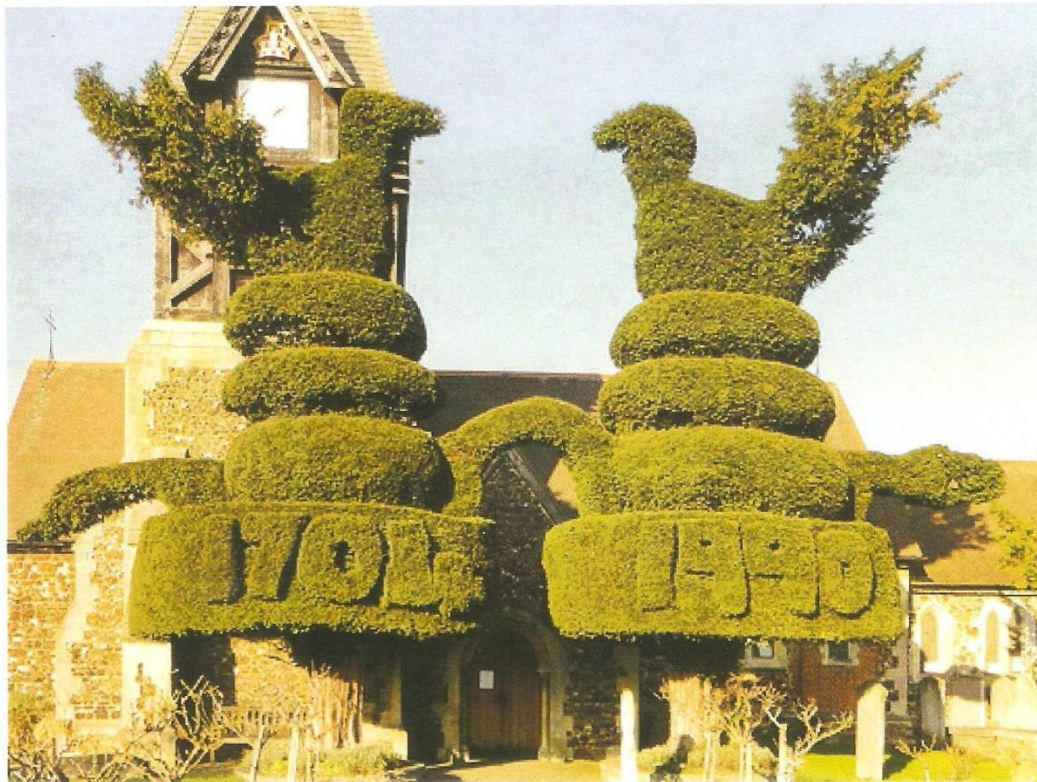




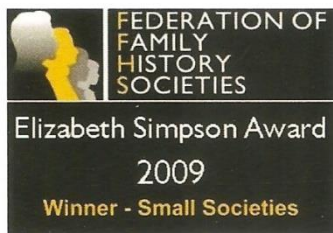
WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

Vol. 30 No.4

December 2012



The Peacocks at St Mary's Church, East Bedfont



ISSN 0142-517X

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Executive Committee

Chairman	Mrs. Pam Smith 23 Worple Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1EF <i>chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Secretary	Richard Chapman Golden Manor, Darby Gardens Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 5JW <i>secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Treasurer	Ms Muriel Sprott 1 Camellia Place, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7HZ <i>treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Membership Secretary	Mrs Betty Elliott 89 Constance Road, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 7HX <i>membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Programme Co-ordinator	Mrs. Kay Dudman 119 Coldershaw Road, Ealing, London W13 9DU
Bookstall Manager	Mrs. Margaret Cunnew 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 6PS <i>bookstall@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Committee Members	Claudette Durham, Dennis Marks, Joan Storkey

Post Holders not on the Executive Committee

Editor	Mrs. Bridget Purr 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, Berks RG19 8XW <i>editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Projects Co-ordinator	Brian Page 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6BU
Society Archivist	Mrs. Yvonne Masson
Examiner	Paul Kershaw
Society Web site	<i>www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Subscriptions	All Categories: £12 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December

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

Contents

A Lost Generation at Hounslow Gunpowder Mills	8
Annual General Meeting	7
Bookshelf	30
Dr. Christopher Thomas Watts	6
Found - Hiding in my Family History	16
Future Meetings	2
Indexes held by Members	36
Lendy a Sunbury Family, Part 4	18
Monthly Talks	24
New Members	35
Parish Notices, 1901	22
Paul Pry and Bo-Peep in Hayes, c 1840	21
Ravenscourt Park School	34
Society of Genealogists	34
Surname Interests	35
The 20 Year Rule	23
The Life of John Brazebridge	13
Up My Street	4
WMFHS News	3
WMFHS Publications	32
World Wide Web	28

© West Middlesex Family History Society and contributors 2012.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without permission. Articles in this journal do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor and the Executive Committee. The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that may appear.

All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:

Mrs. Bridget Purr
8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham
Thatcham
Berkshire, RG19 8XW

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

Mrs. Janice Kershaw
241 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham
Middlesex, TW1 4SY

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:

Mrs Betty Elliott
89 Constance Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 7HX

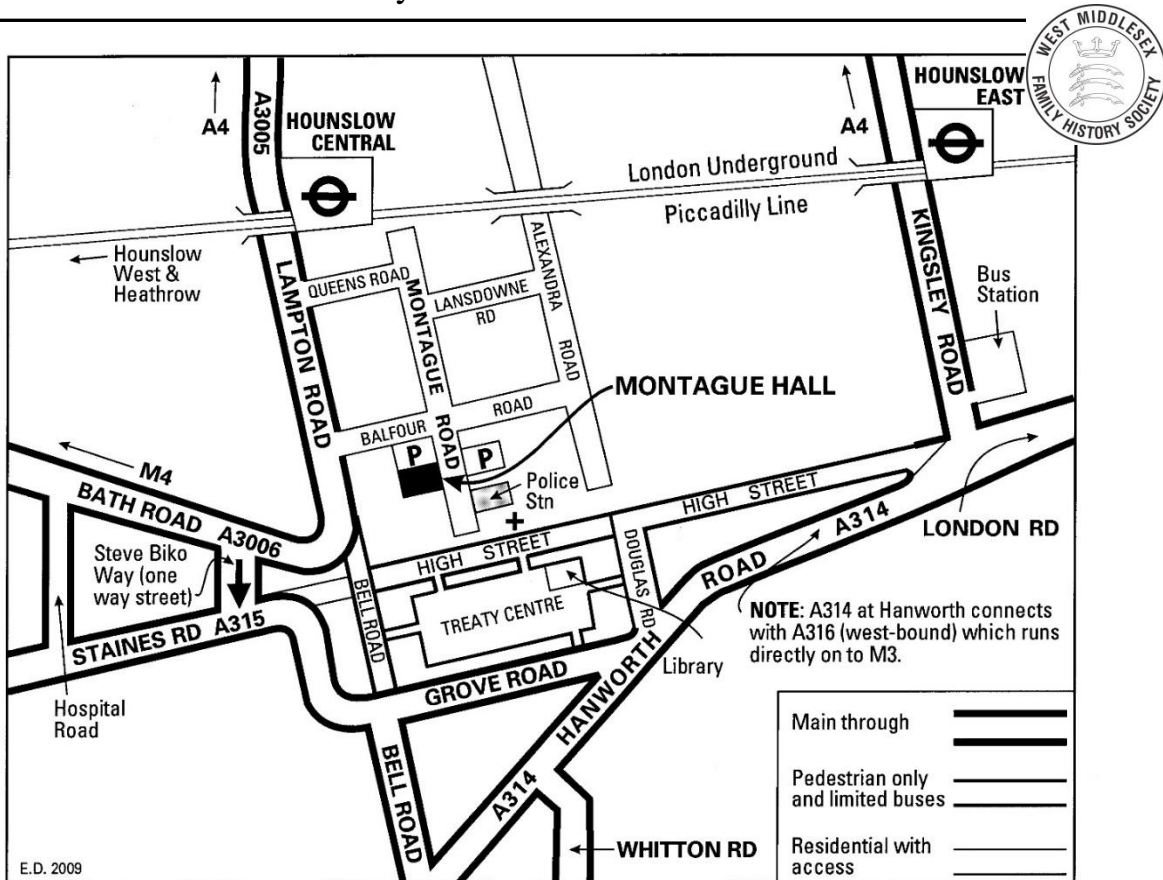
FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

- 20 Dec The Story of Pantomime *Alan Ruston*
 and the Christmas Social
- 17 Jan Researching medieval and early modern ancestors . . *Jonathan Oates*
- 21 Feb Housing the workers in London: The birth of social
 housing 1850-1914 *Martin Stilwell*
- 21 Mar AGM and The loss of Irish Records: fact and myth . . . *Jill Williams*

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.



WMFHS NEWS

Our Open Day was dogged by heavy rain and high winds, but it was good to see so many people defying the weather to pursue their love of family history. Many West Middlesex members attended and everyone benefited from the many societies and organisations that we were able to offer for research and advice.

Our sad news this quarter is of the death of one of our founder members, Dr. Chris Watts, our first Vice Chairman. A much loved lecturer and regular attender at our monthly meetings. I am sure I was not the only one who, faced with a family history problem, found that Chris was their first port of call. Many members attended his funeral and an appreciation of his life can be found in this Journal.

I would like to let everyone know that the Hammersmith and Fulham Archives at Lila Huset is now open on Mondays between 10am and 4pm. Another piece of good news is that there is a rumour that since the GRO has put its online indexing project on indefinite hold, Ancestry is doing some digitisation, although it will not be complete.

Please make note of our forthcoming AGM, you will find details in the Journal and we hope as many of you as possible will attend. Contrary to many AGMs that I have attended for other organisations, we usually have a very good attendance, so please keep up this excellent record.

My in-tray is virtually empty, so if you would like to have a Journal of any substance in March, please let me have some articles. I am happy to receive them in any format, as long as they are legible!

Last date of submission for articles for printing in the subsequent Journal:

7th January 7th May 7th July 7th October

You will find your subscription renewal in the centre of the Journal. I know that our Membership Secretary will be very pleased if you could renew promptly. If for any reason you decide not to renew for next year, she would also be grateful if you could send her an email to that effect, it does help with the general administration of the Membership List if she has that information.

Finally, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and hope that you have a successful year of research in 2013.

Ashford, Middlesex - 1950s - 1970s

How many of us have started our family history by trying to interview older relatives — only to discover they have forgotten their stories or, even worse, have died? Time plays tricks on our memories, as I recently discovered when visiting my hometown of Ashford. Where was Job's Dairy in Church Road? It had been replaced by housing! In fact, the dairy had not operated for very many years - all that was left was a derelict shop front. In my mind it had never changed.

Church Road, the main street in Ashford, is dramatically different from the 1950s to 1970s when I walked or rode my bike to school. At one end the Town Tree roundabout was surrounded by rough land before the flats were built. Despite the warnings from our parents, we children frequently played in the dips and bumps there.



St. Matthew's Church - where I was christened and married - is consistent with my memories of the vicarage and detached older houses opposite. They are a lingering image of Church Road before the influx of shopping parades. The largest shop I recall was the Co-op, where an assistant cut chunks of cheese with a wire and we saved our Green Shield Stamps to buy goods we could not afford then. There was a grocer's close by where I pushed for the purchase of PG Tips so that I could collect the cards inside. I think BROCKWELL's, the greengrocers, was also nearby. No supermarkets in those days!

Next to the church was CRAIG's the butchers, a tobacconist, a newsagents and the cycle shop on the corner opposite to the Astoria Cinema - where we whiled away many happy hours watching Dr Who and spaghetti westerns. Further down Church Road on the right was Mary Jane's Pantry - a baker's and teashop, alongside solicitors, estate agents and my doctor's surgery next to the telephone exchange and The Grammar School.

Opposite, the Italian Restaurant GENZANI's, served the most delicious, homemade tomato soup. Next, I recall my dentist's surgery in one of the old fashioned houses, with the Midland Bank beyond. On the other side of the road, I don't know what was there before the library was built. There was a strange confectioners, with shelves, floor to ceiling, full of glass jars full of sweets. There were penny fruit salads, sherbert dips, flying saucers and liquorice sticks.



Church Road, Ashford

Here we bought ice cream - but it was only available in a small brick between two oblong wafers - the only other choice an orange lolly!

My mother worked in GARNERS, estate agents, for some time. We both enjoyed fresh cream slices from the baker's opposite and the jokes related by Bill HOWLETT, the photographer next door to her office. Alongside the bakers were the butchers, Woolworths, a men's clothing shop and, on the corner, opposite where Kwik Save was built, MORGAN's stationers - a wonderful place to buy ink for our fountain pens. In that row of shops were BETTINA's dresses and a double fronted haberdashers shop. As schoolgirls, we often giggled at the oversize underwear and old-fashioned vests in the window. Later, BREAKSPEAR's Chemist was a wonderful source of information, support and great care, where Anthea, the pharmacist, helped so many local people and their families. Thankfully, The Royal Hart Pub is one of the landmarks that remain today (I hope) after which stood the Fire Station and the Post Office where I started my first savings book.

Do let me know if my memory played tricks on me? How do you recall your high street? Photos can record a moment in time - yet our memories reveal so much more about the place they portray and ourselves. In amongst the birth, marriage and death certificates, our stories, however patchy, provide an important insight into how we lived. Local and social history offers important clues to our family history. Please write down your own stories for your descendants and other historians trying to picture the past through your eyes.

Glynice Smith, 4 Chester House, Prospect Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5BW
Tel: 0208 449 7802 Email: GlynisS@aol.com

Images: Ashford Church: © photosofchurches.com Church Road: © oldukphotos.com

Dr. CHRISTOPHER THOMAS WATTS 1942 - 2012



In his working life Chris was a systems analyst with Plessey Siemens but having taken early retirement due to ill health at the age of 55, he got more and more involved with family history. His interest was initially aroused in 1968, when he and his brother found an early marriage certificate among their father's family papers. They set off for Somerset House for further research and the seed was born. A founder member of West Middlesex Family History Society, he was our first Vice Chairman. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Society of Genealogists and also a Vice President of the Federation of Family History Societies.

From 1997-2009 he became a member of the staff of The National Archives (TNA) as a part-time reader adviser and then continued to work as a volunteer cataloguer for the "Friends of the TNA". Chris, with his brother Michael, published several books: *My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman*, *My Ancestor was in the British Army and Tracing Births, Deaths and Marriages at Sea*. He co-authored with Kelvin SMITH, *Records of Merchant Shipping and Seamen*, which is considered to be the seminal work on the subject. He contributed to TNA's *Tracing Your Ancestors in the Public Record Office* and the Reader's Digest *Exploring Your Family's Past*.

He was a prolific lecturer, not only in this country but in America, Canada and Australia, where he was a regular contributor to the tri-annual Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry. The following are some extracts from the eulogy given by Michael GANDY at Chris's funeral, and is published here with his permission.



"Chris joined the Society of Genealogists in 1972 and he first got widely known when he published an article on how he found the birth place of a soldier ancestor, when he had no idea which regiment the man was in. It was typical of Chris - a model of analysis of the methodology followed by persevering, systematic research over many months.

"Chris was thorough. He did his homework. Near enough would not do. He was always kind, polite, gentlemanly, calm. Whatever Chris said was logical, informed, well-thought-out. If you didn't agree with him he was quite happy

to go through it again but, best of all, if the committee decision went against him he never took it personally. He loved explaining things to people; he was good at thinking outside the box and would often take a problem which had stumped someone for years and produce a whole new game plan by the genealogical equivalent of 'I wouldn't start from here'.

“Chris suffered a lot with his health and, in writing this tribute, I looked to see where I would say something about that and I almost forgot because he didn't mention it. When you asked he would tell you but it did not dominate his life. His interests were elsewhere and the troubles he had, increasingly for thirty years, were bravely - and silently - borne.

“Family historians spend their lives summing up dead people - it's what we do. So Chris would have accepted that he has become Christopher Thomas WATTS 1942-2012, systems analyst and family historian. But then we need a sentence to sum him up — the phrase to put on a park bench or in a memorial book. For me this is summed up by the thought I had whenever I was at TNA and looked around at lunch time and saw him . . . I thought, “Oh good!”

	<p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on</p> <p>Thursday, 21st March, 2013 at 8.00pm</p> <p>at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow</p> <p>Reports will be presented by the Chairman and Treasurer and members will be asked to accept the accounts for the year 2012 and elect accounts examiners for the coming year.</p> <p>Elections will be held for officers and members of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>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, 2013.</p> <p>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 2013.</p> <p>Richard Chapman Golden Manor Darby Gardens Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5JW</p>	
--	---	--

A LOST GENERATION AT HOUNSLOW GUNPOWDER MILLS

Chris Hern

The gunpowder mills on the River Crane at Bedfont were established in the 17th century. In 1757, responding to the demand for gunpowder in the Seven Years War, a manufactory was developed further downstream - in the parish of Twickenham, but always known as Hounslow Powdermills. In the 1820s it was owned by Curtis & Harvey, who also acquired the Bedfont works in 1833. In the 19th century it was the most important local employer, with over 300 workers, drawn from all the surrounding communities. The works extended over 100 acres, with the complex production process passing through a succession of 'houses', widely separated to minimise the impact of explosions. Nearly 100 workers died in explosions in these 'danger' houses in the century to 1875. Workshops where constituent materials were prepared, where services such as cooperage, tailoring, tin making and carpentry were undertaken, and packing sheds (employing women) were regarded as safe, but still subject to a stringent safety regime.

Generations of families worked at the mills. Ernest ALDERMAN, writing about his first days working there in 1920 as a 14 year old leaving school, was following his grandfather, with nearly 40 years' service, his father an engine driver, probably looking after one of the three large stationary steam engines that each provided power for six incorporating mills, and his mother who had also been a packer there.

He had to start at 6am, and leave at the entrance lodge any matches and tobacco. His first job was to collect water and clean up the wash house. Next he had to get the men's dinners from the cupboards in the tower and warm them in an oven. He was shown how to harness and look after horses and after a month became a cart boy transporting powder around the mills. He was taken to all the danger houses and instructed on the many essential safety precautions. The learning process with its emphasis on safety, necessary for new young workers at the mills, would have changed little over the years, except of course that in the 19th century boys at the mills could be even younger.

The story of another worker who started at the mills as a young boy; half a century earlier, in 1869, was found in the *Willesden Chronicle* for 7th February 1943, by Mike DAY, a genealogist, and fellow member of the River Crane Friends Group. This was a short article about the life of Richard John HURST, who had died in Hounslow in his 85th year. More information on his 57 years of service at the mills was reported in the *Middlesex Chronicle* of 29th May 1926. Richard's father, grandfather and elder sister all worked at the mills and

Richard started aged 12, making tins in the Japan shop at 6s a week. His first years at the mills were traumatic because of several tragic accidents that claimed the lives of many of his friends.

On June 17th 1869, three men and a boy died after an explosion in the upper glazing house. The flash from the explosion traversed 150m over the surface of the mill pond and ignited powder in an underground store. The men, Samuel GARDINER, 31 from Hounslow, Richard PULHAM, 57 from Feltham and William PENFOLD, 40 from Hanworth, were standing nearby the store, next to an engine house powering a line of incorporating mills, all of which were



demolished. Fifteen year old Albert George HOLLOWAY, who lived in Hounslow, was passing by on horseback and was blown a considerable distance and killed. The explosion breached the mill pond embankment wall, draining the pond and flooding the lower part of the works. The clock face located on the factory tower was shattered, the hands stopping at ten

minutes to four. (This building, now known as the 'shot tower without a clock', remains on site as the visitor centre to Crane Park, with its gunpowder history and nature reserve, managed by the London Wildlife Trust).

Three years later, on 6th September 1872, four more boys died in a double explosion when powder was being moved from a mixing house on to a punt to be taken to the next stage of the process. George COBB, 28, in charge of the boat also died. One of the boys, James COOPER, aged 17, was looking after the horse and cart being used to carry the barrels from the mixing house to the platform next to the boat. James had not worked long at the mills - in the 1871 census he is to be found working as an ostler at the Old Crown, Church Street, Kingston.

Frederick LYNCH, also 17, who died in the mixing house, had been at the mills for an even shorter time. In 1871 he was the Toll Keeper's assistant and living at the Tollgate House at the Bell Road gate in Hounslow. He would have started at the mills just three months before the explosion, in June 1872, when tolls were abolished and the gates removed. One report suggested that Frederick had just arrived at the mixing house bringing flagons of water. Two other boys who also died in the mixing house: William PALMER aged 15 from Feltham, and Stephen MAY, aged 16, who lived with his family next door to George COBB in Hounslow, were certainly employed there.

At the inquest the thoroughness of the searching of workers was questioned, and suggestions were made that the explosions were caused by a boy lighting a cigarette in an idle moment. The jury could not determine how the explosion was caused, but added a rider that there should be greater care in searching workers.

Although the lack of experience of the boys was not raised, their maturity appears to have been questioned. Probably in answer to Captain SMITH (the Government Gunpowder Mills Inspector) Edward GODDARD, called as a witness, said that he was in a weighing room close by, preparing materials for mixing and was blown into the water, he “never left the boys for more than a quarter of an hour at a time”. They were “well conducted seldom being seen laughing or ‘giggling about’”. But like all boys of that age, when friends arrived they would be diverted, and attention to the strict demands of safety could be forgotten.

The Times newspaper took up this concern, doubting whether “at any age boys can be trusted to be as careful as such work requires”, and suggesting that the public will “feel wonder at hearing that boys are employed in so dangerous a place as the mixing house of a powder mill [in which] a single act of foolhardiness may involve a whole neighbourhood in disaster.”

100 years earlier, Horace WALPOLE had expressed a similar concern for nearby property, as his stained glass windows and those of his neighbours were blown in. Over the years however there was also concern for the work force, both in the national press and at inquests, in particular that into the 1859 explosion - with Thomas WAKLEY as Coroner - and these contrasting responses deserve examination in a later article.



Interior of a mixing house

The rebuilt mixing house was the scene of another tragic accident two years later on 3rd November 1874. Eight mixed charges were about to be taken on to the incorporating mills. One charge caught fire and the rest instantly ignited; there was no escape from the flames and fumes for the four men in the mill who were suffocated and roasted. The new building had been lined with wood to limit danger from grit, and this increased the force of the fire.

The four who died were young men of a similar age to Richard HURST: Stephen BUTLER 18, and John DAY 22 from Feltham; William Henry ARCHER 20, and George TODD 22, from Hounslow. The leading man, named as William GODDARD, but possibly the same man who was a witness to the earlier incident, was outside starting to load the cart, Josiah CHAPMAN, aged 17, stood between him and the mixing house door. When the fire started both ran to the nearby river and jumped in. William GODDARD was seen to be burnt about the legs, Josiah was more severely burnt and died from the effects of his injuries on 9th November.

Richard HURST was 17 in 1874, and would have seen or been aware of the deaths of nine friends and colleagues similar in age or slightly older - but he stayed with the firm for 52 years more, putting in many long shifts during the First World War. The Inquests into the deaths in 1874 were less thorough than that of 1872. An adjournment to enable a Government Inspector to attend was ruled unnecessary by Coroner Thomas DIPLOCK. A juror asked if it would not be better to employ older and more experienced hands on such a dangerous occupation, and Joseph BROWN, the Manager of the works, responded, “No, quite the contrary, they were engaged in the least dangerous process there is in the manufacture of gunpowder”.

At the second inquest, into the death of Josiah CHAPMAN, the Manager fended off a juryman’s comment that explosions took place at the Hounslow Mills more often than anywhere else, by saying that they were quite as frequent at other mills but being near London more notice was taken of the occurrences. The latter was probably true: it was the proximity not just to London, but also to the arcadian residential environments of Twickenham and Richmond, that prompted press commentary. Nevertheless, analysis of the available statistics suggests that explosions causing fatalities were more frequent at the Hounslow Mills than at Waltham Abbey, Faversham, or Dartford — though fatalities elsewhere in some explosions had been greater, including the 21 who died during early guncotton manufacture at Faversham, amongst them five women.

Although mixing houses may have been safer than the mills undertaking pressing or corning, contrary to Joseph BROWN’s assurance it was also a dangerous process. In mixing house explosions two had died at Gatebeck, Cumberland, in 1859; four at Faversham in 1867; one at the same place in 1872. Just as relevant was the mixing house explosion at Hounslow in April 1857. A blue flame light was seen flickering, and knowing at once what would happen amongst so much combustible material the instant cry of “fire” was raised and then, “run for your lives”. Three workers were quick enough to run out and reach safety; two others were injured by the blast and debris.

Significantly the hands were described as “youths” and “lads”, suggesting that it had long been the practise to employ younger workers on this process.

There were to be later mixing house fatalities elsewhere, notably five dying at Faversham in 1906, but at Hounslow 1874 saw the last of the explosions with multiple deaths. Until closure over 50 years later in 1926, only two older men were to die in explosions, one in each of the glazing houses, and one man in a fire.

There had been legislation in 1860 to increase safety in making, transporting and storing gunpowder and other explosives, but despite being added to piecemeal, control and enforcement were lacking. Major MAJENDIE was appointed Chief Inspector of Explosives at the Home Office in 1871, and with his team undertook a systematic examination of working practices in the industry, noting the many violations of the law and making many recommendations to factory managers for safety improvements. As he reported to the Parliamentary Select Committee in 1874, all too often their advice was ignored, one factory failing to take notice of ten separate safety improvement recommendations. The Committee heard from Mr CURTIS, as a major factory owner; he - and other owners - was supportive of tougher legislation with enforcement powers but wanted it to be reasonable in its impact on the better run works.

In October 1874, the explosion of gunpowder in a barge on the Regents Canal resulted in the deaths of only the crew but caused havoc and panic, destroying a house and damaging much other property, including the Zoo. A detachment of Horse Guards was called out to maintain order and to provide safety from wild animals.

The minds of Members of Parliament became suitably focussed on the dangers of gunpowder and the Explosives Act was passed the following year in 1875, requiring the licensing of factories and storage, regular inspections, and including enforcement provisions. Curtis 81 Harvey adopted a stringent code of practice the following year, when the Hounslow works gained its ‘Continuing Certificate’. There were still many explosions, principally in the unattended mills where the powder was ‘incorporated’. In fact Hounslow and Glyn Neath, Wales, also owned by Curtis 81 Harvey, had significantly the worst records with averages of one explosion a year; but as I have described fatalities were rare and no more young lives were lost.

If any members have found a death certificate where the cause of death is through an accident in a powdermill, Chris would be very pleased to receive details in order that a full roll of those who died can be established. Chris Hern: chris.lani@blueyonder.co.uk.

A list of those who were killed in explosions and accidents in the powdermills will appear in the March edition of the Journal.

A Competition entry

John BRAZEBRIDGE was baptised on 21st March 1816, at Emneth, on the Norfolk-Cambridgeshire border, the eldest son of Samuel and Mary BRAZEBRIDGE. Mary died in 1833, aged 50, and was buried on 3rd February. Two years later Samuel married Elizabeth SOUTHWELL.

Farm work was on the decline. The Industrial Revolution was affecting the farming way of life, with poor wages for those who were still employed but many farm labourers were being laid off to be replaced with machines that could do the work faster than many men.

On 8th October 1836, John travelled the fifteen miles to Kings Lynn and enlisted in the Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards. He must have cut quite a dash in his uniform, as he stood 5ft 10in tall, with brown hair, light brown eyes and a fair complexion. John was stationed at St. John's Barracks, London.

During this time he met Mary BAKER, who was working as a family servant in Marylebone. Born in Inkpen, Berkshire, in 1807, Mary was nine years older than John. They married at St. Luke's Parish Church, Chelsea in August 1843. They married again on 31st March 1845, at the Church of St. Peter ad Vincula, which is in the grounds of the Tower of London; both gave their address as Tower Liberty.

Second marriages to the same person were not unusual within the army at that time. It is possible that the first marriage took place without the permission of John's commanding officer, which was an offence. By making the marriage 'official', Mary would have been eligible to live with John in married quarters, although most of these were very squalid and quite primitive at the time. Married quarters were usually a corner of the main barrack room, cordoned off by a curtain. The room would have housed families and soldiers all together.

Before gaining permission to marry, the character of the prospective bride was carefully examined. Only a small number of soldiers were permitted to marry, which allowed the wives to sleep in barracks and to undertake such regimental duties as cooking, cleaning and laundry, which was a source of income to soldiers' wives. Obviously Mary met all the criteria, her life in service had taught her all these skills. She was 38 when she married for the second time, therefore not likely to have a large number of children to distract her from her duties. In October of 1843 John received his first good conduct medal. He received another medal in October 1845. By 1846 John had been promoted to

Corporal: every promotion and medal meant an increase in pay and on 8th October 1846 his pay went from 1d. to 2d. per day. Four years later, on 12th June 1850, he was again promoted, this time to Sergeant. He received a third good conduct medal in October 1851.

Throughout his service the main role of the Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards was to perform ceremonial duties. Then in July 1853, the Russian Army invaded Moldavia and Wallachia and in February 1854, when the British Fleet set sail, the Grenadiers were on board. John served at Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol. He sustained a wound to his right leg at Inkerman, which left a scar.

It is possible that Mary went with John to the Crimea. During peacetime some women and children were allowed to accompany their husbands, but during conflict only a small number of women went. Any wife wishing to accompany her husband put her name forward and a ballot was held on the day of departure. If Mary had volunteered she would probably have been accepted, as she had no children. Life was not easy living in tents in extremely foul conditions. John received another promotion on 6th January 1855, to Colour Sergeant.



*Badge of the Grenadier
Guards*

On Christmas Day 1855, he got drunk and spent two days locked up. This was completely out of character for John: he had served nineteen years exemplary service, without a stain on his character. At a Court Martial on 28th December, he was reduced to the rank of Private, a position he held until his service ended in 1858. This also affected his pay, which was reduced to 2d. a day, although it had been restored to 3d. by October 1856.

John left the Grenadier Guards on 30th June 1857, to serve with the Elthorne Militia for a further nine months, finally leaving the army on 13th April 1858. With an army pension Mary and John settled in Colham Green, Hillingdon, where they ran a beer house. From the hustle and bustle of army life to a quiet little hamlet, the daily routine must have been very different for both of them. Although childless Mary, then aged 51 and John aged 42, were probably looking forward to taking things easily in their retirement.

I can only speculate at what happened between 1861 and 1868, as during this time Elizabeth Ann EVANS became a lodger.

Elizabeth was born in 1849 in Harmondsworth, Middlesex, the only daughter of William EVANS and Ann ALLDAY. I have not found any death registration for Ann but by 1861 Elizabeth was living with her grandparents, James and

Elizabeth ALLDAY, in Hillingdon. Her father was a general servant living in Langley, Berkshire, a widower. He later married again and had five more children.

Elizabeth gave birth to John's illegitimate daughter, Alice Brazebridge EVANS, on 16th March 1869. Poor Mary, was she still around? How must she have felt? Was she devastated at the intrusion of this young girl? Mary was 62 years old and childless, Elizabeth was 20. Did John abandon her for Elizabeth? Was the humiliation too much that she left under a cloud of shame?

Perhaps not. Maybe she had left by the time Elizabeth arrived. The life that Mary was leading in the tiny hamlet of Colham Green was a world away from what she had been used to. When she met John she was living in Marylebone. For over 20 years she had lived in barracks, surrounded by people. Although life was hard and not very comfortable at times, there was a busy social life, mostly organised by the women. Perhaps she became bored with the isolation of life with just her and John.

The 1871 census, taken on 2nd April, shows John as the head of household with Elizabeth EVANS and Alice Brazebridge EVANS as lodgers. Mary was living in Chelsea, working as a charwoman: she died from heart failure on 19th August 1871, aged 64. Two weeks later, on 2nd September, John and Elizabeth married, he was 55 and she was 22. They had five more children: William 1872 (my great grandfather), Susan 1875, Elizabeth 1878, Mary 1880 and John 1883. In the 1881 census John and Elizabeth were running the Cricketer's Army pub in Colham Green, Hillingdon. John died on 16th January 1886, of congestion of the lung. He was 69, his youngest child, John, was just three years old.

Still living on Colham Green and working as a laundress, Elizabeth gave birth to another son, Arthur George, in 1888 (father unknown). Arthur died aged one year and ten months, from sudden congestion of the lungs; the father's name on the death certificate was given as John BRAZEBRIDGE! Elizabeth married Daniel AXTERN on 9th March 1890. They lived in Williams Road, Ealing, with four of her children. Edward Henry AXTERN was born on 4th October 1890. He died shortly after. Their marriage was short lived as Daniel died in 1900. By the 1901 census she had moved to Avenue Road, Ealing: her daughter Mary PALVEY, and Mary's family were living with Elizabeth. Elizabeth had a lot of tragedy in her life: her mother died when she was very young and at least two of her children died. Her surviving children all married. William and John became printers at Messrs. MACKENZIE's Printing Works, but I have been unable to find out where this company was. Elizabeth died of congestive heart failure, aged 89, on 23rd October 1938, at 52 Manor Road, Whitstable, Kent.

A Competition entry

My mother always said that my grandmother had disapproved of her marriage to my father. She claimed she was told that she had ‘married beneath her’, so when I first started looking into my family history I hoped to find some illustrious forebears on her side of the family. What I hadn’t expected to find were a sad tale of fratricide and a curious saga of a hit and run driver.

It was while I was looking into the descendants of Robert HOUSE and Mary PITT, who were married on Boxing Day 1766, in Hillingdon, Middlesex, that I uncovered the story of the case of fratricide. My mother’s great grandmother was Charity HOUSE, who was born 2 September 1808, in Iver, Buckinghamshire. Her aunt, Sarah HOUSE, married John BROWN on 12 July 1800, in Denham, Bucks. Their great grand daughter, Ada Ellen BROWN, was born 3 February 1874 in Kensington and had emigrated to New Zealand, arriving in Auckland in December 1899. She married Stanley CHAPMAN in Ponsonby, Auckland, on 16 May 1901, and they subsequently had seven children born between 1902 and 1918, including Stanley and Bruce.

The “fearful tragedy involving the loss of two lives” was reported in the *Waikato Times*, New Zealand, on 3rd December 1928. Apparently, Stanley CHAPMAN, who was 21, had been suffering for some time from bouts of depression and had twice been sent away to recuperate. At the time of the shooting, he and his brother Bruce, aged 16, were largely responsible for running the family sheep farm, since their father was in ill health. It was thought that the responsibility for the farm was getting Stanley down, so on the Saturday night, his sister suggested that they should go to the pictures to cheer him up.

The film was a comedy, unlikely to have caused the lad to have any murderous thoughts, but later that night the sister was woken up and heard someone moving about in the house, followed by moaning coming from the boys’ shared bedroom. Bruce was discovered lying in his bed in a pool of blood, a rifle shot wound in the left-hand side of his head. A search of the grounds was made and Stanley was found lying on his back, a bullet wound through his forehead. Although both boys were alive when discovered, neither was able to make a statement. I believe verdicts of murder, and suicide while the balance of mind was disturbed, were recorded.

The CHAPMAN family was held in the highest respect apparently and people who knew the boys could not believe that Stanley, so quiet and so gentle, could have been guilty of such an act. The two brothers were said to have been most

affectionate towards each other. This was a really sad story but unfortunately, I have found other occurrences of depression in the family.

Charity HOUSE, mentioned above, married Stephen WOODRUFF and it is the WOODRUFF family which provided the tale of the hit and run driver. Stephen had a brother, James Leonard WOODRUFF who had a son, Albert, who was my first cousin three times removed. The following item appeared in the Times on 13th February 1879:

“At Guildhall ALBERT WOODRUFF, Clarence Road, Clapton, the proprietor and driver of cab 1828, appeared to an adjourned summons before Alderman Stone to answer the charge of recklessly driving and injuring a child. On the 28th January, about half past 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the defendant was driving down Bishopsgate Street at the rate of four or five miles an hour. He turned suddenly into Acorn Street as three children were crossing the road. Two of them escaped unharmed, but one little girl, aged 10 years, the daughter of Mr. George White, was knocked down by the defendant's horse and trampled on. The defendant drove on and did not stop until a man named Isaacs ran after him and threatened to punch his head if he did not do so. Alderman Stone thought Isaacs had acted very creditably. The defendant, it was added, then came back with his cab and took the child to hospital. Mr.

Clarke, house surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital stated that the child was injured on her finger and had a wound about four inches long on her leg. He thought the injuries were more likely to have been caused by the horse's hoof treading on her than by the wheel going over her. Alderman Stone said that he had not the slightest doubt that the defendant had driven with great negligence in going round a corner. There was great carelessness on the part of drivers going round corners of narrow streets at a furious pace. The defendant had been fined before for misconduct and he would now have to pay 20s and costs for the furious driving and he would award the child 40s as compensation*. The defendant said that he had no money to pay. Alderman Stone then said that he must go to prison for 14 days. Ultimately, the defendant paid the money.”

I was amused that the defendant who said he had no money managed to find it when the alternative was a spell in prison!

So, my mother's ancestors weren't quite so illustrious after all. Could I find any better on my father's side? Curiously, I did. Not long after the war, my family was visited from America by Grace WOLFE and her grandson, Charles HOLLEY. Grace was my father's first cousin, once removed, and she wrote an extremely informative history of the ALSTON family. She had previously made a trip back to the UK in the late 1920s, when the photo below was taken with two of her cousins. Her mother Marion ALSTON, sister of my great great grandmother, Agnes ALSTON, had married Thomas ARMSTRONG and emigrated to the USA from Scotland. Grace had four grandsons and one of them, Robert HOLLEY, shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology in 1968. He pioneered research into the genetic code of DNA and its function in protein synthesis. I never met Robert, but I did eventually make contact with Charles again and visited him at his home in Longridge, California shortly before he died in 2003.



*Archibald (my grandfather, left) and John Barnett, his brother,
with Grace WOLFE*

I had found a murderer and a dangerous driver in my mother's family history and a Nobel prize winner in my father's. Maybe my father had 'married beneath him', and not the other way round!

I am indebted to Irene ALLEN for the information on the deaths of Stanley and Bruce CHAPMAN and to Robin WOODRUFF for the case of Albert WGodruff.

*Using per capita GDP as an indicator of relative worth, £3.00 would have been worth about £2,000 at 2010 values.

LENDY, A SUNBURY FAMILY, Part 4

John Seaman

A correction: Lendy Part 3 (December Journal, 2011) contained an unfortunate error. The memorials in Saint Mary's Church and the Walled Garden in Sunbury both record that Charles LENDY died during January 1894. The conflicting information is whether he died at Bulawayo and from peritonitis following an internal strain, or at Tati from inflammation of the bowel after eating and drinking to excess.

His younger brother, Edward Augustus William LENDY, the second son of Auguste and Sophia LENDY, was born at Sunbury on 3 February 1868.¹ He was educated at Haileybury School from 1881 to 1883² and attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, from 1886 to 1887.¹ As a Gentleman Cadet he was

commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the West India Regiment on 21 December 1887³ and he was promoted to Lieutenant on 31 July 1889.⁴ On 25 February 1890, he was appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order “for operations against the Slave Traders at Foulah Town and its vicinity on the West Coast of Africa”.⁵ The investiture by Queen VICTORIA was at Osborne House on 19 August 1890.⁶

The announcements of his secondment as Inspector General of the Sierra Leone Frontier Police (SLFP), with the local rank of Captain, from 19 August 1891 are confused.⁷ There were newspaper reports of military actions in West Africa by British Forces which included Captain Edward LENDY, of the capture of Tambi in 1892,^{8,9} and the investigation of a reported incursion of French Forces at Heremakovah in 1893.¹⁰ On 27 September 1893, Edward LENDY was transferred from the West India Regiment to the Sherwood Foresters (Derbyshire Regiment) with the rank of Captain.¹¹ He was awarded a medal, with two clasps, for his service in West Africa.”¹²

An expedition of men of the West India Regiment and the SLFP under the command of Colonel ELLIS was sent against Sofars, who were causing serious disruption in Sierra Leone. News of an attack on the British Force’s camp at Waima by a French Force was received in this country in January 1894. Captain LENDY was one of those killed during the attack.”¹³ A book¹⁴ about the Sofars, their exploitation of other African people by murder and enslavement, includes information about the attack at Waima, and includes a detailed map of the camp and an illustration of the burial of the officers who were killed.

The French were commanded by Lieutenant MORITZ, who was mortally wounded. He was brought into the British camp and received medical treatment. He explained he thought he was attacking Sofars. Captain LENDY and two SLFP constables had been shot by their own men. The author of the book believed that the expansionist policies of both Britain and France in West Africa made an accidental attack similar to the one at Waima inevitable and that this attack led, in part, to the establishment of the *Entente Cordiale* between Britain and France. A notice of LENDY’s death was published in *The Times*.¹⁵ An account of the expedition written by Colonel ELLIS, which was published in February 1894,¹⁶ acknowledged the role of the men of the West India Regiment at Waima but it did not record the ill discipline and negligent fire of the SLFP.

Edward LENDY's sister, Violet, wrote a poem in remembrance of her brother.¹⁷ It included,

*Ah, God! then a bullet flew flaming
As though on swift lightning it sped
Flew true to the mark of its aiming
The heart of the hero who led....*

This shows that she had either not remembered who fired and killed her brother, or had ignored it.

On 15 January 1894, the Royal Humane Society awarded medals to Edward LENDY and three other men for saving the life of Constable M. BAN GURAH in the Rokelle River during November 1893.¹⁸ Two pictures of the late Captain E.A.W LENDY on an operation against the Sofar were published during February 1894.¹⁹ One shows him being carried in a litter by four tall native bearers and the other shows him and another officer with men of the SLFR a Maxim gun and a 'seven pounder'.

The British Government claimed reparations from France for their action at Waimer."²⁰ It was heard, together with a French claim about a different incident, by Baron LAMBERMONT. His adjudication about the Waimer incident was in favour of Britain and an award of £9,000 was made,²¹ from which Edward LENDY's mother received £2,000.²²

A stone memorial to all the British and French who died at Waima was unveiled there on 20 October 1933 by the Acting Governor, Captain C.E. COOKS ON. He was accompanied by Monsieur PALADE, the Acting Governor of French Guinea and Madam PALADE.^{23,24}

Notes and References

1. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* online.
2. ES Milford [ed.] *Haileybury Register 1862-1891* (1891) p.213
3. *The London Gazette* 20 Dec 1887 p.7066
4. *The London Gazette* 15 October 1889 p. 5431
5. *The London Gazette* 25 February 1890 p. 1044
6. Court Circular in *The Times* 21 August 1890 p. 7 col.e
7. *The London Gazette* 17 February 1891 p.884, 22 May 1891 p.2728, 18 August 1891 p.4938, 19 August 1891 p.4439, 15 September 1891 p.4894
8. *The Bury and Norwich Post and Suffolk Standard* 10 May 1892 p.2
9. *The Penny Illustrated Paper and Illustrated Times* 14 May 1892
10. *The Morning Post* 18 April 1893 p.7
11. *The London Gazette* 26 September 1893 p.5433
12. The National Archives (TNA) WO 100/76
13. *The Times* 6 January 1894 p.5 col.a
14. B. Freestone *The Horsemen From Beyond* (1981)
15. *The Times* 10 January 1894 p.1 col.a
16. *Supplement to The London Gazette* 28 February 1894 pp. 1289-1298
17. Violet Sidney *Waima and other Verses* (1898)
18. *The Times* 16 January 1894 p.5 col.b
19. *The Illustrated London News* 3 February 1894 p. 141
20. Command Paper Cd.673 3 April 1901
21. Command Paper Cd.107615 July 1902
22. B. Freestone *The Horsemen from Beyond* (1981) p.240
23. TNA CO 267/643/12
24. *The Times* 16 November 1933 report p. 13, picture 18.

Here is another gem from the 19C Hayes press by two 'journalists'.

Poor old Chuter and Lollypop Jack, the grocer, have been trying to find out how it is Paul gets hold of everything. Chuter knows well that his Giovanni tricks will not do; besides would that amiable young lady, Miss Smith, have anything to do with such an old bloak (sic) as himself, when she has her dear Doughy to supply her with yeast. Chuter take Paul's advice, pay more attention to business and don't trouble your head about parish affairs. Lollypop John and you would provide a very good pair of asses to run abreast in a curricule.



"Gluttony" a 15C woodcut by Albrecht Dürer

Monthly gorge on the snobs at the White Hart Inn. This fraternity has formed a club to make a jollification every month, when a most extraordinary supper is provided - mutton at each end, turnips next, and murphies in the centre ...head carver John Smithers; deputy Mr. Pigram alias No guts; turnip, Murphy and bread servers, Messrs Oldacre alias Brag Shag Dorman alias the Cracked Snip, and Billy Woodruff alias Gambler. When all the lap stones are properly adjusted they begin to gorge like wolves; but man-wife to wit, who were shamed out of the room for having their pockets crammed with mutton and turnips! Order being restored, the company unanimously called up the Chairman for "Harry Bluff" which was sung in right good style.

Found in Tavistock by Robin HOARE: the 1901 parish magazine for Holy Trinity Church, Chelsea. It gives in interesting insight into the work of a Well-to-do parish in the Edwardian era. Here is another extract.

Pimlico Ladies' Association for the Care of Friendless Girls

Vice-President of Rescue Committee:

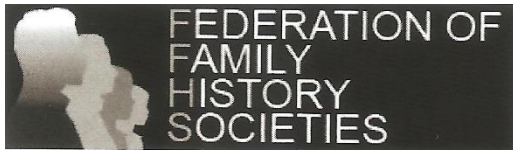
ADELINE, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD

The Rescue Committee of the Pimlico Ladies' Association desire to enlist your interest and support in their endeavour to raise a sum of about £50 annually for the support of a Mission Woman, who would work in the neighbourhood of Chelsea Barracks, among the fallen girls who frequent these streets. She would get to know them, and, if possible, induce them to abandon their unhappy calling. The presence of a Mission Woman would also be a safeguard to the young servants who either go out in the evening, or stand at area gates and are often molested by soldiers. The Secretary of the Association, Miss M. Flood JONES, 96 Grosvenor Road, SW, would receive subscriptions from any householders anxious to protect their young servants, and to improve the condition of the streets. The military authorities are very desirous for some such effort to be made for the sake of the men.

(Signed) A. HAN BURY TRACY,
Vicar of S. Barnabas, Pimlico;
President of the P.L.A.
Rescue Committee

HENRY E. J. BEVAN
Rural Dean of Chelsea;
Preb. of S. Paul's
Rector of Upper Chelsea

THE 20 YEAR RULE



The Federation of Family History Societies has issued this Government bulletin, which I am printing in full as I feel it is of interest to family historians. Ed.

Government confirms transition to ‘20-year rule’ will begin from 2013

The Government will move towards releasing records when they are 20 years old, instead of 30, from next year, making thousands of historical records public much earlier than previously possible.

From 2013, two years’ worth of government records will need to be transferred to The National Archives over a 10 year transition period, until a new ‘20-year rule’ is reached in 2023. After this point, government will revert to transferring a single year's worth of 20 year old records to The National Archives each year.

The move from a 30-year rule represents a major change for government and must be managed in an affordable way. As such, a phased approach will be adopted. The transition, beginning in 2013, will apply to the majority of public records transferred to The National Archives and 70 institutions that act as their own place of deposit, with the exception of records selected for transfer to one of the 16 local authority places of deposit, where the impact of introducing the change now could outweigh any benefit. The intention is to commence a second 10 year transitional period for these organisations from 2015, subject to the outcome of a full impact and cost assessment.

What is The National Archives doing for local authority places of deposit?

Local government is facing additional budgetary constraints and we want to ensure the balance of burden and benefit to local authority places of deposit and their local communities is maintained despite challenging circumstances. As a result, ministers have agreed that impact and costs of introducing a ‘20-year rule’ must be established before these archives begin transition to ensure implementation is managed in an affordable and transparent way.

We are working to help ensure that the transition to a ‘20-year rule’ has minimal impact by:

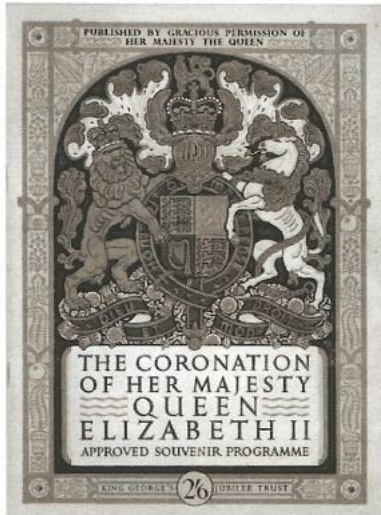
- involving these organisations on the impact and cost assessment
- identifying efficiencies in record selection and transfer process and providing updated guidance,
- ensuring any benefits resulting from the first transition are shared with local authority archives.

To find out more, go to the TNA website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Jubilee Street Party (July)

Our Members' Evening in July was a purely social occasion and took the format of a street party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The long tables were decorated with union flags and we even had fish paste and spam sandwiches. Members were invited to bring coronation memorabilia and as well as photographs of the coronation, there was a copy of the Approved Souvenir Programme, plus a booklet given by the London Borough of Acton to all school children in the Borough, and a beautiful golden copy of the state coach. The most interesting item was a pair of lady's knickers, emblazoned with "Silver Jubilee, 1977" and we were invited to guess to whom they belonged!

BP

**Firemen's Records: Ken Duval (August)**

In place of the scheduled talk, Ken Duval gave us a resume of what records are available for firemen and where they can be found. Fire Insurance Companies blossomed after the Fire of London and if you can discover the date your ancestors took out fire insurance, it is possible to find out online where those records are held. The London Metropolitan Archives holds some records, particularly for the period 1866-1926. It is important to note that many records are affected by a 100 year closure notice. The National Archives do hold some records, but they are mostly orientated towards administration. The London Fire Brigade Museum in Southwark Bridge Road has an archive, which includes the Fire Magazine Journals from all over the country, all books written about the fire service and the World War II Incident Books from West Ham.

*Hampton Fire Station c.1918*

However the future of the museum is uncertain but if you would like to pay a visit, you need to telephone them first. The Imperial War Museum has stories of personal incidents concerning fires and many photos, but no personal documents. Local newspapers are a good source of information, as fires, large and small, were reported.

Prior to 1939, look in parish records and those of the local Watch Committee. There are very good records in some County Record Offices but different archives hold different records, so you will have to check what is available. In some remote areas during the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century there were only volunteer brigades but some of these were eventually absorbed into the regular Fire Brigade. Large factories had their own fire brigades, e.g. ICI and Imperial Tobacco: the Captain would be employed full time but the firemen would be ordinary employees of the company.

Firemen were not called up into the Army, but the services all had their own fire services - the Army Fire Service was based in Aldershot and has now been handed over to the Ministry of Defence, but the RAF still retains its Fire Service.

Ken's main advice was that you need to use all available sources and to search for information online. BP

From Portugal and Jamaica to Staines and Farnham: living with horticulture in the family: Gordon Barnett (September)

Our September speaker began by saying that as a genealogist and horticulturist, this evening he would be combining the two. Of Anglo-Sephardic Jewish heritage (Sephardic meaning Spanish), he told us first of his research into his family tree. On his mother's side the family name was originally FONSECA-PIMENTEL, a Castillian Spanish family name borne by a number of eminent people such as a former President of Brazil, a Prime Minister of Spain 1623-4 and a certain Marquesa FONSECA-PIMENTEL, 1752-99, who was hanged for siding with the Republicans during the French Revolution.

FONSECA-PIMENTEL was originally two separate families, these combination names often being joined at the time of a marriage. FONSECA was an ennobled Gallician family with a Coat of Arms, but the name is also found in other countries such as Italy, even Sri Lanka — Gordon has so far found some 57 variations on the name. Family members tended to be academics and close to the throne — Manuel de FONSECA was the Spanish Court Physician in the 1400s. It is also the name of a port wine, a cigar, a Brazilian football club and of a fictitious island in the West Indies for which a number of people made fruitless searches.

PIMENTEL originates with a seller of peppers from Castille, with a noble status going back to the 1400s. However, the family were thrown out of Spain and

Portugal during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella and many went to South America, especially Brazil and Argentina, then up to Mexico, the USA, the West Indies, and Canada. Many of the FONSECAs who settled in the West



Plantation House

Indies were involved with the sugar cane industry. A picture of a typical plantation house demonstrated that owners could become wealthy. There was inter-marriage between owners and slaves so that a lot of Jewish people were black.

Gordon's family had plantations in Jamaica and property in the USA, and were among the first American Jewish families. Isaac FONSECA came from there to Britain. There are records in

London of FONSECA-PIMENTELS, especially in East London between 1700 and 1900. Jewish records were well kept from the 16th century onwards; there has been a Sephardic synagogue in London for several hundred years.

One non-Jewish ancestor was a CLARKE, from an ag lab family from Beachamwell, Norfolk. Growing sugar beet was the main local industry and labour-intensive. The crop was closely-planted so no weeds could grow between, but the introduction of herbicides put people out of work. Gordon's great grandfather, Edward CLARKE, became a locomotive driver, came to London and married Rosa SOLOMONS, whose family had a fruit and vegetable business in Covent Garden. Edward and Rosa's child Sophie married Gordon's grandfather, Henry FONSECA, and their daughter Rose married his father, a BARNETT.

Gordon was born in Staines and grew up there. Prior to coming to Staines the family had moved to Southend, which was being developed in the early 1900s and a lot of people moved there from the East End, to live near the sea. As the area was becoming dangerous during the War, his family moved to Staines, but this was just half a mile from reservoirs so was also a target for German bombs. The family were bombed out and re-housed, moving to Laleham where he went to school. At six years old he would walk a mile to school alone, sometimes scrumping apples en route - there were still local farms growing fruit and vegetables on the good loamy soil. Some of the farming families lost land as it bordered on the growing London Airport.

Gordon trained as a biochemist, but later bought land in Camberley, Surrey and started a nursery and garden centre when the latter were just coming in. In the 1960s it was unusual for plants to be grown in pots, but the idea came from Central America where large 'tins' were re-used to grow shrubs etc., and from the early 1970s plants such as conifers and shrubs were grown in containers in this country.

Most nurseries were family businesses, often run by a husband and wife. Some nursery business names in Surrey were NEWINGTON, ELLIOTT, GODFREY, STREET, HIGGS, WATERER, STRAVER and DAVIS. Ringo STARR owned land at Tittenhurst Park which he sold to John LENNON, and this is where the film of LENNON singing 'Imagine' was made.

Gordon now lives in Farnham, where once the main industry from c1550 was hop growing. If people owned an odd acre of land, they grew hops in addition to other employment - hop-grower William LOCKERBIE also made breeches, Robert TRIMMER was also a carrier. With an ideal soil, loam on chalk, Farnham hops were world famous and growing them was lucrative. In April the vines were tied up on strings, men walking on stilts to reach them. In September the hops were harvested and along came the hop pickers; this was their annual

holiday, living in tents and sheds for several weeks. Gypsies also came, and arguments often broke out.



Hop pickers in Ashford, Kent

The hop growers made money and Farnham was a prosperous town. But there was a lot of thieving, so some of the owners took to using artificial money — this led to some of the earliest commercial banks being started in the Farnham area.

From 1873 the hop trade started to decline, with more reliable and bigger crops being grown overseas and a new preference for lager from abroad; hop production died out by the 1970s. There is only one hop field in the Farnham area now, but once land from Farnham to Alton was nearly all hop fields. Farnham Maltings is now an Arts Centre and the headquarters of the local U3A. YM

Images:

West Indies plantation house: © *videocompendium.com*

Hop pickers: © *bbc.co.uk*

WORLD WIDE WEB

A selection of new databases that have come online.

- New records from Ancestry include: London Land Tax Records 1692-1932; Dorset parish records, some as early as 1538 and some up to 2001; Merchant Naval records of Masters and Mates Certificates, 1850-1927; Trade Directories 1770-1941 for Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire; Articles of Clerkship 1756-1874 contains records associated with articles of clerkship for young men apprenticed to attorneys; Colonial Secretary's Papers from New South Wales, Australia, include requests for marriage, land grant applications, petitions from convicts, etc.
www.ancestry.co.uk
- British Origins has added to their Wills Index with 326,000 testators now available in the Lancashire Wills Index; 15,300 testators from Surrey wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1736-1794;
www.origins.net
- 110,000 Greenwich burial records from Greenwich Cemetery and Eltham Cemetery have been added to the Deceased Online website.
www.deceasedonline.com
- Have you footballers in your ancestry? There is a new website hosted by the English National Football Archive with lots of data from 1888. Free searches but a subscription of £5 is required for viewing full match line-ups and player statistics.
www.enfa.co.uk
- New material on Find My Past includes: Church of England records for the historic Archdeaconry of Canterbury; marriage records for Lincolnshire, 1700-1837; parish records for Rugby and Southam in Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Surrey; new baptismal and burial records for Middlesex, 1538-1890, including Acton, Chelsea, Cranford, East Bedfont, Feltham, Fulham St. James and St. Mary North End, Hammersmith St. Peter, Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hanworth, Harlesden, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Heston, Hounslow, Kensington St. Barnabas, Laleham, Littleton, New Brentford, Norwood Holy Trinity and St. Mary the Virgin, Old Brentford St. George, South Acton All Saints, Southall Holy Trinity and St. John, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington Chapel, Teddington Methodist Church, Twickenham (East) St. Stephen, West Drayton, Whitton, and many others; over 2,000 records for men who received plastic surgery from Dr. Harold GILLIES between

1917 and 1925; First World War records from Oldham: the Oldham Employers' Roll of Honour 1914-1920 and the Oldham Pals, 1914-1920; RAF Muster Roll for those in the service when it was formed on 1 April 1918; 8,900 prisoners held captive on prison ships or hulks, 1811-1843.
www.findmypast.co.uk

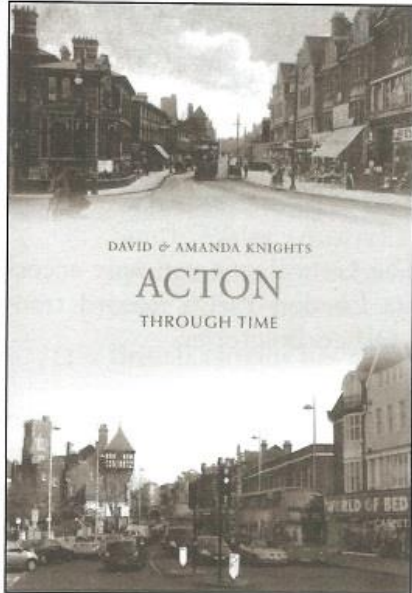
- A new military records collection website has been launched by Forces Reunited. It is intending to put 14,000 new records of Japanese prisoners of war online. There are already Sm. military records on this website, which includes those from all three Services.
www.forces-war-records
- Gold and Diamond subscribers to The Genealogist can now access another 147,000 individuals from its London Parish Record transcripts, also some Kelly's London Post Office directories.
www.thegenealogist.co.uk
- The National Archives are putting the enrolment forms for those who joined the Home Guard between 1940 and 1945 online, the first release will be of those who served in Durham; service records for other ranks of the RAF and its predecessors, the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service are searchable by name.
www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk

Some websites you may find useful:

- British Association for Adoption and Fostering: <http://baaf.org.uk>
- Family history service by Dr. Barnardo's: www.barnardos.org.uk
- Directories of Victorian and Edwardian photographers:
www.early-photographers.org.uk
- Find a grave: www.findagrave.com
- Links to professional researchers: <http://GreatAunty/ilice.com>
- Historical directories for England and Wales:
<http://historicaldirectories.org>
- Victorian London A-Z street atlas:
<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/hitch/gendocs/lon-str.html>
- South Australian births, marriages and deaths before civil registration:
<http://jaunay.com/earlybdm.php>
- Convicts to Australia:
<http://members.iinet.au/~perthdps/convicts/index.html>
- Free resource for sharing information about BMDs in Canada:
www.olivetreegenealogy.com/can/bdm/index.shtml
- Record of WW1 war memorials: www.roll-of-honour.com

BOOKSHELF

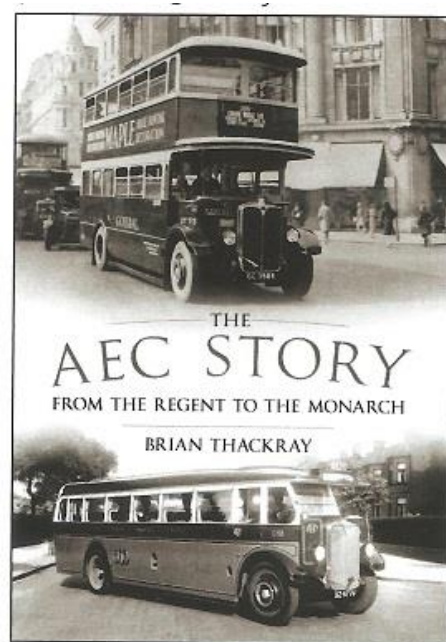
Acton Through Time by David and Amanda Knights (Amberley Publishing 2012) ISBN978 1 4456 0867 9 £14.99



This book is another in the delightful series whereby historic photographs and postcards are contrasted with the scene as it looks today. In this edition the archive pictures are from the decade 1900-1910. For a suburb so near to London it is surprising how little many of the scenes have changed. Acton must have escaped much of the bombing of the Second World War and the subsequent redevelopment of many of the 'villages' around London. Some of the light industrial buildings have been demolished but the churches, the schools and the Victorian housing have changed little. For anyone with Acton connections this book is a must as this is where your ancestors (or indeed yourself) must have walked.

The AEC Story by Brian Thackray (Amberley Publishing 2012) ISBN 978 1 4456 0390 2 £25.00

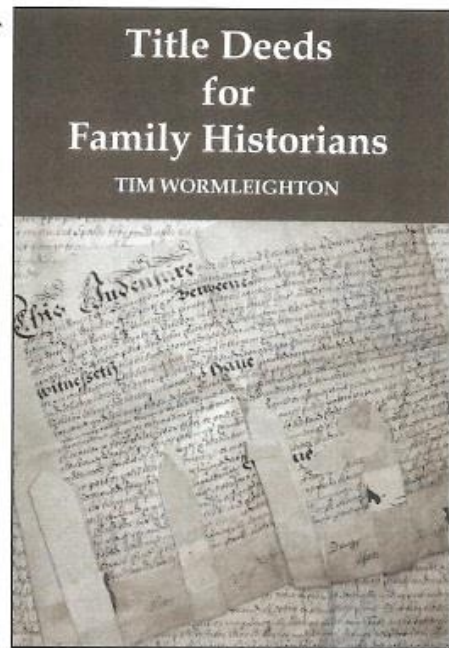
The Associated Equipment Company Limited, known as AEC, built buses and trucks in Southall between 1929 and 1979 including the famous and much loved Routemaster double-decker buses operated by London Transport. This book is very much for the bus and commercial vehicle enthusiast or those who worked in the factory. It chronicles the life of the company and its part in the development of the high speed oil engine, military and off-road vehicles and also railcars built for the Great Western Railway. Well illustrated both with photographs of vehicles and many line drawings of different types of chassis.



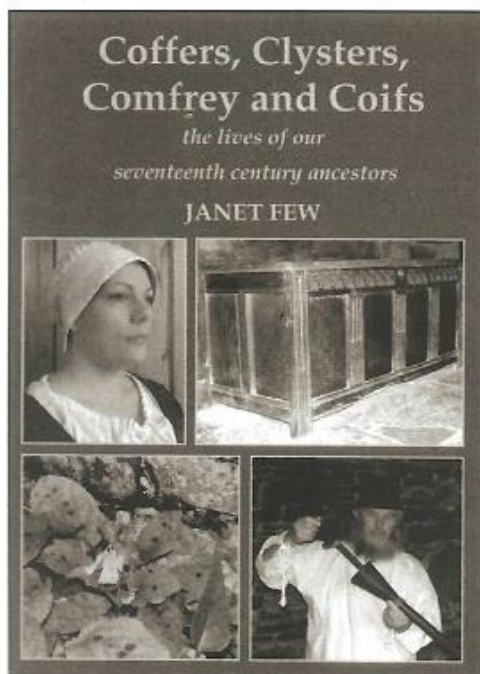
Both these books can be purchased from any High Street bookshop.

Title Deeds for Family Historians, by *Tim Wormleighton* (*The Family History Partnership*) ISBN 978 1 906280 35 2 £4.95

Title deeds are one of the largest groups of historical documents that survive, yet are little used by family historians as being too difficult to unravel the long winded legalise in which they are written. This booklet attempts to unlock these mysteries and allow us to make use of this rich resource. The kinds of title deeds that can be found are divided into medieval deeds and post-medieval deeds and the different types in each category are clearly explained. The final chapter gives advice on how to pick out the relevant sections, making such a daunting task more manageable. Clearly set out this is a very useful guide for unravelling these, sometimes enormous, but exceedingly important documents.



Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs, by *Janet Few* (*The Family History Partnership*) ISBN 978 1 906280 33 8 £12.95



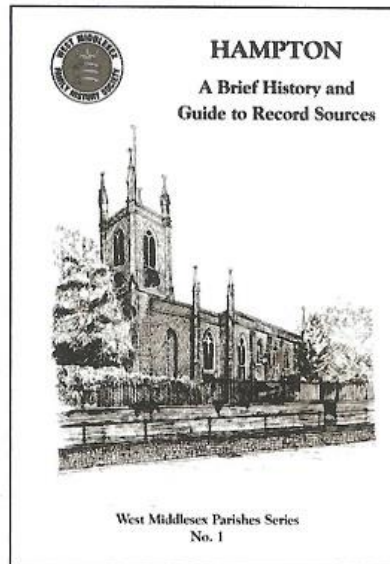
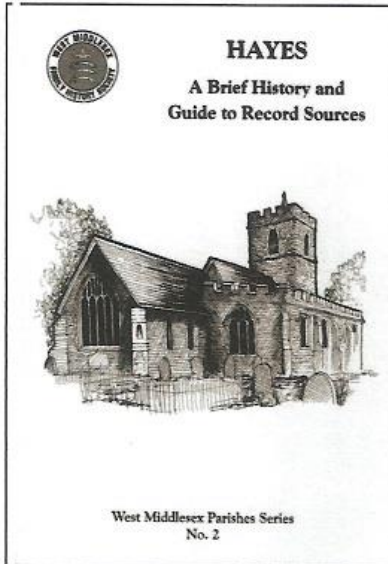
Subtitled “the lives of our seventeenth century ancestors” this book attempts to put our forebears into their context. With wonderfully alliterative chapter headings, e.g. “Besoms, Battledores, Butter and Bees: household tasks”, and “Bucket-tops, Bodices, Bum Rolls and Britches: clothing”, every part of our ancestors’ home lives is dissected in a way that helps us to understand how they lived their lives and the reasons for doing what they did. Beautifully illustrated throughout, this fascinating book would make an excellent Christmas present for all who love history. There are extensive bibliographies at the end of each chapter.

These two books can be purchased from The Family History Partnership, 57 Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BL0 0BZ
www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com



The Society produces the following publications.

West Middlesex Parish 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:

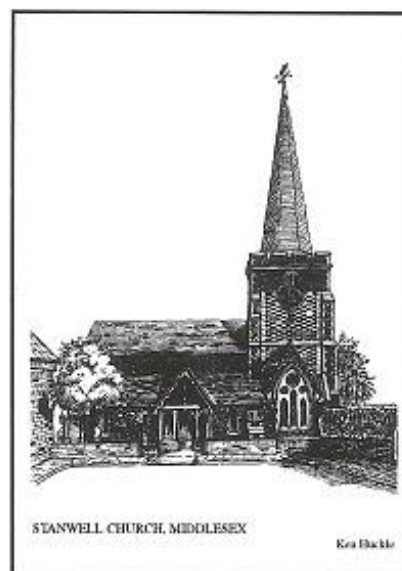
Ashford, St. Matthew
Feltham, St. Dunstan
Greenford, Holy Cross
Hampton, St. Mary the Virgin
Harlington, St. Peter and St. Paul
Harmondsworth, St. Mary
Heston, St. Leonard
Laleham, All Saints

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



ST PETER & ST PAUL, HARLINGTON

Ted Dunstall



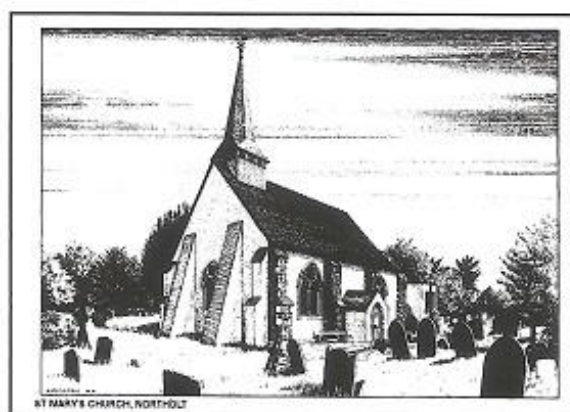
STANWELL CHURCH, MIDDLESEX

Ken Huckle



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SHEPPERTON, MIDDLESEX

Ken Huckle



ST MARY'S CHURCH, NORTHOLT

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

I have been given an album of photographs, most of which were taken Ravenscourt Park School, and which had belonged to (Ruth) Audrey BRYANT.

The only dates are 1932 and 1934.

Some of the people named in the 'snaps' are:

I. AARON	J. GEORGE	Miss PULHAM
Miss ARMSTRONG	M. GIBSON	A. RICHARDS
C. BANKS	M. HALE	D. RICHARDS
E. BARKER	E. HARRISON	E. ROBERTSON
Miss BARKLIE	P. HARRISON	J. SANDIPORD
Miss BAYLEY	Miss HAWKER	P SCHWARTZ
Miss BENSON	N. HAYWARD	E. SIMMONDS
E. BERRIMAN	Miss HOLLAND	E. SMITH
L. BRIGGS	M. JONES	M. SMITH
B. BROMSGROVE	N. KIDSTON	H. SPRECKLEY
K. BROWN	B. KIMBER	P SMYTH
L. BRUCE	M. LOCKE	A. TATHAM
R. BURNE	C. LOW	J. THOMAS
Miss CHRISTIAN	I. LYNES	A. TREVOR-ROPER
Miss CHRISTISON	J. MCGEE	H. TURNBULL
D. COLLINS	I. MILLER	Mlle VOGEL
Miss CONSTANDUROS	M. NIXON	B. WARD
H. DOWN	Q NORTH	Lady WARDEN
J. EDGINGTON	K. PACKER	Miss WALKER
J. PAULKNER	B. PARRY	A. WOOD
Miss FISHER	N. PERCY	Miss WOOD
M. GATTY		

Free to a good home. If anyone is interested in this album, please contact me.
Muriel Sprott: muriel_sprott@o2.co.uk



The Society of Genealogists is holding an
Open Day on 12 March, 2013, 11am – 4 pm
free library tours, lectures and family history
advice. Free to all, but must be pre-booked
through the events department:

tel. 020 7553 3290

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



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.

S268 Glynice SMITH, 4 Chester House, Prospect Road, New Barnet, Herts
EN5 5BW *glynices@aol.com*

T88 Miss M. TRANTER, 40 Camms Road, Monbulk, Victoria 3793,
Australia *melanietranter@bigpond.com*

SURNAME INTERESTS

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

Surname	Dates	Place	County	
Member				
ADAMS	19C	Chelsea	MDX	S268
ADAMS	18-19C	Holborn	MDX	S268
BARKER	18-19C	St. George, Hanover Sq.	MDX	S268
EALES	1800- 1840	Kensington	MDX	T88
EALES	1800-1900	Chelsea	MDX	T88
EALES	1800-1940	Fulham	MDX	T88
EELES	1750-1800	Chelsea	MDX	T88
FRY	18-19C	Acton	MDX	S268
FRY	18-19C	Chiswick	MDX	S268
FRY	19-20C	Chelsea	MDX	S268
MINNS	19-20C	Isleworth	MDX	S268
MINNS	19-20C	Twickenham	MDX	S268
MOORE	19-20C	Chelsea	MDX	S268
PAYNE	19-20C	Twickenham	MDX	S268
SIMMANS	19-20C	Chelsea	MDX	S268
TAYLOR	18-19C	Westminster	MDX	S268
WOOD	19-20C	Holborn	MDX	S268

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 FHS INDEXES

Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TI/V16 51W chapmanrg@f2s.com. Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.

Marriage Index. Pre 1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Please supply places/ dates/ surname variants if known.

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

Mrs. Wendy Mott, Z4 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP wendymott@btinternet.com

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.

West Middlesex Strays. People from or born in our area, found in another area.

Mr. Ted Dunstall, 43 Elers Road, Ealing, London W13 9QB

West Middlesex War Memorials. Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, 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.

PARISH RECORDS

Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, Z5 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, TW2 6PS

Chiswick Parish Registers, St. Nicholas. Baptisms, marriages, burials 1813-1901.

Ealing Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857, burials 1813-1868.

Hanwell Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1813-1855.

New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1802-1837.

Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George. Baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881, burials 1828-1852.

*Mr. P Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW
psherwood@waitrose.com*

Harlington Parish Registers. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1540-1850.

Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP wendyrnott@btinternet.com

Harmondsworth Parish Registers. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1670-1837.

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF.
mavikensib@aol.com*

For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.

Hayes Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1557-1840

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

Isleworth Parish Registers, All Saints. Baptisms 1566-1919- marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942.

Isleworth Register of Baptisms: Brentford Union Workhouse, Mission Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, extracts from Register of Baptisms.

*Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB
carol.sweetlancl@btinternet.com*

Stanwell Parish Registers. Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES

Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk

Feltham Index. An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

*Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY
paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk*

Hampton Wick. Records of this village collected over 40 years of research.

Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middx, UB7 9HF mavikensib@aol.com

Newspaper Index. Births, marriages and deaths, court cases, accidents, etc. taken from local newspapers 1894-1925.

Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU, brian729@blueyonder.co.uk

1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex. This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

Miss Valerie Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London, W4 5EN

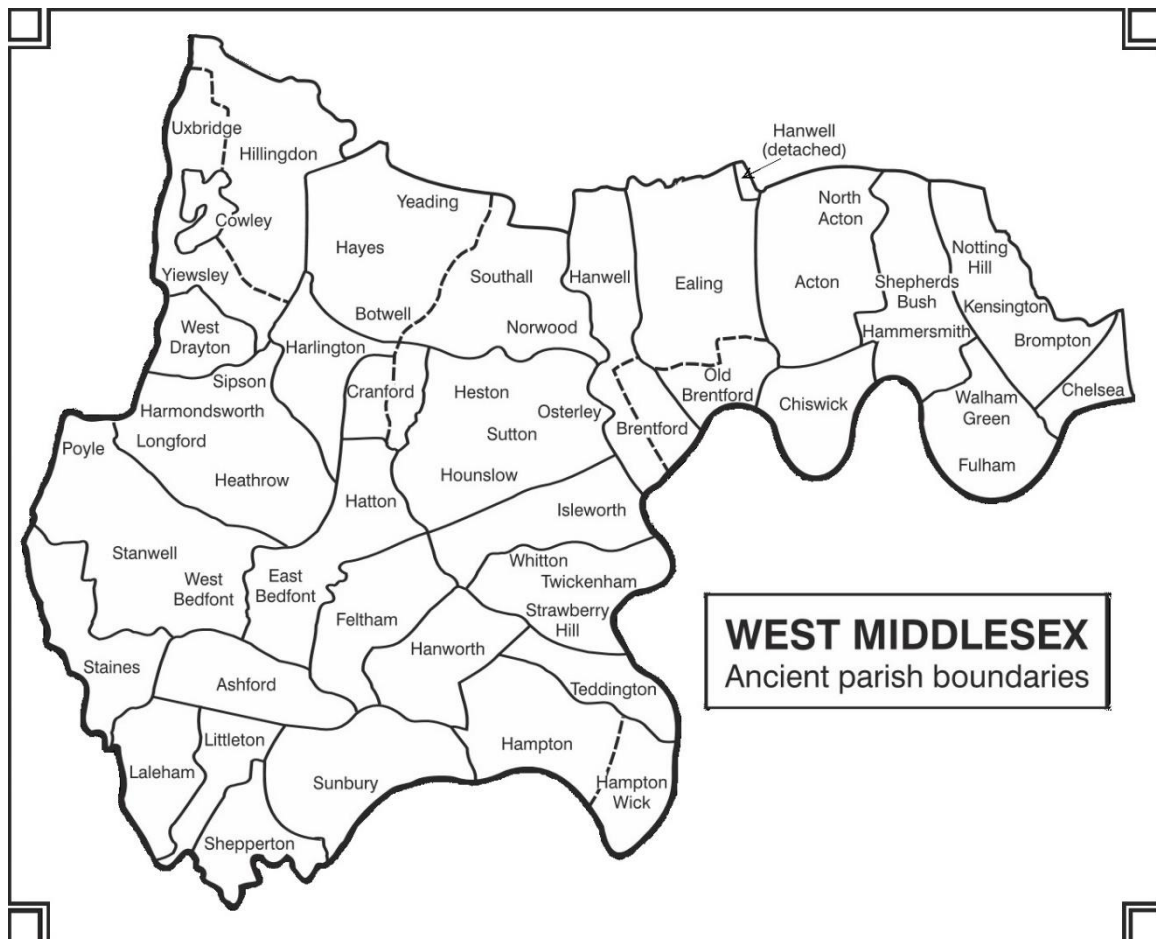
G.R.O. Certificates. A number of original GRO birth, marriage and death certificates have been kindly donated to the Society by members and are available for purchase at a cost of £3.50 per certificate. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS. Please include a sae.

Bedfont Peacocks

The yew trees outside the south door of Bedfont Church were probably first cut into the shape of peacocks (or possibly fighting cocks) in 1704, and they were restored in 1865. They were neglected between 1940 and 1990 when they were again restored. The picture shows them after their cut in the summer of 2006.

Various tales related to the Bedfont Peacocks but none have yet been verified by historians. Thomas HOOD (1799-1845) wrote a poem of 26 verses about two sisters who came to the church - it can be found on the internet!

Image: © flickrhivemind.net



**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