



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

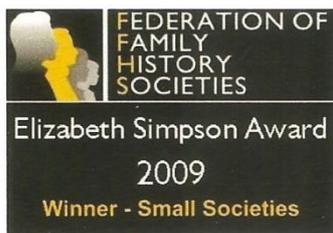
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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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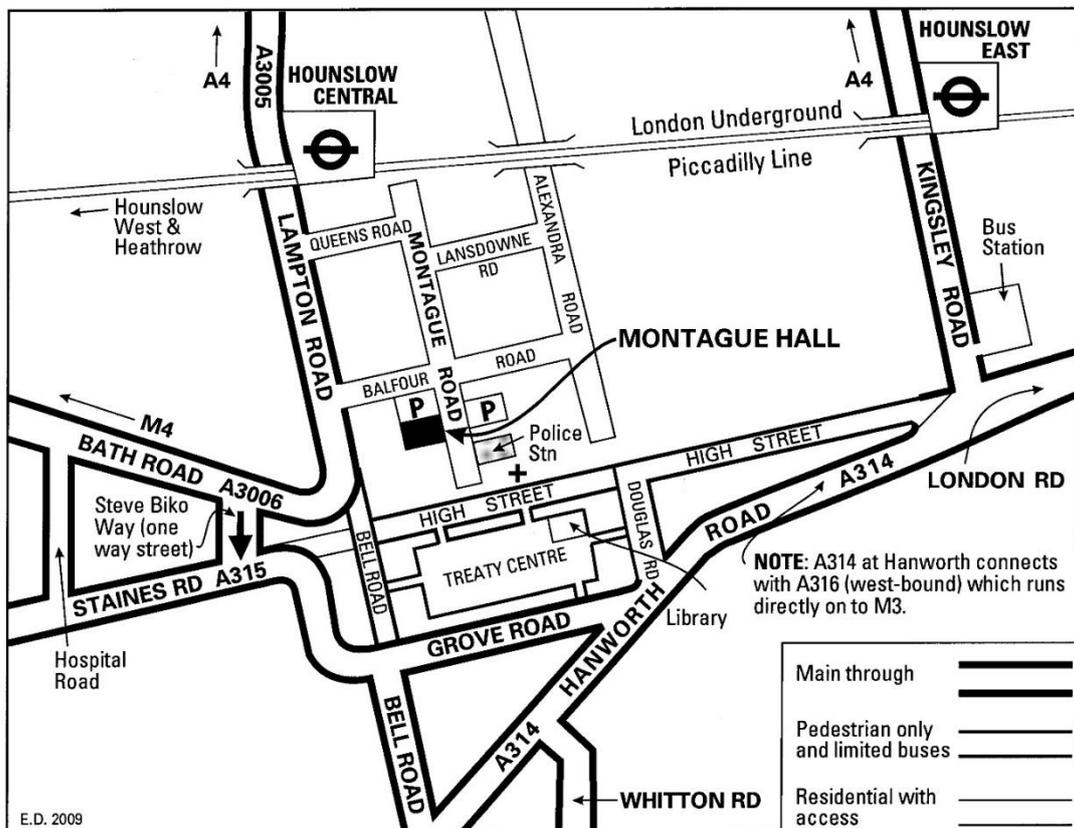
FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

- 17 Mar AGM – followed by
Origins of the Ordnance Survey *Steve Randall*
- 21 Apr My Ancestor was a Photographer *Michael Pritchard*
- 19 May The River Thames and Riverside Houses from
Hampton Court to Hampton *John Sheaf*
- 16 Jun The India Office Library *Paul Blake*

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.





By the time you read this, Who Do You Think You Are Live? at Olympia will have come and gone. Those of you who did attend will, hopefully, have found the WMFHS stand. Your Committee decided that we should have a presence at Olympia after they heard that the Family History Fair at the Barbican next May had been cancelled, and this was after the December Journal had gone to print, therefore no announcement appeared in that edition. Family History Fairs, like County Record Offices and Archives, are finding times to be tough. From January 2011, the Bath Record Office will be closed to the public for the third full week, every month, for a trial period of six months. During these weeks the staff will carry out essential cataloguing and preservation work. As always, do check before you arrange a visit to a CRO, part-time opening hours are becoming more and more popular with cash strapped councils.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM and hopefully there will be one or two volunteers willing to join our Committee on that occasion. As you know, we have no Secretary and Kay DUDMAN, our Programme Secretary, has served her full six years and has to resign this year. There are also vacancies for members who do not hold an office - to serve on the Committee is a very good way of discovering just how the Society operates.

Our long serving Bookstall Manager, Janice KERSHAW, is resigning. With her husband, Paul, they have long been stalwarts at family history fairs but now feel it is time to put their feet up. Is there someone who would take over the ordering of books, storing stock [all neatly packed into plastic boxes) and running the bookstall at our monthly meetings? It is a position that would lend itself to more than one person undertaking this responsibility for the very important public relations face of the Society.

◆

Included in this edition of your Journal is the first of an occasional series that will feature those who serve your Society in one office or another. As it should be, the first of these is of our Chairman, Muriel Sprott.

After the Journal had gone to press at the beginning of December, I learnt that one of the magazines featured in the comparison of Family History Magazines, Practical Family History, was printing its final edition. This came from the same stable as Family Tree Magazine, and some of the familiar names from the former magazine will be found presenting features in the latter. It was also brought to my attention that I had misspelt the name of the campaigner for the early release of the 1921 census — it should of course have been Guy ETHELLS, not Mitchell. I do apologise to Mr. Etchells for this error.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Notice of Agenda

The Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on Thursday, 17th March, 2011, at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow

The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 18th March, 2010
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2010
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Any other Business

M. Sprott, Chairman

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

Election of Officers

Having served for six years, Kay Dudman is standing down from the Committee.

Richard Chapman, Dennis Marks, Brian Page and Muriel Sprott, having served more than three years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

Betty Elliott, Pam Smith, and Joan Storkey, having served less than three years on the Committee and willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

Names and Variants

Whether you are searching parish registers or other original documents, or transcribed indexes, particularly on many of the popular websites, you must be aware of alternative spellings and wrong transcriptions.

I think everyone knows that if a name ends with 'E' or 'S' then researchers should be prepared to look at names without these endings Likewise if a name begins with 'H' then look for names without this and if the name begins with a vowel, then put 'H' in front. If you have double letters such as 'R' or 'S' then look for those with only one letter. This also applies to names ending with a double 'S', such as Hariss or Harris.

If there is a 'CK' put 'X' instead of the 'CK'. Listen to how a name might sound instead of how you think it should be spelt. Poxon is sometimes Poxton and could even be spelt Pogson.

Think of accents or dialects, particularly if the person you are seeking lived in an area known to have a strong accent, the vicar may come from a different part of England and he is writing down the name as he hears it - vowels particularly get distorted.

Look also at the handwriting to identify how a particular letter is formed. I have seen a fancy capital 'C' transcribed as a capital 'Q' so the name Clive became Olive. Capital 'J' and 'F' can look very similar. Also I have seen a capital 'T' transcribed as 'S' or 'L', thus turning Tyers into Syers or Lyers.

There is also the problem that a name could be split - Arrowsmith has been transcribed as Harry Smith. It has also been transcribed as Athersmith and Arthur Smith. On both of these 'H' could be put in front.

Harry is also called Henry and vice versa. Elijah is often transcribed as Eliza and then a son becomes a daughter. Particularly on census returns, check whether the person is male or female, this may give you a clue when trying to identify difficult writing. Look to see how the enumerator writes his 'W' and 'M' (for 'wife' or 'married') as these two letters can become confused.

Look for 'pet' names - Polly for Mary, Nan for Ann, Bessie for Elizabeth, Willie for William, Harry for Henry, Frank for Frederick, Nellie for Ellen or Eleanor, Bert could be Albert or Herbert, etc., they are often used in the census returns rather than the registered name.

Do not accept the fact that relatives say the family always spelt the name a particular way. Remember many could not read or write so could not say how it should be spelt.



Like a lot of people my age (whatever that is), I was born in the workhouse. Brentford Union Workhouse buildings were incorporated into West Middlesex Hospital when it was established, hence the above comment.

I started into family history many years ago, by wondering just why we visited all these different people and who were the people the elderly aunts kept referring to in their conversations. For some years I was a name-collector. Now I am just interested in following through the initial questions which started me off and trying to establish how Margaret, for example, is my second cousin once removed.

My mother was born in the Notting Hill area but her parents moved out to Hounslow in the 1920s, to live in the countryside. My father was born in Hanworth, which was also pretty rural in the early 20th century. The previous generations of ancestors come from a swathe of counties from the Midlands south. If they could do so, they lived on county boundaries so that moving two miles took them into a new county and a new area to research. One set even lived in a village described as being in the counties of Leicester and Derby.

My mother's parents have to be my favourite ancestors - I knew them and loved them. Yes, they had faults, but they remained mentally young until near the ends of their very long lives. My sister and I had so many good times with our grandparents, I have always felt sorry for people who have missed out on that pleasure.

I would have liked to be a fly on the wall in the homes of my grandfather's mother's family in Ditcheat, Somerset. Comments from the log-books of the village school suggest that they were either a feisty lot, or the sort of embarrassing families who today would be passing burgers and chips through the school gates to their Jamie Oliver-fed children. Two examples, if you will bear with me:

"Sent to know why Elizabeth CHINNOCK was away from school... and received a most insulting answer," and "Ernest CHINNOCK played truant ... his

mother brought him to school next day. She was very insolent and took him away again.

Being the eldest child of two eldest children, I have been lucky enough to inherit lots of papers and photographs relating to both sides of the family. The best of these papers has to be my paternal grandmother's birthday book - it is an autograph birthday book, so I have small samples of her grandparents' writing, people who were born in the 1830s. The most frustrating are the photographs of groups of people, labelled simply as "Arthur". Yes, but which one is Arthur?

My luckiest (not inherited) find has to be a birth certificate from August 1837, in which the baby (my 2x gt. grandmother) was registered by her maternal grandfather - so three generations on one birth certificate.

I started my working life as a computer programmer, on the sort of giant machine that cost millions and had less processing power than a modern mobile phone. It paid well, but I was an oval peg in a round hole, so went back to college, obtained an ONC in Business Studies and re-trained as an accounting technician - a job I love and still work at.

Besides being the worst Chairman West Middlesex FHS has been lumbered with, I am also Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for my street and Treasurer for the South of London group of Advanced Motorists. I enjoy seeing other places, but do not enjoy the journeys, especially when they involve many hours in an aircraft. Myself and two other cousins work as a team to keep the family contacts going - jobs we all inherited from our mothers and thoroughly enjoy.

The first line of the last paragraph is complete nonsense! Ed.

HOW WE FINALLY DISCOVERED REBECCA PLOWMAN

William Wild

The WEEKLY family in Harmondsworth was a wealthy farming family of long standing in the parish, three successive generations being buried in the floor of Harmondsworth church in the 18th and 19th centuries' Prior to living in Harmondsworth, the WEEKLYs had resided in Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, for five generations, back to the beginning of the 16th century. They had a pedigree and a coat of arms registered with the College of Arms, which I have seen. However, the name had died out in the parish of Harmondsworth by the end of the 19th century, as all the male lines, bar one, failed to produce any male children.

The one exception was Thomas WEEKLY, born 1789, the eldest son of a previous Thomas. As the eldest son he would have been expected to have inherited the family land in Harmondsworth village but he was sidelined for his next brother, Richard. The reason for this was because Thomas had chosen to marry the daughter of an agricultural labourer, and worse than that, he had married someone who was not a member of the Strict Baptist church at Colnbrook, which his family had attended since its foundation in 1708. The only members of the WEEKLY family to be baptised in Harmondsworth parish church, over a period of 200 years, were the children of Thomas and Rebecca. In all the entries on census returns and in the parish register Thomas called himself an "Ag. Lab.", but comically on his will of 1873, he is entitled a yeoman, though he left less than £100.

Unfortunately the effect of this rather unwise marriage was that succeeding generations descended lower in the social order, finishing up with three children of one family having to go into the workhouse and the fourth being taken in by Dr. Barnados. Then in the early 1900s, three members of the WEEKLY family emigrated to the Americas as young men and today there are descendants in Canada and the U.S.A.

The question for the past 200 years has been, who was this Rebecca who appeared to have been the cause of the downfall of the WEEKLY family tradition? In 1868, Jane WEEKLY, the youngest in a family of 14, of which Thomas was the eldest, wrote an exhaustive history of the WEEKLYs, in which she stated that her brother Thomas had married a "Plowman's daughter of Cranford". This is a neighbouring parish to Harmondsworth.

In July 1909 this history was copied and typed out by a Henry J. WILD, junior. This was my great uncle Harry, a younger brother of my grandfather. At this juncture I should like to point out that the WEEKLYs and the WILDs were very closely related as for 150 years they intermarried on many occasions, often as first cousins. Unfortunately Harry WILD chose to alter the original text and after the word "Plowman's" wrote "should be, married a ploughman's daughter." For the next 100 years my father and myself believed Uncle Harry!

Just recently a WILD cousin and myself have been trying to find out exactly who this Rebecca was, who appeared on census returns and who was buried with her husband in Harmondsworth churchyard. We found a Thomas WEEKLY marrying a Rebecca PLOWMAN in St. Clement Danes, Westminster, on the 9th May 1808. However, according to her age on the tombstone she would have been only 16, which seemed to be highly unlikely. Also on Ancestry there is recorded on the 30th September 1810, at St. Mary, Ealing, the baptism of a Thomas to parents Thomas and Rebecca WEEKLY. On the same occasion there is recorded another baptism of an Emma PLOWMAN.

Could there be any connection between these two baptisms or were their two names just a coincidence?

On the 1841 census in Staines we found a Thomas WEEKLY, aged 30, which could match the Thomas being baptised 30 years before. There was a four year old son, called, yes you have guessed it, Thomas. On the 1851 census Thomas and Rebecca of Harmondsworth Moor were looking after a 14 year old grandson, named Thomas, who had been born in Staines.

With all this circumstantial evidence, it seemed probable that the name of Thomas WEEKLY's wife must be Rebecca PLOWMAN. I therefore decided to investigate the parish register of Cranford and so went to the L.M.A. (London Metropolitan Archives) in October 2010. The third entry on the microfilm was what I was looking for. It was the third reading of the banns for the marriage of Samuel PLOWMAN and Mary MORTON, on the 25th October 1781. The next day they were married and following the wedding on the same day, their first child was baptised! The sixth child to be born to them was Rebecca, on the 20th December 1789 - EUREKA.

From this birth date I now knew Rebecca was 18½ when she was married. I also knew that the age given on her tombstone was two years too young and I later learnt that Thomas's age on the same stone was three years too old! Thomas and Rebecca had twelve children; one, Thomas, was baptised at Ealing, seven were baptised at Harmondsworth and four more died in infancy. One of these died of smallpox in 1817 and was named Mary Moreton WEEKLY. I had always thought that this MORETON name gave a clue to Rebecca's maiden name and there it was. They had named this girl after her maternal grandmother.

Both Rebecca and her mother before her were only able to sign their name at their wedding with an X. This could only reinforce the thoughts of the WEEKLY family that this marriage was a disaster on all counts. However, all credit must be given to them as they took in two grandsons and brought them up when they had become orphans.

From this tale I think I have learnt two lessons:

1. Try if at all possible to go back to the original source for your information.
2. Do not believe everything that is written on a tombstone.

If you have paid your subscription for 2011 but have not received your Members' Interests CD with this Journal, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Major Charles GIBBENS, DSO, MC and bar, DCM Charles GIBBENS was born in Barnes on the 10th June 1889, the son of Thomas GIBBENS. In early childhood they moved to 40 Lower Mall, Hammersmith, He was educated at St. Paul's Church of England School in Hammersmith before joining the 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry as a Bandboy. He attended Kneller Hall, the Army School of Music, as a pupil from 26th July 1906 until 31st October 1907, winning the Bronze Cousins Memorial Medal for instrumental ability in 1907.



Kneller Hall, Twickenham

At the outbreak of war on 4th August 1914, he was a Lance Corporal and according to some sources he was again at Kneller Hall as a Student Bandmaster but no mention of this can be found in school records. However, even if this had been the case he would still have been recalled to his Battalion to accompany them to France. At this point the role of Bandsmen on mobilisation was to serve as stretcher bearers under the Band Sergeant, with the Bandmaster remaining at the depot in command of the band boys who were too young to be sent overseas.

The Battalion missed the early battles of the war being held back temporarily for home defence duties but Charles GIBBENS arrived in France on 6th September 1914, in time to be present for the Battle of the Aisne. He served through the winter and early months of 1915, rising to Sergeant (there is a programme of music conducted by him showing that he was able to maintain his musical skills), before participating in an attack on Hooze, just outside Ypres in Belgium. The Battalion suffered heavy casualties but 8346 Sergeant GIBBENS was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal with the following citation:

“For conspicuous gallantry on the 9th and 10th August 1915, at Hooze. About 3p.m. some men started to withdraw from the vicinity of the “Stables.” Sergeant Gibbens, assisted by three others, succeeded in rallying them and leading them back, under considerable shell fire, to the vacated trench. Later he, in company with an Officer, ran across some exposed ground in order to head off some men who had commenced to withdraw. The action was very gallant owing to the heavy shell fire.”

London Gazette 15 September 1915

As will be seen from the above, he seems to have moved from stretcher bearer duties to general regimental duties. This culminated when he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Battalion (which was quite unusual during the war - men were usually transferred to a different regiment when commissioned), on 5th March 1916, having served a total of 13 years 48 days in the ranks.

He left the front on 8th August 1916 (perhaps having been wounded) but returned on 4th January 1917. He was promoted Lieutenant on 5th September 1917, but obviously his recommendation for a Military Cross was in progress as he was gazetted with this on the 17th September 1917, as a 2nd Lieutenant with the following citation:

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Despite heavy shelling he kept his men at work on a communication trench until the work was complete, rallying the men, and by his fine personal example encouraging them under very trying conditions. He also showed great judgement in keeping other parties in readiness to repel a counter-attack.”

Further promotion followed as on 22nd September 1917, he was appointed Acting Captain, 12th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, becoming Temporary Captain on 6th January 1918, and finally Temporary Major on 28th October 1918.

However what concerns us here is his decorations and we have to note that he also transferred from the Western Front to the Italian Front, arriving on 11th November 1917, in support of the Italian Army against the Germans and Austrians. Now a Company Commander, the bar to his Military Cross was gazetted on 15th October 1918, as a Captain for support of the 11th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, against an Austrian attack on 27th June 1918. In fact the award was reported in the Regimental War Diary (held by The National Archives in Kew) within a matter of weeks of the action. The gazette citation reads:

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He handled and controlled his company so admirably that the enemy's attacks were easily beaten off by rifle fire. Throughout the battle he showed marked courage and powers of command.”

However his best was yet to come. It was during the attacks on the River Piave that he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. This was gazetted on 2nd April 1919, with the detailed citation appearing on 10th December 1919:

“For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. At the forcing of the River Piave on 27 October 1918, near the island of Padopoli, the battalion, after passing the most northerly stream under very heavy fire, was held up by uncut wire. He with four NCOs and men ran forward from his own company and through the leading company to cut the wire, which was swept from end to end with shell fire and by machine-gun fire from front and enfilade. All the party except himself was killed and he was wounded. In spite of his wound he continued until a lane had been cut, helped only by one other rank, who had already been wounded, and who came up to his assistance. But for this act of devoted heroism the attack must have failed and the battalion been repulsed. Suffering from a most painful wound, he continued to lead his company until they had taken the third and final objective.”

Finally he was Mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette dated 5th June 1919, but there are no details of this.

All of these, of course, were national awards but Major GIBBENS had one further honour to follow and this occurred when his home Borough of Hammersmith voted on 15th January 1919 to invite him to sign the Borough's Roll of Honour known as The Golden Book (a very rare event as other signatories included the King and later, after the Second World War, Field Marshal MONTGOMERY). Major GIBBENS attended a special meeting of the Council to do this at 6pm on 31st January 1919.



Major Gibbens

After introductions by the Mayor, the Town Clerk read out his citations. Then the Mayor made a speech during which he referred to a quotation from the time of Nelson that, "England expects that every man will do his duty" and that Major GIBBENS had nobly done his duty and they were proud to know that he had done so. After these remarks Major GIBBENS signed the book which contained details of his service and awards and was presented with a certificate signed by the Mayor, various Councillors and the Town Clerk. This was reported both in Council minutes and the local press.

Major GIBBENS retired from the Army with a gratuity on 17th March 1920, and was appointed a Captain in the Reserve of Officers, which he left only on 17th January

1939. His son, Harry, also joined the Durham Light Infantry in 1941. Major GIBBENS died in July 1951. His medals were sold at auction in March 2000, for £6,500 and this is where the photograph of Major GIBBENS (above) came from.



I would like to thank Major BERRY for providing the initial information, the Hammersmith and Fulham Archives for giving me access to the Roll of Honour, local newspapers describing the event and Dix Noonan and Webb, Auctioneers, for the photograph. My main source for details of his career was, Officers of the Durham Light Infantry and various London Gazettes as well as the Regimental History, Durham Forces in the Field.

The title of this article relates to a newspaper article describing the actions of the Battalion at the battle at Hooge in 1915, during which the then Sergeant GIBBENS earned his DCM, and is adapted from one that first appeared in Band International. I am researching British Army Musicians who were decorated for gallantry in action in both World Wars and those who died in service, and would welcome any information.

masonste@yahoo.com

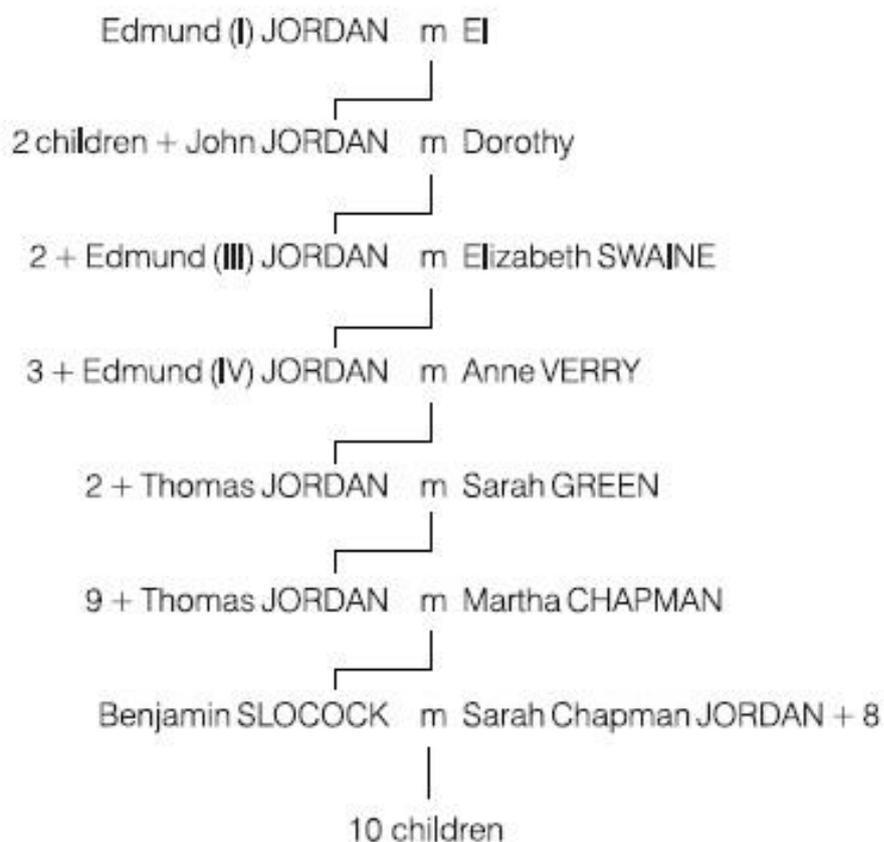
Kneller Hall © *www.wikimedia.org*

THE JORDAN FAMILY OF STANWELL

Richard Scott

One of my ancestral lines is the JORDAN family and I have to admit that I have been very fortunate to have them. The reason? They were yeoman farmers and thus stayed in one place, generation after generation, farming the same land. The place was Stanwell and with the help of another JORDAN descendant, the parish registers, wills and census returns we have traced the family back more than 350 years to an Edmund JORDAN, who probably married about 1644. Edmund was a family name and for clarity I shall number them, starting with this one, Edmund I.

Edmund I and his wife, known so far only as 'El' had three children baptised at Stanwell between 1645 and 1653. Although two of the children were boys it seems the elder, Edmund II, must have died at a tender age as it was the younger son, John Jordan, who carried on farming. We have John's will that he made in 1681, together with the inventory of his goods taken after his death later the same year. He had been a relatively young man, aged only 32 when he died, and he appointed his father Edmund I as his executor as both his own sons were still minors. His wife was Dorothy but nothing more is known of her and possibly she predeceased John or he would have named her as executor of his will.



Edmund I only survived John by five years and although we do not have his will the inventory of his goods clearly shows he still had John's possessions, ready presumably to pass to his two grandchildren once they attained their majority. Like his father, John had three children, two of whom were boys, and it was Edmund III who carried on farming. His baptism has not been found but his siblings were christened in Stanwell in 1673 and 1674, so it seems reasonable to assume Edmund III was also born in the 1670s. He married Elizabeth SWAINE, daughter of another notable Stanwell family, in 1705, and they had four children; John, two Elizabeths and Edmund IV. It appears that only Edmund IV survived to adulthood, as he was the only child to be mentioned in Edmund III's will, made in 1730.

In his turn, Edmund IV was another yeoman farmer in Stanwell. He had been baptised in 1710 in the parish church and as well as worshipping there each week he was back at the relatively old age of 39 to marry Ann VERRY in 1749. Their three children were baptised in 1750, 1753 and 1756 and the two boys, Edmund V and Thomas, both became farmers. In the book *The Village Labourer*, by J. L. HAMMOND and Barbara HAMMOND, a brief extract from the Stanwell Enclosure Act (1789) is quoted. They mention that Edmund (V) JORDAN had 1½ acres allocated to him when the common land was enclosed. No mention is made of his younger brother Thomas' holding but as they were only giving examples of the smallest holdings it is possible Thomas was a more substantial farmer. The Manor Court Rolls for Stanwell have not yet been studied but from the above reference and other examples shown on the Internet they will clearly repay some further research when time permits.

Edmund V died unmarried and the line continued through Thomas. He was born in 1756, married Sarah GREEN on 24th April 1781 at Stanwell and they had ten children. Thomas made his will in April 1828, just six months before his death. He stated he was late of Stanwell, farmer, but now of Egham, gentleman. Two of his sons, Thomas (junior) and Samuel, carried on farming in partnership in Stanwell. They suffered a serious farm fire in 1833, believed to be the work of Swing Rioters. [See *West Middlesex FHS Journals* March 2009 and June 2010.] There was a report of the fire in *The Times* and the *London Gazette*, several organisations put up a reward for information. Shortly after this the partnership was dissolved and as Thomas (junior) died only three years later it is possible his health was already in decline.

Thomas (junior) had married Martha CHAPMAN of Egham at Westminster St James in 1818 and like so many successful Victorian farmers they had a large family. Nine children were born but three died as children and the adults died at 24, 33, 43, 50 and 58. The ninth death has not been found. This tendency to

early deaths extends back to the earliest traced generation and has also been noted in some of the collateral branches. Death certificates indicate a number of the fatalities are due to Bright's disease, first described in 1827 and now more accurately called Nephritis. This is a disease of the kidneys and frequently led to a lingering and painful death about the age of 50. Clearly it is an inherited condition and many of the JORDAN line have succumbed to it My 2x gt. grandmother was Sarah Chapman SLOCOCK (nee JORDAN], the daughter of Thomas (junior) and Martha. She was the one who died aged 50. At least two of her ten children also died of the disease.



Sarah Chapman Slocock nee Jordan

I would be very pleased to hear from readers who can add any information or provide relevant photos and I would be especially pleased to make contact with anyone who is related to my JORDANs.

richardascott@waitrose.com

GUILD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CHELSEA

The following list appears in the Parish Magazine for Holy Trinity, dated 1901, found in Tavistock by WMFHS Member Robin HOARE.

Guild for Young People

This Guild was started on Advent Sunday, and the following children were admitted on that day:

GIRLS

Gladys Dorothy
Burbidge
Minnie Irons
Dorothy Atkins
Kitty Taylor
Nellie Coleman
Lizzie Miles
Winifred Beck
Dorothy Beck
Annie Howley
Elsie Scheffler
Rosalind Gould
Dorothy Williams
Bella Usher
Ethel Castle
Lily Morris
Winnie Rich

Maud Dawson
Edith Cross
Bertha Truscott
Lizzie Cullum
Katie Green
Violet Hurst
Phoebe Benford
Ethel Briffen
Celia Sutton
Evelyn Green
Mary Clark
BOYS
Jasper Welch
Henry Smith
Hubert King
Alfred Chamberlain
Herbert Stenning
Alfred Cox

William Hooker
Arthur Hoppen
Cyril Eades
William Stonehouse
Thomas Hoy
William Penny
Ernest Baggs
Henry Phillips
James Cullum
Fred Bartlett
William Henry Potter
Albert Holmes
Leonard Sullivan
Reginald Cokayne
William Armes
William Chautree

A special service of the Guild was also held on the 1st Sunday in Lent, when the following were admitted:

GIRLS

Isobel Wentworth Forbes
Grace Goss
Ethel Robinson
Beatrice Salway
Daisy Garrett
Nellie Anderson
Kate Williams
Constance Liddell
Ida Liddell

Freda Schefiler
Florence Curnow
Elise Curnow
Maud Williams
Ethel Moody
BOYS
Howard Hearne
Fred Stone
William Stone
George Pullen

Frederick Hebblethwaite
Leopold Biggs
George Jebbs
Anthony Goacher
James Hooker
Charles Dodd
Andrew Smith
John Olding

Auguste LENDY was recorded in the 1871 census¹ as a 45 year old married man living as *Head of the household* at Sunbury House in Fordbridge Road, Sunbury; his occupation was *Military Tutor* but only part of his place of birth Bellegarde (-----) France could be read. (In the 1861 census² his place of birth was clearly written as *Bellegarde (East Pyrenees) France*. Evelyn WOOD in his autobiography³ described LENDY as being from near Perpignan and a member of a royalist family. The other members of the LENDY family at Sunbury House in 1871 were his wife Sophia, who was 34, and their children: Violet 11; Alice 10; Charles 8; Edward 3 and Julia Claire, who was four months old. Sophia LENDY had been born in London and the children in Sunbury. All the children of Auguste and Sophia were baptised in the parish church at Sunbury⁴. Newspaper announcements of the births of Violet⁵, Charles⁶ and Edward⁷ have been located.

In the 1901 census⁸, when Sophia LENDY was a widow and living in Thames Street, Sunbury, her place of birth was recorded as *Knightsbridge London*. Living with her were her daughters, Julia LENDY and Violet SIDNEY and her granddaughters, Grace and Vera SIDNEY. Grace was 14 years old and Vera 13. There were eleven servants at Sunbury House on census night 2nd April, 1871, They included a coachman, a groom, a nursery governess, a housemaid, a cook, a kitchen maid, upper and under laundresses, a scullery maid and a nurse. Stephen WEST, a domestic gardener, his wife Mary Ann and their son Henry Richard, were living in the Gardener's Cottage. In the 1861 census⁹ William ELLIS, his wife Ellen and their son and daughters were living at Sunbury House. William and Ellen's occupations were recorded as Head Gardener and Gardener's Wife.

British Subject was written by the enumerator on the line below Auguste LENDY's place of birth in the 1861 census². The papers associated with his application to become a British Subject¹⁰ include a memorandum and a declaration which had been made on 17th August, 1861, at Sunbury Park, before A.E. ARDEN, a magistrate for Middlesex. These documents help establish LENDY's family history. He described himself as a *Subject of the Empire of France*. He had been born on 7th November, 1825, the son of a Colonel in the French Army who had died. LENDY stated he had resided permanently in this country since November 1850, a total of eleven years, and for the last six of those at Sunbury, where he was employed as the Director of the Military College. (No record of his arrival in this country has been located, nor has he been identified in the 1851 census). He had married Miss Sophia BULLEY, an *Englishwoman*, during 1858 and they had two children.

LENDY's application was supported in writing by Robert Ellis DUDGEON, MD, of Portman Square, John Henry PRINGLE, a retired Army Colonel of Kensington Gore, Peter HOOD, a surgeon, also of Portman Square and John William PARKER, a publisher, of Strand.

The application was received at the Home Office on 29th October, 1861 and LENDY was granted British Nationality on 9th November, 1861. The addition of British Subject under his place of birth in the 1861 census² is unexpected as the census was taken on 7th April, 1861. It was recorded in expectation.

August and Sophia's Certificate of Marriage contains further information. They were married by licence at St. Nicholas Church, Brighton, on 23rd October, 1858. Auguste Frederic LENDY described himself as *Captain formerly French Staff* and gave his address as Sunbury. His father was Louis Armand René Frederick LENDY and his profession as *Army Colonel of Engineers French Army*. Sophia BULLEY was living at 16 Cannon Place, Ashburnham, and her father was Henry BULLEY. In an announcement of their marriage¹¹ Captain LENDY was described as the eldest son of the late Colonel LENDY and Sophia as the eldest daughter of H. BULLEY, Esq.

In her Will, which was made on 12th November, 1917, when she was a widow and living at 6 Roseneath Avenue, Winchmore Hill, Sophia LENDY referred to a Marriage Settlement made for her benefit by Auguste. No further information about this Settlement has been located. The Will was proved on 1st August, 1923.

Three medals associated with the LENDY family have been purchased by the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society¹². The earliest was presented to Auguste LENDY by the College Roi de St. Louis, when he was a student there between 1842 and 1843. A later newspaper report¹³ states that he had been a student at St. Cyr. This was (and is) the prestigious French military academy.

Notes and references

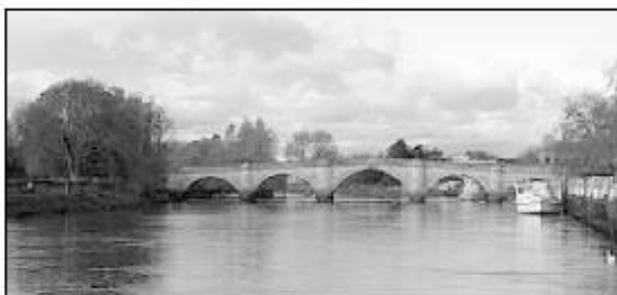
1. The National Archives (TNA) RG10/1304 fo.28 ppl-2 (Household at Sunbury House)
2. TNA RG9/763 fo.4 p.1.
3. From *Midshipman to Field Marshal*, Evelyn Wood, 1906, Vol.1 p.203.
4. London Metropolitan Archives X091/O34.
5. *The Morning Chronicle* and *The Morning Post*, 1st January, 1861.
6. *The Standard*, 12th January, 1863.
7. *The Times*, 15th February, 1858; *The Morning Post*, *Pall Mall Gazette*, 17th February, 1868
8. TNA RG13/1173, fo.9 p.10.
9. TNA RG10/1304 fo.28 p.2.
10. TNA HO1/102/3671.
11. *The Times*, 27th October, 1858, p.18 col.a.
12. The help of Mr. Peter Bailey of the Local History Society in giving access to these medals is acknowledged with thanks.
13. *The Hull Packet and East Riding Times*, 12th September, 1856, p.3 col.b.

BRIDGES AS SHELTERS



The Times, 23 March 1939

Consideration is being given at Richmond to the possibility of using some of the Thames bridges as air raid shelters.



It is thought locally that under the arches of Richmond Bridge accommodation could be provided for over 1,000 persons, and that all that is required to make the arches bomb-proof is the provision of concrete ends.

Twickenham Bridge is being inspected to see what protection could be afforded beneath it for residents of St. Margaret's and part of Isleworth;



Kingston Bridge is to be examined in the interests of residents in Hampton Wick;

and Hampton Court Bridge for residents at the Palace and East Molesey.



*Illustrations: ©
commons.wikimedia.org
and en.wikipedia.org*



Jane Tilbury neé Woodruff

Whilst I was researching my TILBURY ancestors, I was fortunate to make contact (through the West Middlesex Family History Society) with Janet TUBLIN, the daughter of a woman who had been fostered by my great aunt Millicent. Unlike my mother, who had kept virtually no memorabilia of her TILBURY family, Janet's mother had amassed a veritable hoard of photo albums, account books, correspondence and last, but not least, the Shakespeare Birthday Book belonging to my great great grandmother, Jane TILBURY, née WOODRUFF. Very generously, Janet has passed the book on to me.

Jane WOODRUFF was the daughter of Stephen WOODRUFF and WW married life. Stephen was a baker and the family were clearly

fairly affluent. Stephen and Charity had one son and eight daughters. Jane was the fourth child, born on 14th August, 1844.

Jane's brother and three of her sisters married and produced many nephews and nieces. Jane married William Wix TILBURY on 16th July, 1867, in St. John's Church, Fulham. Later he was to become a Freeman of the City of London. William had seven siblings, five of whom married and produced numerous offspring. As genealogists will know, trying to track down all the children of relatives in a family tree is quite tricky, even with the help of the GRO Indexes and censuses. Children can be born and die within a ten year period and thus not appear on any census. This is where the Birthday Book has proved to be invaluable, quite apart from its intrinsic value as an historical heirloom.

The Birthday Book was published in London in 1875 by Hatchards, Piccadilly. It is dedicated to "Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck". Jane had signed the book on the front page. Each month is introduced with two, sometimes three, quotations from several of SHAKESPEARE's

plays, and the clays of the month are laid out three to 21 page, with more quotations opposite each.



Birthday Book cover

Jane had carefully entered all the birthdays of her nephews and nieces, brothers and sisters and brothers and sisters-in-law. This was a wonderful tool for fleshing out the family tree. Very poignantly, Jane also recorded the deaths of her sister Marriette (Mattie), who died aged 19, two of her children and several of her nephews and nieces by placing the entries in a black box. There were several names which did not appear to belong in the family tree and these were probably of friends and neighbours.

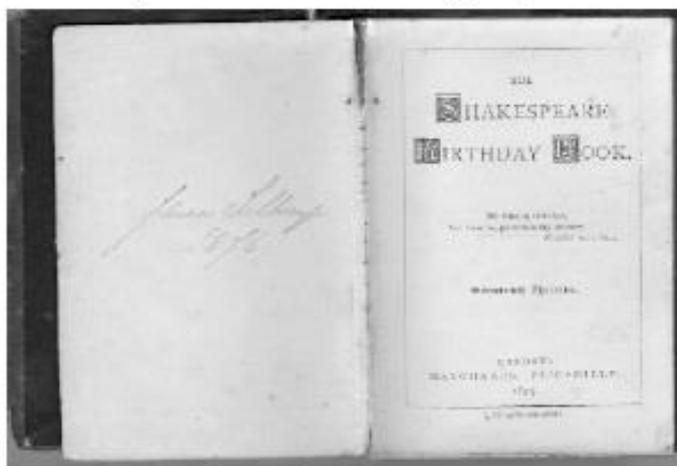
The Birthday Book was clearly taken over by Jane's daughter, Millicent, after Jane's death in

1906, since several later entries are in a different handwriting. There are entries for both her adopted daughter, Muriel MORSE, born in 1916 and her daughter Millie's illegitimate son Philip Graham PAILTHORPE, born in 1925. There were also remains of a pressed flower in the page.

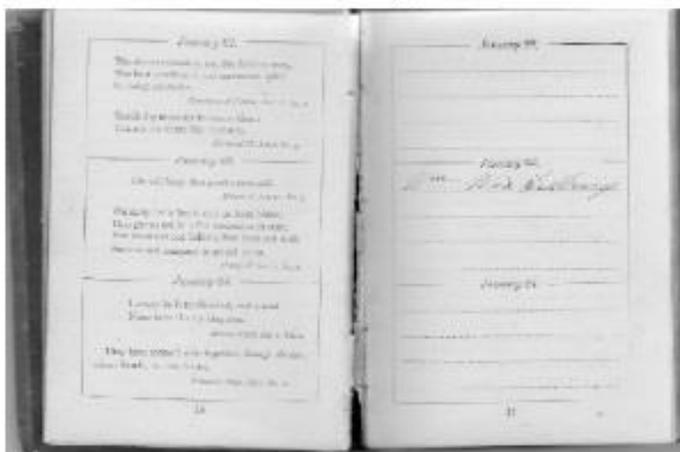
The binding had been carefully repaired where the front cover had become loose, indicating that the book had been treasured by its owners. It will certainly be treasured by my family as a wonderful piece of family history.

I would like to acknowledge most gratefully the help and encouragement of John BROWNING in writing this article.

watson_margaret@yahoo.co.uk

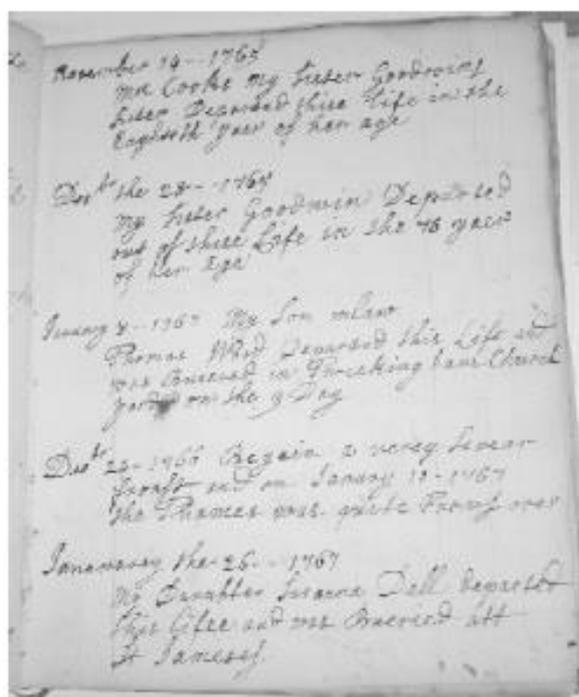


Birthday book frontispiece with Jane's signature

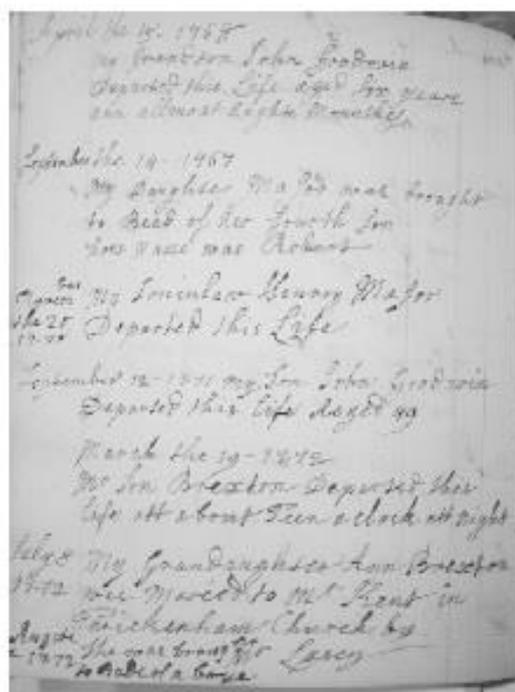


Entry for the birthday of William Wix TILBURY

Mrs Goodwin's Little Book, Meryl Catty Originally deposited at Twickenham Library, and now held in Richmond Local Studies Library, is a small notebook which once belonged to Mrs Samuel GOODWIN, who lived in Twickenham in the eighteenth century. Meryl was very excited when she first heard about the book as Mrs GOODWIN was an ancestor of her husband. Meryl's talk was based on the book's contents, augmented with fascinating insights into the sort of life and surroundings the family would have experienced at the time. Mrs GOODWIN had inherited the book from her aunt Mary WYATT, who had used the book between 1742-6 for noting payments to her servants, who received £3 a year. Susannah GOODWIN used it as a 'commonplace Book' - part diary, partly lists of births, marriages and deaths as would usually appear in a Family Bible. Her first entry is in 1748 and the last 1779.



Page 10



Page 11

Susannah WYATT married Samuel GOODWIN by licence at St John Wapping, at the time a chapel of ease to St Mary Whitechapel. He was "over 26", a "Plummer", of Twickenham; she was "over 21" of St Mary Whitechapel. Wedding wear for women at the time might be a white or silver silk brocade gown with matching hat. Marriages had to be performed between 8 o'clock a.m. and noon and would have been followed by an extended wedding breakfast, then a honeymoon "wedding tour". The less affluent would have a quieter affair.

They set up home at Twickenham (exactly where is not known), a very popular area with people of fashion. Samuel seems to have owned his business and his will shows that he was successful. A Book of Trades reveals that plumbers actually cast lead for the cisterns, sinks, roof coverings, drainpipes, etc. used in buildings; they sometimes also made lead statues and coffins. In 1774 Samuel was elected churchwarden and the family had their own pews in Twickenham church. They had 15 children in 18 years, including two sets of twins. Childbirth was very risky with unqualified midwives, whose main task was to see the expectant mother did not catch cold: she was fed with warm liquors to keep up a sweat and curtains were pinned and blankets put at windows. Infant mortality was a fact for both rich and poor with only a 50/50 chance of survival beyond the first birthday. Babies were wrapped in flannel bandages and baby girls might even be laced up in stays. Unsuitable foods were forced down tiny throats. 'Half' baptisms were carried out on those unlikely to survive, with a full baptism later if they did.

Although she could obviously read and write, Susannah's spelling was eccentric (she mentions one son-in-law, Mr MAJOR, going to "Rushaer"). Public and grammar schools were for boys, and possibly Samuel had attended one, but Susannah was likely to have been home taught. She recorded not only family events but extremes of weather and natural phenomena including an earthquake, which she experienced in February 1749/50 during a visit to London. There was another in March the same year. A book of agricultural records, 1220-1977, by J.M. STRATTON, mentions these earthquakes, which caused consternation: rumblings were heard, church bells were set ringing, chairs rocked, china rattled, chimneys fell, a maid was flung out of bed. Susannah was staying at Mr. LANGFORD's, her son-in-law, a Distiller of Brewer Street, married to her daughter Susannah. Their marriage in 1748 was the first family event entered in the Little Book. Her daughter was widowed in 1852 but later remarried to a Mr DELL.

When daughter Fanny married Charles BRAXTON, she needed the permission of her parents but Samuel could not attend to give his consent as he had the gout. This was caused usually by too much port and fine living, which leads to a build-up of uric acid in the joints. Susannah herself may have drunk tea or coffee, introduced in the 17th century. Tea was a valuable commodity and was kept in locked tins away from the reach of servants. The family probably had at least one or two servants: Aunt Mary had had two. There is no mention of the calendar change in 1751-2 to the Gregorian Calendar to bring this country into line with Europe, where it had been adopted in 1582. Anti-Catholic England had refused to adopt the Gregorian Calendar, so we were always eleven days behind Europe, causing much confusion. In 1752, September 3rd to 13th were cancelled and there were riots by people who considered they had been robbed of days of their lives.

Samuel GOODWIN died on 10th April 1754, after 36 years of marriage, "the best of husbands and most indulgent father". He was 62, she was 57. There was strong protocol on a death in the family, with black and sombre clothing and simple mourning jewellery. Mourning lasted a year, with a further period of 'half mourning', when lilac dresses could be worn - Samuel left daughters Fanny and Susannah £5 for mourning. He was buried in Twickenham churchyard and Susannah was granted probate. Six capital tenements were held from Isleworth/Syon, £200 were in South Sea annuities, plus tools and stock in trade, left to Susannah to carry on the business. She also had the household furniture. The family home if freehold would have been dealt with separately. The business was given to eldest son John, who was still single, but later was married, to Susannah's delight, to Mary WEED [actually WEBB) of Isleworth. All of this couple's children died.

Some of the grandchildren may have been put out to wetnurse. This could cost 10 guineas a quarter, a good source of income for poor mothers, but a lot of these children died. In 1774 (a very wet year] Susannah records the "greatest flood that was ever known" in Twickenham parish. It is still recorded on a wall near the church: 7 feet 8 inches above the roadway. In 1779 Susannah made her will: she asked to be buried in the same grave as Samuel and bequeathed the family pews to her son Thomas. There was a four-poster bed with curtains, books, bookcase, silver coffee pot, gold watch, money, clothing. Susannah was 85. Her last entry in the book is February 1779, the birth of grandson Benjamin BOVILL. She died November 1779, having outlived most of her children and their spouses. There are some 1817 jottings by Thomas GOODWIN about fruit and vegetables, but Meryl does not know who inherited the Little Book, nor who deposited it in Twickenham Library. She wonders if any other papers of Samuel or Susannah are held somewhere.

The illustrations from Mrs. Goodwin 's book are reproduced with kind permission from Richmond upon Thames Local Studies Library.

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Dr Mark Curthoys

In October Dr Mark Curthoys told us about the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, which grew out of the 19th century Dictionary of National Biography, and was first published online in 2004. All the lives featured in the former DNB have been retained. Libraries have made the ODNB available with a public library ticket (on the 24/ 7 library network] and it can be accessed free, either at libraries or at home via a library card number. www.oxforddnb.com

People from many walks of life are featured in the Dictionary, for example Michael BALCON, the British film producer, who is also commemorated in a blue plaque at Ealing Studios. When he went to inspect this Mark noticed another, smaller, plaque but this turned out to have been placed there as a joke,

by someone still alive. You have to be dead to feature in genuine plaques, as is the case for entries in the ODNB, which is updated every year (an easier task now it is online) to include recently deceased noteworthy people. About 200 entries are added every January.

Candidates for entry are carefully scrutinised by specialist advisers. Business advisers are consulted on entries for the great entrepreneurs from industry, business and commerce.

As the joker at Ealing Studios had called himself a 'ladies' man' Mark looked through the Dictionary and found a number of people described as a *rake or libertine*; the 33 *philanderers* are thankfully outnumbered by the *philanthropists*! There are 300 saints, and over 40 people who have been 'beatified' by the Roman Catholic church, such as John Henry NEWMAN, who spent some happy schooldays in Ealing.

For his talk, Mark had looked up a number of West Middlesex connections, such as W.S. GILBERT, who was also at school in Middlesex, and Thomas ARNOLD (who would later become Headmaster of Rugby School) at school at Laleham. Lady BYRON ran the pioneering Grove School in Ealing. Indeed West Middlesex seems to have been a centre of educational advance in the 1810s and 20\$. In West Middlesex too Richard COX cultivated the famous Cox's apple. The site of his two acre garden is unknown, although the *Victoria County History* places it in Stanwell. He and his wife were buried at Harmondsworth. The *Victoria County History* may say something like: "few men of wide fame have been connected with Staines", yet in the ODNB Mark found a number of worthies with Staines connections, and this goes for other parts of West Middlesex: 200 people born in Kensington; 280 from Ealing; Twickenham: 225; Isleworth: 132; Uxbridge: 39; Teddington: 73; Hounslow: 38. Lilian BOARD, the athlete, who died at 22, was at school in Ealing, and Dusty SPRINGFIELD's family moved to Ealing after the War; Adam FAITH grew up in Acton; Freddie MERCURY lived in Feltham where he attended Art School.

So the Dictionary can provide information on noteworthy people with a national dimension: there are now 57,000 lives included. Although it does not claim to be definitive, it can provide a first port of call for researching a life. The longest article, on Elizabeth I, is 35,000 words, but most are more concise. With the collaboration of the National Portrait Gallery there are 10,000 illustrations — the largest publication of portraits.

To search, just put in a name. There are 65 million words, searchable by word, which can also be a place name or occupation. Always included are full name at birth, date and place of birth, parentage, occupation, any changes of name. Mark keeps a notebook nearby when watching television: for example he was

watching a programme about Enid BLYTON; ODNB did not have her death date as she had re-married, but from information in the programme they were able to find her death from the Probate records. Formerly where spouses were mentioned, it would be after the death of the main subject of the article, like an afterthought; now they are introduced at the right chronological point. At the end of each article are its sources and a bibliography. How many ancestors do get a mention was made plain at the Who Do You Think You Are Live Fair at Olympia, where the ODNB had an internet link on their stand. Some information does come from family historians (on the ODNB website is a section 'Contact Us' for any additional information known). Family history sources being rapidly digitised bring to our attention long-forgotten names and ODNB can play a part in this. Mark expressed the hope that we will use our public library number to discover some of these forgotten lives.

WMFHS Christmas Party

Although the wintry conditions meant that attendance was a bit lower than is usual, the WMFHS Christmas Party was reasonably well attended and convivial, considering snow was falling outside when we foregathered at Montague Hall on the evening of December 16th. As usual the buffet table was full of the good fare brought along by members and there was a selection of wine and soft drinks, plus tea or coffee to ward off the cold. In her talk **The Wrong Trousers**, guest speaker **Jeanne Bunting** regaled us with anecdotes from her days as a costume fitter in both the amateur and professional theatre, having worked on some famous productions and with some very well known names, with some personal triumphs and disasters along the way, like leaving a vital part of one costume on the Tube and having to surreptitiously replace it by a look-alike from Marks and Spencer, which did not go unnoticed by its famous wearer hence "the wrong trousers".

After the usual enthusiastic attack on the contents of the buffet we were treated by members of the Committee to a quite brilliant fast and furious version of Cinderella, the complete story being told and happily-ever-after wrapped up in something like five minutes. To round off the evening there was a goodly selection of prizes from the raffle, and we all ventured out into the cold much cheered and fortified.



l to r: Dennis Marks, Pam Smith, Betty Elliott, Joan Storkey, Brian Page, Kay Dudman

WORLD WAR ONE SHIPS CHART PAST CLIMATE

The Federation of Family History Societies issued the following News Release in October 2010. It may be of interest, especially if you have ancestors who served in any of the ships listed on www.OldWeather.org. The ships logs may contain more than just information about the weather.

The public are being asked to revisit the voyages of World War One Royal Navy warships to help scientists working on a JISC* project understand the climate of the past and unearth new historical information.

Visitors to www.OldWeather.org which was launched (in October) will be able to retrace the routes taken by any of 280 Royal Navy ships including historic vessels such as HMS Caroline, the last survivor of the 1916 Battle of Jutland still afloat.



HMS Caroline

The naval logbooks contain a treasure trove of information but because the entries are handwritten they are incredibly difficult for a computer to read. By getting an army of online human volunteers to retrace these voyages and transcribe the information recorded by British sailors we can relive both the climate of the past and key moments HMS Caroline in naval history.

Alastair DUNNING, a programme manager at JISC which is funding the project, said "Solving complex scientific problems used to be restricted to the laboratories of the university campus. But with sites like Old Weather, the general public can play an important role in uncovering the data that underpins the arguments behind climate change. Hopefully, Old Weather can spark a whole range of similar cyber science projects, engaging the public in the grand scientific issues of our time."

The 'virtual sailors' visiting Old/Weather.org are rewarded for their efforts by a rise through the ratings from cadet to captain of a particular ship according to the number of pages they transcribe. The project is inspired by earlier Oxford

University-led 'citizen science' projects - such as Galaxy Zoo and Moon Zoo - that have seen more than 320,000 people make over 150 million classifications, which have shown that ordinary web users can make observations that are as accurate as those made by experts.

Dr. Peter SCOTT, head of climate monitoring and attribution at the Met Office, said, "Historical weather data is vital because it allows us to test our models of the Earth's climate: if we can correctly account for what the weather was doing in the past, then we can have more confidence in our predictions of the future. Unfortunately, the historical record is full of gaps, particularly from before 1920 and at sea, so this project is invaluable".

Dr. Robert SIMPSON of Oxford University, one of the OldWeather.org team said, "Luckily, these observations made by Royal Navy sailors every four hours without fail - even whilst under enemy fire! - can help to fill this 'data gap'. It's almost like launching a weather satellite into the skies at a time when manpowered flight was still in its infancy."

OldWeather.org forms a key part of the International ACRE Project, which is recovering past weather and climate data from around the world and bringing them into widespread use.

Most of the data about past climate comes from land-based weather monitoring stations which have been systematically recording data for over 150 years. The weather information from the ships at OldWeather.org which spans the period 1905-1929, effectively extends this land-based network to 280 seaborne weather stations traversing the world's oceans.

It is not just gaps in the weather records that the team hope to fill but gaps in the history books too. OldWeather.org is teaming up with naval historians in an effort to add to our knowledge of the exploits of hundreds of Royal Navy vessels and the thousands of men who served on them.

"Life in the trenches is well documented but the maritime struggle that took place during World War One is less well known," said historian Gordon SMITH of Naval-History.Net. "This was a global conflict that reached across the world's oceans to every part of the globe and was about far more than just the Battle of Jutland. We hope these new records will give people a fresh insight into naval history and encourage people to find out more about Britain's naval past and the role their relatives played in it."

*Joint Information Systems Committee formed to inspire colleges and universities in the innovative use of digital technologies.

HMS Caroline © *commons.wikimedia.org*

WORLD WIDE WEB

Some new records online:

- Some new military records from Ancestry include: 2m. soldiers who appear in the Military Campaign Medal and Awards Rolls 1793-1949 and 1.5m. naval officers in the Naval Medal and Award Rolls 1793-1972; 25,000 soldiers awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in WWI; details of over 60,000 Canadian casualties of WWI; and WWII prisoners of the Japanese - these include name, rank, service numbers, units and camp information of almost 30,000 prisoners;
www.ancestry.co.uk
- Over 1m. Post Office trade records, covering all major British towns and cities over 170 years, the Victorian equivalent of Yellow Pages, can be found on the Family Relatives website.
www.familyrelatives.com
- New records from FindMyPast include: 14,000 M.Is from Middlesex, 1399-1992; more than 260,000 records of soldiers, nurses and civilians who served with the British Imperial Forces during the Second Boer War, 1899-1902; parish records from Cumberland, Devonshire, Dorset, Durham, Montgomery, Northumberland, Thames 81 Medway, Warwickshire, Westmorland and Yorkshire; and more than 200,000 burial records for the Rockwood Cemetery in Sydney from 1798-1999, a mammoth project completed by the Society of Australian Genealogists.
www.findmypast.co.uk
- More parish records can be found on The Genealogist website including Brecknockshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire and B.Ts for Somerset.
www.thegenealogist.co.uk
- Yet more parish records have been put online by the Parish Register Transcription Society, volunteer members of the Society have transcribed registers prior to 1837. Previously only available on CDs, they are progressively uploading their database on to their website and the initial 300 parishes can now be searched.
www.prtsoc.org.uk
- You can order a copy of a Hertfordshire will from the Hertfordshire Wills Index for £5. The period covered is 1413-1857.
www.hertsdirect.org/hals
- More wills can be found on the National Wills Index, hosted by Origins. Oxfordshire wills from 1547-1857 can now be found on this website,
www.origins.net

- The National Archives of Scotland has completed their project to catalogue and digitize the Military Appeals Tribunals of WWI for Edinburgh, the Lothians and the Borders.
www.nas.gov.uk
- The Canadian Naturalization Papers, 1915-1951, have been released by the Library and Archives of Canada.
http://tinyurl.com/lufdd9
- Among the latest offerings from The Original Records site are: more entries for the Queen's South Africa Medal, for 1901-1905, for the Royal Field Artillery; Register of Merchant Seamen 1835-1844; Middlesex Freeholders for 1705 the "Exact List of the Poll At the Chusing of Knights of the Shire for the County of Middlesex, Taken at New-Brentford, on Monday the 28th of May 1705". This lists males over Z1 in possession of freehold estate worth 40s. a year or more from all over the county and gives who they voted for, or if no vote was recorded.
www.theoriginalrecord.com



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Throughout 2010, The National Archives has been bringing the historic events of 1940 to life, tweeting them 70 years to the minute that they occurred via twitter.com/ukwarcabinet.

Now they are asking for volunteers from their thousands of online followers to take over the project next year.

Each tweet links through to an original document which is available online, allowing people to seek out more detail from the government papers. So far this year, they have tweeted developments from Chamberlain's government, Churchill's dramatic rise to power, the loss of France and the 'miracle' of Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain and the London Blitz.

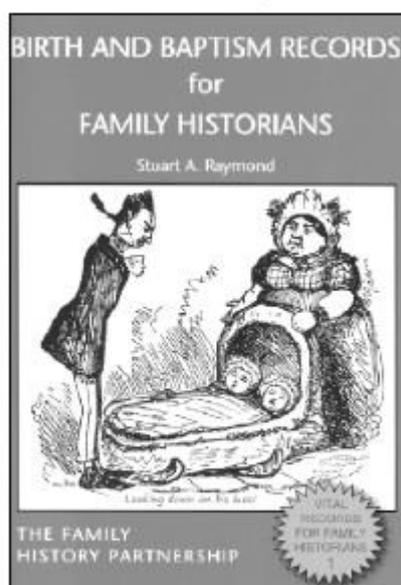
To encourage greater interaction with their historical documents, followers are now being invited to participate in the running of the feed. From January onwards, participants can research and tweet extracts from the 1941 cabinet papers, sending 'live' updates direct to a worldwide audience on the key developments during that year including: Allied victories in North Africa, the sinking of the *Bismarck* and the attack on Pearl Harbour. Interested participants can apply via UK War Cabinet twitter feed.

If you want to get involved, send a tweet from your twitter account to tell them you are interested to [@ukwarcabinet](https://twitter.com/ukwarcabinet).

BOOKSHELF

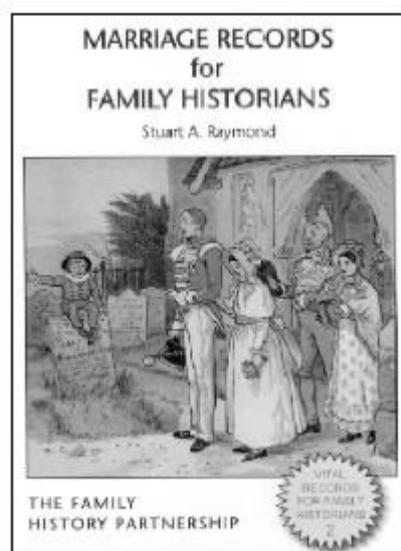
Here are two very useful books to have by your side. Stuart A. RAYMOND has long been a name in family history publishing for providing guides on all manner of useful topics and here are two new ones, aimed at newcomers to family history, published under the banner "Vital Records for Family Historians".

No. 1, Birth and Baptism Records for Family Historians, by *Stuart A. Raymond* (*The Family History Partnership*, 2010) ISBN: 978 1 906280 24 6, £4.50.



The introduction to this slim book begins, "Who were your parents and grandparents? And who were their parents and grandparents? It is impossible to construct your family tree without answers to these questions." Stuart then goes on to detail how to answer these questions. He explains the construct of Civil Registers and where they can be found online. He follows this up by looking at parish registers and those compiled by other faiths. He includes the Channel Islands, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Scotland, overseas registers and the Adopted Children's Register. He concludes with advice on research techniques.

No 2, Marriage Records for Family Historians, by *Stuart A. Raymond* (*The Family History Partnership*, 2010) ISBN 978 190628023 9, £4.50.



This introduction begins, "Marriage registers are perhaps the single most important source for tracing family history." Following the same format as for Birth and Baptism records, Stuart begins by discussing Civil Registers, then looks at parish registers and registers of the different faiths who were permitted to conduct marriages.

He includes useful addresses and online sources.

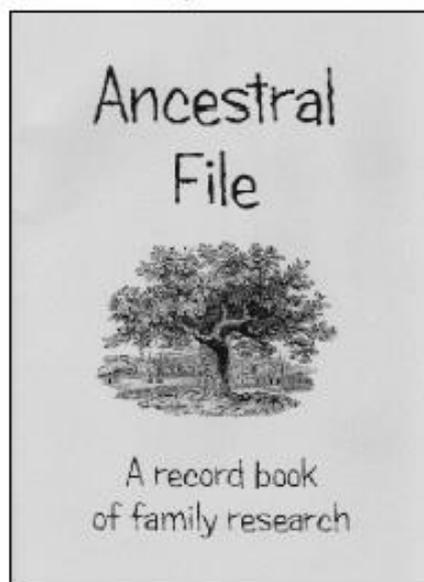
Both books contain an enormous amount of information in a very small space.

Ancestral File, A record book of family research, (Invicta Books) £4. 95

A very different kind of book. In A4 format, this is 'exactly what it says on the tin'. In the centre pages is the outline of a double pedigree chart for you to fill in for your ancestors. The boxes have numbers against them: go to that page number and you have a whole page on which you enter the details for that ancestor: name, where born, died, buried, etc; marriage details; children, dates of birth and spouse; and census information. There are pages for information about your parents and through to your 3x Gt. Grandparents.

With all the basic information in one place, it is easy to look up vital details when

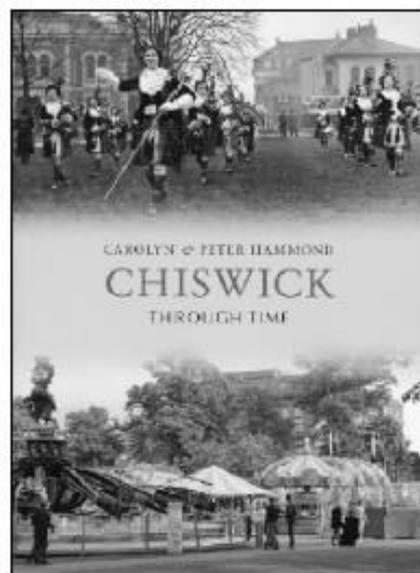
necessary. When on duty behind our stand at family history fairs we often encounter researchers complete with large, heavy folders that hold all their family history information (and then they often say, "Oh, I didn't know you would be here, I haven't got that branch with me"). If you fill in this book, which is light and easy to carry, you will always have all your branches, up to four generations, with you.



The above books can be purchased through www.familyhistorypartnership.com

Chiswick Through Time, by Carolyn and Peter Hammond (Amberley Publishing 2010) ISBN 978 1 84868 052 4, £14.99

Another fascinating volume in the popular 'Through Time' series, covering Turnham Green and Gunnersbury as well as Chiswick. Divided into various categories, e.g. Houses, Churches, Leisure Time, etc. the historic photographs (mostly from old postcards) are contrasted with a modern view of the same spot. As might be expected from an area so close to the centre of London, many street scenes have changed completely, some due to bombing in World War II but many as new developments took place throughout the 20th century. The commentaries attached to each set of photos give interesting snippets of local history. If you want to know the Chiswick that your Grandparents and those before them knew, then this is the book for you.



This book can be purchased through our Bookstall Manager, details inside front cover.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

Saturday, 12 March, 2011: Family History Festival, Hounslow Library, Treaty Centre, High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1ES. (WMFHS members will be present to give help and advice.)

Sunday, 29th May 2011: The Family History Event, The Barbican, London

Saturday, 4th June, 2011: Shropshire Family History Society Fair, The Shirehall, Shrewsbury Admission £3. Free parking.

www.sfhs.org.uk

Saturday, 25th June, 2011: Yorkshire Family History Fair is a major family history event in the Nonh of England and will be held at The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York. 10am-4.30pm. Admission: £4 adults, children free. Free parking.

http://yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com

Saturday, 10th September, 2011: The National Family History Fair, one of the biggest events in the country, will be held at the Tyne Suite, Newcastle Central Premier Inn, Newbridge Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8BS. 10am-4pm. Admission: £3.

www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com

Saturday, 1st October, 2011: Oxfordshire Family History Society Open Day will be held at The Marlborough School, near Woodstock. 10am-4pm. Free admission and free on-site parking.

www.ofhs.org.uk/OpenDay.html

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

www.geneva.weald.org.uk

DNA STUDY

Rackett, Ragget, Raggett, Reckart, Reckitt, Rickart, Rickat, Ricket, Rickets, Rickett, Ricketts, Rickit, Rickitt, Rocket, Rockett, Wreckitt, Wreggitt

Are you male and are any of these names in your family tree? A DNA study has been taking place over the past two years but they would like more participants. You undertake a harmless genealogy DNA test. A test kit is sent in the mail, and you swab the inside of your mouth. The result is 37 numbers and contains no personal information. You will match those to whom you are related.

For more information consult *http://one-name.org/profiles/ricketts.html*

Sarah Dyson, Flat 12, Water Lane House, Water Lane, Richmond, TW9 1TJ
ricketts@one-name.org 020 8940 3563

Following the request for information regarding the munitions factory in Acton in the December Issue of our Journal, my mother's elder sister, Dorothy CROWTHER, was killed in an explosion at this factory in 1918. The following is the report given in the *Acton Gazette*, dated 10th May, 1918.

ACTON GIRL'S PUBLIC FUNERAL

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned on Saturday, on Dorothy CROWTHER, aged 16, of 3 All Saints Road, Acton, who died on Thursday from injuries received in an explosion the previous day.

She was a fine girl for her age and very plucky and was held in esteem by employers and employed at the important firm where she worked. The funeral took place on Wednesday. The family mourners included Elsie and Winnie CROWTHER (sisters), George, Gladys and Ivy FOX (half brother and sisters), Mr. H. CROWTHER (uncle), Mrs. E. CROWTHER (aunt), Mrs. MILLEST, Mrs. KEEFE, Miss Jane CROWTHER, Miss D. MILLEST (cousins), Mr. R. BRYANT (fiance), Mrs. PHILLPOT, Mrs. E. HUTT, Miss J. SMITH, Miss A. COX, etc.

In the procession were directors and officials of the company, and girls and the men from all the departments of the works, many of whom carried wreaths, etc., subscribed for by the workers of both sexes in the various sections. The directors and officials also brought or sent wreaths individually and collectively. The firm's fire brigade, with engine, also followed.

A choral service was held at All Saints Church, at which Revs. W.A. MacLEOD and A. J. VOISEY officiated; and the internment took place at the New Cemetery (Willesden), where the girls at the close of the service, filed past the open grave.

Deceased's stepfather, Pte. A. FOX, A.V.C., is serving in Italy and two of her brothers are fighting in Mesopotamia.

An article in the *Acton Historian* stated that although the location of the factory was kept secret for security reasons, there were two local factories, one at the Vale and the other in Park Royal.

There is also a coloured drawing by J.W Topham VINALL (1893-1953) showing the Funeral Procession, probably down Acton High Street, which has been donated to the Imperial War Museum.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have received two letters regarding the article on:

Lino and Staines

I read the December Journal with interest as usual. As a postscript to your article on Linoleum and Staines I thought members might like to know that linoleum was initially invented in another part of your catchment area, namely Chiswick.

In 1996 the Brentford and Chiswick Local History Journal published an article by Ralph PARSONS, who was researching the history of linoleum on behalf of Spelthorne Museum. He had discovered that Frank WALTON took over a factory and house in British Grove, Chiswick in 1860-61, and it was from there in 1863 that he filed his patents for the invention of linoleum. As your article mentioned, the factory in British Grove burnt down in 1862 - Walton rebuilt it and enlarged it, but then realised that he would need more space so he left Chiswick in 1864 when he set up the Linoleum Manufacturing Company and found larger premises in Staines.

What a splendid statue in Staines High Street!

Carolyn Hammond

I was interested to read about the linoleum manufacturing company in Staines in the last edition of your magazine, because my 2x great uncle, John WRIGHT, spent a lifetime working in the linoleum industry (from 1849 to 1910] in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. Like Walton, he lived to be over 93 and registered many patents including mould punching for printing surfaces (1849 and 1858), improved machinery for preparing and printing floor-cloths (1867, 70, 71, 81, 88 and 89), apparatus for transferring inlaid linoleum to backing (1907) and machinery for the manufacture of inlaid linoleum (1909).

John WRIGHT worked for Barry, Ostlere & Co, a linoleum manufacturing company in Kirkcaldy until 1910, and the following appeared in the *Barry's Magazine, Vol.1, No. 4, February 1928*: "A story (John WRIGHT] used to tell with great glee related to one of his early inventions. He had made two small models of an apparatus, which he took to France to show interested parties. Just about that time there had been several bomb outrages in that country, all the police were on edge, and when Mr. WRIGHT appeared on the scene he was promptly arrested as a suspected person with two infernal machines in his possession. It was only through the intervention of the British Consul that he was released."

Margaret Watson

Victor Marin HOWES and the Sunbury War Memorial

I have just read the latest issue of your journal and was intrigued by the mystery of Victor Marin HOWES. I enjoy tracing family history for my own benefit and for those who send enquiries to our history group - Acton History Group - and so I thought I too would have a little trawl through my internet resources.

As you rightly say, there is no mention of a Victor Marin HOWES on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, but there is a Victor Augustus HOWES who died on the same day, 20 September 1917, of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. There are pages of his service record on ancestry.co.uk, but I can find no link to Sunbury. He was born in Islington and his address when signing up was Cassiot Road, Tooting, as was the address of his mother. However, his parents, Emilie and Frederick are listed in another record as living in Gower Street. He was probably Catholic though, as in the records there is a statement signed by his mother and countersigned by a Roman Catholic Priest.

I cannot find an entry for Frederick, Emilie or Victor on the 1911 Census but there was an address for an aunt in Tooting in his Army papers. I entered this address into the 1911 Census and found the aunt, living with her husband and a nephew with the surname of MARIN. Aunt was born in France, as was nephew, so I came to the conclusion that Victor's mother's maiden name was probably MARIN.

Using this as a trigger, I then looked again at the birth records and found a birth for Victor Auguste C. MARIN in Islington, but in the June quarter 1901. Victor's signing up papers state he is "19 yrs. and 2 mnths." and that he is only 5ft. 1½ ins. tall, not very tall for a 19 year old. If this is 'our' Victor, he was only 14 years 2 months when he signed up and just 16 years old when he died. Victor's mother is Emilie, spelt the French way, but I cannot find a marriage for her and Frederick HOWES. Maybe they married in France after Victor's birth? Victor was wounded in 1916, from which he recovered, only to meet his death in 1917.

It still does not answer the question of why he is on the Sunbury Memorial.

Amanda Knights, Membership Secretary, Acton History Group

Ancestry Transcription

Your editorial mention of Ancestry's "cardinal sin" prompts me to report yet another Ancestry changer. On recently joining Northants Family History Society and submitting an enquiry about my Gt. Grandfather, born in that county in 1835, I received, unsolicited, a print-out of Ancestry's transcription of the 1841 census return.

Now my Gt' Grandfather (incidentally, for many years publican of the Red Lion in Heath Road, Twickenham) was Benjamin FRANEY. A kind NFHS member emailed saying the family seemed to have two surnames! Strange, I thought and could not understand how my ancestor appeared as Benjamine (sic) STRICK!!! A puzzle indeed, Fortunately, I had many years ago got a printout of the actual census return and now realised how the error had occurred.

The original hand-written sheet shows:

William FRANEY

Elizabeth do

Mary Ann do

John Brigstock *(with the 'do' appearing above his name as there was no space following his name)*

Elizabeth do

William do

Benjamen do (sic)

Amey do

Emma do

Somehow the Ancestry transcriber has ignored the 'do' above John Brigstock (BRIGSTOCK being his mother's maiden name) and has, for the subsequent siblings dittoed the "stock" of Brigstock and even managing to transcribe that as "STRICK"!!!! Confused?

Is this a transcription error record, I ask?

Patricia Williamson

Are there any more transcription howlers out there you would like to share with members? Ed.

HELP!

Acre Villa Infant Asylum, Ealing Green

Gillian Stevens has found a possible entry for her Gt. Grandmother in the 1861 Census. There is an Ellen GILBERT, age 10, in the "Acre Villa Infant Asylum, Ealing Green, Ealing". Ellen's mother died soon after she was born and her three siblings were split between uncles and aunts — there is no sign of their father. Can anyone give Gillian information on this 'Asylum', which she assumes was either a school, a children's hospital or some sort of institution for orphans?

NEW MEMBERS

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

S282 Mrs. SEAGROVE, 150 Swallow Street, Iver Heath, Bucks SL0 0HR
sheila@seagrove150.fsnet.co.uk.

SURNAME INTERESTS

The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed above. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. 'ANY' or 'ALL' indicates that, for instance, any date or any place is of interest. When writing to members about entries in this section, please remember to include an SAE. We would urge all those who receive enquiries to reply even if there is no connection with your research.

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
CHAPRONIERE	Any	Any	Any	S282
CROSBIE	Any	Any	Any	S282
DALE	Any	Kensington area	MDX	S282
HANCE	Any	Any	Any	S282
KINMAN	Any	Kensington area	MDX	S282
O'NEILL	Any	Kensington area	MDX	S282
SEAGROVE	Any	Any	Any	S282
THOM	Any	Kensington area	MDX	S282
TUCKER	Any	Any	Any	S282

Deadlines

for submission of articles for the Journal are

7 January 7 April 7 July 7 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.

INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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

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

Richard Chapman, 4 Burchetts Way, Shepperton, Middlesex TW1 7 9BS

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 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. £1 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

Ealing Village was built in 1934-36 with the intention of creating a neighbourhood which would attract film stars working at Ealing Studios. In the Dutch Colonial style houses, and some blocks of flats, there is a clubhouse, a swimming pool, tennis courts a bowling green and a croquet lawn. However, the 'stars' preferred to stay in the West End and be driven to the Studios but the flats were popular with the film crews.



**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. Betty Elliott, 89 Constance Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Middx. TW2 7HX