now ‘Sluts Hole’ made sense: it actually referred to a ‘sluice’, not the morals of the local women!

Lord FAUCONBERG took over the Sutton Estate after the Civil War and the Fauconberg papers contain plenty of references to ponds and streams and the importance of cleaning the ditch. An 1865 map shows the remains of the stream, flowing through land which had been part of the Sutton Manor grounds, but by then incorporated into the Chiswick House estate. Lord BURLINGTON wanted to use this stream that ran through his land to make an Italian garden but its flow was weak: hence the ‘piddle’. The Visitation of 1458 mentions a mill at Sutton - it was on this stream that ran through the estate.

**Anatomy of a Suffragette Exhibition: dissecting the sources,** *Irene Cockcroft, co-curator of the “How the Vote was Won” Exhibition at Richmond Museum.*

Irene Cockcroft is a descendent of a suffragette. To celebrate the suffrage campaign of a hundred years ago there will be an exhibition at Richmond

Museum from 1st May to 4th September, and “How the Vote Was Won”, a play performed at Twickenham Town Hall in 1910, will be replayed at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, in 2010.

The Suffragette Movement spelled the end of tight lacing thus 20th century woman had sound lungs and heart, enabling her to withstand forced feeding etc. Suffragists were law-abiding; Suffragettes, e.g. Emeline PANKHURST, were not so. For the Golden Jubilee celebration in 1968, Joan and Gerald HEATH wrote *The Women's Suffragette Movement in and Around Richmond and Twickenham*, published by Twickenham Local History Society in 1968, reprinted 2003 (available from the WMFHS bookstall, £4.00 + £1 p&p).

In her research for the Exhibition Irene has made use of various collections, especially the Fawcett Library in Tower Hamlets, which includes many aspects of women's lives. She also elicited memories from her family member, Ernestine MILLS, of Barnes. A statue of Sylvia PANKHURST was to be placed opposite the Houses of Parliament, this has been vetoed but the maquette [the preliminary model] will be on show in the Richmond Exhibition. A number of actresses belonged to the Franchise League: Ellen TERRY was a founder member. A new book is in preparation, *Art, Theatre and Women's Suffrage*. Many men supported women's suffrage. With the advent of WWI, many suffragettes helped on the Front.

**SPORT IN THE 1890's**  
**as seen through the columns of the**  
**Acton & Chiswick Gazette**

*April 1st, 1893*

**TWICKENHAM ROWING CLUB**

The Twickenham Rowing Club opened the season with eights, on Saturday, over the three-quarter-mile course from Eel Pie Island, and after a fine race all the way, Tottenham, Davis, Forrester, J. Blackmore, Clarke, S. Hodgkin, R. Hawes, Hayward and A. Blackmore (cox) beat Whittle, Llewellyn, E. Hawes, Foggs, Coleridge, Bond, E. Hodgkin, Barrington, and Frere (cox) by four feet only.

*February 26th, 1897*

As already announced a cycling club is being organised with a view to promote enjoyment and sociability among the

ladies and gentlemen of Ealing and the neighbourhood to be called Diamond Cycling Club. Further particulars appear in the advertising columns. Those wishing to become members should communicate with Mr. James B. EDMESTON, hon. secretary, 4 Creffield road Ealing.

*August 6th, 1897*

**HOUNSLOW SPORTS**

About 300 spectators were present on Monday at the sixth annual athletics meeting promoted by the temperance societies in Hounslow. The entries were numerous, the racing was exciting, and the sports were a great success in every way.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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### John Seaman

William WILD's letter about a farm fire at Stanwell was published in the March 2009 Journal. Some more information has been located.

On 23rd December 1833, Mr. J .A. BEAUMONT wrote to the Home Secretary from the County Fire Office in Regent Street and reported an incendiary fire at the farm of Messrs. JORDAN in Stanwell Moor. Property destroyed was valued at £1,000, part of which was insured with the Office. He asked that a reward be offered and a pardon given to an accomplice who gave evidence. A handbill, printed on 24th December, offered a total reward of £400 and a pardon, for information about this fire which had occurred on Wednesday afternoon, 18th December. Messrs. JORDAN, the parish of Stanwell, the Trustees of J. HAMBROUGH, Esq. and the County Fire Office would each pay £50 and the Government £200.

A report in *The Times* stated that six ricks, three barns, stables for thirteen horses, two cart houses, as well as cattle sheds and pig sties had been destroyed and that four fire engines attended. The loss was now estimated at between £4,000 and £5,000. It had been reported locally that the wages of workers at the farm were to be reduced from 12s. to 10s. per week, but this was not believed to be true.

The partnership between Thomas JORDAN of Stanwell and Samuel JORDAN of West Bedfont was dissolved by mutual consent from 29th September 1835. It is not known if this was associated with the fire.

### Sources:

The National Archives, HO 64/3/180, folios 496-497

*The Times*, 24th December 1833, p.3, col.c

*The London Gazette*, 21st June 1836.

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## ASHFORD COUNTY SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL AND BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Memorial for the First World War and the Book of Remembrance for the Second World War of Ashford County School, that were in the Ashford Campus of Brooklands College (formerly Spelthorne College) in Church Road, Ashford, have been transferred to Spelthorne Museum. Currently both are in the Museum's Reserve Collection. The names from the 'WWI Memorial are indexed on the Society's War Memorials CD, but not those from the Book of Remembrance. The future of the buildings of the old County School is in doubt.

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## FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND EVENTS

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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, 19th June: Wiltshire Family History Society Open Day. Wiltshire College, Salisbury, SP1 ZLW 10am-3.30pm. Free parking.

[www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

Saturday, 26th June: Yorkshire Family History Fair, Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, York Race Course. 10am-4pm. Admission £4, free parking.

<http://yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com>

Saturday, 24th July: Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH. 10am-4pm Free admission and parking.

[www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk) \*

Saturday, 11th September: National Family History Fair. Newcastle Central Premier Inn, Newbridge Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8BS (note new venue) 10am-4pm. Admission £3, free parking.

[www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com](http://www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com)

Saturday, 18th September: Bristol & 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, TW12 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 & 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>

To keep an eye on family history events near you, go to:

[www.geneva.weald.org.uk](http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk)

\* WMFH S will have a stall at these events.

**DIOCESE OF LINCOLN  
NESS GROUP OF PARISHES, SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY WEEKEND**

A Family History Weekend is being held on 25th-27th June in the parishes of St. Firmin's Thurlby, St. John the Baptist, Baston and St. Michael & All Angels, Langtoft. During this time each church will have available for family history research their original registers and items from the Parish Chest, which are normally held at the Lincoln Archives. Help and advice will be available on researching family history, along with many other displays relating to the village, its people and its buildings.

For further details contact Mary Trumble, tel. 01778 423500;  
email [mary.trumble2@googlemail.com](mailto:mary.trumble2@googlemail.com)

**BRYAN CONNECTIONS**

A group of people connected by the BRYAN name are planning a gathering in Witney, Oxfordshire, the earliest known birthplace of this branch of the family. This will take place in early September 2010, the venue to be announced. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested, they would like to hear from you. The family names are:

Born Witney, Oxf	BRYAN Bostock, 1620-1679 Richard, 1652-1702 Samuel, 1683-1720 Henry, 1714-? Samuel, 1739-1798, born Witney but moved to Sutton, near Petworth, Sussex, where he was a Blanket Weaver and later Governor of the Sutton Union Workhouse. Daniel, 1776-1843. Horsehair manufacturer and also Governor of Poorhouse.
Sutton, Ssx	George Bentley, 1824-1843. Saddler and harness maker.
Twickenham, Mdx	George Thomas, 1854-1915. Pawnbroker, general store and cinema owner in Chertsey
Holborn, Lnd	George Reginald, 1875-1948. Oil and colourman.
Chertsey, Sry	Evelyn Esther, 1906-1987.

There are already many people keen to attend, coming from Australia and many parts of the UK. This will be a splendid opportunity for a related person to gain significant information about their ancestors.

If you have an interest please contact David Field, [field220@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:field220@tiscali.co.uk)

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## WORLD WIDE WEB

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Some new records online

- Ancestry have put the Gretna Green marriage records, 1794-1895 online; and a new database “Alien Arrivals” lists the names of over 600,000 immigrants arriving in Britain between the late 18C and early 20C.  
*www.ancestry.co.uk*
- If you have New Zealand ancestors, try the online resources available through the Auckland City Libraries website, which includes: Auckland area passenger arrivals, inward passengers 1838-1889; the only surviving 19C census for Auckland, the Police census 1842-46; over 30,000 images; etc., etc.  
*www.aucklandcitylibraries.com*
- New on the Family Relatives website are: a quarter of a million Scottish trade directory records from Slaters Royal National Commercial Directory 1889; Parish Registers collection 1538-1900, comprising some 5m. entries of baptisms, marriages and burials, mostly from England; 1 million new medical records from 1853-1943, includes doctors, dentists and mid- wives.  
*www.familyrelatives.com*
- The Genealogist website has posted a Roll of Honour for WWI, which includes the Death Index, as well as various memorial record sets. Their non-conformist and non-parochial records are now complete, covering Methodists, Wesleyans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Quakers, Roman Catholics and Russian Orthodox. They have added a new research guide to their website.  
*www.thegenealogist.co.uk*
- The records of workers who were employed on the North London Railway have been indexed by the National Archives. Access is through the TNA website via TNA Catalogues online: enter the name and add RAIL529 into the Department or Series Code box.  
*www.nationalarchives.gov.uk*
- Ancestors in Northern Ireland? New records including some baptisms and some marriages can be found on:  
*www.emeraldancestors.com*
- Findmypast’s new records include over 50,000 records for Stepney and Spitalfields, including St. Dunstan’s (1835-1848), St. George in the East (1861-1877) and Christchurch Spitalfields (1729-1795). Probate indexes

include London A-F (1750-1858), West Kent (1750-1858) and East Kent (1831-1841), they now have 30,000 baptisms and 27,000 burials for parishes in Middlesex, including burials for St. Andrew's, Holborn. They have collected all these new indexes into "The London Collection", so it is worth looking at that for new records. Their new transcription of the 1851 census is now complete. Taking eighteen months to come online, the first tranche of Chelsea Pensioners British Army Service Records, 1760-1913 are now available. This covers service records of soldiers in the British Army who received a pension.

*www.findmypast.co.uk*

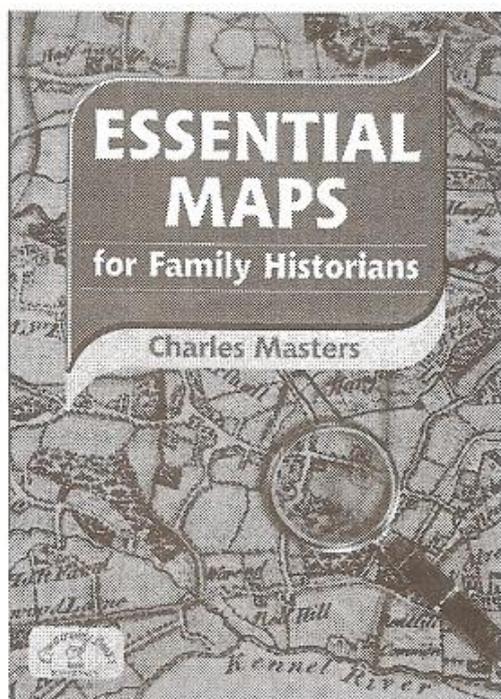
- Deceased Online has uploaded 33,700 burial records for Rainham, Hornchurch and Havering, and Romford; and in Middlesex, Alperton Cemetery, Willesden Old Burial Ground and Wembley Old Burial Ground.  
*www.deceasedonline.com*
- Among the latest offerings from the Original Record Company are: Institute of Civil Engineers Members List 1867; Queen's South Africa Medal for the Royal Horse Artillery 1901-1905; Board of Stamps Apprenticeship Books: Country Collectors' Returns 1771-1774 (stamp duty collected on apprenticeships throughout England giving the master's trade and occupation plus name of the apprentice and length of apprenticeship); St. Alban's Archdeaconry Marriage Licences 1584-1668; 1892-1902 Metropolitan Police Register of Joiners; Registry of Merchant Seamen 1840-1844; 1938 Freemasons (approximately 11,000 names from all over England, Wales and the Dominions and Dependencies of the British Crown).  
*www.theoriginalrecord.com*
- Aerial photos of Greater London, taken in 1949, have recently been discovered and put online. They can be searched by postcode, address or grid reference, and you can purchase either a digital file of the image, or a hard copy print.  
*www.oldaerialphotos.com*
- A new website to help with researching military family history has been launched, it is free to access and can be searched by category or county.  
*www.ukmfh.org.uk*
- Note that versions of Soldiers Who Died in the Great War can be found on the Family Relatives website (see above) , as well as on:  
*www.military-genealogy.com*

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## BOOKSHELF

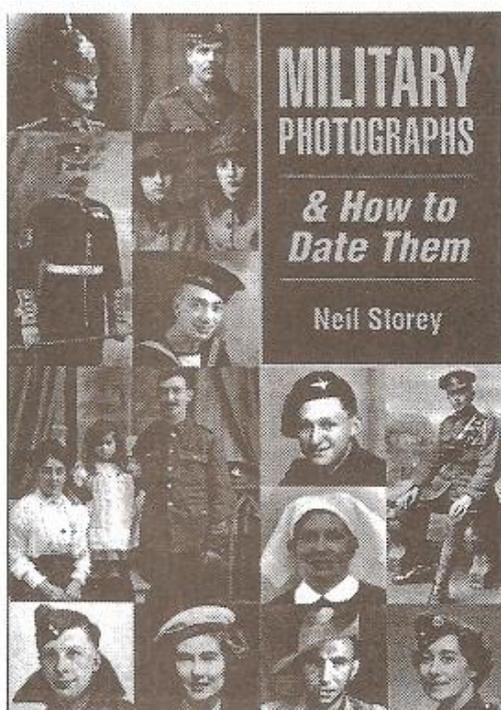
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**Essential Maps for Family Historians**, by Charles Masters (Countryside Books, 2009) ISBN 9781 84674 098 5 £12.99



Maps give us an extra dimension in the search to understand the lives of our ancestors and this guide is intended to give us more confidence to read and understand historical maps, which can come in all shapes, sizes and scales. Beginning with an overall view of maps and map makers from Elizabethan times onwards and using individual case studies, there are separate chapters on Estate and Manorial maps, Enclosure and Tithe maps, Town maps, the Valuation Office Survey maps of 1910-1915 and the National Farm Survey of 1941-3. Clearly written and copiously illustrated, this is a hook which gives us a further tool for our research.

**Military Photographs 8: How to Date Them**, by Neil Storey (Countryside Books, 2009) ISBN 978 1 84674 152 4 £12.99



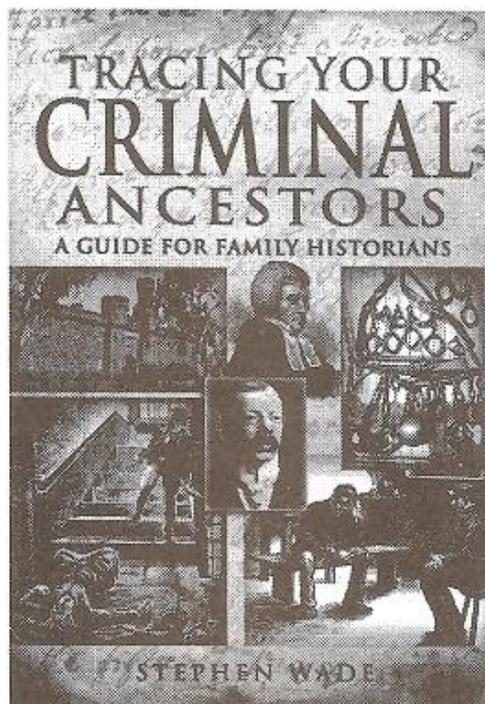
Many of us have a photograph of an ancestor in military uniform, but we are unsure of what they did or where they served. Neil Storey offers advice on identifying military uniforms, badges, insignia, ranks, medals and the equipment Worn. This book covers the period from the 1870s to the 1940s and the many, many photographs show a good cross section from all the services, corps and line infantry with advice on how to interpret the clues revealed by uniform details. There are individual and group photos of men and women in War time and in the inter-war periods. If nothing else, this book gives a clear picture of when, where and how our troops served.

**Tracing Your Criminal Ancestors**, by Stephen Wade (Pen & Sword, 2009)  
ISBN 184884057-8 £12.99

“A criminal is an offender who breaks the criminal law” it says in the Introduction to this book, but what passes as criminal law varies from one century to another.

A history of the courts, the records pertaining to them and where they can be found is followed by a discussion on the various kinds of crime, all illustrated by case studies.

As Well as offering advice on how to trace your criminal ancestor, this book is also a fascinating discourse on the social history of crime and is worthy of a place on any historian’s bookshelf.



The above three books are not carried by the Society Bookstall but can all be obtained from good bookshops.

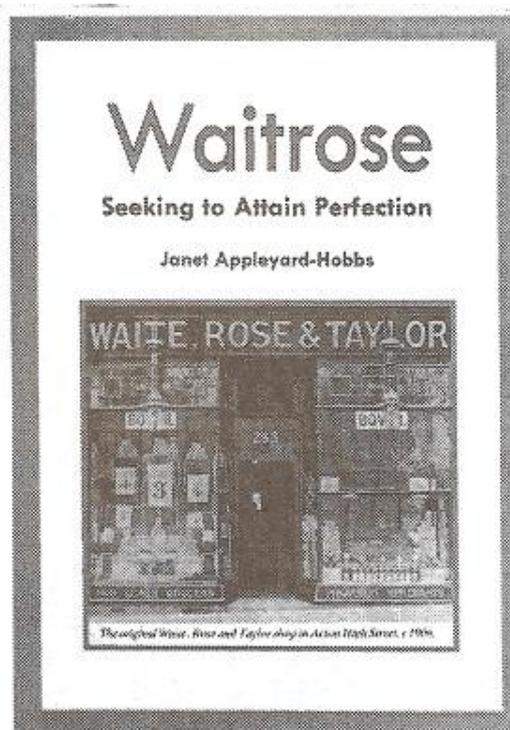
**Waitrose, Seeking to Attain Perfection**, by Janet Appleyard-Hobbs (Acton History Group, 2009) £5 + £1 p&p from the author, tel. 020 8993 3788 or [janethobbs633@hotmail.com](mailto:janethobbs633@hotmail.com)

Following on from the very informative talk Janet gave us last year on the history of Waitrose, this little book describes the history of the Waitrose company from the original shop opened by Mr. Waite, Mr. Rose and Mr. Taylor in Acton in 1904, to the beginning of the First World War.

A short postscript by Judy Faraday, the Archivist for John Lewis, takes the story through to the present day.

It is illustrated with photographs from the John Lewis archives.

If you would like to purchase a copy, please apply directly to the author.



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## HELP!

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### **Charles SMITH, a tailor**

Mike LEWIS is seeking information about the family of Charles SMITH, born in Bath in 1852. His parents were William SMITH, also a tailor, born in Gloucester in 1820, and Eliza, nee ELLEN, born in Bath, 1826. Mike has been unable to find a marriage, although if it did take place it would have been after 1841 as William is shown as single in the census. William and Eliza spent most of their married life in Cheltenham. Charles married Frances Moore FREEMAN in Fulham in 1877 and they had five children: Ellen Laura, born in Fulham, and Alice Eliza, Hilda, Florence and Mabel, all born in Hammersmith. Do they appear on your tree?

*mikelewis237@tiscali.co.uk*

### **St. Joseph's School, Brook Green**

Jenny BROWN's grandmother, Daisy HARRIS, also known as Daisy PRESTON, was educated by sisters of the Daughters of the Cross at St. Joseph's School between 1906 and 1917. When she was 16, in 1917, she travelled to the south of France to work for the family BONNET in Bonnieux, then to Aix en Provence to work for the VIAL family. In 1919 she returned to Hammersmith and lodged with a Mrs. MOON, working as a beader for a dressmaker and eventually designing and making dresses herself. Jenny would like to know whether anyone has any information about girls travelling abroad to go into service. The Archivist of the Order has been unable to find anything in their records.

*jb70@york.ac.uk*

### **George and Walter PAYNE**

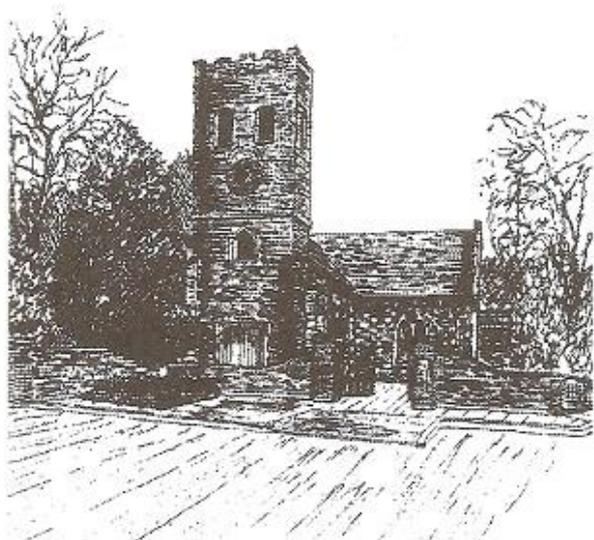
Juliet CLARKE is having problems finding out any information about her Gt. Grandfather, George PAYNE and his brother Walter. George was born in 1880 and Walter in about 1891, both in Shepherds Bush. The family story is that George was sent to Wales at the age of 10 to work on a farm and learnt Welsh, which he spoke with a cockney accent! In 1901 George married Mary Ann JONES in Pontardawe Register Office, Glamorgan, when George's father was given as Charles PAYNE, Gardener, deceased. In 1911 he is resident in Pontardawe with five of their eventual 14 children, and Walter is living with them. Although he was a coalminer for most of his life he eventually worked as a grave digger at Old Bethel Chapel in Garnant, on the border of Carmarthenshire and Glamorgan. He died in 1953. Juliet has been unable to find the family in earlier census records, nor any birth registrations. Can anyone help?

*jul.col@optusnet.com.au*

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## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE, ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SHEPPERTON

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This list of names taken from Book of Remembrance for World War II, was not included in the WMFHS “War Memorials and Rolls of Honour” CD. Further information was given about two of the fallen. John Richard DREW, Ordinary Seaman (formerly a fitter), of ‘The Nook’, Walton Bridge. Born 26th November 1923, at Ashford Common, the son of Horace F.G. and Hilda May DREW.

Service: Enlisted December 1939, *Orcades* (Orient Line). Transferred in November 1940 to the *Almeda Star* (Blue Star Line), which was torpedoed and lost with all hands in the Atlantic, 17th January 1941 .

George Henry Francis GOVER, Sgt. Engineer, RAF (VR) (formerly a solderer) of 41 Watersplash Road, Shepperton. Born 30th January 1924 in London, son of G.F. and E. S. GOVER.

ALDRIDGE, R.S.E.  
ANDREWS, G.W  
ANDREWS, J.H.  
BARNES, R.E.  
BINGHAM, L.P.B.  
BOULT, F.C.  
BROAD, F.J.  
BROAD, K.A.  
CHAMPION, A.T.G.  
COOK, F.A.  
DREW, J.R.  
DRY, T.A.  
DURRELL, Nurse M.C.  
EDMONDS, J.D.  
EDMOND, L.G.  
GOVER, G.H.F

HAYES-JONES, B.  
HOWARD, T.  
JONES, P.T.  
LEAF, R.  
LINGWOOD, D.  
LINGWOOD, J.  
LUCAS, L.G.  
MUSGRAVE  
WHITHAM, R.P.  
NAYLOR, L.J.  
NEVILLE, W.J.  
NORMAN, E.A.J.  
OFFORD, W.C.  
PATERSON, J.C.  
REYGATE, D.G.  
RINGWOOD, J.

ROGERSON, W.V.  
ROSEWELL, F.G.  
ROSEWELL, K.R.  
SETTER, C.A. (child)  
SHEPHERD SMITH  
SMITH, W.E.  
STAMR S.L.  
SUNLEY, F.J.  
THOMAS, I.F.  
TIGHE, W.D.  
TOMPKINS, F.A.G  
TOMS, R.J.  
TOMS, W.A.G.  
VUNCE, D.T.  
WARD, J

*Illustration of St. Nicholas by Ken Huckle © WMFHS*



## JOHN GIDDENS

We regret to report the death of one of our founder members, John GIDDENS, at the age of 81. John was born in Australia but came to England at the age of three, growing up in Shepherds Bush and Hounslow. He had a great love for aircraft, initially working in the Heston Aircraft Company and then as a flight mechanic working on Sunderland flying boats in the RAF. After leaving the RAF he worked for 37 years as a postman then a driver for the Post Office. His hobbies included local history, family history, stamps, postmarks, and collecting postcards of local topography and archaeology. A regular attender at our monthly meetings - he was very quiet and preferred to remain in the shadows, but you will remember John, he was the very tall gentleman who always dimmed the lights for our speakers!

We also have to report the death of another founder member of the Society, Robert COOK.

We extend our condolences to both families.

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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.

- B327 Mrs.J.B.BERESFC)RD, 9 The Bingham, Bray, Maidenhead,  
Berkshire, SL6 2ES *jberes@waitrose.com*
- B328 Mr.J.BUNN, 63 Crundale Avenue, Kingsbury, London, NW 9 9PJ  
*bunnsrow@yahoo.co.uk*
- B329 Mrs.C. SBUTLER, Yew Tree Cottage, 2 Wharf Road, Wrayshury,  
Staines, Middlesex, TW19 5JQ *tbutler222@aol.com*
- C244 Mrs.B.CHIPCHAS E, 17 Loudwater Road, Sunhury-on-Thames  
Middlesex, TW16 6DB *b.chipchase@btinternet.com*
- C267 Mr. and Mrs.P.J.CROXFORD, 53 Swanborough Drive, Brighton,  
BN2 5PJ *croxforal-53 @virginmedia.com*
- D161 Mr.K.DANIELS, 14 Harlestone Road, Coleview, Swindon,  
Wiltshire, SN3 4ED *keith.daniels7@ntlworld.com*
- H277 Mrs.Cindy HAMILTON, 12 Beech Gardens, Crawley Down,  
West Sussex, RH10 4JB *cindyl2Hamilton@yahoo.co.uk*

- H275 Mrs.M.ARRISQN, 75 The Maples, Harlow, Essex, CM19 4RA  
*harrison160@btinternet.com*
- H276 Mrs.A.M.HOLDEN, 32 Manor Court, Fulwood, Preston, Lanes,  
PR2 7DU *amholden@btinternet.com*
- J63 Ms.Juliet JENKINS, 32 Haig Street, Belmont, NSW 2280,  
Australia *jul.cl@optusnet.com.au*
- L115 Mr.M.F.LEWIS, Ferndale, 76 Mount Road, Southdown, Bath,  
BA2 1LH *mikelewis237@tiscali.co.uk*
- L116 Mrs.S.LOBEL, 2 Wharfe Close, Witham, Essex, CM8 1LH  
*s.e.lobel@talktalk.net*
- M236 Mrs.E.A.MOSES, 41 Watts Lane, Teddington, Middlesex,  
TW11 8HQ *anniemoses@sky.com*
- M235 Mrs.M.A.MOSS, 17 Pendeen Park, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 OSL  
*maureen@moss83.wanadoo.co.uk*
- S280 Mrs. B. SHARP, Milford Cottage, Stafford Lake, off Queens Road,  
*Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9BA barbara\_\_sharp@hotmail.com*  
(please note the double \_ in the email address)

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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.*

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Member</i>
ALLEN	1906-1980	Norwood	MDX	B327
ALLEN	1906-1980	Southall	MDX	B327
AMBRIDGE	18-19C	Ruislip	MDX	M235
ANGEL	after 1850	Upton-cum-Chalvey	BKM	H276
BAMFORD	1670-1770	Clerkenwell area	MDX	H277
BAMFORD	1770-1900	Richmond	SRY	H277
BAMFORD	1770-1900	Kingston	SRY	H277
BASS	before 1800	Wandsworth	SRY	S280
BOWYER	18-19C	Warfield area	BRK	M235
BROCKS	1800-1900	Tilehurst	BKS	C267
BROOKS	before 1800	Tidcombe	WIL	S280
BULL	after 1890	Hanwell	MDX	H276

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Member</i>
BUNN	1890-1940	Fulham	MDXB328	
BUTLER	19C	Hammersmith	MDX	B329
CLARK	18C	Shepperton	MDX	H275
CLARK	18-19C	Littleton	MDX	H275
CLARK	19C	Laleham	MDX	H275
CLAYDON	after 1812	Hounslow	MDX	B329
CLAYDON	1812	Heston	MDX	B329
COLEMAN	before 1800	Effingham	SRY	S280
CONNOR	18-19C	Cork	IRL	M235
CONNOR	18-19C	Isleworth	MDX	M235
CONNOR	18-19C	Chiswick	MDX	M235
COOK	all	Southall area	MDX	L116
CROOK	19C	Portugal		H275
CROOK	19C	Bath	SOM	H275
CROXFORD	1700-1900	All	OXF	C267
CROXFORD	1700-1900	Cookham	BKS	C267
CROXFORD	1700-1900	Maidenhead	BKS	C267
CROXFORD	1850-1950	Feltham	MDX	C267
CROXFORD	1850-1950	Bedfont	MDX	C267
CROXFORD	1850-1950	Hanworth	MDX	C267
DANIELS	19C	Norwood	MDX	D161
DAVIES	19C	Bristol	GLS	H275
DAVIES	19C	Westminster	MDX	H275
DAVIS	20C	Ealing	MDX	C244
DEARING	18-19C	Brentford	MDX	D161
DENMAN	18C	Mansfield	NTT	H277
DURBIDGE	1750-1900	Kingsclere	HAM	C267
EARL	1650-1890	Hampton area	MDX	M236
EDWARDS	after 1850	Tottenham	MDX	H276
EDWARDS	after 1830	Raglan area	MON	H276
ELLIOTT	before 1934	County Kildare	KID	H277
ELROD	1890-1940	Fulham	MDX	B328
ESCHENBACK	1890-1940	Fulham	MDX	B328
EXALL	before 1720	Clerkenwell area	MDX	H277
FERMOR	18-19C	Rotherfield	SSX	H277
FIELD	18-19C	Aylesbury	BKM	M235
FILBEY	all	Hayes area	MDX	L116
FILTNESS	before 1860	Rotherfield area	SSX	H277
FREWEN	before 1800	Barnes	SRY	S280
FREWIN	before 1800	Barnes	SRY	S280
GALLEY	18-19C	Hampton area	MDX	H277
GATER	1800-1900	Tilehurst	BKS	C267
GATER	1800-1900	Reading	BKS	C267
GATER	1800-1900	Hurst	BKS	C267
GIDDINGS	before 1800	Urchfont	WIL	H276
GOFF	before 1800	Leatherhead area	SRY	H277
GUYETT	17-18C	Hounslow	MDX	B329
HALL	17-18C	Hounslow	MDX	B329
HARVEY	after 1850	Cowley	MDX	H276
HILLIER	before 1800	Collingbourne Ducis	WIL	S280
HOBDAY	before 1800	Brentford	MDX	S280
HOFFMAN	after 1880	Uxbridge	MDX	L116

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Member</i>
HORTON	after 1812	Hackney area	MDX	B329
HUNT	1750-1900	Cholsey	BKS	C267
JEFFERY	before 1900	Crowborough area	SSX	H277
JOEL	after 1850	Slough	BKM	H276
KELSEY	all	Hayes area	MDX	L116
KIDD	1890-1940	Fulham	MDX	B328
KNIGHT	18-19C	Old Brentford	MDX	D161
LAMBLE	1750-1900	West Hanney	BKS	C267
LEE	before 1800	Tidcombe	WIL	S280
MASON	20C	Ealing	MDX	C244
MATTINGLEY	17-18C	North Hyde	MDX	B329
MATTINGLEY	17-18C	Heston	MDX	B329
MAY	1750-1900	Heckfield	HAM	C267
MAY	1750-1900	Wokingham	BKS	C267
MOTLEY	1750-1900	Hereford	HEF	C267
NEWMAN	before 1800	Milford area	SRY	H277
PAYNE	1850-1900	Shepherds Bush	MDX	J63
PENNY	17-18C	Egham	MDX	M235
PENNY	17-18c	Staines	MDX	M235
PENNY	17-18C	Isleworth	MDX	M235
PENNY	17-18C	Brentford	MDX	M235
PERRY	before 1850	Bishops' Stortford	HRT	H276
PIGGOTT	before 1800	Hanover Square area	MDX	H277
PORTER	before 1900	Odiham	HAM	H276
POTTER	1890	Fulham	MDX	B328
PURDEY	19C	Hounslow	MDX	B329
RAYNER	1906-1980	Bradwell on Sea	ESS	B327
REMNANT	before 1800	Thames Ditton	SRY	S280
ROADNIGHT	after 1880	Uxbridge	MDX	L116
ROUSE	after 1819	Hayes area	MDX	L116
RUTTER	18-19C	Brentford	MDX	M235
SARGEANT	17-18C	Hackney area	MDX	B329
SCARLETT	18-19C	Sunbury	MDX	D161
SEARLE	1800-1900	Easthampstead	BKS	C267
SECRET	after 1882	Ealing	MDX	L116
SHERVILL	before 1820	Isleworth	MDX	H277
SMALLBONE(S)	1750-1900	Sherborne	HAM	C267
SMALLBONE(S)	1750-1900	Basingstoke	HAM	C267
SMITH	19C	Hammersmith area	MDX	L115
STOKES	before 1830	Westbury area	WIL	H276
STOKES	19C	Hounslow	MDX	B329
STOREY	17-18C	Hackney area	MDX	B329
TYE	before 1800	All	MDX	S280
TYE	before 1800	All	ESS	S280
VICKERY	17-18C	Hounslow	MDX	B329
WEST	before 1800	Wandsworth	SRY	S280
WILCOX	before 1820	Westminster	MDX	H277
WOODS	1840-1920	Twickenham area	MDX	H277
WORDEN	before 1800	Evesham	WOR	S280
YOUNG	1840-1900	Hampstead Norris	BKS	C267
YOUNG	1840-1900	Chieveley	BKS	C267
YOUNG	1840-1900	Wokingham	BKS	C267

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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. E1 plus SAE.

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

**Harlington Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1540-1850. Enquiries £1.00.

*Mr P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex UB3 SEW*

**Harmondsworth Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages and burials 1670-1837. Enquiries £1 .00, or 31RCs per name.

*Mrs Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow TW3 4AP*

**Hayes St Mary's Parish Registers** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1557-1840. Enquiries £1 per surname.

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

**Hillingdon Parish Registers** Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery). Enquiries £1.

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

**Isleworth All Saints Parish Registers** Baptisms 1566-1919, marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942. Enquiries £1.00.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

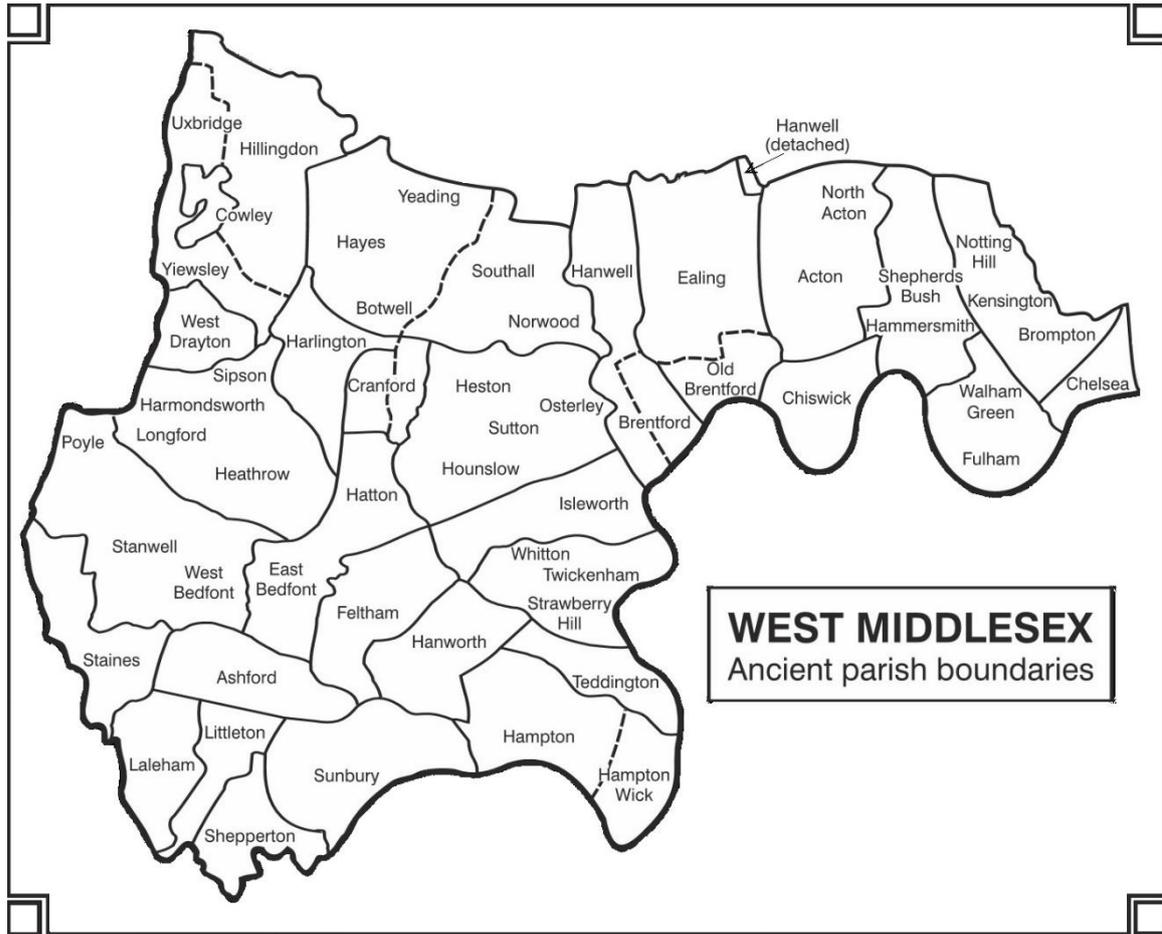
Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS, no SAE required.

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

## **Front Cover**

When the new electric tramway between Hounslow Heath and Hammersmith was built, Treaty House, on the south side of Hounslow High Street, had to be demolished. In its extensive grounds were built Hounslow Town Hall, the Swimming Baths and the Public Library; the architect of this complex was Nowell PARR, a Brentford man who had designed buildings for Brentford Council. The Hounslow Free Library was built with money from the Carnegie Trust and was opened on 22nd March 1905. (Andrew Carnegie, a Scots-born American millionaire industrialist and philanthropist gave large sums of money for public libraries to be built in British towns and cities.) In the late 1970s the occupied by the 'listed' Town Hall and Public Library was required for a new shopping mall and consequently these buildings were demolished.

*My thanks go to Guy Bedminster of Hounslow Library for this information.*



**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