



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

Vol. 29 No.4

December 2011



The Great Barn, Harmondsworth



ISSN 0142-517X

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	All Categories: £12 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December
Examiner	Paul Kershaw

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

Published by West Middlesex Family History Society
Registered Charity No. 291906

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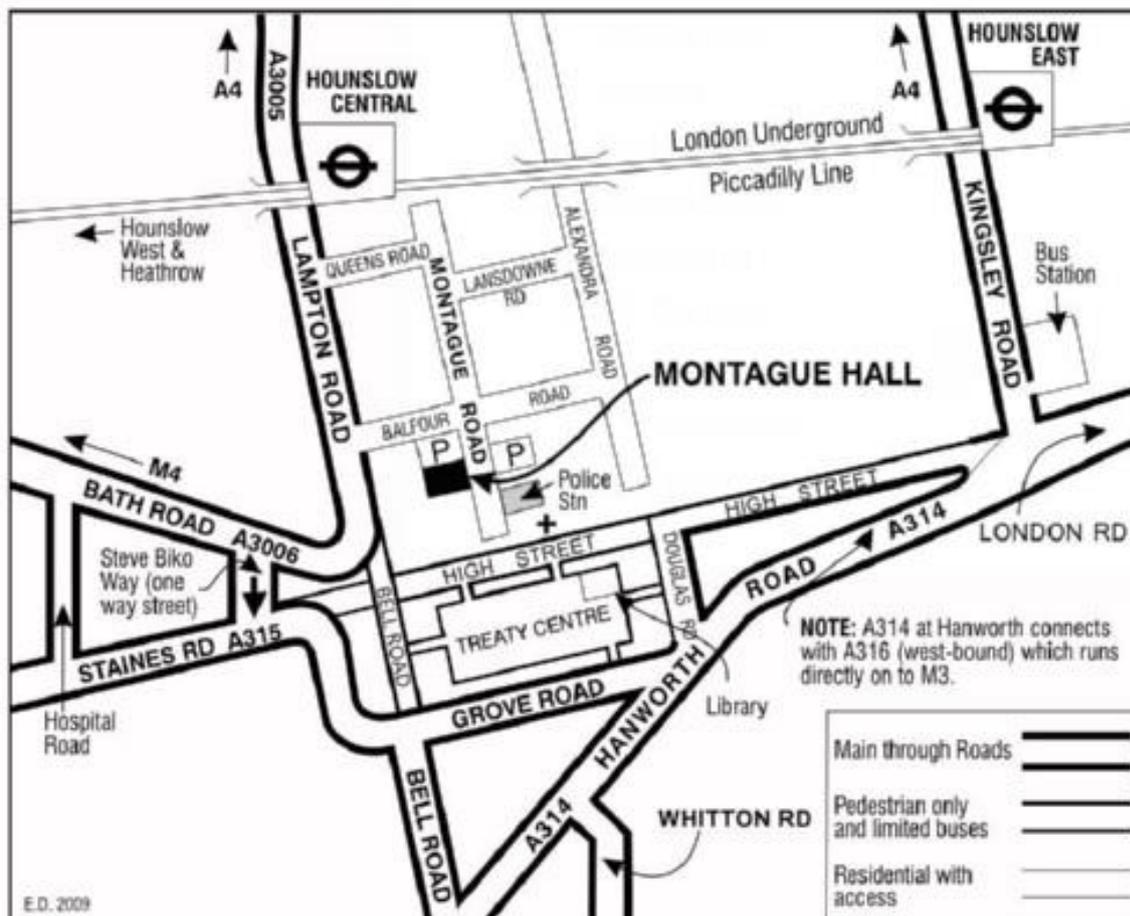
FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

- 15 Dec. Christmas Social and The Reminiscence Roadshow:
Questors Theatre Group *Christine Garland*
- 19 Jan. The Ordnance Survey *Steve Randall*
- 16 Feb. My Ancestor was in the Fire Brigade *Ken Divall*
- 15 Mar. AGM followed by
Guilds and Livery Companies *Richard Harvey*

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, and doors open at 7.15pm. Parking is available adjacent to the Hall. Research material on the Society laptop, e.g. Middlesex marriages to 1837 and other indexes; reference books; exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall - all can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully Accessible.



EDITORIAL



As most of you will know, for many years the Federation of Family History Societies has been pressing successive Governments to allow access by family historians, purely for research purposes, to GRO certificates of births, marriages and deaths. The latest initiative in this long running saga is an e-petition and I would urge all members to sign this and maybe, just maybe, there will be a positive outcome to the Federation's hard work in this area. Please see more information on this on page 19.

From the beginning of October there has been a major change in the responsibility for archives across England. Formerly the responsibility of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), it has now been transferred to The National Archives. Thus TNA, together with the regional archive sector, will be able to represent a cohesive view at government level and influence policy formation.

The handover will take six months, during which TNA will adapt MLA's formerly regional approach and, in the words of Oliver Morley, Chief Executive and Keeper of TNA, "By working together we can identify and develop new ways of working and share best practice and innovation."

At the same time, TNA is looking for volunteers to help prepare the popular records series which contains the War Diaries from the First World War (WO 95). They need to be put into the correct order "before a conservation and digitisation project begins". The work will take place at Kew and training will be provided. Basic travel expenses are available and all volunteers will have to pass basic security clearance. As one of the family history societies geographically closest to Kew, I am sure some of our members will be interested in this project. For further details please email: wardiaries@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk or visit <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/625.htm>

One of our members, Mavis Sibley, who offers a lookup service for several of our parish registers, has brought to my attention the demise of the IRC. I quote from the GPO website: "The current version of the International Reply Coupon has an expiry date of 31st December 2011. After this date, International Reply Coupons with this expiry date can no longer be exchanged for postage." At the moment there appears to be no information regarding a replacement.

Finally, an appeal for more articles - the stock is always low, which is not good for the blood pressure of the Editor! I am happy to receive them in any form (as long as they are legible), typed or hand written, posted or emailed. If illustrations are included, please send them separately as jpeg files, as well as having them embedded in the text. Many thanks and a Happy Christmas!

WMFHS NEWS



The most important plea is: please renew your subscription which, you will note, has increased by £1, agreed at the AGM last March. So it will now be £12 for all categories (ire. single, family, overseas, corporate), If you pay by standing order, please notify your bank of the change. The renewal form is this Journal's insert.

Below you will Find notification of the AGM for 2012. As no indication has yet been received by the Society regarding the intended closure of Montague Hall, we are still publicising this as the venue. As ever, we are short of members willing to serve on the Committee. If you feel you would like to participate in the Society in this way, there is a proposal form on the back of the subscription renewal form.

The Society has attended several family history fairs in the last few months, with varying degrees of success, although success is not always measured in monetary terms. For the first time we had a stall at the Oxfordshire Family History Society's Fair, which was held in October on the hottest weekend ever. Unfortunately numbers were down, even family historians sensibly taking advantage of the incredible weather and going out for the day, but it was nevertheless a good occasion, and lovely to meet some of our more far flung members.



**Notice is hereby given that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
West Middlesex Family History Society
will be held on
Thursday, 15th March, 2012
at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow**

Reports will be presented by the Chairman and Treasurer and members will be asked to accept the accounts for the year 2011 and elect accounts examiners for the coming year.

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

Members who wish to bring forward any matters at the AGM, or to propose nominations for the Committee, are asked to write to the Secretary at the address below by 3rd January, 2012.

The agenda for the AGM will be included in the next issue of the Journal, to be published and distributed at the beginning of March 2012.

Richard Chapman
Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5JW

Charles Frederick LENDY, the elder son of Auguste and Sophia LENDY, was born at Sunbury on 7 January 1863.^{1,2} He was educated in France, Germany and at Harrow School from April 1877, to Easter 1878^{2,3} He attended the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and he won a medal⁴ in an athletics competition against Sandhurst but there is no information on the medal about the date or event. As a Gentleman Cadet he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on 16 February 1885,⁵ and during 1888 he was appointed a French and German interpreter by the War Office.⁶ He served abroad with his regiment in Gibraltar from September 1883 to October 1887, and in Bermuda from October 1885 to November 1886.⁷ On 16 May 1890, he was seconded to the British South Africa Company⁸ and he left Southampton for the Cape on board the *Victoria* the same day.⁹ He was promoted to Captain on 15 March 1892.¹⁰

In southern Africa he took a very active and sometimes controversial role in the Company's military operations and he was in command of light artillery and Maxim guns, which were used very effectively during operations against the Matabele. The book,¹¹ *Own Goals...* includes group photographs of officers who include Charles LENDY. It also records that he was appointed a magistrate on 14 March 1893. He returned to this country at least once as on 14 October 1889, he told the registrar that his father had died.¹² No information about this journey or his return to southern Africa has been located.

Charles LENDY's younger brother, Edward, was also a soldier and he was killed in action in West Africa during December 1893. The two sons are remembered by two memorials in Sunbury. One, which was on the bank of



the River Thames, has been restored and is now the centrepiece of the Walled Garden in Thames Street,¹³ and records that Charles LENDY died at Bulawayo,¹⁴ "from the effects of the Matabele Campaign." (An excellent photograph of the memorial, which clearly shows the original inscription was published in June 1886)¹⁵. The other memorial, which is in St.

Mary's Church, records that he died at Bulawayo "after the Matabele War". Both memorials record that he died on 15 January 1893, but the list of Royal Artillery Officers⁷ states that he died on 16 January 1894 in Bulawayo.

A telegram sent by Dr. JAMESON¹⁶ from Bulawayo to the Governor and High Commissioner at Cape Town reporting Charles LENDY's death, was re-sent to the Colonial Office in London.¹⁷ It included, "Sorry to report that Captain Charles LENDY died today from acute peritonitis resulting from a severe strain when practising underhand throwing a sixteen pound shot. LENDY was only four days ill, and a Post Mortem examination has been made by Dr. HOGG, with the above result A report¹⁸ sent by L.S. JAMESON to the British South Africa Company in London on 16 February 1894, included "Captain LENDY R.A. was in supreme command of the artillery and machine guns of the expedition His accurate knowledge especially of machine guns contributed largely to the early termination of the war, and his unfortunate death resulting from an accidental strain was much felt by his brother officers and men ..."

There is another, but unofficial account, of Charles LENDY's death.¹⁹ It states that he over ate and drank at the Edwards Tati Hotel in Tati, collapsed, and was carried to his room where he died. The cause of death was reported as "bowel inflammation". If this account is accurate (and there is no supporting evidence in the book), it means there was a deliberate attempt within the British South Africa Company to hide the truth about where and how he died. Many readers may wish to reject this conspiracy theory. However, the report of his death in *The Times*²⁰ included "A Reuter telegram from Tati dated 17 January says 'Captain C.F. LENDY died here to-day.'"²¹ There is no reason to doubt the integrity of the Reuter News Agency report, especially as their business relied on accurate reporting. A notice of his death in *The Times*²² stated he died on 17 January at Bulawayo, of acute peritonitis, within a month of the death of his brother and that both were deeply mourned. A formal photograph of Charles LENDY in uniform, with a caption reporting that he died at Tati, was published in *The Graphic* about the same time.²³ This caption may have been based on the earlier report in *The Times*. The *Harrow School Register*³ recorded that he died at Tati on 17 January 1894, but this also may be based on the report in *The Times*.²⁰ It is now impossible to resolve these different accounts.

Some pictures and information about the Matabele War were published in *The Illustrated London News*. One picture shows a laager being attacked²⁴ and another²⁵ a laager of wagons of the Salisbury and Victoria Columns. The later illustration was based on a sketch drawn by Dr. Arthur HOGG, Surgeon to the Fort Victoria Column.

An official inquiry was held by Mr. F.J. NEWTON into the collision between

the British South Africa Company and the Matabele at Fort Victoria in July 1893. It generally exonerated the Company and those involved, who included Charles LENDY. Some readers of the report²⁶ may have difficulty reconciling this conclusion with the evidence that was given.

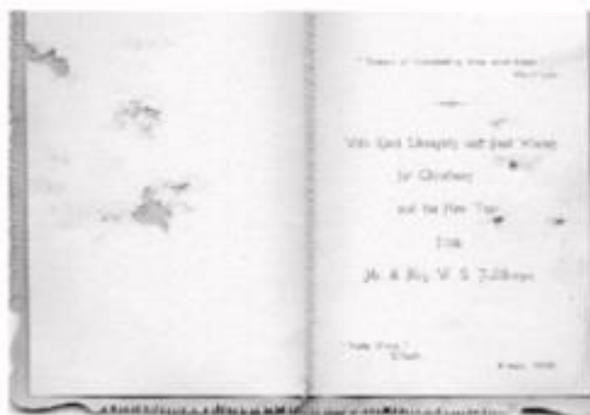
Charles LENDY was awarded a medal (with the Victoria column clasp) for operations in Matabeleland, Rhodesia, and the Medal Roll²⁷ recorded that he had died and included the name of his mother, Mrs. S. LENDY, and her address, Riverside House, Sunbury. Because of Zimbabwean politics an obelisk to his memory in North Park, Bulawayo²⁸ may have been removed but there is a more recent report of a sandstone obelisk to his memory in the Pioneer Plot in Bulawayo, where he is buried.²⁹

Notes and References

1. *The Standard*, 12 January 1869.
2. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*
3. *The Harrow School Register 1801-1893*, R.C. Welch (1894), p.471
4. This was one of the medals purchased by The Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society.
5. *The London Gazette*, 6 March 1883, p.1260
6. *The Times*, 11 June 1889, p.9 col.c.
7. *List of Officers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery June 1862 to June 1914*, Vol 2 (1914) pp.100-101.
8. *The London Gazette*, 9 May 1890, p.2689.
9. ancestorsonboard.com
10. *The London Gazette*, 22 March 1892, p.1702.
11. *Own Goals National Pride and Defeat in War: the Rhodesian Experience* (photographs pp.21, 67).
12. Recorded on A.F. LENDY'S Death certificate.
13. *The Lendy Memorial at Sunbury*, J.R.H.Seaman, Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society (Spring 2002), pp.11-13.
14. When sometimes spelt *Buluwayo*, it has been changed to *Bulawayo*.
15. *The Graphic*, 29 June 1896.
16. In 1895 he led the infamous raid that takes his name.
17. The National Archives (TNA), CO 417/112.
18. TNA CO 427/136.
19. *Burham King of Scouts, Baden-Powell's Mentor*, Peter Van Wyk (2003) p.154.
20. *The Times*, 19 January 1894, p.8.
21. Tati (now in Bechuanaland) is about 70 miles south-west of Bulawayo.
22. *The Times*, 29 January 1894, p.1 col.a
23. *The Graphic*, 27 January 1894.
24. *The Illustrated London News*, 9 December 1893, pp.736-737.
25. *The Illustrated London News*, 13 January 1894, p.33 (with a report of a significant battle on p.35).
26. Published as a Command Paper C.7555. 23 August 1894.
27. TNA WO 100/77.
28. *The City of Bulawayo Office Guide* (1957) p.103.
29. *Own Goals* obit. pp.169-170.

A further dip into the family memorabilia given to Margaret by Janet TUBLIN. See the March 2011 Journal for the previous article.

I have recently come into possession of several account books used by my family in the late 19C and 20C. They throw an interesting light on the costs of food and housing at the time and the sort of food and goods that were available. The books belonged to Janet TUBLIN's foster father, Walter Girdler PAILTHORPE, who lived with my Great Aunt Millicent TILBURY, and with whom he had four children but whom he never married, Despite this fact, the couple sent the Christmas card shown below from "Mr. & Mrs. W.G. PAILTHORPE" to Millicent's parents in 1905.



The cash books in account with a Mr. A. BROCK, run from July 1898 to April 1901. It is interesting that the average weekly spend on food items rises only slightly during that period. Indeed, the cost of the "apartments", which presumably Walter PAILTHORPE was renting from Mr. BROCK, remains constant throughout at £1 5s 0d* a week.

The first pages shown below are from August 1898. The food purchased would have been just for Walter and his first wife Louisa, since the couple had no children. There was frequent purchasing of milk and bread, there being no means of keeping these items fresh beyond a couple of days, especially in summer. Apart from potatoes, the only other vegetables bought during the ten days shown were peas. Compared to the present day shopping basket, indeed even compared to some of the later weeks' bills, this was very Spartan expenditure. The only hint of luxury is the ginger beer at 9d. Each purchase of meat appears to have lasted three days or so. There were absolutely no purchases of any pre-prepared foods, not even cakes and biscuits, which were available at the time. No tinned goods were bought either.

*Conversion from old currency to decimalisation. 12d = 1s and 20s = £1. 1 old shilling (1s) = 5 new pence (5p)

In the following weeks the pattern is much the same with kidneys (3 for 9p) *, sirloin (4s 3½d), rib beef (4s 11d), duck (3s 6d), leg mutton (5s 4d), veal (2s 8½d) and sausages (5d), included as alternatives to the fowl and "pigeons". Other fruits mentioned included apples (6d), pears (6d), gooseberries (6d), grapes (1s 0d) and rhubarb (8p) but plums seem to predominate. Strawberries were a rare treat in summer at 1s 6d. The week displayed below may have been atypical because subsequent weeks do mention more vegetables, including marrow (2½d), cauliflower (2½d), cucumber (3d), carrots (6d), turnips (6d), cabbage (2d) and cellery [sic] (3d).

Aug 14 th	Milk	2	Bread	2
15 th	2 Eggs	2½	20 th Tea	11
	Bread	2	Milk	1
	Potatoes	6	Butter	9½
16 th	Milk	2	Bread	2
	Fowl	3 6	apartments	1 5 0
	Bread 2 pence	11		2.7.5¼
	Green gages	5	Paid Aug 24/98	
	Plums	11	(A. Brown) W. F. Frank	
	Pears	11	21 st milk	2
	Milk 1 st Butter 7½	8½	2 Eggs	2½
17 th	Eggs	3½	22 nd castor sugar	3
	Milk	1	Bread	2
	Bread	2	Milk	2
18 th	Sugar	2½	Potatoes	4
	castor oil	3	23 rd milk	3
	Bread	2	Bread	2
	Milk	2	Pigeons	1.4
19 th	Leg Mutton 6 th	5 4	Plums	6
	Milk	2	Green gages	5

Accounts from August 1898

In the winter months expenditure on coal appears, as shown below in the pages of accounts for February 1899. Only winter vegetables such as greens and cabbage are bought, there would have been very little transportation of exotic fruit and vegetables from abroad to provide anything that was out of season. This was the first time that anything resembling a luxury item was mentioned - sponge cakes at 6d. The receipt now is signed across a 1d stamp. This remained the case up to the last entries in April 1901.

New items which appeared in the later accounts included bloaters (8d),

*Conversion from old currency to decimalisation 12d = 1s and 20s = £1. 1 old shilling (1s) = 5 new pence (5p)

young boys, so it seems reasonable to assume that the alcohol was for just Walter and his wife.

The accounts for March 1901 are shown below Listed are four bottles of brandy bought within four days, as well as a bottle of whisky, a bottle of champagne and a bottle of gin!

There are items which I have had difficulty deciphering on these pages and I should be grateful if anyone can help with any of the following:

- “B Pigeions” is probably a brace of pigeons?
- “Burnars” is probably bananas?
- What is “Lethin water”
- Is “Gonor cake” Genoa cake?
- What is "Pearsons"?

March						
2 nd	Apples Flowers					
	Burnars	3	2			
	B Pigeions	2	8	3 rd	Coals	1 0
	Pippers		3		Bread	2
	Schnips		3		Milk	5
	Milk		6	4 th	Coals	6
	Sponge cake		6		Coffee	1 8
	Eggs	1	0		Milk	9
	Lethin Water		3 1/2		Coals	1 0
	Soda ditto		5 1/2		Fish	1 9
	Bon Bons		5		Pickle Pork	2 5 1/2
	Wing Pie 6/7 1/2	2	10	5 th	Bread	2
	Gonor cake		10 1/2		2 B Brandy	11 0
	Honey Wakes	3	6		Milk	8
	Champagne	4	8		Coals	11
	2 X Biscuits	1	10		Turnips	3
	2 B Brandy	11	0		Gin	3 1
	Pearsons		1		Loaf	4
					Leth	11
					Arrowroot	8

Accounts for March 1901

As a rough guide, £2 in 1900 was worth approximately £160 in 2009 using the Retail Price Index.

Margaret Watson, watson_margaret@yahoo.co.uk

If you can answer any of Margaret's queries above, please also send the information to the Editor so that I can let everyone else know.

I was recently asked about a silver medal engraved "Acton Fire Brigade - In recognition of long and faithful service 12 July 1899" on one side and "Joseph Blick" on the other.

I discovered that the medal was awarded by the Acton (Middlesex) Fire Brigade to Joseph BLICK, on 12th July 1899, the opening day of the new fire station in Acton, when the new steam fire engine was received. BLICK was not a Fireman, but a Job Master, which was a trade supplying horses, carriages and carting, and he supplied the horses to pull the fire engine. Joseph BLICK had asked to be provided with a new uniform for when he drove the fire engine. The photo showing a man in a cap and smart uniform, driving the fire engine is almost certainly Mr BLICK.



His association with the Fire Brigade went back to at least 1871, when his Father's company built a house for the old hand powered fire pump. His son, Charles Joseph Blick WILLIS, was probably a full member of the Acton Fire Brigade.

Acton is now a suburb of London, but in 1899 it was a small town that was expanding with the construction of housing for the workers of London. Modern facilities and safety precautions were essential - the manual pump was derided as the 'Acton Squirt'.

On the Opening Day the festivities commenced at 1 p.m. with the arrival of the new engine at the Askew Arms. After the formal handover, accompanied by the Acton manual engine, the Ealing engine and the band of the West London Rifles, the new engine went on a tour of South Acton, processing on to Acton Park, followed by a demonstration at East Acton Green. It returned to the Fire Station, where it was 'christened' *Amelia* by Mrs. (Amelia) HUNT, wife of the Chairman of Acton District Council, and the Fire Station was opened to the public.

In the evening, there was a celebratory dinner at the George and Dragon Hotel. The fare included: boiled salmon in lobster sauce, roast beef, roast lamb, roast and boiled chicken, and York ham, followed by cherry and Currant tarts, custards, blancmange and stewed fruit jelly.

Entertainment was provided with music and songs from Mr. Harry BARRATT, Mr. WALLIS, A. WALLIS, Mr. Neville HARRIS and Mr. Francis WILSON, who were accompanied by Mr. Francis E. BLAKE. There followed a round of toasts and speeches and the presentation of the Long Service Medals, including that to Joseph BLICK.

"The Queen" - The Chairman, Mr. E. F. HUNT

"The Parliamentary Member for our Division" (Lord George HAMILTON, MP, Captain of Deal Castle) - the Chairman, reply by Lord HAMILTON

"Acton Fire Brigade" - Mr. Clifford EDGAR, Mayor of Richmond

"The Architect, Mr. D. J. EBBETTS" - Mr. Richard POULTON, reply by Mr. D. J. EBBETTS

"Prosperity to Acton District Council" - Lord George HAMILTON, MP, reply by Mr. T. H. MORRIS

"The Visitors" - Mr. J. BINGHAM, reply by Mr. J. C. CROSS

"The Chairman - Mr. E. F. HUNT" - Mr. W. Carrington SMITH

The trade of 'Job Master' entailed supplying horse drawn transport and acting

SUPERIOR FASHIONABLE CARRIAGES

READING AND BLICK,
JOB MASTERS AND CARRIERS,
CHURCH ROAD, ACTON,
AND
HIGH STREET, EALING.

Subjoined is a List of Charges.—

	£	s.	d.
to London and back, not exceeding six hours	0	12	0
Ditto, not exceeding three hours and half...	0	10	0
To Railway Stations in the West of London	0	10	0
To more distant Railways	0	12	0
Jobs per hour, for the first three hours ...	0	2	6
Exceeding three hours— per hour...	0	2	0
Carriage and pair of horses to London ...	1	0	0

The above charges do not include the coachman's fee.

**WAGONETTES AND OMNIBUSES FOR
PRIVATE PARTIES.**

Carrier Vans to London Daily.

All Wedding Orders punctually attended

as a carrier. This was quite a sizable business employing six men and four boys. The modern equivalent is a car and van hire company! BLICK's father was a builder and their yard and stables were in Church Road, Acton. The property was still being used for car repairs until recently but has now been rebuilt into flats.

The fire station was a few steps away from this yard and clearly BLICK was able to supply horses at short notice when needed for the fire engine.

The 1907 Kelly's Directory has an entry for "21, Church Road, BLICK Charles,

Jobmaster". By 1911, the business had gone - the motor vehicle was here! In the *Acton Gazette*, there is a considerable number of mentions of the Fire Brigade, and passing mentions of BLICK. He presented a clock, to be used as a trophy for a "one-man drill" competition, that was competed for over several years, and on many occasions the competitions were held at BLICK's farm in North Acton, about a mile away, which he rented for the horses to graze and rest.

KING BAKER in his book *Acton Middlesex*, published in 1912, summarises the history of the Acton Fire Brigade that mentions the supply of horses:

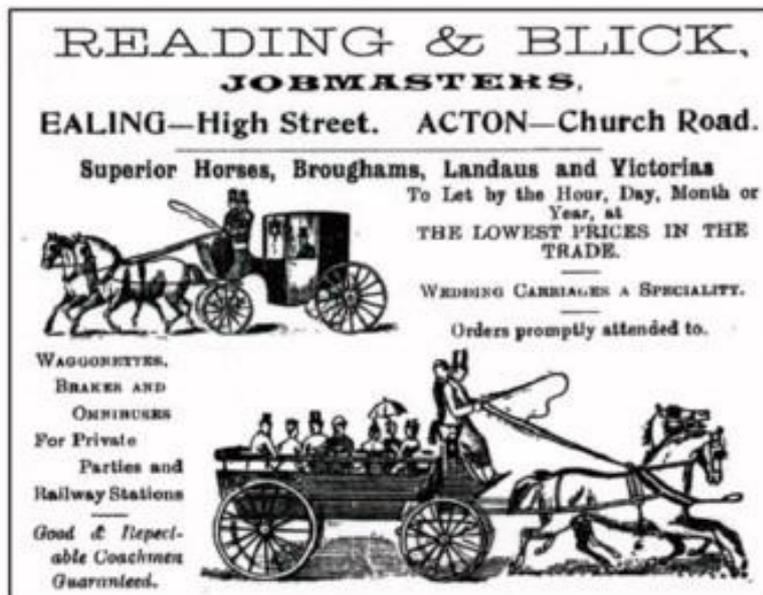
"In reference to the early days of the Fire Brigade in Acton, Captain C.T POORE (of the hardware store in Acton) writes,

“ ‘The first proposal of Acton having a Fire Engine was after the fire which occurred at the Steyne Mills about 1866, now occupied by Messrs. Baldwin and Co. It was attended by a small manual engine sent from Chiswick, which was drawn by men and boys, and an engine was also sent from Hammersmith. Members of the Local Board, were requested to look into the details of the matter. Finally it was decided to establish a Fire Brigade and to provide proper appliances.

“ ‘The Brigade was formed in the year 1868, a manual engine and other fire appliances were purchased by the Acton Local Board, and these were housed in a shed adjoining the William IV Public House situated at the corner of Market Place and King Street. This particular Fire Engine was exhibited at the Exhibition of 1862. The first Captain of the Brigade was Mr BILLINGTON. A few of the founders are still living in the district, and are well known to the old parishioners, amongst them may be mentioned Mr. T. POORE, Mr W.A. BROWN, Mr. W. EDYMANN, and Mr. E. MONSON.

“ ‘They were called together by means of a call boy and the horsing of the engine was done by the local job master. About the year 1871 the Local Board Offices were built upon the site of the old Pound, which stood at the bottom of Acton Hill, and provision was then made for the fire appliance in the rear of same, and this was continued until the year 1899, when the present fire station was erected by the Acton District Council, who also added to the plant a Steam Fire Engine, Escape, and other appliances. A system of electric call bells was installed and used for the calling of Members of the Brigade together, also Fire Alarm Posts were fixed in various parts of the Town.

" ‘The Chief Officer is Mr. C.T. POORE. Several of the Members who are now in the Brigade have already served upwards of 25 years.’ "



Joseph's father, Abraham BLICK, was with his wife in Hurley, Berkshire, in 1841, a location some 30 miles west of Acton, where Joseph was born. In 1851 Joseph was with his parents in Chelsea, London and in 1861 his father was in Kensington, London, with Joseph's name apparently wrongly transcribed as Joseph

WILLIS. Abraham was following the building work as London developed!

By 1871 Joseph BLICK was with his business partner, William READING, next to the police station in Ealing where they were "Carriers". Joseph BLICK then appears in the 1881 census where the address is 2 Albert Terrace. In the 1871 and 1881 censuses his mother and father (a builder) were next door at 1 Albert Terrace. Joseph and his family were recorded at 23 Church Road in the 1891 and 1901 censuses. In the 1911 census, only Joseph's wife Alice appears, and it is reasonable to assume that, by then, Joseph had died, but I could not find entries either for his death or birth to confirm this.

I was puzzled as to why I could not find any birth, marriage or death events for Joseph BLICK. With a great deal of sideways thought, and a couple of assumptions, and that one 'transcription error' in the 1861 census, I discovered that Joseph's mother, Louisa WILLIS, and his father, Abraham BLICK, probably never married but lived together as Mr and Mrs BLICK, They, and later Joseph, kept up this story to the census enumerators, and presumably in daily life, but had to tell real officialdom the truth which, with only paper records, was probably quite easy to do in those times.

Joseph was born Joseph William WILLIS in the June quarter of 1844 (registered in Cookham), and he died in the March quarter of 1903.

The death of Abraham BLICK was registered in the December quarter of 1892 in Brentford.

Joseph married Alice Maud JEFFORD in the September quarter 1872, in Islington, London; her birth was registered in the September quarter 1843 in Lambeth and she died in Fulham in the June quarter 1926, aged 82.

Joseph's children were:

Alice Maud B. WILLIS - birth registered in the September quarter 1873, in Brentford

George Abraham B. WILLIS - birth registered in the September quarter 1874, in Brentford.

Maud Louisa B. WILLIS - birth registered in the December quarter 1876, in Brentford.

Grace Blick WILLIS - birth registered in the March quarter 1878, in Brentford (died September quarter 1879).

Grace Mary B. WILLIS - birth registered in the March quarter 1880, in Brentford.

May Blick WILLIS - birth registered in the December quarter 1881, in Brentford.

Charles Joseph Blick WILLIS - birth registered in the September quarter of 1884, in Brentford.

David Knights, info@acronhistory.co.uk
(Also printed in *The Acton Historian*) .



Acton Fire Station, 1899

Births and Baptisms, Marriages, Death and Burials

Parish Registers were made mandatory by Thomas CROMWELL in 1538 for all parish churches and the entries were to be added after each Sunday service. Sadly very few have survived. In 1644/5 new legislation stated that the date of birth should be given for each child and the date of death for each burial - however this was routinely ignored.

In 1653, during the time of the Commonwealth, the registers were known as Civil Registers and were kept by officers appointed by the Government. Baptism was not recorded but the date of birth was given. Only a very small number of these have survived.

In 1667/8, in order to help the woollen trade, legislation was passed requiring all burials to be made in wool. This is sometimes noted in the parish register with a 'W' written after the burial entry. The Act was repealed in 1814, the practice having gradually disappeared.

Hardwicke's Marriage Act, 1754, declared that marriage could only take place in the parish church conducted by a clergyman of the Church of England, after publications of banns or the granting of a licence. Banns books and the marriage register were to be separate from the register of baptisms and burials. It also required the signatures of the bride and groom and their witnesses. Quakers and Jews were exempt and kept their own records.

In 1783 the Stamp Act required that 3d. be paid for every entry in the parish register. 10% of this was to be kept by the incumbent. During this time a 'P' might be shown in the register, showing that the person was a pauper and so exempt from the tax. Before the Act came into force in September of that year, there was a rush of baptisms, and there was another increase after its repeal in 1793.

George Rose's Act of 1813 required the use of specially printed registers, one each for baptisms, marriages and burials. For baptismal entries the names and address of parents were noted and the occupation of father. In the burial register the place of residence and age of the deceased were entered.

Civil Registration

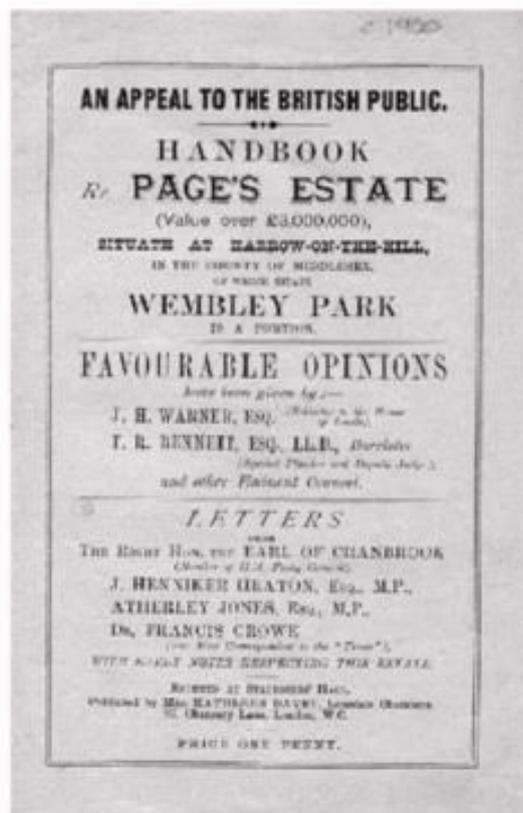
The General Registration Act, 1837, gave the Registrar General responsibility for the recording of all births, marriages and deaths and the Indexes began from July of that year. The recording of the age at death was noted from 1866 and in 1912 the surname of the spouse was entered in the marriage register.



My interest in family history started soon after the death of my eldest sister in 1982. All her research into the immediate family was passed to me and it became known in the wider family that I was now the collator. My cousin Dennis, the son of my father's oldest brother, Alfred, died in 1985 and I also inherited his research, This had only gone back to our Gt. Grandparents. Since then I have traced the family back to 1756, when Thomas PAGE married Mary MASON in Acton, Middlesex. We stayed in Acton for the next 200 years.

In my efforts to trace where Thomas came from I have joined the three local family history societies and have also lodged my DNA with the PAGE Co-ordinator in the USA. They gave my closest 'cousins' as being John PAGE, born in Hatton and baptised in East Bedfont in Middlesex in 1627, who emigrated to Virginia, USA, and John or Robert PAGE, born in Dedham in 1586, and who then lived up the road in Boxted in Essex and who emigrated to Massachusetts, USA. I have not researched this line. I am certain they are both connected to the Harrow PAGEs, one of whom left an estate worth £3m in 1824 but according to the lawyers there were no children to inherit. I am still trying to make the connection.

I left school in 1949 at the age of 15 and a height of 4ft.10ins., having had asthma from the age of four, which left me a bit stunted. I went to work at Beecham's for one year as a grease monkey in the maintenance depart-



ment (Dad was the Chief Engineer), as I was too young to start my apprenticeship as a sheet metal worker.

During my apprenticeship I obtained my City & Guilds and Higher National Certificates. Because of my asthma I failed the medical to do my National Service, which was scrapped a few years later, which was lucky for me as I grew out of my asthma when I was 22.

I met my first wife, Ann, in 1954, and married in 1957. I have three lovely daughters, who have between them four children. I married my second wife, Ellen, in 1991 and inherited three step children, two girls and a boy. They also have four children between them. Sadly Ellen died of non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2002.

For the last five years of my working career I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to go to Ohio in the USA. Glacier Metals of Alperton were bought out by Federal Mogul and the sales office out there needed somebody. My time out there will perhaps be the subject of another article?

I came back to retire in 1999 and have been bowling, both indoor and outdoors, ever since.

e-petition – HM GOVERNMENT

Research Copies for Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates for Genealogical Research Purposes

Responsible department: Home Office

“Under current legislation, the GRO can only ‘release this information by means of the issue of a paper certified copy Certificate of the relevant entry, and payment of the relevant statutory fee for a certified copy.’ We request that this House enacts legislation to allow the General Register Office of England and Wales the ability to issue ‘uncertified’ research copies of birth, marriage and death certs - with a notice on the copies that they are uncertified, and have no legal authority - and that these may be obtained at a much lower cost than the current £925 per cert (eg £2) when ordered on-line and the GRO Index Ref is Provided, and that these may be issued in a electronic (email) format or a plain paper in the same way as The Republic of Ireland; this would enable family historians to buy many certs for their research at a lower cost.”

(In the Republic of Ireland you can ask for an uncertified copy from Roscommon (their version of GRO) for €4.)

The grammatical errors are all theirs, not mine, but please, go online and add your signature at: www.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/1792

Arriving at 9.45am, on the 24th September, 2011, it was a pleasure to see, and hear, so many people chatting and looking at the bookstalls, As well as our own books, we were pleased to welcome the Borough of Twickenham Local History Society with their books. There was also a small display of items relating to the Coram Foundation.

In the background, the technical team worked hard to ensure that the speakers could use their powerpoint presentations.



Ian Waller

Ian WALLER started off the day in his customary fact-filled way. One of his tips we have to remember are that children were not necessarily baptised as babies - some Families held a 'batch baptism' for several of their children. We must also remember that if a child died, their name could be re-used with a later child. Large families sometimes farmed out children to relatives with smaller families Bastardy was more common than our idea of the prim and proper Victorians would lead us to expect; whilst many families simply absorbed the child, others threw the mother out.

Following Ian's talk we had a break for refreshments, including some delicious coffin-shaped cakes.

After the break we were delighted to welcome **John CALDECOTT**, who told us about Thomas CORAM's Foundling Hospital. Thomas CORAM had gone to sea as a boy and made money trading between Britain and New England. Despite being childless himself, CORAM was only too aware of the misery suffered by abandoned children in 18th century England. Having seen his Foundling Hospital established, CORAM and the other Trustees parted company somewhat acrimoniously. CORAM then had no further official involvement with the running of the Hospital. The Charity continues today, now known as Coram Family, and dealing mainly with adoption. On the site of the original Hospital there is now an interesting museum and a recreation ground where adults are only permitted when accompanied by a child.

John gave us a brief account of his rather bleak childhood in a Coram orphan-



John Caldecott with the 'tag' given to him when he was placed in the Coram

age. The children wore a special uniform, quasi military for the boys and the girls sported the old fashioned 'butterfly' head dresses which were worn by some nurses. The children had no idea of what money was for and the first time they were given pocket-money and sent out shopping, they just took the goods! Also they were made to feel guilty for their mothers' 'sins'.

We then had a break for lunch. Being a lovely warm and sunny day, a picnic by the river and a stroll along Church Street were quite acceptable. Whilst we were enjoying lunch, the speakers from Frederick W Paine, the undertakers, laid out a display of items from their company museum and archive. The funeral ledgers, especially, attracted a great deal of interest.

After lunch, **Ian WALLER** returned to tell us about Victorian marriage customs. The upper classes often arranged marriages for their children in order to protect, or improve, the family's fortunes. In other social classes, marriage was by mutual selection, with the first child often appearing less than nine months after the wedding. Because of long working hours, many marriages took place on a Sunday as this was the only non-working day. Ian also told us some of the superstitions relating to marriage.

There was then another refreshment break with a further opportunity to try

the coffin cakes (chocolate, for those worried by the description). Each ticket sold had a unique number, and during this break there was a prize draw, with one ticket-holder being chosen to win a prize. The lucky winner was Bill WISEMAN, who won two books about aspects of Victorian life.



*Above: Dawn Trigg and Ian Smith.
Below & left: Display of memorabilia from Frederick W. Paine*



As life usually ends in the care of the undertaker, so our day ended with a talk by **Dawn TRIGG** and **Ian SMITH** of Frederick W Paine. Dawn and Ian told us about both the history of the firm and the history of the undertaker's job. We were told that the company museum in London Road, Kingston, is open every Tuesday, or on other days by appointment. The archive includes all the ledgers recording details of the funerals organised by the firm. Sadly, the ledgers have not been computerised, but staff will make searches on request. After a short film showing the lighter side of a modern undertaker's life, Dawn and Ian answered many questions.



At 4.30pm we all headed for home, intellectually replete after a most interesting day of talks.

Many thanks to Kay DUDMAN, who organised the event, and to all the helpers who made the day run so smoothly.

Images by Bill Dudman and Paul Kershaw

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

- Anglesey Archives has re-opened in the new building at Bryn Cefni Industrial Estate.
www.anglesey.gov.uk/leisure/records-and-archives/113706.article
- Canterbury Cathedral Archives will be closed from the end of January 2012, for at least seven months, due to the need to carry out essential repairs of the roof.
- Derbyshire County Record Office is expanding, with completion by Spring 2013, when a new combined archives and local studies service will re-open at the current site in New Street, Matlock.
- A temporary service will operate at the Creche Building in the lower car park of County Hall. For access to records: all data on microfilm, DVD and CD (including parish registers) will be available at Derbyshire Local Studies' Library on Bank Road, Matlock.
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record_office
- Gwent County Record Office is reopening as Gwent Archives in its newly renovated home at Ebbw Vale's old steel works.
www.torfaen.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/GwentRecordsOffice/GwentArchives.aspx
- The London Family History Centre in Exhibition Road, Kensington, has closed for refurbishment of the building, but they have relocated to The National Archives, Kew. The microfilm collection will also be available at TNA. Film ordering should be completed as usual at *www.londonfhc.org*. It is estimated that they will be back in Exhibition Road in 7-8 months' time.
- Update on London Metropolitan Archives opening hours: they will be closed on Fridays from November, but will stay open until 7.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. They will not be open on Saturdays in November and December but throughout 2012 will be open on the second Saturday in the month.
- Sheffield City Archives has re-opened following a refurbishment.
www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies
- With the restriction of hours imposed on many County Record Offices, some have been resorting to other sources to get their information out there - look on Flickr, YouTube and Twitter. The National Archives has used all these media, so visit: *<http://tinyurl.com/3ooxzj>* to see what is on offer.



Several members of WMFHS visited the Guildhall Library in the City of London on 7th July, for a brief tour and a talk by one of the Librarians. We were informed that, due to the fact that, in a cost-cutting exercise, a large amount of their collection has been transferred to the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), there are only five classes of original manuscript records left at the Library:

- Livery Companies original records. These are heavily used, for example the Watermen and Lightermen.
- Christ's Hospital School admissions.
- Lloyds Collection (ships voyages etc)
- Stock Exchange records
- Records of St Paul's Cathedral (it owned estates all over the country).

The records of the Corporation of London itself went to the LMA several years ago. The Parish Registers of the City of London are also now at the LMA, as are the Fire Office (Sun Insurance Company) records.

The Library still holds:

- A very good trade directories collection for the whole country as well as London. Earliest for London is 1677, with a gap till 1730, then from the late 18th century, every year to 1991. They then stop; nothing is being produced now. There is a guide to the trade directories by town and county. Coverage is not good in the poorer areas.
- Telephone books from the 1880s onwards. Very good for the period when people generally started getting phones (e.g. from the 1920s) up to when everyone started changing over to mobiles.
- They take 2,000 magazines and journals, including the *Illustrated London News*, the *Burlington Magazine* (art) and family history society journals, plus transactions of learned societies. These are all listed in their online catalogue, which can be accessed at home.
- Newspapers: the Times and Financial Times on microfilm *Gentleman's Magazine* on microfilm.
- Professions: Armed forces (Officers only): Army List, Navy List, Air Force List, Clerics (Crockfords)

- Poll Books.
- Electoral Registers: for the Square Mile (the rest are at LMA)
- Books on: food and wine, including the Elizabeth David collection, gardening and horticulture; clock making (there is also a Clock Museum); archery; travel and exploration.

They have electronic databases which can be viewed on computer terminals in the Library, and some material can be accessed from home with a City of London Libraries card. These include:

- Ancestry and FindMyPast (only accessible at the Library);
- The Times Digital Archive 1785-1985, plus 18thC and 19thC British Library Newspapers, including the Gale and Burney Collections;
- Index to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, *Picture Post* 1938-1957; *Financial Times* 1888-2006, *Illustrated London News* 1842-2003; *Daily Mirror* 1903-present, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Dictionary of National Biography*, *Who's Who*, *Boyd: Citizens of London Index* (the actual volumes are at Society of Genealogists)

If viewing the databases on the library's terminals, you can email what you find (although not Ancestry or FindMyPast material) to yourself at home, and it may also be possible to put material on to a USB stick.

If looking at manuscripts and printed matter you can order up to six items at a time but an unlimited number throughout the day. Books and manuscripts are brought to you (15-20 minutes). Most of this material is actually on site. You can use your own camera to photograph printed matter: there is a £3 per day charge.

There is a free enquiry service (you might be lucky as if they are not busy they may look something up for you] but original research by librarians costs £40 per hour plus VAT.

Next to the microfilm and computer terminal room is a library of books on London on open shelves, including some printed London parish registers and marriage licences.

At the end of the visit, members of the group were issued with a City of London Library card. On this is a number which can be used to view online resources from the Library catalogue, many of which can be accessed from home. As one of the group, I can vouch that I have been able to find out some really useful facts for my one-name study using my new library card, especially from the 18th century newspaper collection, all indexed online. Library cards can also be ordered online. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/libraries

Photograph of the square where the library is situated. © www.hotelsneartoo.com

The War Graves Photographic Project: David Ayling (July)

David began by asking how many of the audience had a relative who had fought in either of the World Wars, and had not returned - the result was over 50%. He explained that the aim of the War Graves Photographic Project was to photograph every grave and every private memorial to a fallen soldier, of whatever nationality.

In the First World War soldiers were initially buried in graves scattered over the battle sites but in 1915 Fabian WARE went with the Red Cross to France and began the work of reburying the fallen in what was known as 'Concentrated War Graves', those cemeteries of white headstones with which we are familiar.



Foncqueville Military Cemetery, France

Originally each grave was marked with a simple wooden cross, on which was inscribed with name, rank and regiment. Prior to 1915 it had been possible to repatriate the bodies, but as this was very expensive and only a few families were able to do so, this was stopped in 1915.

In May 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission was established (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, CWGC) with the remit to build and maintain the cemeteries. After the War the wooden crosses were replaced



with the white headstones, engraved with the same information. The stone is still quarried in Italy and engraved in France. The family was able to add a single sentence of their own choice at the foot of the grave. Many soldiers stayed behind in France and Belgium to tend these cemeteries, settling in the area with their families.

The War Graves Photographic Project was founded by two ex-servicemen who, on a trip to Uruguay, photographed the graves of those who were killed in the Battle of the River Plate. During the past ten years, with the rise of greater interest in family history, the CWGC has received

many requests for a picture of the grave of their family member. The Commission had no resources themselves to do this and so began the collaboration with the War Graves Photographic Project.

David is one of the volunteers and his remit is to cover every cemetery and graveyard in London and the South East of England, to discover and photograph every grave of a serviceman or woman from the two world wars. Many private gravestones and memorials can be found, so every grave in the particular cemetery has to be examined - a lengthy and sometimes backbreaking task! It is estimated that a private headstone has been erected for one in ten of those soldiers who were killed. Many give more details than are to be found on the official CWGC headstone, although it is unlikely that the body of the person commemorated is actually buried there. Sadly many of these private headstones are deteriorating; being the private property of the family, the CWGC does not have a remit to maintain them and it may be that the family has died out, or forgotten that the grave exists. The CWGC is undertaking to re-engage every headstone in France and Belgium over the next 20 years. Some of the private headstones included the 'memorial plaques' awarded to the families of those who died (see "Letters to the Editor", Journal June 2011, and "Memorial Plaque Factory" in the September edition). As these plaques were made of bronze, now a highly sought after metal, some of these have been stolen from the headstone or memorial.

Ideally the War Graves Photographic Project would like to be able to provide a photograph of every grave for every soldier, sailor and airman in every war, including the Crimea and the Boer Wars, whatever the nationality of those who died. The United States forbids the taking of an overall view of their cemeteries, but do allow the individual headstones to be photographed. There is also the problem that the land for the cemeteries in France was given "in perpetuity" - but "perpetuity" in France is only 100 years, so time is running out and already there have been instances of roads being built through a war cemetery.

The Project relies on volunteers to do its work, and it is financed through the selling of the photographs. For £5.50 you get a print of the grave and also an overall view of the cemetery. For details of how to obtain these, go to their website, and if you would like to volunteer to join in this important work, you will find details on: www.twgpp.org B.P.

The photographs relate to my Uncle, Pte. Leslie TYERS of the Sherwood Foresters, killed in action in France on 26 June 1916. Ed.

Upstairs - Downstairs: Ian Waller, (August)

Well known professional family historian, Ian Waller, began, by saying that TV series such as "Downton Abbey" use a certain amount of dramatic licence in their portrayal of domestic service. People have a grandiose idea of the

servants' hall in the 'Big House', but most servants in fact worked on their own for an individual or family and probably our servant ancestors were in this latter position.

A maid of all work, a nurse maid and a cook could minister to the requirements of most of the gentry. From the censuses one can see that most skilled tradesmen, in keeping up with the Jones's, aspired to have a servant and £1,000 per annum could support several servants. Professionals, tradesmen, and artisans might earn £200-£500 per annum and £150 per annum might provide a maid of all work. Ag. labs earned less than £50 per annum, so they had no servants but, alongside agriculture, domestic service was a favourite employment for the Working class.

In 1840 there were 700,000 servants, in the 1871 census there were over 1 million; by 1914, there were 1.5 million, and still by 1931, there were 320,000. So it is unlikely that there would be no domestic servants in your family tree. Censuses showing households, particularly that of a 'Big House' with servants, are one source.



It was a hard life with long hours, sometimes fairly comfortable, sometimes a life of drudgery. A servant would start with general functions and graduate to a more specialised one. Both mistresses and servants were helped by literature on the subject such as that supplied by Mrs' BEETON's *Book of Household Management*. Certain characteristics were expected of a good servant: to be sober, honest, discreet, clean, neat, methodical and not subject to "idle vanity". House rules tended to take a common and generally accepted form, like standing still when spoken to, putting items proffered to the master or mistress on a salver, not offering opinions, asking permission to entertain friends in the house and breakages to be deducted from wages. Servants worked in the basement and lived in the attic.

By the turn of the 19th century domestic service had become the largest occupation for women but there was no trade union. In the 'Big House' they were probably well looked after, but if working on their own they had no protection. Not until domestic service went into decline and servants became scarce was interest aroused. They had less freedom or recreation than in other occupations, but they got accommodation and meals, so their wages were

purely spending money. Daughters from big families who left home to become domestic servants might send half their wages home.

Some servants (showing their occupation by carrying a mop) were hired at the annual Mop Fairs, often associated with a funfair and cattle market. They were hired for 12 months but could be dismissed instantly for a misdemeanour, although the best way of getting employment was by recommendation. Most servants were employed by people known to the family and often servants were known to prospective employers. If they wanted to leave they got a reference (a 'character') from their present employer: no reference, no work. A lot of senior servants were 'head-hunted'. Often marriage put a career at an end, although sometimes a gardener might marry one of the housemaids. If a female servant had an illegitimate child she lost her job: in popular fiction it was often the Squire-'s son who was the father but it was more likely to be a fellow servant, a soldier (if the latter the pregnant girl was said to have 'scarlet fever'), or a local man. There might be a Bastardy Bond in the Parish records or the Quarter Sessions records. Newspapers of the time were full of advertisements for servants and the first Employment Agencies were for domestic servants.

In the 'Big House' there would be prayers before breakfast. Servants tended to follow the religion practised by the Master or Mistress so it would, for instance, be a 'Methodist household'. The servants' hall was comfortable and was used as both dining - for breakfast, dinner and supper - and as a recreation room. The Butler sat at one end of the table, the Housekeeper at the other with the other servants in between in order of seniority. Servants could be fined for wasting food or swearing. The Housekeeper's own room, which also served as her office, was known as 'Pug's Parlour'. She was responsible for keeping the accounts and supervising the female servants. The Butler had his own pantry and amongst other things was responsible for looking after the wine and the plate, gas lights, etc. He might have to do service as valet when necessary. The valet helped the master to dress and shaved him, looked after his clothes and toiletries. A batman in the Army was sometimes the officer's valet. With accommodation and meals provided, servants were often living better than their parents. As for a servant's social life, they did have some time off, and from the 1890s a week's paid holiday. Theatre and music hall matinées were begun originally for servants, as they had some free time during the afternoon.

The London Season fell between Easter and early August, when a country household might move to London for the opera, theatre, the races, cricket matches etc. They brought some of their servants with them. Servants had their own clubs in London, such as the 'Running Footman'.

Under the Poor Law, both girls and boys could be apprenticed out by the parish: the girls were trained in housewifery, usually to become domestic servants.

There were Domestic Servants' Schools, the most famous being the Countess of Jersey's training school at Middleton Stony: those completing their training were guaranteed a placement.

When gadgets and appliances began to be introduced into the domestic situation, this led to fewer servants being needed and anyway there were more opportunities in factories and shops, and more free time. Women replaced men in jobs during WWI and this changed things after the War.

To research your own servant ancestors, look at A2A. There was the National Union of Domestic Workers which was founded in the 20th century and the Metropolitan University has part of the TUC collection. Estate records can be found at the local Record Office where you might find housekeeping accounts, etc. The National Trust has looked at 'below stairs' in many of their properties. Try Poor Law records. There was a Servants Tax (1777-1852) and appeals from landowners are at Senate House (University of London). Newspapers will have advertisements, e.g. for Webbs Domestic Servants Agency, and private advertisements. Servants might also be mentioned in wills - some servants were left a legacy in their master's or mistress's will. It is possible to find names of domestic servants in many records . YM.
Image: © emocourt.net

The Promiscuous Letters: Meryl Catty (September)

The well-known family historian, Meryl Catty, came to tell us about her discovery of The Promiscuous Letters. Despite the salacious-sounding title, in the case of these records, which Meryl happened upon at The National Archives, the word "promiscuous" here merely means "miscellaneous".

The boxes of documents, mostly from the first half of the nineteenth century, contain not only letters of application from widows of Royal Navy Officers seeking a pension from the Navy, but also marriage and death certificates and other documents which were included to help their case. There were also documents generated by the Naval personnel who were dealing with the case. The documents are therefore something of a goldmine in the amount of detail they go into about the late husband's career: they can include how long the couple were married, the children of the marriage, addresses, birth dates, etc.

In Meryl's opinion this is a little known and little used source, however she warned that there are some missing years in the sequence.

Having outlined what the records are basically about and what they consist of, Meryl went on to give some amusing and surprising case histories which had caught her attention. One was the case of one widow who, on the death of her husband, applied for a Naval Pension, only to find her application was turned

down. The explanation? Her husband's 'dead' first wife had turned out to be very much alive and, on hearing of his death, she had also applied for a pension! Unfortunately for the second wife, the first one was successful and the second wife got nothing.

Although none of these records have so far been indexed, if you know that a former family member had been a Naval Officer in the late eighteenth or nineteenth century, especially if they had died in the Service and approximate dates are known, Meryl highly recommended a trawl through the [somewhat dirty) records as there may be a great deal of information about the person and his family contained therein. Y.M.

Sources [from TNA Catalogue):

Portsmouth: Promiscuous Letter Book	ADM 224/71 1.9.1792-2.7.1794
Portsmouth: Promiscuous Letter Book	ADM 224/72 30.12.1799-24.2.1801
Register of Promiscuous Letters	ADM 106/2126-2134 1808-1823
Portsmouth Promiscuous Letter Book	ADM 224/73 9.7.1828-14.11.1831
Gosport Promiscuous Letter Book	ADM 224/74-75 1856-6.12.1862

Note Book, Draft Reports, Promiscuous Letters, Minutes of Evidence, Copies of Establishments and Names of Officers, their Salaries and Fees in the Departments of the Lord Chamberlain, Lord Steward, Master of the Horse etc. Report of Commissioners appointed to enquire into fees etc, T90/187. 1836-7

More notices from the Parish Magazine of 1901 for Holy Trinity, Chelsea, submitted by Robin Hoare.

Baptisms

Holy Trinity

April 24 Elizabeth Beatrice BURNETT, 3 Swan Walk, Chelsea

May 20 Aline Margaret GRANT, 37, Draycott Place, S.W.

St. Jude's

April 17 Winifred Annie Sarah Amelia WELLER, 13 Hasker Street

May 2 Stanley Vaughan Alfred HEBERDEN, 17 Bullingham Mansions, Kensington

May 22 Alice Louisa HANSON, 164E, Guinness' Buildings

Marriages

Holy Trinity

April 27 Percival George Hume TAYLOR to Nellie Isabel JOHNS

May 20 Reginald Henry WATTS to Eliza Marcia VACHER

WORLD WIDE WEB

New records appearing online, plus a couple of recommendations:

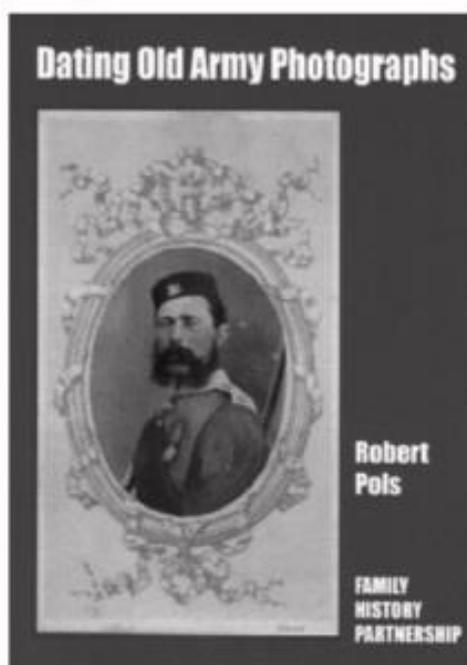
- New datasets from Ancestry include: nearly 2m railway employment records from ten different railway companies, not only the names, but you can find out many details about your ancestor and his working life; UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811, records from TNA's IRI collection.
www.ancestry.co.uk
- More parish registers can be found on FindMyPast, including some from East Surrey and East Kent 1802-1864, and Greenwich and Rotherhithe 1825-1871, and Gwent. Military records from TNA include over half a million men who served in the Militia between 1806-1915; 1861 Worldwide Army Index; Paddington Rifles 1860-1912, the Royal Fusiliers Collection 1863-1905 and the Surrey Recruitment Registers 1908-1913. One million Index Cards, which were used to produce a centralised index of Merchant Seamen serving on British Merchant Navy vessels between 1918-1941 have been digitised, some of these include photographs.
www.findmypast.co.uk
- Genesreunited has now issued over 250,000 records of those who fought in the Second Boer War (1899-1902); the Medal Roll of Royal Naval Officers 1914-1920; a list of New Zealand soldiers who served in World War I and Soldiers Who Died in the Great War. It has also restructured its subscription service - you can now tailor it to your own specific needs.
www.genesreunited.co.uk
- The Jewellery Quarter Research Group of Birmingham has put online over 11,000 existing memorial inscriptions for Key Hill Cemetery in Birmingham.
www.jqrg.org
- The list of Naturalizations for 1902, which gives the full name, country of origin, place of residence and occupation can be found in the Original Record collection. Also new this quarter: Paupers in Workhouses in 1861, which lists the 67,800 paupers who had been in 626 different workhouses for more than five years - full details of inmates are given.
www.theoriginalrecord.com

- The Genealogist has revised its searches for probate records and wills. There is additional material on Warwickshire and America, and parish records updates for Yorkshire, Cornwall and Kent. Among their new Australian records are lists of the convicts who sailed on the First Fleet, some freed convicts, and much more. Their new military records include datasets for several regiments for varying periods, including the Historical Records of the Middlesex Yeomanry (1797-1927).
www.thegenealogist.co.uk
- The Science Museum Library and Archives holds a large amount of information about those involved in the science, engineering, medicine and industry fields. As well as holding named archives on famous and influential individuals, it also houses records of ordinary people who were involved in the science industry. There is an online catalogue and up to 30 minutes research time free of charge.
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk
- Those of you with Sandsend and Fulham ancestors, or if you live or have lived there yourself, will be interested in this website which is devoted to the history of the area. There are many articles on churches, schools, recreation, etc. etc.
www.sandsendrevisited.net
- Some of our longstanding members may remember talks by Audrey Collins, who transferred to TNA when the Family Records Centre closed. Since October 2010 she has been running a blog, where she uses particular enquiries to point up the records needed to resolve the problem.
http://thefamilyrecorder.blogspot.com
- Muriel Sprott has recommended the National Archives of Australia website. It has a name-search facility and records which are already digitised can be downloaded or printed free of charge. If not already digitised, a copy can be ordered at a cost of au\$15 for an email document or au\$28 for a printed document (that includes postage to the UK). There is a warning that undigitised records may take up to 90 days to arrive.
www.naa.gov.au

If you have found a website that you feel would be useful to fellow members do send it to me for future publication.

BOOKSHELF

Dating Old Army Photographs by Robert Pols (*Family History Partnership* 2011) ISBN 978190628027 7, £5.95

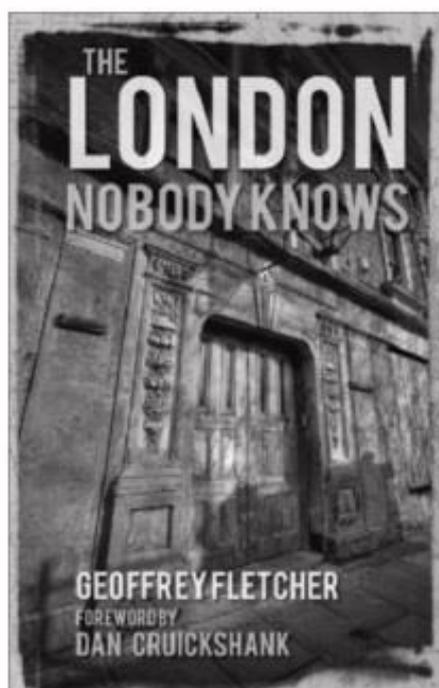


This slim booklet describes in detail the many indications of a soldier's uniform that can help you not only to date a photograph but can add to your knowledge of where and when the soldier served in the Army. Military photographs were taken from the middle of the 19th century but many of us have mementos from both World Wars of a soldier of whom we know little. Each part of the uniform is examined in detail and the reasons given for the changes which came about which can help us to pin down a particular date. Complete with illustrations and a helpful Bibliography, this is a very helpful book of reference.

Obtainable direct from the Family History Partnership.

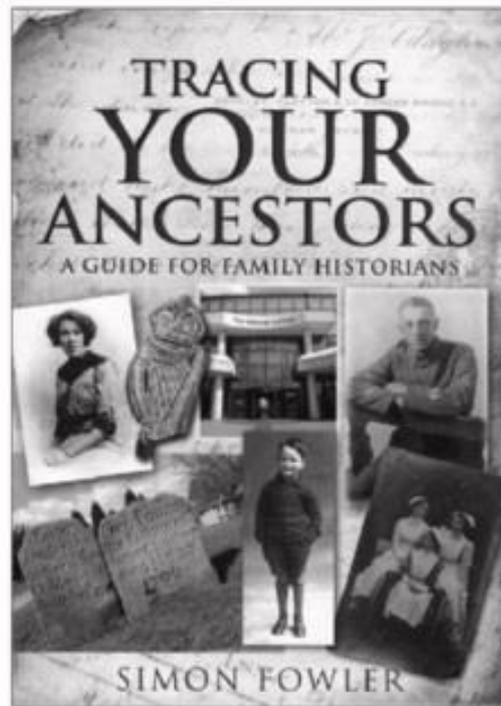
The London Nobody Knows by Geoffrey Fletcher (*The History Press*, 2011) ISBN 978 0 7524 6199 1, £9.99

This hardback edition of Geoffrey Fletcher's original publication of 1962, with a foreword by Dan Cruickshank, shows us a London of nooks and crannies and architectural gems that it is easy to pass by, and indeed in many cases have disappeared altogether. Some of the communities described have vanished, to be replaced by other communities and cultures. Fletcher's delightful pen and ink drawings bring to life historical buildings from several periods. For those of us who love London we can glimpse corners unknown that add to the multifaceted tapestry that makes up our capital city.

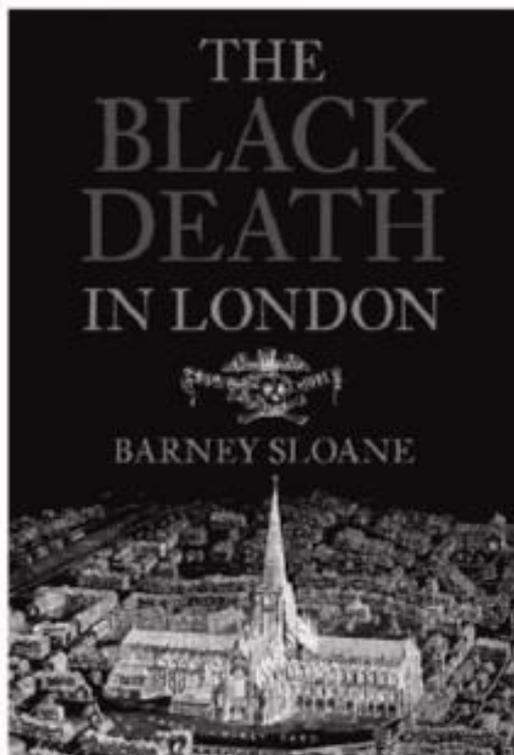


Tracing Your Ancestors by Simon Fowler (*Pen and Sword, ISBN 978 1 84415 948 2*) £12.99

There are several books to advise the newcomer to family history but Simon Fowler has been giving excellent advice on the subject for many years through his books and in family history magazines. His newest book gives clear and concise information not only on how to research your family, but on where to go and what you might find. He describes the steps you need to take and the records you need to see at each stage of your search. Pointers to particular topics are highlighted, making it easy to find what you want within each chapter. Well illustrated, this book is an excellent starting point for a newcomer just starting out on seeking out their ancestors.



The Black Death in London by Barney Sloane (*The History Press, 2011*) ISBN 9780752428291



The Black Death had a major impact on the history of our country but few of us know more about it than the fact that thousands died. London was one of the most densely populated cities of Europe at the time and it had a devastating impact. The terrifying arrival and onward march of the four outbreaks of the Black Death has been charted by using Wills made at the time (the date the Will was drawn up was noted on the document), royal, civil, ecclesiastical, and manorial documents, some of them new primary sources, and archaeological evidence. Well illustrated, with fascinating details, this is a well researched chronicle about a period with which few of us are familiar, but one which our ancestors must have lived through. A compelling read.

These books can be ordered through any High Street retailer.

HELP!

Rev. William HUNTER

Bridget Thurgate is researching the Rev. William HUNTER of Hanworth, who died in 1778. Does anyone, anywhere, know whether he left any diaries or paperwork? In his will there is no mention of any family but he asks for a memorial plaque to be placed in St. George's Church, where he had been the Vicar for 39 years. Was his wish granted? Any information, however small, would be hugely appreciated.

Bridget Thurgate, 10 Greenside Drive, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 3HX, tel. 0161 928 2808, bridget.thurgate@sky.com

Innholder

Edna Lennon is researching James MORGAN, who appears in the Extracted Parish Records for Buckinghamshire with the occupation of "Innholder". She has searched several websites of old trades but has not been able to find a definition for this Can anyone help her?

Edna Lennon, lennoned2003@yahoo04.com.au

Fred and Ronald BUTLER

Gwyn Williams, who lives in New Zealand, is trying to contact some cousins who lived in Shepperton, possibly in Watersplash Lane. Her father's sister, Polly CROWTHER, was born in Gomersal in Yorkshire and married Ernest BUTLER in 1911. They had two children, Fred (b.1911) and Ronald (b.1922). Fred moved to Shepperton, married Sophia A. CHALKER in Staines in 1936 and had four children: Donald (Don, b.1938), Edward (Eddie b.1941), Brenda I. (b.1942) and Patricia (Pat 1948 in Ealing). She remembers meeting the three younger children in the late 1950s early 1960s but has had no contact since. It is thought that Ronald may have worked in Hammersmith Hospital. Has anyone any information that would help Gwyn?

gwyn.williams@xtra.co.nz

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Census Transcription Errors - Muriel Sprott

The British Library (BL) recently held an exhibition called "Census 8: Society: Why Everyone Counts". Displays in the exhibition followed the life of Annie BESANT, social reformer, through the censuses.

By the time of the 1871 census, Annie was married to Frank BESANT. The caption to the census entry says, "... the form incorrectly gives her husband's name as Mark." Despite not being very skilled at reading 1871 writing, it was

clear that her husband was NOT named as Mark, but almost certainly as Frank. If the staff at the BL cannot read the census, no wonder the commercial transcription companies make errors.

Jane and William Faden - John Seaman

The Fleet Street addresses should not have been included in the article about Jane and William FADEN (Journal June 2011) as they were the addresses of Jane and William's father, who was also called William.

Battle of Waterloo Update - David Milner

In his article on his ancestor, who was a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo, Philip Sherwood quoted from a letter he received from the custodian of a database of the men who fought in that Battle.

I have received an offer from this custodian, David Milner, who says he is always happy to share the contents of his databases with other researchers, for which he makes no charge. He emphasises that he does not undertake one-name or blanket searches, but should his assistance generate information that he did not formerly hold, he would expect to be allowed to include such information in his databases for the benefit of future generations of researchers.

David Milner: battle.veterans@btinternet.com

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

Friday, 24th - Sunday, 26th February: Who Do You Think You Are? Live show at Olympia, London. Family History Fair.

www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk

Saturday, 21st April: Huntingdonshire Family History Society are mounting the BIG Family History Fair, a new venture in this part of England. Burgess Hall, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU, 10am-4pm. Admission £2, free parking.

www.huntsfhs.org.uk

Saturday, 21st April: Sheffield & District Family History Society Fair. 'Centre in the Park', Norfolk Heritage Park, Guildford Avenue, Sheffield, S2 2PL. 10am-4pm. Free admission.

www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk

Saturday, 26th May: Shropshire Family History Society Open Day and Fair. The Shirehall, Shrewsbury. 10am-4pm. Free parking.

www.sfhs.org.uk

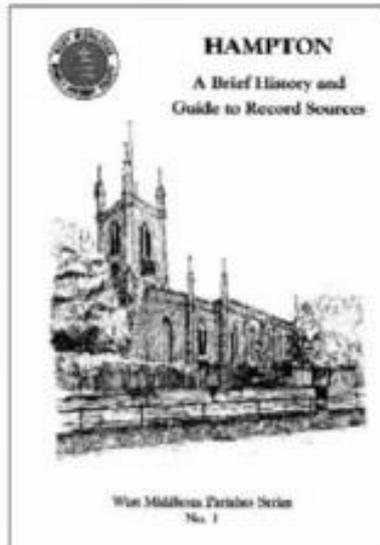
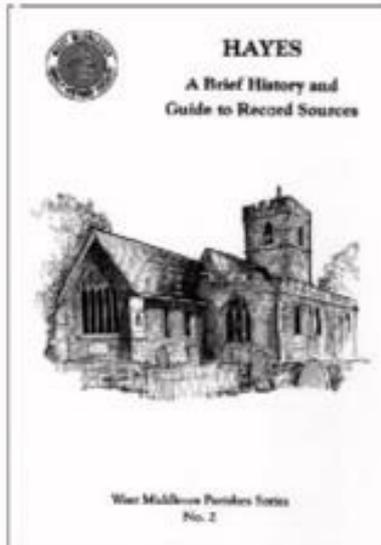
To keep an eye on family history events near you, go to:

www.geneva.weald.org.uk

WMFHS PUBLICATIONS

The Society produces the following publications.

West Middlesex Parishes Series



Each book includes a brief history of the parish, plus a guide to record sources.

No. 1, Hampton

No. 2, Hayes

£4.50 (incl. p&p)

Purchase from the Bookstall Manager: address inside front cover

War Memorials and Rolls of Honour



An indexed transcription of War Memorials and Rolls of Honour from West Middlesex, containing over 21,000 entries.

£6.50 (incl. p&p)

This CD is available from:

Mrs. Maggie Mold,
48 Darby Crescent,
Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5LA

It covers the following parishes:

Acton	Fulham	Heston	Shepperton
Ashford	Fulwell	Hillingdon	Southall
Bedfont	Greenford	Hounslow	Staines
Brentford	Hammersmith	Isleworth	Stanwell
Chelsea	Hampton	Kensington	Sunbury-on-Thames
Chiswick	Hanwell	Knightsbridge	Teddington
Cowley	Hanworth	Laleham	Twickenham
Cranford	Harlington	Littleton	Uxbridge
Ealing	Harmondsworth	Notting Hill	Whitton
Feltham	Hayes	Shepherds Bush	

Postcards of West Middlesex Churches

We have some delightful postcards of churches in West Middlesex. Pen and ink drawings in black and white, they have been produced solely for sale by the Society. The artists are: Ken HUCKLE, Ted DUNSTALL and Steve CALDER. The parishes covered are:

Ashford, St. Matthew
Feltham, St. Dunstan
Greenford, Holy Cross
Hampton, St. Mary the Virgin
Harlington, St. Peter and St. Paul
Harmondsworth, St. Mary
Heston, St. Leonard
Laleham, All Saints

Littleton, St. Mary Magdalene
Northolt, St. Mary
Shepperton, St. Nicholas
Staines, St. Mary
Stanwell, St. Mary the Virgin
Sunbury, St. Mary the Virgin
Teddington, St. Mary
Twickenham, St. Mary



The postcards can be purchased for two second class stamps from Mrs. Maggie Mold, 48 Darby Crescent, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5LA

INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. 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, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5JW

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 Secretary (address inside from 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

New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence: baptisms, marriages and burials, 1802-1837.

All enquiries, with SAE, to Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham TW2 6PS

Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George: baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881 and burials 1828-1852.

All enquiries, with SAE, to Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham TW2 GPS

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*

Chiswick Parish Registers, St. Nicholas: baptisms, marriages and burials, 1813-1901

All enquiries, with SAE, to Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham TW2 6PS

Ealing Parish Registers, St Mary: baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857 and burials 1813-1868

All enquiries, with SAE, to Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham TW2 6PS

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 Barrier, 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

Hanwell Parish Registers, St Mary: baptisms, marriages and burials 1813-1855

All enquiries with SAE to Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham TW2 6PS

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

Mr P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex UB3 5EW

Harmondsworth Parish Registers Baptisms, marriages and burials 1670-1837. Enquiries £1.00, or 3 IRCs 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. Enquiries £1 .

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

Newspaper Index Births, deaths and marriages, Court cases, accidents, etc. taken from local newspapers 1894-1925. Enquiries £1, plus s.a.e. *Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF*

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

Enquiries with SAE to *Mrs. Sarah Maidment, 51 Fern Lane, Heston, Hounslow TW3 0HN*

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

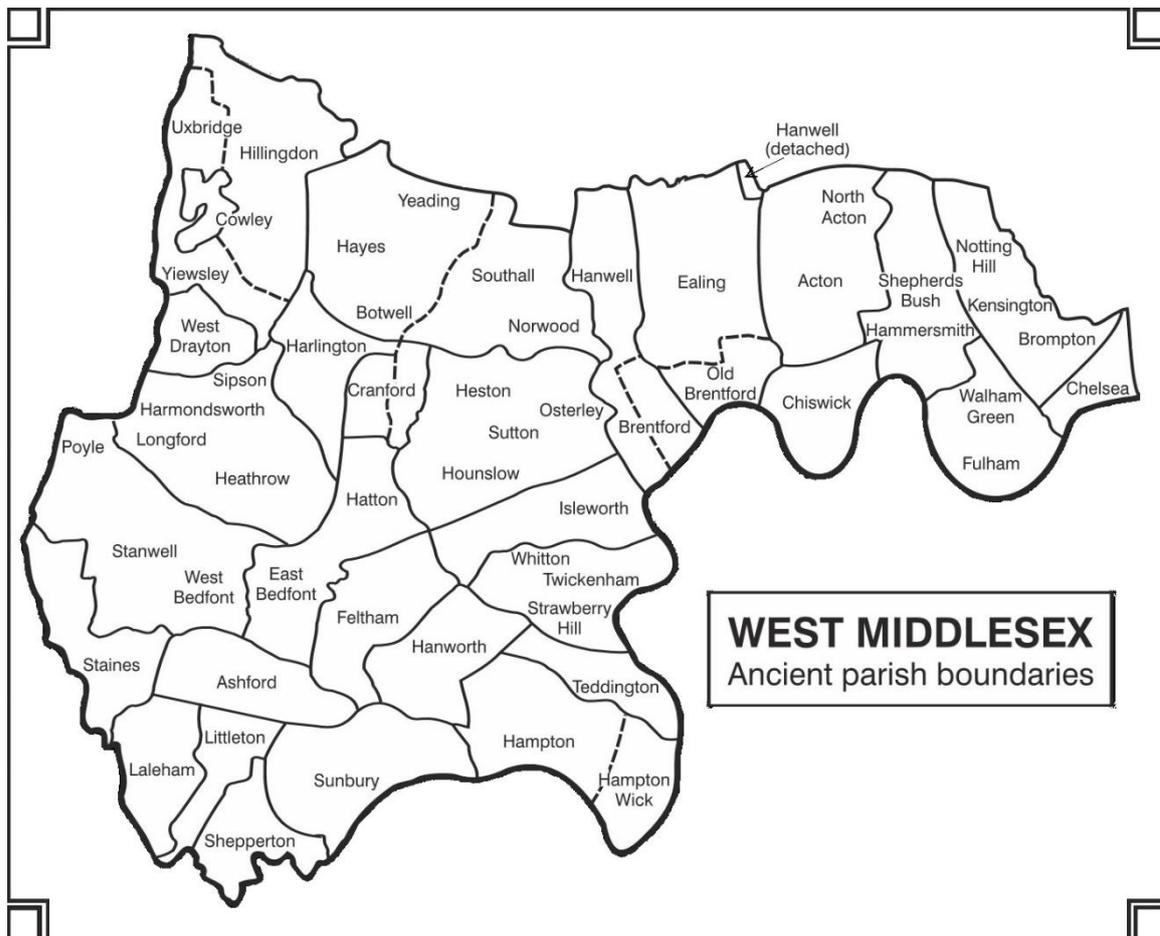
Postal Enquiries with SAE to *Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex TW19 7JB, or email: CasSweetland@aol.com*

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

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

Front Cover

Also known as the "Timber Cathedral of Middlesex" the Great Barn at Harmondsworth is one of the longest in England. It is 192 feet long, 38 feet wide and 37 feet high. It has twelve bays and three doors. The timbers date from around 1426 and most are still the original. It is open once a year for the "London Open House" weekend in September.



**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, Middlesex, TW2 7HX