



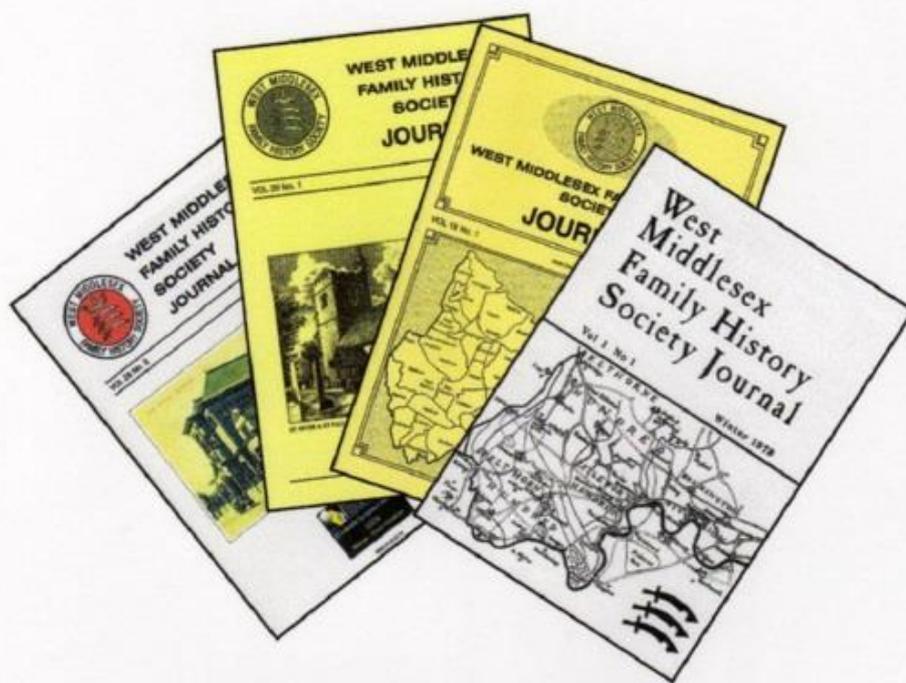
# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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If you wish to contact any of the above people, please use the postal or email address shown. 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.

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

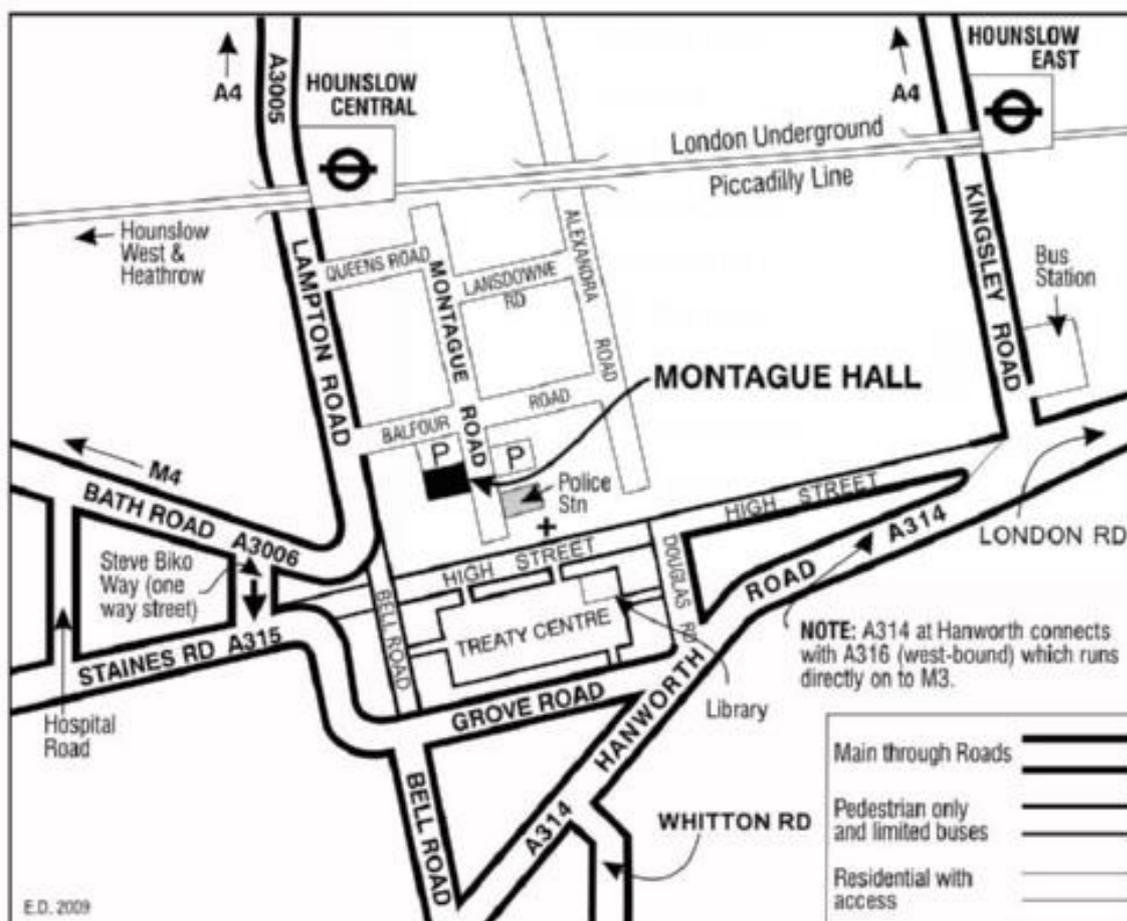
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The following talks have been arranged:

- |         |  |                       |
|---------|--|-----------------------|
| 15 Mar  | AGM followed by<br>Guilds and Livery Companies | <i>Richard Harvey</i> |
| 19 Apr  | Reading Old Handwriting                        | <i>Marie Alderman</i> |
| 17 May  | Adventures of the London CO-operative Society  | <i>Stefan Dickers</i> |
| 21 June | Freemasonry and Family History                 | <i>Diane Clements</i> |

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.



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## WMFHS NEWS

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In my last Editorial I mentioned the e-petition for access by family historians to the GRO certificates for births, marriages and deaths. I am pleased to tell you that the Federation of Family Historians is optimistic that the digitisation of these records will eventually be completed and they hope that in the next few months plans will be drawn up to complete the 50% of certificates still waiting to be processed.

Still on the topic of GRO certificates, the Identity and Passport Service, under whose jurisdiction they fall, has warned of some online commercial companies offering to provide copies of these certificates but charging sometimes as much as three times the cost, which is currently £9025 per certificate if ordered direct from the GRO websites. The Chief Executive and Registrar General of the IPS, Sarah RAPSON, explains, "There is just one official web service for England and Wales, and anyone using an online service other than [www.direct.gov.uk/gro](http://www.direct.gov.uk/gro) is paying more than they need to."

From the beginning of this year the main public telephone number for the GRO has changed and the former number 0845 603 7788 will no longer be available. Should you wish to contact the GRO direct, the number is now 0300 123 1837, a number chosen as civil registration was first introduced to England and Wales in 1837! 0300 numbers should not be confused with 0800 numbers: they are not free but are non-geographic and are specially designated for use by public bodies and not-for-profit organisations.

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## WMFHS NEWS

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The observant among you will have noticed that this edition of the Journal is numbered Volume 30. To celebrate this milestone the Society has decided to hold an essay competition and details of this can be found on page 5. I have also been delving into the Society's archive - we hold a copy of all Journals, (except the second one) from 1978 - and you can read about the history of what they contain and how they reflect the growth and activities of the Society on page 18. I also intend to reproduce one or two articles from the early Journals; the first one on page 6 is a description of Littleton, one of the smallest of our parishes, squeezed between Laleham and Shepperton in the far south-western corner of our area.

There are two important events highlighted in this edition: the first is the AGM, to be held on 15th March at Montague Hall. We always have a good

turnout for this occasion and I hope as many of you as possible will come along to hear about what the Society has been doing in 2011 and its plans for 2012. There will be changes to our Committee, which is also under strength, so if anyone feels that they would like to participate in the running of the Society, it is not too late to volunteer, just get in touch with our Secretary (details inside the front cover). Our last Open Day had to be cancelled but plans are well under way for our next one so we hope to see you on Sunday, 23rd September in Hampton, details can be found on page 25.



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

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 17th March, 2011
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2011
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Any other Business.

Mrs. Pam Smith  
23 Worple Road, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 1EF

**Election of Officers**

Having served for six years, Brian Page is standing down from the Committee.

Richard Chapman, Dennis Marks, Pam Smith and Joan Storkey, having served for three or more years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

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

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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### **Found - Hiding in My Family History**

To celebrate the printing of the 30th Volume of the West Middlesex Family History Society Journal, we are holding an essay competitions. The prizes are being funded from the £100 awarded to the Society by the Federation of Family History Societies for winning the Elizabeth Simpson Award for Best Journal for 2010.

**1st Prize - Six months' Subscription to the website FindMyPast**

**2nd Prize - One year subscription to the family history magazine  
*Family History Monthly***

**3rd Prize - a copy of Family and Local History Handbook**

The title of the essay is: **Found - Hiding in My Family History**. The winners will be announced in the September Journal, which will feature the winning entry. Depending upon the size of the essay, the 2nd and 3rd prize winners will appear in the following editions and it is hoped that ultimately all entries will find their way into the Journal.

### **Rules**

1. The essay should be all your own work and not have appeared in any other publications.
2. The essay can be any length but not exceeding 2,000 words. Illustrations are welcome but please observe copyright rules.
3. You must be a member of the Society to enter, and your membership number, your name, address and email address (if you have one) must be included with your entry.
4. Entries to be submitted by 1st June. They may be sent by email to the Editor as an attachment, or by post (email and postal address of the Editor can be found inside the front cover). To ensure accuracy of transcription, all surnames should be in capitals. Illustrations also should be submitted as jpeg files as well as embedded in the text.
5. Essays will be judged by the Editor, whose decision will be final.

This is a new venture for the Society, so please take up your pens, or put fingers to the keyboard and make this initiative a success - one of you must be the winner, it could be you!

I look forward to receiving all your entries,

Littleton is a very small village in Middlesex, it lies between Shepperton, Ashford and Laleham. The shortest boundary is less than a mile of riverside to the South. The Middlesex side of Chertsey Bridge is in Littleton and the present stone bridge was built in 1783/5 and replaced the earlier wooden one. A weir was mentioned in 1235. An old document about Littleton Manor shows how Swan's Next Hill, a small island, was formed.

"I, Henery MILLS of the Parish of Littleton doe certifie whom it doth concerne that the ayte off Chertsie Bridge was antiently a swans nest and that my father did inlarge and take it in yearely out of the Themis and I did helpe to plant it with osiers . . . "

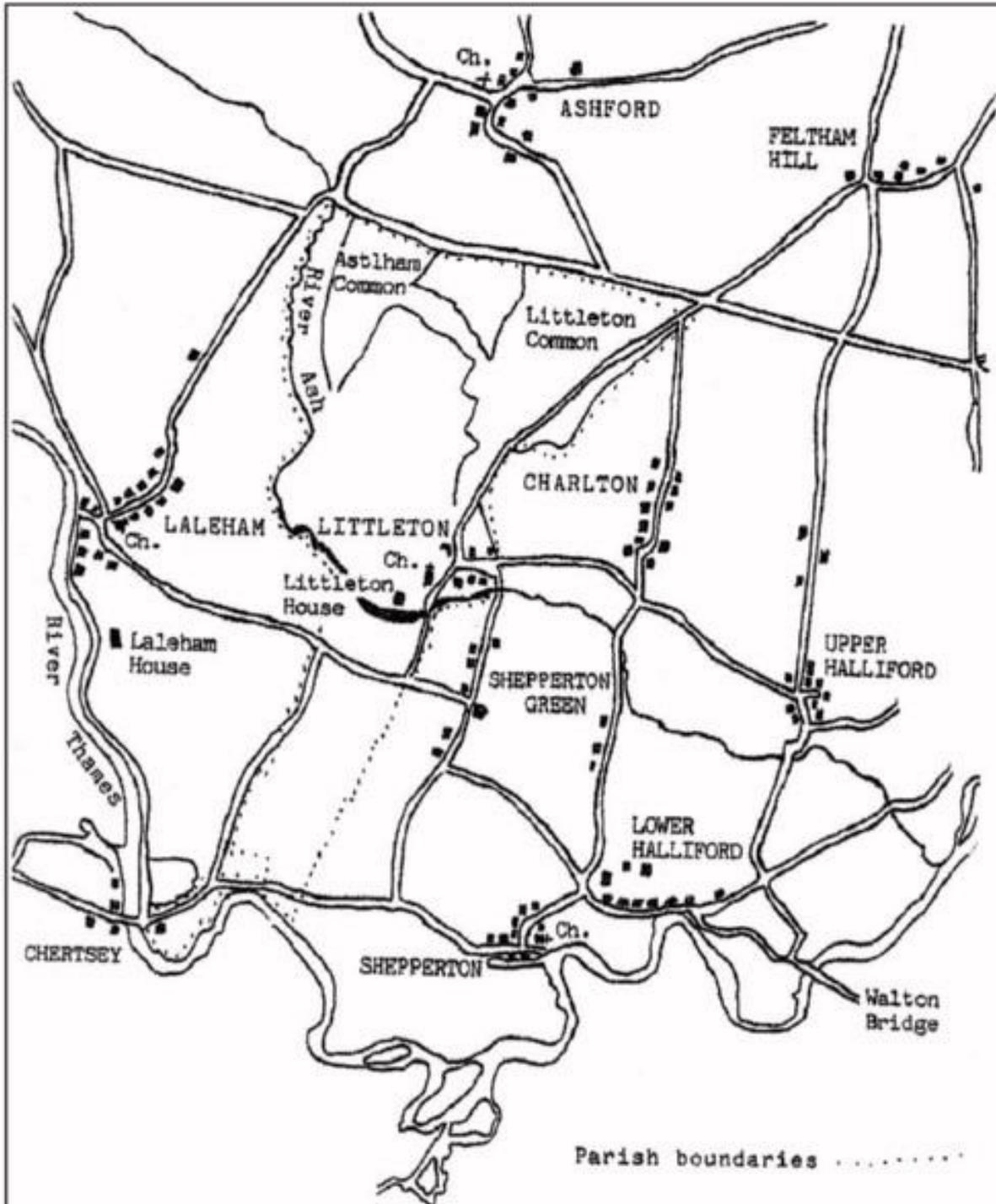
Unfortunately most of the village now lies under the Queen Mary Reservoir. Littleton was an ideal choice for the Reservoir as the area was flat and agricultural and to the north of the village was a large wooded area which was submerged. The Reservoir covers 800 acres and is four miles around the outside and originally its capacity was 6,750 million gallons but this has been increased by dredging. It took ten years to build as the First World War interrupted the building, and approximately 2,000 men were employed. The Reservoir was finally opened by George V in 1925. The following extract is taken from the Metropolitan Water board's brochure, published in 1925.

"Contrary to rumour the village of Littleton is not to be drowned out of existence. It is a pretty and sequestered spot and well justifies its name, for it is among the smallest of villages, itself the centre of one of the smallest Middlesex parishes. . . The ground falls gradually towards the Thames, the higher and more northern parts being well wooded, with two stretches of common, known as Astlam\* and Littleton Commons. Although well within the suburban area, Littleton is practically unknown, being outside the beaten route of the great highways. The village itself is one of the least spoiled in the country. It is built entirely of red brick and presents a cheerful and peaceful aspect. It centres around an interesting parish church, with a few houses scattered here and there. There is no village street and there is not, and never has been, any public house or shop in the parish, and the only trade represented is that of the blacksmith."

In 1935 Gordon MAXWELL wrote in his book *Highwaymmfls Heath*, "I was told by someone away from the place the Littleton church and village were submerged beneath the waters of the reservoir. This is naturally untrue, but I find that some cottages, a farm and a chapel were actually left when the waters went in."

---

\*also spelled Astlham or Astleham



**Map of Littleton and the surrounding villages.**

The parish of Littleton mainly comprised an area between the River Ash and the Staines Road, south of Ashford. There was also a small wedge of land down to the River Thames, giving the parish a frontage on the River near Chertsey Bridge. The area now occupied by the Queen Mary Reservoir is that from Astilham Common to Littleton Common down almost to the church at Littleton Village, showing that most of the ancient parish disappeared under the waters of the reservoir.

The village was first called Litletona in a Saxon Charter dated 709AD and other early spellings are Litlington and Lytlynton. It appeared in the Domesday Book under Laleham as part of the Spelthorne Hundred and consisted of 8 hides.

In the 13th Century the Kings Fee belonged to William BLUNT, the grandson of Robert BLUNT of Laleham. The name Littleton is first recorded in 1166 when the Manor belonged to William BLUNT He was killed in the Battle of Evesham and the Manor reverted to the Crown. Edward III then gave it to his standard bearer, Guy de BRIENNE. He gave the advowson of the Church to the Trinitarian Friars at Hounslow in 1372 and they presented it to Littleton Rectory in 1375. At the Dissolution the village was annexed to the Royal Manor at Hampton Court.

The Manor of Littleton passed through many families; it was let to tenants and sometimes under tenants. Littleton came into the hands of the WOOD family in 1660, who held the nearby manor of Astlam. Astlam Manor was held by the BEAUCHAMP family at one time: there does not appear to have been a manor houses The TOWNLEY family bought the property in 1600 and sold it to the WOOD family in 1660. The last mention of Astlam Manor was in 1801.

Thomas WOOD was Ranger at Hampton Court and he rebuilt the manor houses The house is said to have been a Dutch style mansion. It was contemporary with the part of Hampton Court Palace built by WREN, in fact it may have been built by the same workmen. The house was partly burnt down when General Sir David Edward WOOD resided there in 1874. HOGARTH's painting, "Actors Dressing in a Barn" was also destroyed. The house survived a mixture of styles from 15th to 19th centuries as part of the Shepperton Film Studios.

Littleton has had its share of royal visitors, especially King William IV An urn by the lake has the inscription, "This urn is placed by Lady Caroline WOOD to commemorate the last visit of King William IV to these grounds. Anno Domini 1836". This can be seen in the public walk beside the little River Ash.

In 1801 Parliamentary Returns show that Littleton was the smallest village in Middlesex with a population of 147 and with 24 houses. In 1881 the population was 126 and there were 20 houses; there was no railway line but there was a wooden bridge to connect Middlesex and Surrey.

The estate was sold in 1930 and 70 acres of Littleton Park and the house were purchased by Sound City (Film) Ltd., now known as Shepperton Studios.

The Norman Church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, it is small but beautiful with a fine old roof and medieval stained glass windows. It stands on the edge of the Reservoir but a car park spoils the view of the church. It was

first consecrated in 1135. Two previous churches made of wood have been on the site but both burnt down. The tower is square outside but octagonal inside. The walls of the tower are 30" thick and there is a Tudor light window above the door. The ancient carved choir stalls are said to have come from



Winchester Cathedral and the carved screen from the 15th century is said to have come from Westminster Abbey. The altar rails are beautifully carved with cherubs and are either Dutch or Flemish, There are two 18th century extensions to the chancel, one is a mausoleum for the WOOD family and the other the mausoleum chapel These are now used as vestries. Sir John MILLAIS, who once had a summer house in the village,

designed a Victorian window and another circular window is dedicated to the Monks of Chertsey Abbey, who served the church from 1135 to 1305.

Dr. HARWOOD, Rector, left money in 1744 for the institution of a school. However it was not until 1787 that a school began with assistance from the WOOD family. A school building was erected in 1872 - formerly lessons were given somewhere on the Wood Estate. J. Norris BREWER wrote in 1816, "From the proceeds of this stock, aided by the charitable assistance of the Family which possesses the property of Littleton, a school is established for the instruction of all the poor children of the parish. The school house is a pleasing building, amply convenient, and rendered ornamental by various simple and rural embellishments." The Old School is now let out and a new school was erected in 1968.

The Parish Registers can be seen at the London Metropolitan Archives and the Surrey History Centre, Woking. Christenings and marriages are also on the IGI.

### Sources

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*Middlesex*, C.W. Radcliffe  
*Middlesex*, Brude Stevenson  
*New Survey of London*, ed. Jack Simmons  
*A Middlesex Medley*, G.E. Bates

*Highwayman's Heath*, Gordon S. Maxwell  
*And so Build a City Here*, G.E. Bates  
*The Shepperton Story*  
 Various editions of the *Middlesex Chronicle*  
 Littleton Church, Photo: Richard Chapman

This article was from an outline written by Yvonne Woodbridge with additional material by Pat Johnson and was first published in the West Middlesex Family History Society Journal in September, 1990. It has been updated and edited where necessary.

'Black Jack' sounds a little like a pirate, so readers of a fanciful disposition may be disappointed by his tale, but the romantics among you will surely appreciate it. His nick-name referred to his dark complexion rather than his character. Francis Jack NEEDHAM was more formally known as the Earl of KILMOREY (pronounced Kilmurray), an Irish peerage. He lived in St. Margaret's in the latter part of his life and ended it there too, entombed on the east side of the St. Margaret's Road, opposite the Ailsa Tavern. His life here links two houses: one is Gordon House, on the River Thames, south of Railshead Road and still extant. The other, demolished in 1950, following wartime bomb damage and known as Kilmorey House, is still remembered in Kilmorey Road and Kilmorey Gardens.



*Francis Jack NEEDHAM*

He lived something of an adventurous life, running away from school to join WELLINGTON's army during the Peninsular War against NAPOLEON. Some say he was the model for the then controversial naked statue of Achilles, subscribed for by 'the women of England', which was erected near Hyde Park Corner as a tribute to WELLINGTON in 1822. Later, respectability beckoned when he succeeded his father as MP for Newry (he was also Viscount Newry, referenced in nearby Newry Road). However, great scandal became attached to his name when he ran off to France in the early 1840s with Priscilla HOSTE, who had been his ward of court before he made her his mistress; he a grandfather and almost 60 and she scarcely 20. (He was separated from his first wife at the time), She became the love of his life and bore him an illegitimate son, Charles, 'the apple of his eye'.

He bought, or leased, many houses during his lifetime, including Cross Deep House, Radnor House and Orleans House, all in Twickenham. In 1846 he bought St. Margaret's House from the estate of the Marquis of Ailsa and this

became the source of the name for the entire area, as settlement expanded around the new railway station. He began rebuilding and enlarging the house in 1852 (much later it was known as Kilmorey House), living next door in Gordon House until the work was finished. Gordon House, still visible from the towpath, is described by PEVSNER as "early Victorian Italianate" and listed Grade II. It has been substantially restored as part of a new housing development, including some interiors by Robert ADAM (his first English commission for the then owner General BLAND, in 1758). The grounds later housed Maria Grey Teacher Training College and then Brunel University. The main gate, long disused, lies on the St. Margaret's Road. A pair of reclining stone lions guard the entrance and Lord KILMOREY's initial 'K' can still be seen in the moulding.

However, tragedy struck when Priscilla developed chronic heart disease, dying in London in 1854, before the new house was completed. KILMOREY sold St. Margaret's and leased Gordon House to Thomas HALIBURTON (whose surname thus provided the locality with another road name), the author of the comic Sam Slick stories. Priscilla was initially interred in the Brompton



Cemetery in a mausoleum designed and built by Henry KENDALL in the fashionable Egyptian style, for the then astronomical sum of £30,000 (well over a million pounds today). When the Earl moved to Woburn Park in Chertsey in 1862, he took it with him, eventually bringing it to Gordon House in 1868, after his wife died. He remarried the same year, causing yet another scandal!

The mausoleum found its final resting place here and became the last resting place of KILMOREY too, when he died in 1880 at the grand age of 92, and lay once more with his beloved Priscilla. Legend has it that a tunnel (discovered in the 1960s) between Gordon House and the Mausoleum was used for dry-runs for the Earl's funeral, with

himself (very much alive at the time) lying in his coffin in a shroud and pushed on a trolley to his tomb. Its route ran under what is now Kilmorey Road (formerly the driveway to Kilmorey House).

The shape of the building evokes the shrines at the heart of ancient Egyptian temples and the decoration particularly refers to the cult of Osiris, the

resurrection god, There are also carvings of a winged sun disk and cobras. The mausoleum is built of pink and grey granite and its roof peeps tantalisingly



*Priscilla HOSTE on her deathbed*

over an old brick wall (there used to be clearer view from the top of the 37 bus when it was a double-decker). Behind its bronze door lie the matching lead-lined coffins of the lovers, with a white marble relief of Priscilla on her death bed, their son Charles to the left and the earl to the right, carved by Lawrence MACDONALD. They are lit by a star-shaped yellow skylight through which daylight seeps. There are four such skylights set in the stone roof, an unusual feature.

The once neglected mausoleum is now taken care of by volunteers

working with the Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames and the site includes a small award-winning garden.

It can be viewed during the annual Open House London weekend in September.

Images © The Twickenham Museum

This article also appeared in *Out & About, Twickenham*, Sep/Oct 2011. Ed.

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Please do not exercise all your literary talents on the Essay Competition. I still need copy for the June Journal: articles, snippets, observations, information. My in-tray is virtually empty so the need is urgent. Sent by email or snail-mail, typed or hand written, any medium is accepted. If you are nervous about changing your notes into a narrative — send me your notes and I will do it for you!

Deadlines for submission of articles for the Journal:

7 January; 7 April; 7 July; 7 October

"Family history research is often full of coincidences and kindnesses." To illustrate these words taken from Rebecca GURNEY's "Editorial" in the December issue of *Origins*, the Buckinghamshire FHS Journal, I have put fingers to keys to relate my experiences.

What started off as a tentative enquiry to me as the then Bookstall Manager, ended up being surprisingly beneficial. The request from Jean BIRCH-LEONARD was for a copy of the WMFHS September 1998 (Volume 16, No.3) Journal but in particular the article entitled *A Baker's Century* by Pat MANNING, about a Master Baker called John BIRCH. Not only did I just happen to have a spare copy amongst my old journals but I also discovered that the author was a current WMFHS member and eventually I was able to put each in touch with the other.

In one of her emails to me, Pat mentioned that her BIRCH line was linked in with a Dr. William PERFECT and his grandfather's marriage to the daughter of Sir Peter GLEANE traces back to the mother of Horatio NELSON and even to Henry VIII's third wife, Jane SEYMOUR. My amazing piece of luck came as a result of my throw away remark, "I can always hope there is a connection, however, realistically I guess it is highly unlikely, but back in 1927 an aunt of mine married a Dudley Stewart PERFECT (b.1896)." But Pat was in fact able to confirm that my Dudley Stewart did belong to her branch of the PERFECTs! Unbelievably, it gets even better, as Pat had previously deposited results of her research with the WMFHS library and so I have been able to access the fuller version of *A Baker's Century* as well as *The Perfect Link — From Baker to Baronet*.

Later in the year and prior to handing over the remaining bookstall stock, I was asked to fulfil a postal order for a copy of the WMFHS Parish Series on *Hampton* but thought nothing of it until I read in September 2011 that, as a new member A113, this same lady had registered, amongst others, her interest in BROWN, FORDER and LOVEDAY from Kingston or Hounslow These three surnames were mutual to me and former custodian of exchange journals, the late Sheila SCOTT, as we are granddaughters of sisters Emma and Elizabeth LOVEDAY. Imagine my delight when after a flurry of emails, Janet ANDERSON confirmed that she was descended from our grandmothers' brother, Albert Henry LOVEDAY. But even more surprising was that in 1999, Sheila had discovered in a 1992 reference book of surnames that a Mrs. P.D. BAILEY was researching a LOVEDAY family. Sheila wrote but sadly her letter went unanswered. However all these years later, Janet ANDERSON confirmed that Mrst BAILEY was her mum. Better late than never but if only the connection had been established sooner ...

*At our meeting on 20 October Jane MOSS encouraged us to write up our family history. We sat in small groups and she asked us to talk to each other about our own shoes for a couple of minutes. This was quite easy but then she wanted us to put ourselves in an ancestors shoes and write a few words about how it felt, I wrote about my great grandmother and will now fill in her story:*

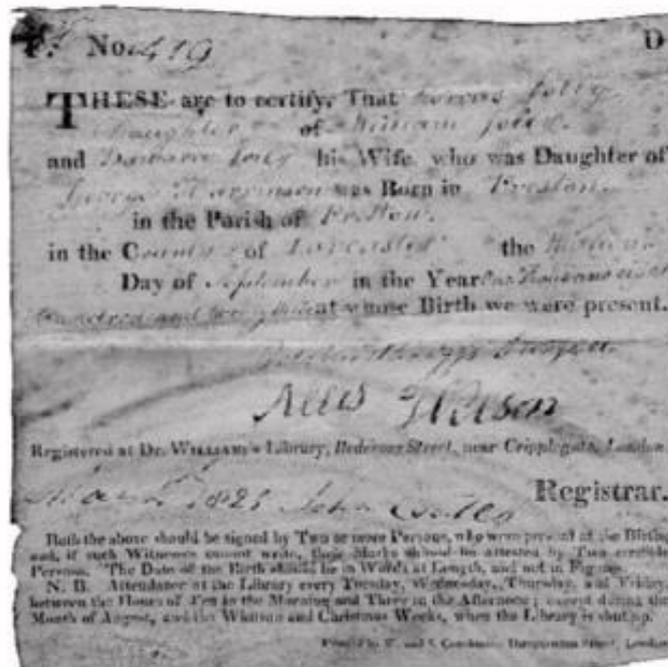
My name is Dorcas WALKER, I find it quite painful to stand in these old black leather shoes as quite recently I cut a bunion off one of my toes whilst everyone was at church. I did this myself because of the pain. So here I am by the Wood store for the bobbin mill my husband, Henry, manages at Force Forge. This is near Satterthwaite in the parish of Colton, Lancashire, being North of the Sands. I used to wear elegant clothes and shoes when we lived in London but here it isn't necessary' One of the family married S. J. PRIEST, who is a well-known photographer in Barrow and he came to take my photograph.

I was born in Preston on the 13 September 1823, my father was William JOLLY and my mother, Barbara, the daughter of George HARRISON. My father had been born in Walton-le-Dale, where there are many JOLLY relatives and my mother in St John in the Vale by Keswick. My birth was witnessed by two people as it was to be registered at Dr WILLIAMS'

Library and this certificate has been kept for posterity. Shortly afterwards we moved to Stricklandgate in Kendal and the family increased'

My father seems to have had a variety of occupations from carrier, to butter dealer to hawker, to timekeeper, etc. In the 1840s the rest of the family went to London.

By then I was a servant in a tailor's house in Hawkshead. He had apprentices and I took the opportunity to learn needlework and have become skilled in



*Dorcas' Birth Certificate  
from Dr. Williams' Library*

quilting. I designed a “matrimony” pattern about 1850 and this is mentioned in a book published well after my death\*.

On the 20th October 1844, I was married to Henry WALKER and moved up to Hawkshead Hill to live near my in-laws‘ The men in the WALKER family were all bobbin turners and worked in the mill at Hawkshead Hill or at the ones at Force Forge. Bobbin mills are very dirty, dusty places from the wood shavings, and many of the Workers have respiratory problems. They work long hours and rarely see daylight or have an opportunity to be in the fresh air. We have young apprentices from Ulverston Workhouse, who are not properly cared for. I had three sons at Hawkshead Hill - one was only eighteen months old when he died We moved to Force Forge just before Frederick was born in 1853. I then had two daughters.

My youngest was just a babe in arms when we all went to Islington, North London, to be with my mother who was seriously ill. She died on the 7th April 1858, and we stayed on to be near my father, London is busy and dirty and I am pleased to say Henry obtained work as a mechanic and a wood turner. Soon I was pregnant with my seventh child, a daughter, who was born on 28th June 1859, at 2 Wellington Place, Liverpool Road. I had two more daughters in 1861 and 1864. My father died on 26th August 1862, aged 62, and I like to think he was pleased I was with him at this time.



My nephew gave me a bible on 13th September 1862, for my 40th birthday, and I have kept this with my other treasures. I had my photograph taken by local photographers - one in Napoleon SYRUS’ photographic studio, 235 Balls Pond Road, when I was 40 years old. The photographer seemed to like having lots of “props” around me and I am holding two books‘ This was all before Alice, aged 2, suffered burns in the kitchen in Wellington

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\**Patchwork* by Averil COLBY, page 89.

Place and very sadly died two days later on the 20th November 1866. She was buried in Finchley Cemetery. At this time my eldest son, Charles William, was apprenticed in the art of carpentry and joinery and Napier Henry, my third son, wished to stay in London as he was a pupil teacher at the nearby parochial school opposite The Chapel of Ease, which later was named St Mary Magdalene Church.

So Henry and I and five of our children made our way back to Force Forge by train to Ulverston Station. It is strange being back in the countryside. The Factory Act of 1867 has brought in regulations relating to education, hours of child labour, fencing of machinery and hours of work, so there are many changes in the mills at Upper and Lower Force Forge. We still had young apprentices but these lessened in the 1870s as not so many bobbins were required by the mills in Lancashire. On my return I had a "late" baby whom we baptised Ann Alice in July 1867. My father-in-law, William Frederick, a retired bobbin master, died on 1st December 1867, of "general decay" and his wife, Margaret, died about six weeks later. He was the first burial in the new Satterthwaite cemetery. I heard from my sons in London of trams running along Liverpool Road and Upper Street and the opening of Highbury and Islington Station in 1872, so different to my life here.

I had my household duties and my sewing. My sons were marrying and I became a grandmother and by the time of the 1881 Census we had a grandchild and two nieces staying with us. Fortunately, I did have a cook who also helped in the house. My dear Henry suffered from bronchitis and died on 25th May 1890. In 1901 I was 77 years old and my youngest daughter, Ann Alice, was with me and we had two boarders. We are surrounded by other family members and, of course, the ever present bobbin mill, wood sheds, etc. My eldest son died in London in September 1903, and the other three are not nearby - one in Scotland, another in Chorley and Napier, my favourite, in Cannock where he is Headmaster of the National School. I have been grateful for Ann Alice's company. She has rendered "special services to me" and I have appointed her Executrix with Napier Henry, the other Executor. Like my husband, I too am suffering from bronchitis and have valvular disease of the heart so maybe I won't have to suffer my painful foot much longer.

## Notes

Dorcas WALKER died on 25th October 1904, and was buried with her husband in Satterthwaite cemetery on 29th October 1904. I have her birth certificate from Dr. WILLIAMS' Library. I also have the Bible given to her in 1862.

Her son, Napier Henry WALKER, was my great grandfather. He had been born at Hawkshead Hill on 9th May 1850, and died in Cannock on 11th February 1915. He was Headmaster of the National School in Cannock for about 40 years. His wife, born in Islington, was Headmistress of the National Girls' School.

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## FIRE AT MRS. ELIZABETH TURNER'S HOUSE AT SUNBURY. AUGUST 1724

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*John Seaman*

A reward of up to 200 guineas was offered for jewellery, watches and silver plate lost in a fire at Madam TURNER's house in Sunbury on 8th August 1724. The advertisement included a detailed list of the property.<sup>1</sup> The value of all the property was £20,000.<sup>2</sup>

Julian, a 14 year old 'Blackamoor' boy from the West Indies according to one source, was committed to Newgate for stealing about 30 guineas from Madam TURNER and wilfully setting fire to her house. He had confessed to Sir Francis FORBES.<sup>3</sup> Julian had been with the family for about five years.<sup>4</sup> Initially Julian denied starting the fire and he accused a maid-servant of bribing him with 4 guineas to do so, but he later confessed and said he did it by putting a candle under a bed.<sup>5</sup> Mrs. TURNER and her family later retired to the house of a neighbour, Mr. MORRICE, and there were hopes that much of the property lost in the fire, including £400 in cash, could be recovered.<sup>6</sup>

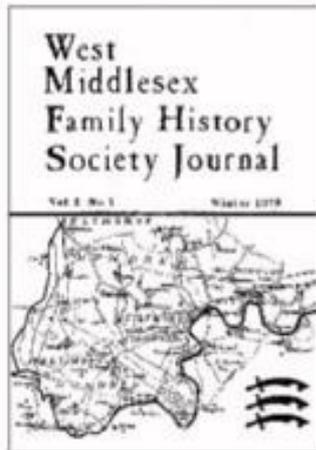
Julian was convicted at the Old Bailey on 14th October 1724 of stealing 20 guineas and burning the house of Elizabeth TURNER and sentenced to death.<sup>7</sup> He was detained in pitiful conditions at Newgate and while there he was baptised with the name John. Another source said that Julian was Indian and he had been stolen from his parents at "Maduras (sic)". His first master, Captain DAWS, presented him to Mrs. TURNER.<sup>8</sup> Julian, together with Abraham DAVAL (for forging a lottery ticket) and Joseph BLAKE, alias BLUESKIN (for burglary) were executed at Tyburn on 11 November 1724.<sup>9</sup> When the surgeons took Julian's body, it was almost torn to pieces by the mob who opposed them.

Elizabeth TURNER, a widow of Sunbury made her will on 13 June 1737 and she added a codicil on 7 July 1737. The will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 22 July 1747 (TNA PROB 11/756). She left her large Bible and her large Testament to her nephew Sir Edward TURNER Baronet. It is possible that this was the Elizabeth TURNER whose house at Sunbury was destroyed by fire in August 1724.

### Sources

1. *Daily Courant*, 14 August 1724
2. *Daily Journal*, 14 August 1724
3. *Evening Post*, 18 August 1724
4. *Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer*, 22 August 1724
5. *Parker's London News or Impartial Intelligencer*, 24 August 1724
6. *Parker's London News*...28 August 1724
7. oldbaileyonline.org
8. *The Ordinary of Newgate's Account*, 11 November 1724.
9. *British Journal*, 14 November 1724
10. TNA PROB 11/756

Although this is Volume 30 of the Journal, the first edition was printed in Winter 1978, thus confirming that the Society is 33 years old. Initially two editions were produced each year, expanding to three, then there were four editions to each Volume. During the 1980s the number of editions for each volume rose to six then eight.



The first Journal contained a message from the Chairman, David HAWKINS; a copy of the Constitution, and an edited record of the Address given at the Inaugural Meeting of the Society on 19th July 1978, by John RAYMENT, Chairman of the Essex Family History Society. He told the embryonic society that the Federation of Family History Societies had recommended that the most urgent task was the recording of Monumental Inscriptions "as they were all being cleared or corroding away." The FFHS had suggested this should be completed in five years. Your Society is still working on this project today! The first article was by Michael and Christopher WATTS: "A Brief Guide to Tracing Your Family Tree." Chris is still a regular attendee of our meetings.

The Journal concluded with an Editorial by Robert COOK, part of which is reproduced here:

"The first issue of the West Middlesex Family History Society journal requires some words of introduction. With nearly a hundred contemporaries already in the field, some of them long-established, it may seem a very well-tilled field which we venture to enter. Our aim, however, is not to trespass but to find our own particular furrow, namely a slice of one of the most populous conurbations in the industrialised world. Nearly a million people live in it, a million people whose genetic ancestors seven generations ago must have numbered 128 million - more than the population of Britain, almost more than the population of Europe at the time. Nearly all of them, we may be sure, dwelt in the small settlements of that agricultural 'world we have lost', a world which, where it is not already lost, is today rapidly disappearing throughout the entire globe.

As our issues proceed I hope they will build up a body of information, both topographical and resourceful, which will be of help to the genealogical researcher whose investigations bring him or her to the West Middlesex area."

I hope today's Journal carries on the good work begun back in 1978.

Volume 1 No.2 is missing from our archive but by No.3 already there was a précis of talks given at the meetings, lists of members' interests and strays and a 'Wanted' section which soon became the 'Help!' pages we have today. In Volume 1 No.4 a list of future meetings was included and 'Letters to the Editor' and so the bare bones of today's Journal was laid down.

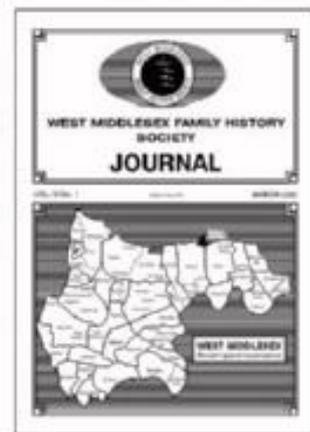
Volume 2 No.1 was the first with a coloured cover, in pale blue, and the colour changed every couple of years or so, finally settling down to yellow in 1992, Initially the articles in the Journal were all written by members of the Committee but an urgent appeal from the Editor for material (sounds familiar) in Autumn 1980 produced articles by members. The text was typed by members which in some editions meant different fonts of different sizes and different spacing, this however did not detract from the excellent content of each edition.



The Society's first meetings were held at Hounslow Manor School and very soon were numbering 60 members. In 1980 a move was made to the more comfortable Hounslow Town Hall. This was demolished during the renovation of the centre of

Hounslow and by the end of 1984 meetings were established in the newly built Montague Hall, Hounslow, where they continue today. The early committee members included many familiar names of those who still regularly attend our meetings.

In March 1992 Richard CHAPMAN became Editor and introduced the 'banded' headings I still use today, and Joan SCRIVENER offered to typeset the Journal - Joan is still producing it every quarter at West 4 Printers. In 1998 a new logo was designed, our familiar roundel. In March 2000 Ted DUNSTALL designed a new cover, featuring a newly drawn map of our area and the new WMFHS logo.



The cover was again redesigned in 2007, featuring a picture on the cover and placing the map of our area on the back. Different colours for each edition were tried but in 2010, for reasons of printing and postal costs, the present white cover with a coloured picture was introduced.

Committee members came and went; the Chairman's Letter, the Secretary's Letter, the Editorial, all came and went. The content remained much the same - Society news, family history news, updates on Society projects and services offered, lists of Members' Interests, book reviews and, of course, articles long and short by members.

I have not had time to read everything in all the Journals but over the next few months I hope to dip in and reproduce some articles from this rich archive.

**Creative Writers: Jane Moss (October)**

A highlight for those attending this year's Members Evening in October was a series of exercises given to us by writer Jane Moss, who encouraged us to bring the art of creative writing to our family histories. She pointed out that we already have some fantastic raw material to work on and she introduced some creative techniques to enable us to get further under the skin of some of the characters we have discovered.

First she asked us to talk for a few minutes to each other about, of all things, our shoes and although this came as a bit of a shock we surprised ourselves by how much we could say about them and what it revealed about ourselves. Jane's point was that something can be said about even the most mundane items. Then she asked us to imagine and write a short piece about the shoes of one of our ancestors and where they were standing - again this proved a very interesting exercise. On reading some of the pieces aloud some fascinating stories came to light, including one ancestor who cut off her big toe because it was so painful, and another ancestor who was a pirate!

A difficult exercise was writing down our achievements and disappointments over several decades - a real test for the memory and something we could apply to an ancestor. Jane read out a telling poem about a mother's handbag - its look, feel and smell, something with which we could all identify - then asked us to think in the same way about an object associated with one of our own ancestors, and memories came flooding back. A jug used during family Sunday lunches which had re-surfaced after many years and a much-travelled hallstand were two of the objects remembered.

Jane urged us to look outside the frame of a family photograph and ponder about what was going on at the time and to notice 'tendencies' in a family, such as musical talent appearing in different generations. Somebody asked if memories counted as creative writing and Jane answered that family histories, memories, biographies, diaries etc. all counted as one put something of oneself and one's own feelings into them. Asked what form the writing could take, such as typing on to a computer, or handwriting on paper, Jane said she carried a notebook around with her to jot down items which could then be transferred on to a computer, but finally to just do it, write up our material, if possible with references, so that it will be useful to future generations.

**Sin, Sex & Probate: Ecclesiastical Records (the Church Courts): Colin Chapman (November)**

Colin Chapman began by pointing out that in the Book of Common Prayer,

bishops, when consecrated, are still urged to punish people in their diocese: it was their duty to bring people before the Church Courts. The Church or Ecclesiastical Courts were based on laws originating under the Romans and were designed to keep both the clergy and their congregations in order and toeing the official Catholic, and later the Protestant, line. Records begin from the 7th century, with some changes after the Norman Conquest when Church Courts were separated from Temporal Courts.

The courts were on various levels, the lowest being an Archdeacon's Court, which operated at parish level, the Bishop's Court, for a diocese; and the Archbishop's Court, operating for a whole Province, i.e. Canterbury, York, Armagh. If a matter covered two Archdeaconries it went to the Bishop's Court - the next higher court also being the Court of Appeal. If it covered different dioceses it went to the Archbishop's Court, which was also the Court of Appeal above the Bishop's. Appeals against decisions made in the Archbishop of Canterbury's Court went to the Court of Arches: for the Archbishop of York, the Chancery Court of York.

The Archbishop's, Bishop's or Archdeacon's office drew up questionnaires called Articles of Enquiry, sent to "Questmen", i.e. local Clergy, churchwardens, schoolteachers, etc., their names held in the Liber Cleri. The replies were the "Detecta" - the basis for the "Presentments", or causes, presented to the Court. Regular, stock questions included what type of bible was kept in a church, whether there was a font for baptism, whether the priest conducted regular services, whether churchwardens were carrying out their duties satisfactorily. There were also questions regarding the behaviour of people in the parish (which might lead to the appearance of some before the Court], and the issue of licences to such people as surgeons, midwives and schoolmasters.

There followed a "Visitation" (originally annual) which would include a Court Hearing. General Visitations - to a diocese or diocesan district, by the Bishop himself or by Commissioners on his behalf - were originally very grand, involving processions with scores of horses, but from 1197 this was limited to 40 or 50 horses. Archbishops also conducted Visitations, but less frequently. Courts were normally held in the church building - an annexe was added to Canterbury Cathedral for the purpose.

At the time of the Reformation in 1534, the Protestant church took over the Catholic administration structure. Henry VIII replaced Papal jurisdiction by the King's Court (High Court of Delegates). During the 17th century Civil War and Interregnum the Church Courts closed. In the 19th century most of the courts were abolished, being placed into secular hands.

During the 500 years between 1450 and 1800 an estimated nine million cases were heard involving about ten per cent of the population, deponents

(witnesses) making up seven per cent, so it is most likely an ancestor will appear in the Church Court records As well as misdemeanours, the Ecclesiastical Courts also dealt with Probate.

Ecclesiastical Judges had to be at least 26 years old, subscribe to the Thirty Nine Articles and understand the (very complicated) system. They had different titles in different parts of the country.

Cases brought against parishioners might involve heresy; witchcraft (even using herbs during childbirth could be construed as witchcraft) ; swearing;



*The Bawdy Courts as depicted by Hogarth*

violating the Christian code; laying violent hands on a clergyman; brawling in public or in a consecrated place; defaming a neighbour; perjury (which came under the ecclesiastical courts till 1823); someone not in their proper place in church (sitting in a different pew); not coming to church after childbirth for churching; not taking communion; adultery and fornication (leading to the informal name for the Archdeacon's Courts, "the Bawdy Courts"); a woman who had a bastard child might have to do penance by appearing in church clad in a white sheet and holding a white rod (but this might be commuted

to appearing only before the Vestry); living apart though married (not allowed without permission); making an alteration to the fabric of the church without permission; granting of licences to preachers, schoolteachers, midwives, surgeons. Schoolteachers had to be Protestant, not Roman Catholic or a Dissenter. Even midwives had to be Protestant, in case they needed to baptise a child (which could even be done in the womb with a baptismal syringe).

Clergy might be brought before the Court for: not wearing the correct dress; holding more than one benefice; or holding a benefice although not in Holy Orders. Dispensations were needed to relax Canon Law for such as: ordination of bastards (not usually allowed); marriage to a close cousin; a licence to eat meat in Lent. The Archbishop of Canterbury could also issue honorary degrees, including medical degrees, although after complaints by the British Medical Council this was stopped.

Records of the Ecclesiastical Courts are now held in a variety of locations. Until 1733 most records were in Latin. Some records have been published, others are on microfilm or bound in volumes. In some cases all documents for a case are bound together, in others they are bound in annual volumes. Only some of the material has been indexed. Visitation Books, i.e. documents regarding the organisation of visitations for the Province of Canterbury, are at Lambeth Palace Library, the National Archives (TNA), the National Library of Wales, or diocesan archives in County Record Offices; for the Province of York, at the Borthwick Institute, University of York.

Court proceedings themselves were entered, often only briefly, in Act or Court Books, or Corrections Books. As diocesan records have largely been deposited in County Record Offices, these should be the first port of call for records of the Archdeacons' and Bishops' Courts. Some Canterbury diocese records are in Canterbury Cathedral Library.

As for wills, those dealt with by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) between 1384 and 1858 are at TNA, also admors and other documents such as inventories. Probate Act Books, from 1526, might contain additional information. Similar records for the Prerogative Court of York (PCY) are at the Borthwick Institute (there are some indexes). When going to a Record Office to look at Wills, one should also ask if other documents survive such as: Draft Act books, Act and Muniment books; Allegations, Proxies, Depositions, etc. For appeals to the Papal Court prior to the Reformation, enquire first at Lambeth Palace Library; appeals to the High Court of Delegates are at TNA. Finally, findings of the Church Courts often found their way into local and national newspapers, many held at the British Library.

**The WMFHS Christmas Social** in December was enjoyed by all those attending, thanks to the excellent organisation by the Committee and the entertainment, booked by Kay DUDMAN. This was provided by performers from the **Questors Theatre of Ealing**, who treated the appreciative audience to reminiscences of cinema-going in the past, and especially the films produced by Ealing Studios. Thanks go to all those who provided food and drink, or helped during the evening.

*In the June Journal (Vol. 29 No.2) Philip Sherwood included in his article some quotations from Paul Pry and Bo-Peep which were printed in the local Harlington paper. At the same time, Wendy Mott gave me several pages of more gems from these two 'journalists' but this time from the Hayes press. (N.B. illustrations have been added by the Editor.)*

We advise that conceited lump of ugliness, H. HENSTALL, to be more punctual in the delivery of letters entrusted to his care, does he suppose that because people are poor they are not to be attended to. Reform old cock or Paul will give you such a poker How about the paper you sold to Mrs. W?



Paul is surprised that T. FOLLY should make use of such obscene language in the presence of respectable females; it is quite disgusting.

We advise the ladies (sic) man, N. HESTER, to pay more attention to his wife and less to a certain pretty actress. Have you been to town lately old boy? you little thought that Paul was in the green room when you were behind the scenes. How about the little picanniny [sic] and the engagement with the B—n manager? If you do not ere long show signs of reformation we shall a tale unfold.

There is no harm in J. AMBRIDGE keeping so many pigs provided he had a proper place for them, they are a complete nuisance to his respectable neighbours.



The following worthies in our next viz. G. CHAPMAN, J. WATTS, H. CLARK and a host of others.

Things that make us laugh - Mrs SMITH's slender waist, Mrs THORNEY's bit of brass, Fred BRANGROVE's ignorance and petty (sic) J. LANE's aristocratical walk, Old SAVILE's brazen face, J. MONTAGUE's curly hair, D. BERREY paying his addresses to Miss DOWDEN and doing the amiable For the lovely sylph, David you are a very prudent young man - yes very.



# **WMFHS OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 23rd September 2012**

**10am to 4pm**

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

*Adjacent free parking*

**Guest Societies ❖ Stalls ❖ Indexes**

*See our website  
or email: [openday@west-middlesex.fhs.org.uk](mailto:openday@west-middlesex.fhs.org.uk)*

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## WAR MEMORIAL, WORLD WAR II, EALING TOWN HALL

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A memorial tablet to honour members of Ealing Town Council's staff, who fell in World War II, was unveiled by the Mayor (Councillor H.A. MERCHANT) in November 1948. It was placed upon the wall of the Town Hall, at the top of the east staircase, facing towards the entrance of the Council Chamber. The tablet is in grey Hopton Wood Stone with moulded edges and bears the Borough arms.

Dvr. D. W. BUTLER, RASC  
Sig. P. C. CAMPION, R.Sigs  
FO F.A. CLARK, RAF  
Dvr. T. C. CONNOR, RASC  
Pte. E. COOK, R.Lincs  
F/Sgt. L. W DEETH, RAF  
Gnr. E. ELLIS, RA  
Dvr. F. S. EUSTACE, RASC  
FO G. R. GARLAND, RAF  
Fus. J. GILROY, R.Scots F.  
Spr. T. G. GODFREY, RE  
Sgt. R. W. GOULD, DCLI  
POE. E. H. HALL, RAF

LAC A. J. HOLMES, RAF  
Dvr. W. J. MAJOR, RASC  
Mne. H. D. H. A. PEMBER, RM  
LAC A, T C, PRESTON, RAF  
Mr. R. W. RAY, Civil Defence  
Sgt. L. W. ROBERTS, RAF  
LAC W. STAFFORD, RAF  
Gnr. R. S. STEMPE, RA  
FO E. J. STONE, DFC , RAF  
Sto.1 G. C. STRATTON, RN  
L/Cpl. F. B. SUMMERFIELD, R.Sigs  
Gnr. H. E. TERRY, RA



*Ealing Town Hall*

© [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

# 32nd West London Local History Conference

Saturday, 24th March 2012

Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow

## HOME SWEET HOME:

*Surburban Housing in West London*

### Programme

- 9.30 Doors open for viewing of sponsoring societies' stalls
- 10.00 Welcome by *Val Bott*, Chairman of the Organising Committee
- 10.05 Thomas Honour, carpenter of Richmond and the building of Maids of Honour Row: . . . . . *Dr. Sally Jeffery*
- 10.45 Coffee
- 11.15 Victorian and Edwardian housing development in Battersea: . . . . . *Colin Thom*
- 12.00 Jonathan Carr – Master of Innovation: . . . . . *Peter Murray*
- 12.45 Lunch
- 2.00 "All mod cons" – Contemporary documents read by the organising committee
- 2.30 An exemplary approach to affordable housing: the planning, design and development of the Queen's Road Estate, Richmond: . . . . . *Paul Velluet*
- 3.15 Tea
- 3.45 The South Acton estate: . . . . . *Peter Guillery*
- 4.30 Summary of the day's proceedings and Conference ends

The conference fee includes morning coffee and afternoon tea but participants should organise their own lunch. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch; there are also cafés and food shops nearby in Hounslow High Street.

Tickets at £8 each are available from:  
J. McNamara, 31B Brook Road South, Brentford, TW8 0NN

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## SEARCH FOR CREWMAN

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*Image of a Sopwith Camel*

© *military.discovery.com*

Do you have an ancestor who was a World War I pilot? If so you may be able to help the Royal Aero Club to complete its archive. The archive includes over 28,000 records and 13,000 photographs but unfortunately Volume 4 is missing. Most pilots were initially trained by the Royal Aero Club and when they successfully passed they were given an Aviator's Certificate, which needed two photographs: one was used in the certificate and one was kept by the Club. It is the photographs from the certificates that the Club is hoping to trace.

If you have one of the missing photographs, please email the Royal Aero Club on: [secretary@royalaeroclub.org](mailto:secretary@royalaeroclub.org) or write to: David Phipps, Royal Aero Club, Chacksfield House, 31 St. Andrew's Road, Leicester, LE2 SRE.

You can also check the names of the pilots whose photographs are missing at Ancestry on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

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## UNTOLD LIVES: SHARING STORIES FROM THE PAST

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The British Library has a new blog, "Untold Lives: Sharing stories from the past". It is hoped that the blog will "inspire new research and encourage enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of the British Library and its collections". The blog will also provide information about any events or exhibitions as well as links to research information and online resources. Recent posts include Slavery, Shipwreck and Suicide; Napoleon - du pain, du vin and A Radical Intellectual for Black History Month. *British Library Blog*

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## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

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- Access to the GRO Indexes on microfiche has been withdrawn from the London Metropolitan Archives due to the desire to give a greater geographic coverage for this format. Their set has been relocated to Newcastle City Library. However they can still be viewed in London at the British Library and the City of Westminster Archives.
- Lancashire Archives has reopened with an improved search room.  
*[www.archives.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.archives.lancashire.gov.uk)*
- Worcestershire Record Office is moving to new premises at The Hive in the centre of Worcester, where it will reopen in July 2012 as a joint archives and archaeology service. The County Hall branch has closed but the History Centre branch will remain open until April 2012.  
*[www.worcestershirearchives.blogspot.com](http://www.worcestershirearchives.blogspot.com)*
- Due to the building of a new Birmingham Reference Library, to be opened in 2013, there will be restricted access to some of their services, including the Archives Section on the 6th floor For current times of opening go to:  
*[www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)*
- The world's oldest archive recording the impact of the Nazi regime during World War II, the Weiner Library, is moving to Russell Square London. For further information visit:  
*[www.weinerlibrary.co.uk](http://www.weinerlibrary.co.uk)*
- The Sheepscar Building, which houses the Leeds Archives, has been declared “no longer fit for purpose”. The Archive is moving to the Joint Services HQ complex at Gildersome and will reopen in the Autumn of 2012.  
*[www.archives.wyjs.org.uk](http://www.archives.wyjs.org.uk)*

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Did you know that the Society holds a collection of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates donated by members, that you can purchase?

Go to our website, *[www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)* and find "Services" on the navigation bar at the top of the Home Page, then click on “GRO Certificates” and follow the instructions to see whether there is one for a member of your family. At £3.50 per certificate, this is much cheaper than the current £9.25 charged by GRO! The list is updated as new certificates are donated, so keep looking.

If you have ordered a certificate and found it is not “one of yours” then do donate it to the Society as it may well help another member. Please post to: Miss Valerie Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London, W4 5EN.

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## WORLD WIDE WEB

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New records appearing on line, recommendations and reminders:

- In September 1916, George V authorised the granting of the Silver War Badge to soldiers, sailors and airmen who had received an honourable discharge due to injury, or physical or mental illness.

These records from TNA (WO 239/2958-3255), which contain 880,000 names, have been digitised by Ancestry.

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

- As it is now over 100 years since the 1911 census was taken, the information under the "infirmity" column on each schedule has been released and Findmypast is now showing the images in full.

They have also placed online over 10 million records from the Cheshire Archives & Local Studies collections; these include parish registers, electoral registers, marriage licences and bonds, non-conformist and Roman Catholic records and workhouse records.

Yet another collection: this time 4,000 military nursing records from 1856-1940. These include nurses who served in the 19C Army Nursing Service; those born between 1859-1904 who served in the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS); those working in the Royal Hospital Chelsea between 1856-1910; nurses with the Scottish Women's Hospital who were stationed in Europe during WW1; and those who served in France with the QAIMNS, QAIMNS Reserve and the Territorial Army Nursing Service in WWII.

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

- The Genealogist is releasing the 1911 Census records county by county.

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

- The Library and Archives of Canada has released a new version of the online database Home Children (1869-1930). More than 20,000 names of children who were sent to Canada between 1925-1932 have been added from passenger lists in their archives.

*[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html)*

- A new database of nuns who joined English convents in exile between 1600-1800 has been released. The records include the names of the parents.

*[www.history.qmul.ac.uk/wwtn](http://www.history.qmul.ac.uk/wwtn)*

- The National Archives has also released over 15,000 records of military nurses who served between 1902-1922. These are for those who served with the QAIMNS, the QAIMNS Reserve and the Territorial Force Nursing Service.  
*[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/nursing.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/nursing.asp)*
- Do you have Yorkshire ancestors? The University of Huddersfield and the West Yorkshire Archives have produced a new website: History to Herstory, which focuses on the lives of women from Yorkshire over the past 800 years.  
*<http://historytoherstory.hud.ac.uk>*
- Recommended by Janice Kershaw: Ancestor Search. This is an extremely useful site for beginners and experts and all those in between. For beginners it gives tips and for everyone it has links to all County Record Offices, Family History Societies, national and international sources — and it is free.  
*[www.ancestor-search.info](http://www.ancestor-search.info)*
- In order to complete its digitisation project in time for its centenary in 2014, the International Agency for Prisoners of War (1914-1918) has had to suspend its service for requests and public research, although requests made prior to August 2011 will still be honoured. For more information go to:  
*[www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/57jqgr.htm](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/57jqgr.htm)*

Here are a few more sites which you may find useful:

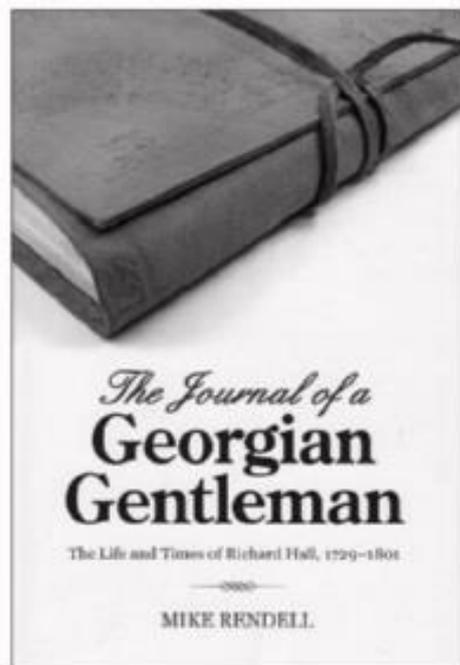
- Have you wondered just what your ancestor did die of? Try Rudy 's List of Archaic Medical Terms.  
*[www.antiquusmorbus.com](http://www.antiquusmorbus.com)*
- Lost an ancestor between 1820-1892? Perhaps they emigrated to America. The Castle Garden database holds over 11 million names.  
*<http://castlegarden.org>*
- And for emigration between 1892-1924 you will need the Ellis Island database:  
*<http://ellisland.org>*
- Did you know there is a transcription of names from the Domesday Book?  
*<http://domesdaybook.co.uk>*

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## BOOKSHELF

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**The Journal of a Georgian Gentleman** by Mike Rendell (*Book Build Publishing, 2011*) ISBN 9781 84624 523 7, £17.99

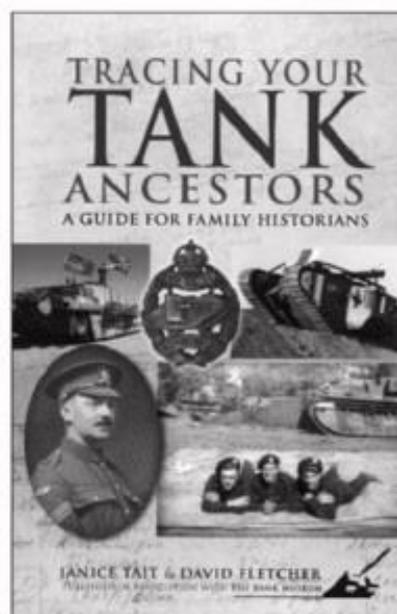


This book is sub-titled “The Life and Times of Richard Hall, 1729-1801” and is written by his 4 x Gt. Grandson, using the diaries and notebooks which have come down through the family. It is a fascinating account of the everyday life of an ordinary haberdasher in London, who kept copious notes of his day to day life. We are told about his family and social life, what he ate, what he wore, what he purchased, details of the weather and much more. He also comments upon what was happening in England and abroad. This is a book not to be missed for its insight into that colourful period of our history.

Highly recommended by member Alison Blundell.

**Tracing Your Tank Ancestors** by Janice Tait & David Fletcher (*Pen and Sword, 2011*) ISBN 978184884 264 9, £12.99

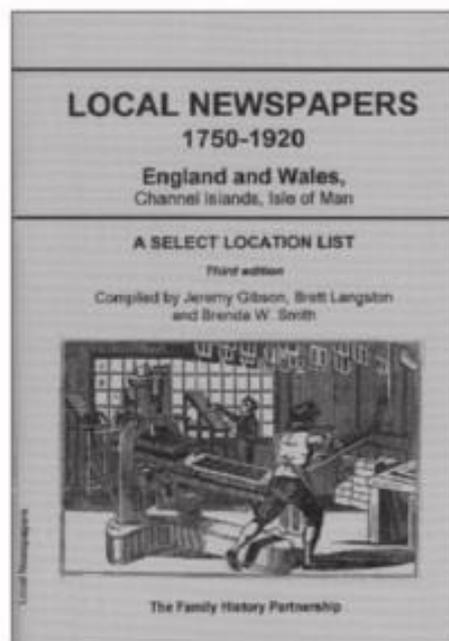
Many of you, I am sure, had ancestors who served either in the newly formed Tank Corps in WWI or who may have been associated with them since ‘ I must confess here to a personal interest in this book as my father was concerned with the development and manufacturing of tanks in WWII for the company that invented this new tool of warfare. Another volume of the excellent “Tracing Your Ancestors” it begins by looking at why the tank was needed and its development through both wars and up to the present day. It gives a comprehensive history of the battles where it featured and where to find the records as well as advice to researching the personnel who took part. A wealth of information for those with this particular interest.



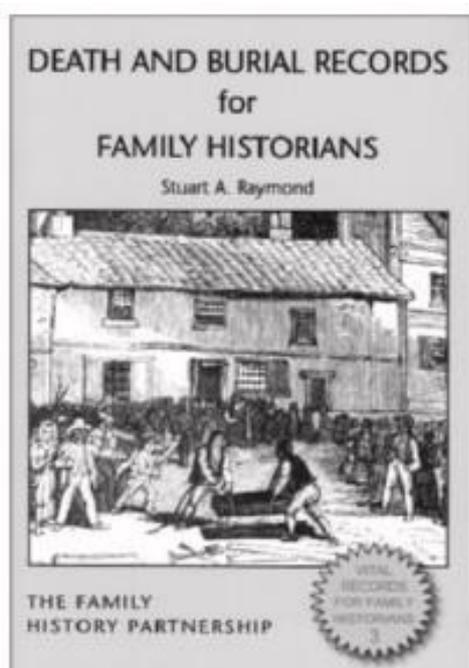
*Both these books can be purchased from any High Street Bookshop.*

**Local Newspapers 1750-1920** *Jeremy Gibson, Brett Langston and Brenda W. Smith (The Family History Partnership, 2011) ISBN 978 906280 31 4, £5. 95*

This is a reprint of the third edition of what was formerly one of the "Gibson Guides" which informed so many of us when we began our family history. This edition has a new Introduction, explaining the future changes for the British Library Newspaper Collection, which at present is still largely held at Colindale but by 2012 will have moved to Boston Spa in Yorkshire, although digitised copies will be available at the British Library in Euston Road. There follows lists of local newspapers, county by county, with their dates of publication and detailing which Record Offices or Libraries hold a copy locally. A very useful volume to have among your reference books.



**Death and Burial Records for Family Historians** *by Stuart A. Raymond (The Family History Partnership, 2011) ISBN 978 1 906280 26 0, £4. 95*



The latest book in the Family History Partnership's "Vital Records Series" this slight volume identifies where to find the available records and what information we should expect to find in them. It covers civil registers, parish registers, Bishops' Transcripts and non-parochial registers. Cemetery records and the records of the various non-conformist organisations are included, war memorials, Coroners' records, wills and probate and much more. It is a comprehensive coverage of what can be found and where it can be found and may be able to help you with that brick wall of missing information needed to complete your records.

*Both these volumes can be purchased from The Family History Partnership. Please quote your WMFHS Membership Number for the Society to receive their discount.*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### **“Lethin Water ” - Celia Cotton**

At the end of her article *Family Accounts* printed in the December 2011 edition of the Journal, Margaret Watson asked whether anyone could identify several items on her great Aunt's shopping list. One of these was “Lethin water”.

Celia Cotton has written to say that in the Shire Album *Soft Drinks*, by Collin EMMINS, there appears on page 19 an advert for J.B. BOWLER of Bath, who sold Lithin Water (amongst many other tonics and cordials), so she thinks that must be what was referred to in the household accounts. Apparently this is a water containing lithium salts. Celia adds "How that went down with the brandy I don't know!"

She also says, “I think your suggestions regarding the pigeons, bananas and Genoa cake are likely to be right. As to Pearsons - this stumped me, will be interested to read the next issue of the journal to see what ideas others have.”

*Has anyone else tried to solve this? I thought Pearsons might have been soap, but this was an Australian product so I think it unlikely. Ed.*

### **West Drayton Parish Registers - Marion Webb**

I would like to thank the person responsible for alerting me in the September issue of the W.M.F.H.S. Journal to the West Drayton Parish Register for deaths now held at the London Metropolitan Archives. I have been trying to track down the whereabouts of my great grandmother's (Caroline RANDALL) last resting place for about 14 years now.

I wrote to the vicar all that time ago, and have also written to her again on a number of occasions, and she assured me that both she and her clerk had looked up the registers and there was no sign of Caroline's burial in them.

I had however written to all the other churches in the surrounding area and even got in touch with the cemeteries office in the district with a nil result. It was as though she had just vanished. I thought she should have been buried at West Drayton as her husband was there and also a son who died in 1896.

I managed to find a professional researcher who went to the LMA on my behalf and there she was, exactly where I had expected to find her.

I must say that this is a very rare example of negative clergy attitude, even though I had sent an sae and offers of payment, the vast majority are only too happy to help.

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## FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

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**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](http://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](http://www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk)*

**Sunday, 29th April:** Oxfordshire and Buckingham Family History Fair. Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington. 10am-5pm.\*

*<http://familyhistoryfairs.org>*

**Sunday, 20th May:** Kent Family History Fair. Lockmeadow Market Hall, Barker Road, Maidstone, Kent. ME16 8LW. 10am-4pm.\*

*<http://familyhistoryfairs.org>*

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

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

**Saturday, 30th June:** Yorkshire Family History Fair. The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York. 10am-4.30pm.

*[www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com](http://www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com)*

**Saturday, 28th July:** Buckinghamshire Family History Society Fair. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH. 10am-4pm. Free admission and parking.\*

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

**Sunday, 23rd September:** WMFHS Open Day. The White House Community Centre, 45 The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN. 10am-4pm. Free admission and parking.\* See page 25.

**Saturday, 23 November:** West Surrey Family History Society Open Day and Family History Fair. Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9BA. 10am-4.30pm.\*

*[www.wsfhs.org](http://www.wsfhs.org)*

\* WMFHS will be appearing at these events.

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

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

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## INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members 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

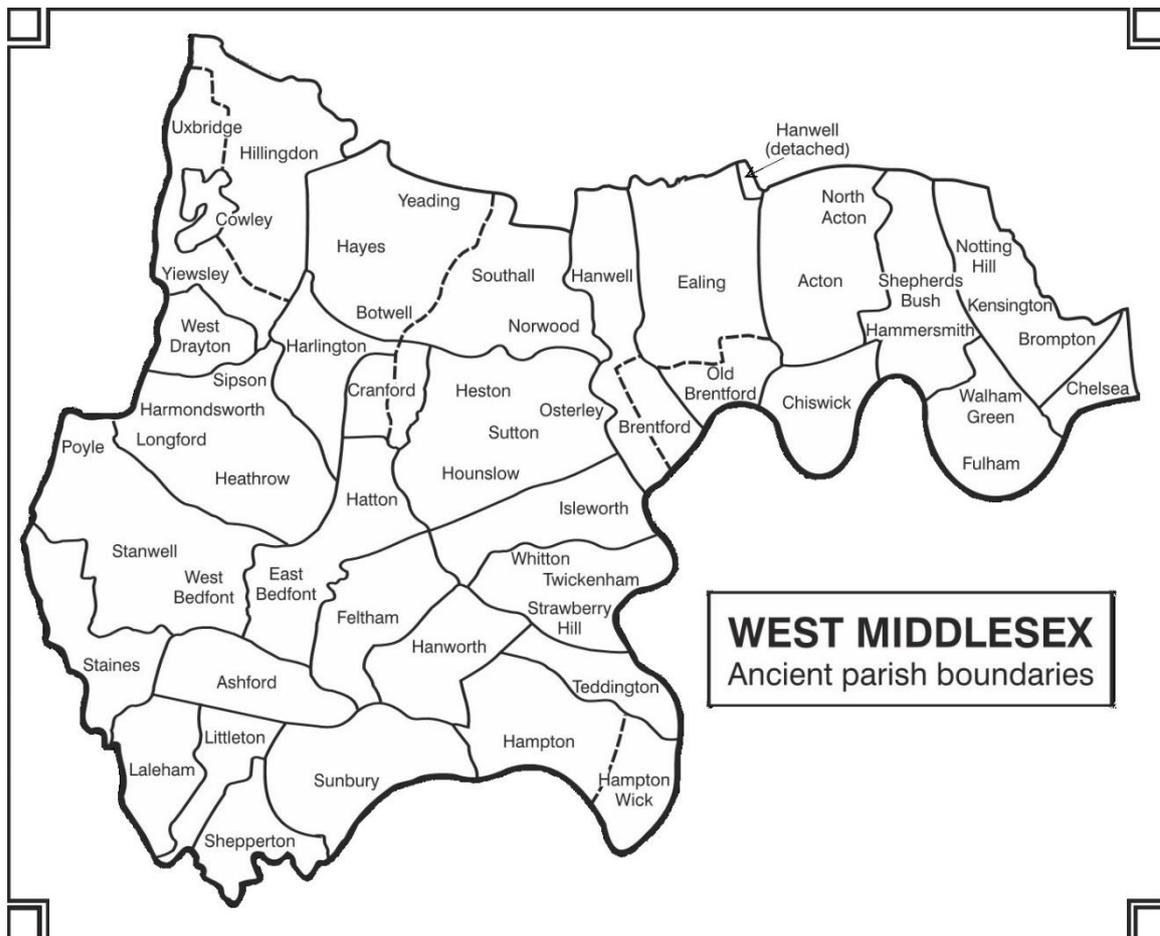
Enquiries with SAE to *Mrs. Sarah Maidment, 51 Fern Lane, Heston, Hounslow TW3 0HN*

**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.*



**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