



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

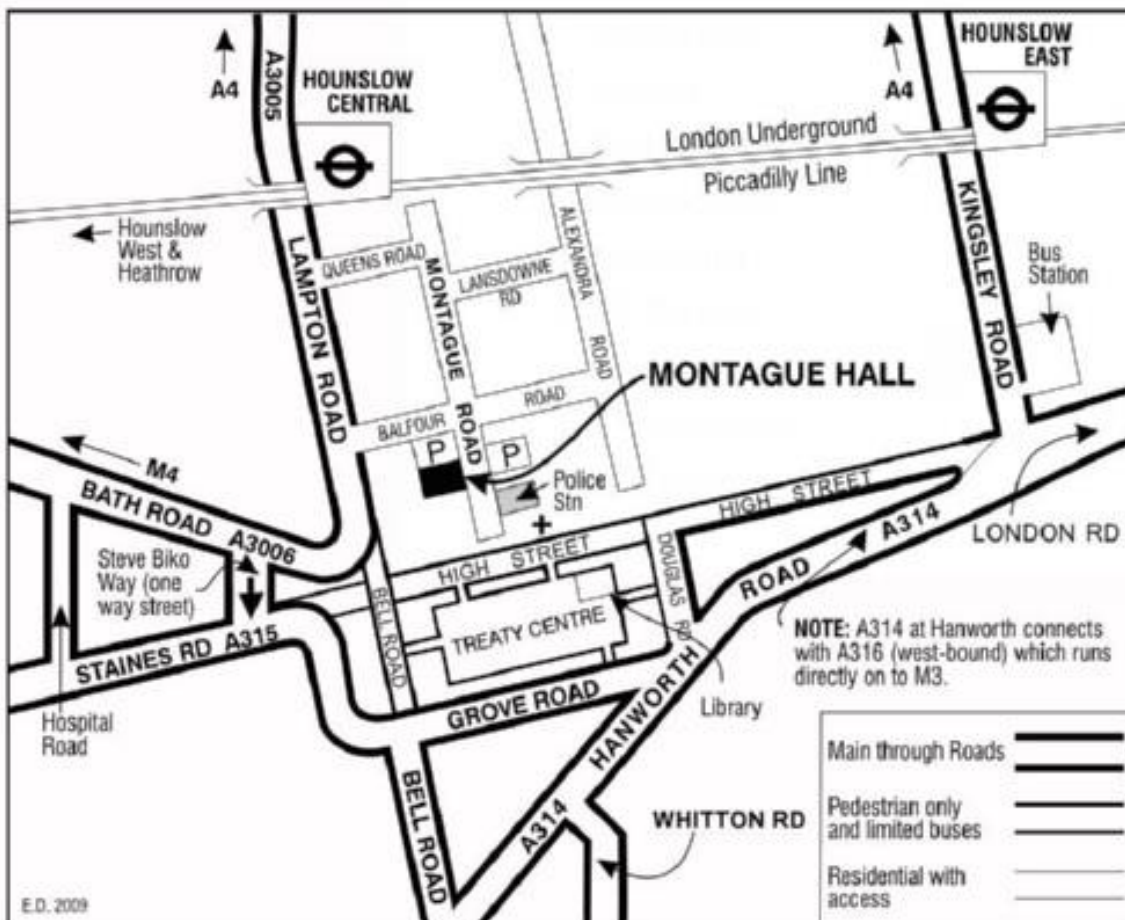
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The following talks have been arranged:

- 21 Mar AGM *and* The Loss of Irish Records: fact and myth . . . . . *Jill Williams*  
 18 Apr Jewish Genealogy . . . . . *Gordon Barnett*  
 16 May Is the Internet Killing the Chase . . . . . *Jeanne Bunting*  
 20 Jun t.b.a

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, erg. 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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By the time you receive this Journal, Who Do You Think You Are Live? at Olympia in February will have come and gone. As the decision to participate in this, the biggest of the family history fairs in the country, was taken by our Committee too late to be included in the December Journal, many of you will not have been aware of our presence. If you did attend on any of the three days, I do hope you came across us.

We have two important dates to note in 2013, the first is our AGM on the 21st March and the second is our bi-annual Conference: this year the theme is the evolution of transport, to be held on the 28th September. You will find more details of both events in this Journal.

Finally, in one of our occasional articles, "Profile", this time we are featuring your Chairman, Pam Smith.



### **WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

## **THEY PASSED THROUGH**

**SATURDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER**

**at**

**St. Mary's Church Hall**

**Church Street, Twickenham, TW3 1LD**

**10am – 4.30pm**

A conference on how our family histories were shaped.  
Based on the town of Brentford, sited on a Roman road  
beside the Thames; the start of the Grand Union Canal;  
with railways and the Great Bath Road.  
Gateway to the West.

Further details on our website  
[www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)



I started looking into my family history when my mother spoke of her grandmother who lived with the family after the death of my grandfather at the age of 49. We wondered about great grandfather and it was a challenge to find out more about him. My cousin joined me in the search as she lives in Suffolk and was able to visit the local record office and churchyards.

We spent some time chasing Henry CASTLING, the music hall song composer, before discovering that great grandfather was more likely to be his brother James! My great grandparents never married although their daughter, my grandmother, took his name. Henry CASTLING was a Music Hall lyricist and his hits included Let's go Down the Strand and Don't Have Any More, Mrs Moore. He died in poverty in 1933. His father, gt gt grandfather Hildrith CASTLING, was a street musician in the mid 1800s.

Gt grandmother, born Ellen VICE, came from Martlesham in Suffolk and we were shocked to discover that she was one of nine girls! I have traced the family back to 1790, through deaths, remarriages and numerous children who were eventually assigned to the correct parents.

After all this excitement I decided to trace my father's side of the family. Born in Scotland, I thought this might be a challenge but found the Scottish sites easy to navigate and on the whole they give more information than the English sites. My MCPHAIL family linked via gt grandmother to the GILLOGLEY family (currently nine spellings). The family originally came from Ireland but where? This eventually led me to a distant cousin living in the Yukon and another in Australia. While one side of the family rarely moved more than a few miles in 150 years, the other spread itself as far as they could.

My parents emigrated after the war and we went to live first in South Africa and then Southern Rhodesia Having spent my school years there I returned to the UK as a ballet student. My first professional job was with Marlene DIETRICH on her return to Germany. We toured Germany and visited Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and Holland.

We were to visit Israel but Marlene DIETRICH unfortunately broke her collarbone and the tour was cancelled. (She walked over the edge of the stage in Wiesbaden). After doing pantomime in several cities and various shows around the country I joined the touring company of My Fair Lady where I met my husband Brian.

Since leaving the theatre I have had various jobs including - GPO telephonist, receptionist and guide at Poole Pottery, sales person at Chinacraft, and shift manager at Harrod's International at Heathrow. In between we had two sons who now both live in the USA. Life has been anything but dull!



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Notice of Agenda**

**The Annual General Meeting of the  
West Middlesex Family History Society  
will be held on Thursday, 21st March, 2013,  
at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow**

The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 15th March, 2012
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2012
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**

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

Margaret Cunnew, Kay Dudman, Claudette Durham and Muriel Sprott, having served less than three years on the Committee and willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

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## THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUNSLOW TOWN

*Andrea Cameron*

*(formerly Librarian i/c Local Studies, London Borough of Hounslow)*

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When writing about Hounslow, it is necessary to decide whether one is talking about the London Borough of Hounslow, or the town of Hounslow for the purpose of this article. I will define Hounslow as the town with the surrounding villages of Isleworth, Heston and Cranford. The area was known from 1932-1965 as the Borough of Heston and Isleworth. Hounslow town's history is further complicated by the fact that until 1856 there was no



*Holy Trinity Church*

ecclesiastical or civil parish of Hounslow. The parish of Holy Trinity, Hounslow, was established in that year. Prior to that, the town of Hounslow was divided between the parishes of St. Leonard's Heston and All Saints' Isleworth. The boundary between the two parishes stretched east from Baber Bridge, Staines Road, along the centre of the Staines Road and Hounslow High Street; then ran just south of the London Road to St. John's Road, where it turned north across the London Road and made its way into Osterley Park, where it turned east to the Grand Union Canal at Brentford. When searching for ancestors, unless one knows which parish they are in, one often has to search in both Heston and Isleworth.

As far as we know there was no prehistoric or Roman settlement in Hounslow. The Roman road followed the line of the London Road, High Street and Staines Road and was the road from London to Silchester. Towns were established at



Brentford and Staines. The road crossed the Warren of Staines. The Anglo-Saxons divided the country into areas of administration, known as Hundreds, which the Normans continued to use. The Domesday Survey For 1086 of the Hundred Honeslaw, covered the areas of Heston, Isleworth, Whitton and Twickenham. The Anglo-Saxon derivation of Honeslaw is two words; one 'Hundes' meaning hounds and the second 'law' meaning a hill or rising ground.

The first reference to the town of Hounslow appears in 1215 after the signing of Magna Carta, when Robert FITZ-WALTER, leader of the Barons, wrote to his supporters that there would be a tournament near London in Staines Wood and at the town of Hounslow. This settlement was at the eastern end of the High Street, near the junction with the Hanworth Road. An area today known as the Broadway.

During this period, at the western end of the town, the Friars of Holy Trinity established their first home in England. This was the building of the Priory of Holy Trinity. Hounslow town came into being to serve the travellers on the main road from London to the West Country. The Priory provided accommodation for the travellers, as did the many inns that established themselves along both sides of the High Street over the next six hundred years. The main source of employment for the people of Hounslow was serving the travellers. Many blacksmith forges and stables were to be found either at the back of inns or as independent establishments along the High Street.

At the same time as the town was forming, the Forest or Warren of Staines was disafforested and gradually cleared to form Hounslow Heath, an area of 4,293 acres in extent. This stretched from Hounslow to Staines and north to Uxbridge.



*Bedford Powder Mill, c.1800*

In the 17th and 18th centuries the Heath was frequented by highwaymen and footpads, who made a living from depriving travellers of their money and valuables. Various mills were found on the Heath, providing employment. These included gunpowder mills, windmills, flour mills and brazil (brass) mills. The East Bedford Gunpowder mills by Baber Bridge

were there from the 18th century until 1926. They took over the site of the Hounslow Sword mills, which functioned from c1629 until 1672.

Around Hounslow Heath were many farms, market gardens and orchards. Heston farms grew good quality wheat. In the 19th century market gardens

flourished providing London with fruit and vegetables. The manure deposited on the roads by the horse traffic provided a ready supply of natural fertilizer. In the 18th century Isleworth was noted for its orchards.

The churches of St. Leonard's, Heston and All Saints, Isleworth, were established by the late 14th century and both towers survive from that date. Isleworth Church was rebuilt in 1705 and altered and extended in 1865 but gutted by fire in 1943 and rebuilt in 1969. Heston Church was partially rebuilt in 1866. Both churches have registers and records dating from the 16th century. Isleworth's records, after the fire, were taken to Hounslow Library for safekeeping. The records up to the mid-19th century remain there. From the mid-19th century to date, the records remain in the church. The Heston records have been deposited with the London Metropolitan Archives.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538, only the chapel of the Priory survived. Hounslow Manor House was built on the site using the Priory stone. The chapel was part of the Parish of St. Leonard's Heston, and was used as the private chapel to the Hounslow Manor House. One volume of registers for the chapel, 1708-1740, survive. The first Holy Trinity Church was built in 1828 and was licensed for baptisms, marriages and burials in 1836, when the Chapelry of Holy Trinity Hounslow came into being. These registers have been deposited in the London Metropolitan Archives.



*St. Bridget's R.C. Church Isleworth,  
with War Memorial*

Isleworth maintained a place for worship for Catholics from the late 17th century and registers from the early 19th century are with the Catholic Church, dedicated to St. Bridget. Copies are maintained by the Catholic Record Society for the period 1746 to 1835. Early non-conformist chapels in Hounslow were the Independent Chapel in Slip Lane, whose baptismal register for 1827-1836 is in

The National Archives. The Independent Chapel, Hanworth Road, was built in 1835 and is now called Hounslow United Reformed Church. The church retains its records, as does the Independent Church, Twickenham Road, Isleworth, built in 1849. The Methodist Church, Bell Road, Hounslow, opened in 1879 and still retains its registers. A Quaker Meeting House was built off the London Road, Isleworth, in 1785. It is thought that they retain their records.

After the London and South Western Railway Company's line from Waterloo to Hounslow opened in 1850, there was a tremendous development of housing in the area. This led to the building of new Anglican Churches and the creation of new parishes. St. John's Isleworth was established in 1856; St. Mary's Spring Grove in 1856; St. Paul's Bath Road in 1873-74; St. Stephen's Hounslow in 1875-76, and All Souls' St. Margaret's ,Twickenham, 1896-97. All these churches retain their registers. St. Paul's Church, Bath Road, Hounslow, closed in 2011 and the records may have been moved.

The population of Hounslow in the 19th century is difficult to assess as the population for Heston Parish and Isleworth Parish would each have included figures for their part of Hounslow. The earliest figure for the town of Hounslow is that of 1650, which stated Hounslow had 120 houses, most of which were inns or ale houses, The first population figures for the town are given in the Census returns for 1871, which gives the population as 8,233. The Census returns for all parishes in the Borough from 1841 until 1901 are available on microfilm, as well as on the Internet.



*The Bell, c.1895. Replaced in 1905 by the present building*

The Rate Books show the increase in population over the centuries. Isleworth Parish Rate Books have survived from 1656 and are kept at Hounslow Library. Heston Parish Rate Books are not as complete. Sample books are available for the 1860s, 1880s and 1890s. There is then a gap until 1914, when again sample books are available until 1965. All these volumes are also available at Hounslow Library.

The underground railway, in the form of the Metropolitan and District line opened in 1883 on the site of the present bus garage. In 1884 the line was extended to Hounslow Barracks (now Hounslow West) and in 1886 Heston/Hounslow opened (now called Hounslow Central). The Piccadilly line came to the same stations in 1933 and was extended to Heathrow Airport in 1975.

The overground railway, followed by the underground, led to developments north and south of the town. These are recorded in directories housed in Hounslow Library's Local Studies Department. The earliest are for the 1820s and 1830s and were published by Pigot and Co. Hounslow town and the

surrounding villages are shown as rural areas. From 1850-1939 *Kelly's Directories* for Middlesex show the change to London suburbs. *Thompson's Directories* from 1812 to 1928 record the town street by street.

In 1859, the *Middlesex Chronicle* started as Hounslow's local weekly newspaper, run by the THOMASON family until 1975, when it was sold to the *Surrey Comet* and has been sold more than once since then. In 1986 it went from being a broadsheet to a tabloid and in 1995 it changed its name to the *Hounslow Chronicle*. Complete editions before 1870 have not survived but there is a microfilm record from 1870 which has been indexed.

Hounslow, Heston and Isleworth were first united for local government purposes in 1875, with the formation of the Heston and Isleworth Local Board. This became an Urban District Council in 1894 and a Borough Council in 1932. In each instance Hounslow was the geographical and administrative centre of the authority. It was not until the formation of the London Borough of Hounslow in 1965, that Hounslow became the name of the authority. The minutes and records for all three authorities are housed at Hounslow Library. The population of the Borough in 1965, when the London Borough came into being, was 205,000 and has increased slightly over the last 50 years. Hounslow town's population is around 50,000.



*Church Parade 1864, north side of the High Street from The Bell  
To Montague Road*

The face of Hounslow has changed over the years. In the late 1970s the Council was planning for a town centre redevelopment of a shopping centre, including a central library, on land between Douglas Road and Bell Road and from behind the High Street to Grove Road. Apart from one side of Douglas Road and

Grove Road, all the land was owned by the Council and included the Council House, Library and Swimming Baths in Treaty Road' The three buildings of 1905 displayed a civic pride of the early 20th century. The swimming baths closed in 1979 and all three buildings were demolished in 1985 for the building of the Treaty Centre This was completed and opened (apart from the library) in 1987. The new Library opened in 1988 and included a café and a theatre. In 1975 a Civic Centre had been built in Lampton Road, on the edge of Lampton Park.



*Hounslow Library*

In the mid 1990s the western end of the High Street, from Bell Road to Douglas Road, was pedestrianized. From Hanworth Road to Douglas Road, only buses and delivery vans could use the High Street in one direction from east to west. The Treaty Centre was the first phase of Hounslow town centre redevelopment. The second phase was to be north of the High street, from Montague Road to Holloway Street. All that has been built so far, is an ASDA Supermarket below a large block of flats. At present, with the current financial restraints, it is unlikely that any further building will happen in the foreseeable future.

Today the town of Hounslow is very cosmopolitan. This started in the 1960s with the arrival of Asian families as well as some from the Caribbean At present we have Families from many African countries, as well as Eastern Europeans from Poland, Roumania and Russia, which makes Hounslow a truly multicultural community.

**Images:** Holy Trinity: © uk.ebid.net St. Bridget's Church © [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)  
Gunpowder Mill © [www.twickenham-museum.org.uk](http://www.twickenham-museum.org.uk)

This article first appeared in the WMFHS Journal in April 1984. Andrea Cameron has now brought it up to date.

After reading the article about Ashford in the December ZOIZ issue of the magazine, I thought I would jot down a few notes about Hounslow, where I lived from 1933 until I married in 1956.

Initially our address was Lansdowne Road, off Montague Road, where the Society holds its meetings. No bathroom, only a tin bath in front of the range; no running hot water, just kettles to fill the bath.

I remember on 1st June 1943, during the war, Holy Trinity Church going up in flames, not due to any enemy action but two boys out for a 'bit of fun'. The Church records, registers and some of the Church property were saved but within an hour the roof fell in and the eastern end of the Church was gutted. The two boys who had started the fire had, in the previous week, set fire to All Saints Church in Isleworth. The rebuilding of Holy Trinity began in 1961 and was consecrated on 18th May 1963 by the Bishop of London.

[see image of Holy Trinity on p.6]

Another story associated with Holy Trinity: my parents, William GATFIELD and Eveline NIAS were married here on 21st June 1930. While the ceremony was taking place part of the ceiling in the south gallery fell in. The Church had to be closed as the whole ceiling was unsafe. I remember my mother telling me the story and it is recounted in the booklet, *The Story of Holy Trinity, Hounslow*, by Helen EVANS. The wedding ceremony was being conducted in the chancel, so they were all safe.

Towards the end of the war we moved to my father's shop in Staines Road, W.H. GATFIELD, Ironmongers, (no electrics upstairs in our living quarters, only gas lighting). Our neighbours on one side were Mr. LENTELL, the upholsterer, next to him, Mr. and Mrs. PLOSS, who had a cycle shop and a black cocker spaniel! On our other side was Mr. WENDRON, the barber, whose son Derek told me all about Father Christmas and made me cry! I was about ten and he was a teenager. Next came the Bird in Hand pub, which I think is still there. Two sisters, the Misses TWITCHEN, ran the greengrocers. Next came Mr. CARTER the butcher and finally, the paper shop. I remember going in there one day and the lady (I cannot remember her name) said "What do you think of this new group, the Beatles? I don't think they'll catch on."

On the opposite side of the road was the big Co-op with basement, ground and first floor, next to that the Co-op Funeral Directors. Then came Jackie NEWELL, corn chandlers, the Zoar Baptist Church, a café and Orchard Motor Mart. I remember a young lad employed at the Motor Mart being sent over to my father's shop for some 'elbow grease'. My Dad filled a small pot with



*Left: Zoar Baptist Church*

*Below: Co-op, Staines Road Hounslow. Decorated for the Queen's Coronation, 1953*

some grease used to keep tools from going rusty and sent him back to work well pleased! Beyond that there was the Weston Bakery, I think, then a sewing machine shop, one or two, I cannot remember. On the corner of Upton Road was Standard Wallpaper, builders' merchants. Then there was a ladies hair-dresser, a garage and finally Hounslow Hospital. I think that row has been demolished now, including the Hospital and new, modern blocks built.



Going back a little bit further, to 1904 to be exact, I have a booklet entitled *Heston and Isleworth Urban District Council, Electric Lighting*. It begins,

The Council desire to give notice that their Electricity supply works are being rapidly pushed forward and that they will be in a position to supply Electric Current in May or June 1904. Distributing mains for general supply are, or will be laid in the following streets;

- Hounslow High Street
- Lampton Road from High Street to railway bridge
- London Road
- Bath Road from High Street to Wellington Road North
- Staines Road from High Street to Wellington Road

Consumers will have the Service connection from the street main to the meter made free of charge if application is made before 24th May 1904, No charge will be made for current for the first month the works are running.

I hope my thoughts have stirred a few memories.  
[j.croucher786@btinternet.com](mailto:j.croucher786@btinternet.com)

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## HOUNSLOW POWDER MILLS – EXPLOSIONS AND ACCIDENTS

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Chris Hern

*As a follow up to the article in the December 2012 edition of the Journal, Chris has produced this list of explosions at the Powder Mills. If anyone has come across a person whose cause of death was through such an accident, and who is not on this list, please let Chris have the details so that he can complete his Memorial Roll.*

Although the workforce at Hounslow Mills was drawn from all surrounding parishes, nearly all burials in the 18C were at St. Mary's Twickenham, as the mills were in that parish and because separate identification of bodies and body parts was not always possible. From 1813 the home parish or street is included in the register and the Roll includes this if different from the parish of burial.

Explosions at the Hounslow Mills were heard in central London and were a concern to fashionable Twickenham residents, so were usually reported in the national and regional press and *The Gentleman's Magazine*. There are long



*Explosion at the Powdermill in 1859*

gaps in the inquest records, but in the 19C, for the major explosions, inquests were reported in the national press. From 1796 until 1812, explosions or accidents at the powder mills are indicated in Twickenham registers as the cause of death, and there are single similar references in Hanworth 1781, and Feltham 1796. Only in Hanworth in the new post-1813 registers

are deaths from explosions indicated, and then only for multiple burials. There may be other deaths at the mills from accidents not recorded in newspapers, parish registers or in available inquest records. The full indexing and digitising of civil death registers may eventually reveal those from 1837. Overall the Roll is more complete than available records for other gunpowder works, apart from the Government factory at Waltham Abbey.

24 Jun 1757	Contract agreed with Ordnance Office to supply gunpowder	
11 Mar 1758	Mills blown up	3 Pestle mills and a Horse mill built by early June 1758.
30 Oct 1765	One powder mill on Hounslow Heath blew up <sup>1</sup>	3 persons died. No burials yet found.



27 Sep 1770	One man died	William TILL, buried Twickenham, 29 Sep.
6 Jan 1772	Corning and Dusting Houses exploded.	Child reported to have died in nearby house; deaths from wagon overturning.
24 Apr 1774	2 deaths.	Thomas MONEY, John HARVEY, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 26 Apr.
Sep 1781	Accident at the Powder Mills	John BIRD, buried Hanworth, 4 Sep.
24 Jan 1796	Corning House and punt	William HOLLIS, Matthew WEEVING, Joseph PERRY, Richard WINTERBURN, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 27 Jan.
29 Jul 1796	Corning House	Edward PONTER, William JOISE, James JOISE, buried Twickenham, 31 Jul. William GODING, buried Heston, 2 Aug
17 Nov 1796	Two Mills	Richard BOOTHER, James HALL, John EAST, John KERROLD, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 19 Nov. Daniel WOOLGER, buried Twickenham 20 Nov. William LUDMAN, cart driver, buried Feltham, 20 Nov.
Jun 1798		Henry HOLMES, 14; buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 19 Jun.
13 Jul 1799	Corning House	William PAYNE, William SKEATS, John DRAKE, James TUGWELL, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 15 Jul.
19 Jul 1799	Another Corning House <sup>2</sup>	Benjamin CLEMENTS, Thomas RICKETTS, Joseph KNIGHT, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 22 Jul.
Jun 1801		James GOODALL, James CHANDLER, buried Twickenham, 27 Jun.
Oct 1807		William NUTH, Benjamin KEMP, buried Twickenham, 4 Oct.
Feb 1810		John HART, Henry GILL, James LINCH, John SOMMERS, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 21 Feb.
Sep 1811		James QUICH, James DOWLS, Nicholas BROCKLEBANK, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 9 Sep.
16 Mar 1812	Corning House	Benjamin VINCENT, Peter PAGE, John BELL, Thomas TYLER, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 19 Mar.
4 Jul 1812	Two men hurt in explosion died in St. George's Hospital <sup>3</sup>	Possibly John COX, Samuel WALKER, buried St. George's Hanover Square, 7 Jul
Aug 1812		George STRICKLAND, buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 27 Aug.

21 Aug 1813	Two mills	George WORSTER, 60; Thomas TAYLOR, 60; John JONES, 63; buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 22 Aug.
27 Nov 1815	Press House. Passing by Corning House on way home	James TINSEY, 19, Feltham; William FERRIS, 50, Hanworth; both buried Hanworth, 28 Nov.
23 Jul 1816	Corning House	Nicholas CULVERWELL, 40; buried St. Mary's Twickenham, 24 Jul.
Oct 1817		Edward HALL, 32; buried Twickenham, 10 Oct.
15 May 1819	Corning House	James BENHAM, 23, Whitton; Richard BECK, 38, Hounslow; both buried Twickenham, 17 May
Dec 1823	Died at Powder Mills	Charlotte HARVEY, 21; buried Hanworth, 5 Dec.
25 Jul 1826	Corning House	William INNS, (IND), 37; Benjamin HERSEY, 44; buried Hanworth 26 Jul.
23 Aug 1827	Corning House	Nathaniel EDMONDS, 33; William PARKS, 28; buried Hanworth, 26 Aug.
10 Jun 1829	Corning House	Robert BARRETT, 37; buried Bedfont, 14 Jun. Henry BIRD, 31; buried Hanworth, 13 Jun.
1 Mar 1830	Found drowned in the Millstream	Thomas CORDERY, 69, Hanworth; buried Feltham, 9 Mar.
5 Aug 1835	Mixing House	Thomas COLVIN, 26, Hanworth; George VAUX (VOAKES), 35 Hounslow; both buried Hanworth, 7 Aug.
18 Dec 1839	Corning House	Thomas EAST, 27; buried Feltham, 24 Dec.
19 Feb 1842	Corning House	Henry FINCH, 42, Hounslow; buried Hounslow 23 Feb. William WOOLMAN, 36; Alfred MALTHOUSE, 26; both buried Hanworth 23 Feb.
11 Mar 1850	Treble Dust House  Sporting (U) Corning House <sup>4</sup> Roller (L) Corning House  Glazing House  Foreman (died from injuries)	Henry STRANGE, 22; buried Hounslow 15 Mar. Robert GLAZIER, 39; buried Hanworth 15 Mar. George GODDARD, 34, Twickenham; Thomas PENFOLD, 38, Hounslow; both buried Hanworth, 15 Mar. William BURROWS, 43, Hounslow; James BOOKMASTER, 27, Hounslow; both buried Hounslow 15 Mar. Joseph PERRY, 24, Hounslow; buried Hanworth, 15 Mar. Henry CLIFFORD, 39 Hounslow; buried Hanworth, 11 Aug.

Sep 1856	Died at Mills	William Henry PLASTER, 44; buried Hanworth, 14 Sep.
Nov 1856		William WARRICK, 53; buried Hounslow 20 Nov.
Dec 1858	Mixing House <sup>5</sup> Wound caused by explosion	Edward LUSH, 36; buried Feltham, 19 Dec.
30 Mar 1859	Corning House  Press House	Thomas ALBONE, 33, Hounslow; Aaron (John) COMPTON, 37 Hounslow; Stephen MAY, 45, Hounslow; George LEWCOCK, 31, Hounslow; Henry DAVIES, 33, Hounslow; William LITTLEFORD, 27, Hounslow; all buried Hounslow, 3 Apr. Jacob STOUT, 27; buried Twickenham, 4 Apr.
21 Dec 1861	Killed by machinery	William GREEN, 38, Whitton; buried Hounslow, 29 Dec.
8 Aug 1862	Barnfield Mills  Died from wounds c.19 Aug	John BENNETT, 27, Lampton; buried Hounslow, 13 Aug. William SHRIEVES, 28; buried Feltham 20 Aug.
17 Jun 1869	Passing on horseback U Glazing House	Alfred George HOLLOWAY, 14, Hounslow; Samuel GARDINER, 31; Hounslow; both buried Heston, 22 Jun. Richard PULHAM, 57, Feltham; William PENFOLD, 40, Hanworth; both buried Feltham, 22 Jun.
6 Sep 1872	Boat Cart Composition House	John COBB, 28, Hounslow; James COOPER, 17, Hounslow; Frederick LYNCH, 17, Hounslow; all buried Heston, 10 Sep. William PALMER, 15; buried Feltham, 10 Sep. Stephen MAY, 16; buried Hounslow, 10 Sep.
3 Nov 1874	Mixing House	John DAY, 22; buried Feltham, 3 Sep. William Henry ARCHER, 20, Hounslow; Stephen BUTLER, 18, Feltham; George TODD, 22 Hounslow; Josiah CHAPMAN, 17, Hounslow; all buried Heston, 5 Sep.
3 May 1887	L. Glazing House	William George LEWCOCK, 47; buried Hanworth, 9 May.
3 May 1887	Floodgates <sup>6</sup>	"John SMITH", bur. Twickenham 9 May.
9 Jul 1915	Glazing House	William James MARKS, 33; Feltham.
Dec 1917	Watch House	William Henry DAVIS, 67; Hounslow.
1926	Mills ceased production	



*Remains of the Lower Glazing House*

Charlotte HARVEY, who died at the mills in 1823, may well be a relative of the then owner, William Gillmore HARVEY, who at that time lived in the mill grounds. William Henry PLASTER was a groom living at the mills; buried in Hanworth in 1856 it is likely that his death from pulmonary consumption was related to his work.

Five years later, his brother-in-law, William GREEN, died after his arm was injured in machinery. William is described as a labourer in the 1861 census, living in Whitton, and his death certificate indicates that this accident was at the powder mills.

18 Dec 1839	Corning House	John JACOBS. Badly injured and close to death but still working at the mills in 1851.
11 Mar 1850	Glazing House.	William PEARCE, 21. Reported died in St. George's Hospital and later that he survived after amputation. Described as a Powder Mills Pensioner in 1861.
May 1859	Hicks Inc. Mills	Man named ALLEN reported to have died but no record found.

1st September 1873, two Barnfield incorporating mills exploded. Worker named HAWKINS from another part of the works found badly injured - possible sabotage attack.

After the acquisition of the Bedfont Mills in 1833 by Curtis & Harvey, workers often transferred between the two sites, and men possibly originally based at Hounslow Mills died as a result of Bedfont explosions. The roll will record the sacrifice of these men also.

Mar 1856	Inquest 14 Mar Inquests 8 and 18 Mar Inquest 18 Mar	Henry WALKER, 18; buried Hanworth 16 Mar. James EDWARDS, 54; buried Hanworth, 13 Mar. William HOLT, 21, Hatton; buried Bedfont, 23 Mar.
Jun 1857	Inquest 19 Jun Inquest 19 Jun Inquest 20 Jun	John GREAVES, 59; buried Feltham, 20 Jun. Richard EAST, 28, Feltham; buried Bedfont, 20 Jun. John WALKER, 69; buried Hanworth, 21 Jun.
Dec 1869	Corning House	Sidney MALHOUSE, 43; buried Hanworth, 21 Dec. Henry RUTTER, 39, Hounslow; buried Heston, 23 Dec. James HEDGES, 59, Feltham; buried Hanworth 21 Dec.

There were earlier Bedfont deaths that might also be included on a Memorial Roll.

1728	From the Powdermills	'blank' was buried in April
25 Sep 1774	One man died from Mr. TAYLOR's Mill (Bedfont)	Only burial: Fareman BAKEHOUSE, buried Bedfont, 29 Sep.
13 Aug 1799	Mr. BUTTS' Hounslow Mills <sup>7</sup>	Thomas KNIGHT, Richard STANWELL, both buried Bedfont 19 Aug.
20 Oct 1825		John YOUNG, Hounslow, buried Bedfont 22 Oct.



*Millmen*

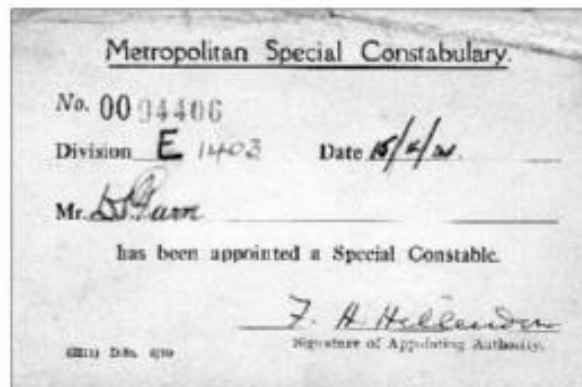
### Notes

1. *Gentleman's Magazine*, Nov 1765, p.535
2. There had been other, non-fatal explosions earlier in 1799 and there were concerns that these were all sabotage attacks.
3. *Gentlemen's Magazine*, Jul 1812, p.77
4. U = Upper Mills; L = Lower Mills
5. Possibly relating to the Inquiry of 18 Dec 1858.
6. Body of middle aged man found in river during search. Buried as "John Smith, aged 56".
7. Burials at Bedfont and mention of Upper and Lower mills indicate that the men were at Bedfont Mills.

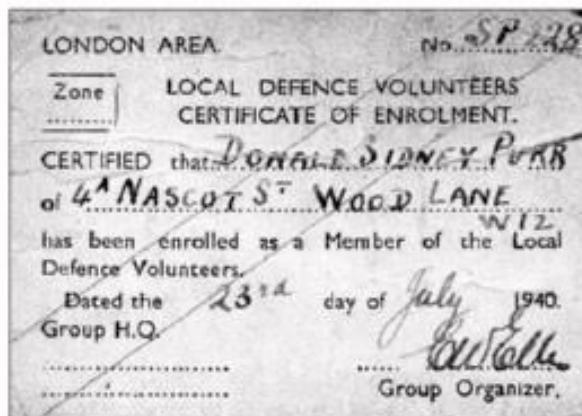
Chris Hern, [chris.lani@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chris.lani@blueyonder.co.uk)

Born on the 12th December 1900, my Dad, Donald PURR, was just too young for World War I and just too old for World War II. Nonetheless, he was enrolled four times between 1921 and 1943 to assist in the ‘defence of the realm’.

Living in Islington, he was appointed a Special Constable in the Metropolitan Special Constabulary in April 1921 . Issued with a truncheon bearing the Metropolitan Police stamp, Dad was called upon to assist the full time coppers during the General strike of 1926.

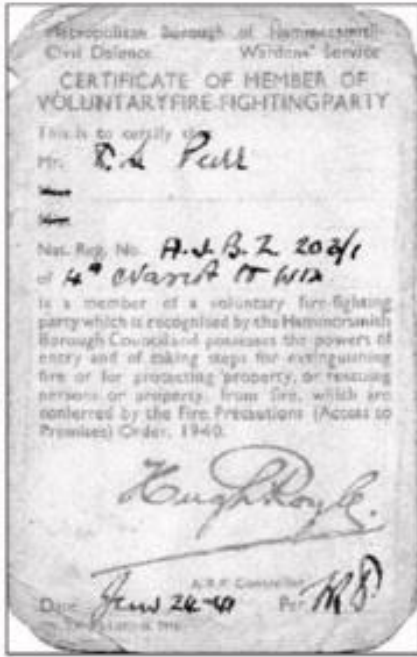


So to the next enrolment, on 23rd July 1940, into the Local Defence Volunteer Force, or the LDV. This was in response to the rapid German advance in France and a call to all men “not presently engaged in military service between the ages of 17 and 65”<sup>1</sup> to volunteer to help fight off an invasion. Thus the Home Guard was formed and indeed, in the first week a quarter of a million volunteered, with women joining up as well.



It was Winston CHURCHILL's idea to change the name from LDV to the Home Guard and this was how they were known from July 1940 onwards. There were early problems with uniform and equipment but these were overcome by 1941 and the members of the Home Guard were virtually indistinguishable in their uniform from regular soldiers and increasingly took over duties normally carried out by the regulars.

By late 1940, the German Blitzkrieg on London and other towns was under way. Incendiary bombs were used in large numbers and this necessitated yet another enrolment of men. Each London Borough had its own Civil Defence and Air Raid Wardens (ARP), so my Dad, now living in Hammersmith, was enrolled into the Voluntary Fire-Fighting Party. This conferred upon him, "... the powers of entry and of taking steps for extinguishing fire or for protecting



property, or rescuing persons or property, from fire." An enrolment certificate was issued to Dad on the 24th June 1941 by the ARP Controller for the Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith. My recollection is that some minimal training in the use of a stirrup pump and a bucket of water was required, with the objective of trying to limit the extent of any fire until the fire engines arrived. I do not believe that Dad ever had to use a stirrup pump 'in anger' at any time during the War.

So now we come to the fourth enrolment form - into the Home Guard again. On this form the question, "Have you ever served in the Armed Forces of the Crown, including the Home Guard?" is answered in the

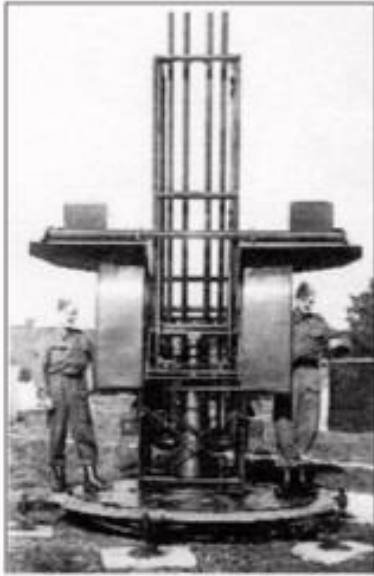
affirmative, "July 1940-41 Home Guard" and this really refers to his time with the LDV version of the Home Guard.



However, this form of enrolment directs him to present himself to the "173rd (101 Middlesex) (HG) AA 'Z' Battery, R.A. Wormwood Scrubs, London W.12, on Sunday 20th June 1943, at 9.30am to noon. Now this location was within ten minutes' walk of our family home, so very convenient for training, as well as operational duty. It was here, on this 'Z' Battery site, that Dad was paired up with "Scotty", to form the two-man team needed to load and fire an AA 'Z' Rocket Projector.

These rockets could get up to a maximum altitude of 19,000 Feet and had a ground range of 10,000 yards (or 5.7 miles).

The drill was that No.1 on the team wore headphones, through which came the commands for altitude, bearing, elevation and firing. He relayed this information to his partner. Each man set a fuse, No.2 loaded the rockets on to their guide rails and pulled them down on to the electrical firing pins and then set the elevation wheel. The firing pins were connected via safety switches to a firing handle and a 6 volt dry battery. No.1 then set the hearing and reported via the intercom that "Charlie 5 ready",



AA 'Z' Battery Rocket  
Projector  
© James Ecclestone



Don PURR (on the right) and "Scotty"

etc. On the command "Fire", he dropped the firing handle and away went the rockets.

When the rockets reached their planned altitude they exploded, sending out a shower of shrapnel just in front of an enemy bomber. This would, of course, inflict considerable damage on the enemy aircraft, or at least

persuade it to change course and go elsewhere to drop its bombs.

'Z' batteries in other parts of the country proved effective in bringing down German bombers. To the best of my knowledge, Dad's 'Z' battery on Wormwood Scrubs never connected with any enemy aircraft, but the shower of shrapnel created had to come to earth somewhere and presumably would have been responsible for some damage to buildings below and maybe injury to civilians as well.

The lack of success in bringing down enemy aircraft, and showering shrapnel everywhere, became widely known. As a result Dad was subject to a great deal of leg-pulling and ribaldry - such that the morning after his 'Z' battery had fired, his boss often asked him, "Well Don, how many Londoners did you kill last night!?" Nobody knows, but the "Defence of the Realm" was maintained just; a fact recognized by the King when the Home Guard was disbanded in 1944.

The final means by which Dad participated in the defence of the realm, was by sending maps of Germany printed on silk and miniature compasses, to British Prisoners of War, secreted in the handles of cricket bats, and delivered by the Red Cross - but that is another story!

Can anyone identify "Scotty"? Please contact the Editor or:  
[robpurrr@waitrose.com](mailto:robpurrr@waitrose.com)

**Notes:** 1 *Britain at War, Unseen Archives* Photographs by the Daily Mail (Parragon, 2006) p. 112.

2 Wormwood Scrubs is the large area of common land immediately to the north of Wormwood Scrubs Prison, from which the gaol takes its name.



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## CAN YOU HELP?

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### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

If you are a relative of any casualty buried in the UK with a Commonwealth War Graves headstone, the CWGC would like you to get in touch. They intend to carry out work on a number of these graves and would like to make contact with any family members.

The list of war graves being considered can be found at:

[www.cwgc.org/media/77656/appeal\\_for\\_next\\_of\\_kin\\_261112.pdf](http://www.cwgc.org/media/77656/appeal_for_next_of_kin_261112.pdf)

If you are a relative of any of the casualties, please contact the CWGC on [ukaoffice@cwgc.org](mailto:ukaoffice@cwgc.org) or telephone on 01926 330137.



### HMS Caroline

Do you have a relative who served in HMS *Caroline*, the last surviving warship to have fought at the Battle of Flutland in 1916?

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has secured a grant of £1m for its restoration and the national Museum of the Royal Navy is looking for stories connected with

the battleship to pass down to future generations. If you can help in this project, please contact Peter BLEAKLEY of the Friends of Caroline group at: [pete@bigdukesix.co.uk](mailto:pete@bigdukesix.co.uk)



### Speakers' Corner

On the Record, in collaboration with the Bishopsgate Institute, hopes to preserve and celebrate Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, from 1866 to the present day. If you have any memories or connections to Speakers' Corner, please contact: [info@on-the-record.org.uk](mailto:info@on-the-record.org.uk)

**What's in a Name: Howard Benbrook** (October)

Howard has been with the Guild of One-Name Studies, or GOONs, for about 12 years. He aimed to tell us why he has spent so much time researching his surname. Many of us find names interesting, and want to find out their meaning. Each name has a history, something fascinating. Why do we have surnames? They emerged between 1066 and the 13th to 14th centuries; some took longer. They were needed to identify people, the Normans tending to be unimaginative with first names endlessly repeated: Richard, John, Thomas, etc. Eventually something more was needed, especially for tax purposes, so that a person's name could be noted by a Clerk. Your name became your identity card.

The process by which a surname is passed on from a father to his children is called patronymic inheritance. The frequency of surnames changes over time. Now the 24th most common name in the UK is Patel but there were none here in 1881. The 1881 census, containing over 400,000 names, is a good yardstick for the most long-established names in the UK.

There are various types of surnames.

**Patronymic:** from the father's name, e.g. Richardson, Williamson, a form found in the South and Williams, found in the North; Jones, son of John. Welsh patronymics are formed differently, starting with ap which equates to son of. Bowen - ap Owen; Powell - ap Howell; Pritchard - ap Richard Other forms are: Tomalin: Tom's son; Perkins: Peter's son, Bartlett: son of Bartholomew.

**Toponymic:** locative - a person who came from somewhere else and is called after where they came from, e.g. Stepney, Haworth, Beckham, although a name could be from a now lost village or farmstead. London as a surname is rarer as people tended to come into London rather than leave it.

**Occupational:** e.g. Butcher, Baker, Woodward, Hayward, Smith, Wright. Some jobs have died out, e.g. Fletcher: one who put the flights on arrows (although this could also be from 'Fleischer', German for 'butcher'); Pargeter: one who did decorative plastering; Sumner: he summoned people to the Manor Court.

**Nicknames:** e.g. Redhead (Russell has the same meaning), Whitehead, Fox. Some of these are ironic, in that a 'Longfellow' might be short, and 'Toogood' might be a miscreant. 'Tiplady' is rude and derives from 'tup'; Cruikshank: he had rickets or had broken a leg? Blake: dark hair or complexion; Wren: small and jerky like the bird?

**Matronymic:** From the mother's name, e.g. Merrison (Mary's son).

**Medieval pet names:** Hob, Dob, Rob - Robert; Rick, Hick, Dick - Richard; Hal - Henry; Dod - Roger, so Dodson.

**Behavioural:** Proudfoot, Durrant (French) - long endurance; Lovelace: from 'Loveless'?

**Topographic:** from a local landmark, e.g. Green, Hill, Lake, Ford, Bywater, Townsend, Marsh. Some of these come with medieval prefixes, e.g. Atten = at, so: Attenborough; or shortened to "N" as in Nash, Noakes, Nelmes. Endings: e.g. -ham; -ton; -by; -thorpe: Scandinavian for 'village'; -hurst: a wood; -thwaite: Scandinavian for 'settlement'. In the North of England: -bottom - a valley; -clough - a steep ravine. Some of these names are surprisingly regional: e.g. Langridge indicates the South Downs, Greenwood comes from the Lancs/Yorks border; Lickfold: a West Sussex name.

Howard introduced us to the Archer Surname Atlas, a software programme which uses the 1881 census to locate all surnames in the census, it maps their occurrence and gives statistics by county or Poor Law Union.

What is a One Name Study? You try to research all the occurrences of a surname everywhere, at all periods: all the people who have held it, whether or not they are related. What makes people want to do that? Perhaps in researching a name you have hit a brick wall, so you start collecting them all. Along the way you might find notorious characters and fascinating stories and somehow they all become your family, and this turns into a One Name Study. You should first establish the size of the study: how much time have you got? What geographical scope should you cover? You do not have to do it alone - you could work with others as a team. You should begin with the common references: the Births, Marriages and Deaths Registers, the census, monumental inscriptions (gravestones).

You can find out the geographic origin and meaning of the name, plus the relative frequency - it could be thousands, although Howard has found only about 70 Benbrooks. Also its distribution, by time; this can reveal migration paths. Plus spelling variants, which can be caused by regional accents, so you must be flexible - there was never a 'right' spelling. Howard has traced back nine generations, always in East London, but the name Benbrook probably comes from the village of 'Bornbrook' in Warwickshire: perhaps someone from there walked to London? What should you do with the data? Some people use websites, blogs, send a newsletter to an interested group of people.

Should you join the Guild of One-Name Studies? It was founded in 1979 and currently has 2300 members from around the world, studying over 7850 names. If you register with the Guild you commit yourself eventually to a worldwide scope, but not necessarily right away. You are asked to respond to

all enquiries - some of these may help you with information. You receive the GoONs journal, the Members' Handbook and the Annual Register of surnames being researched and by whom, the GoONs publication "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" to help with research, plus an email alias: *yourname@one-name.org*.

On the Guild website there is a facility where you can type in the name you are interested in and it will give you the contact details of the researching member. There is the Members' Forum; the Guild Archive (where you can log your records); the Guild Marriage Index; Members' web profiles; the Wiki; the Marriage Challenge, which produces free 'certificates'; look-ups: (RAOGK - random acts of genealogical kindness).

There are events such as the Maritime Records Seminar which was held at Greenwich; an Annual Conference at a hotel; Regional Representatives arrange meetings in their area; you can do Pharos Family History Courses. Perhaps the biggest benefit: learning from other members. It is time-consuming and collecting a lot of data is a challenge, but it can be rewarding. You can become a leading authority on your name. You acquire fascinating insights, help other researchers, and make friends across the globe - Howard has - and he still has not finished. There is a town in Texas called Benbrook: why was there a "Barnbrook" in Barbados in 1650? He must find out! YM

### **The Unwrapping of Christmas: Paul Blake (November)**

This very interesting talk was interspersed with clips from films: *The Simpsons*, DICKENS' *Christmas Carol* with Alastair SIM, an American Christmas advertisement for Lucky Strike Cigarettes, etc.

What is Christmas all about? Obviously the birth of Christ, but what date was he born, in what year, and just how many Wise Men were there? The Gospel story does not answer any of these questions. In the western hemisphere, when the days are the shortest and nights the longest and there is the winter solstice, the pagans feasted, celebrating the fertility god, Jole (Yule), another name for the god Odin. There was animal, and possibly human sacrifice, and much drinking. This is also the origin of the Yule Log, a phallic symbol, which was burnt in the house for 12 days, to protect those within from witchcraft.

In pre-Christian Rome many gods were deemed to have been born during the winter, particularly Bacchus, the god of wine, agriculture and fertility, and Mithras, supposed to have been born on 25th December, whose followers took part in much feasting. There was also the festival of Saturnalia in honour of the sun god, Saturn, which took place between the 17th and 23rd December: the usual Roman rules of behaviour were overturned, there was a public banquet, a carnival atmosphere, open sex in the streets and even murder was possible as the courts were closed; there was much gambling and also children joined in drinking to excess.



*Saturnalia*

It was the Romans who brought their winter celebrations to England. Christ was probably born in September but the Church used the pagan traditions of winter festivities to celebrate His birth in December. In the Middle Ages it was the custom to put a lamp in the window to show that you were participating in

Yule celebrations. Christmas was outlawed by CROMWELL but at the Restoration it was restored, although to a more sober degree and parties did figure in the celebrations. And so it remained until Victorian times, when the publication of Charles DICKENS' *A Christmas Carol* was influential in changing the festivities towards more family orientated activities.

Where did the symbols of Christmas originate? In the Wicken tradition evergreens were hung over doorways to ward off evil spirits, hence the holly and the ivy as decorations: made into a wreath it celebrated never ending powers. Mistletoe was used in Druid spells, it was supposed to render women open to sexual exploitation! The Christmas Tree was a German tradition, first introduced into this country by Queen Charlotte, wife of George III. It was brought into prominence by Queen Victoria after a picture of her and her family with the Christmas tree was published in the *Illustrated London News* in 1848.



In 1822, *The Night Before Christmas* (originally called *A Visit from St. Nicholas*) was written by Marcus TIDMARSH, and was the first introduction of reindeer, although none of his reindeer was called Rudolph. He was invented by Montgomery WARD, an American retailer who produced a children's colouring book in 1939; he was further publicised by Robert MAY, an advertising executive, who wrote the famous *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* as a poem to be given away by Father Christmas in American departmental stores. A thoroughly secular hero, he always featured in Christmas advertisements for Coca Cola.

Christmas crackers were invented by a pastry chef, Thomas J. SMITH, who had seen in Paris bonbons enclosed in a twisted piece of paper. He brought the

device back to England around 1847, and when the sales of these devices flagged, he inserted mottos, then the ‘banger’ and the bonbons were replaced by small gifts. The origins of present giving can probably be traced back to the gifts of the Magi, but it was also part of the Saturnalia tradition of Rome. Before Victorian times, presents were exchanged at New Year.



*The first Christmas Card*

Henry COLE, director of the Victoria & Albert Museum commissioned a triptych from John Calcott HORSEBY in 1846, and 1,000 copies of this were put on sale in Bond Street - the origin of the Christmas Card.

Henry VIII was said to be the first person to eat turkey on Christmas day but by the 17th century it was becoming

more popular and in 1843 Victoria and Albert swapped their usual swan for a turkey for their Christmas dinner. Father Christmas was an amalgam of several traditions: pagan customs had a hearth god, who was dressed in red and came down the chimney; Odin, the God of Thunder was said to travel the winter skies; 4th century St. Nicholas was said to have resurrected starving boys and given gifts to children who had been good.

Paul finished with a poignant propaganda film made in 1940 by the Ministry of Information, *Christmas Under Fire*, showing how the English were not defeated by the Blitz, but still celebrated an austerity Christmas, albeit in Air Raid Shelters and the London Underground.

BP

### **The Story of Pantomime: Alan Ruston (December)**

Our enjoyable Christmas Social included this very seasonal talk, Alan began by establishing that virtually everybody in the audience had been to a pantomime. He went on to explain that pantomime was part of popular theatre, along with circus, music hall, variety, and ‘spectaculars’, and pantomime is the oldest of them all. It originated in the Italian *Comedia dell Arte* with its characters of Harlequin, Columbine, Pantaloon and Punchinello.



The first panto was performed in London in 1717. Traditionally the main character, or Principal Boy [played by a girl] who wishes to marry another girl. The Boy's mother is the 'Dame' (played by a man), and there is a villain and a clown, Another traditional character is an ‘animal skin’, i.e. two men dressed as a donkey or horse. Originally the clown carried a slapstick, two

Joined paddles which made a slapping sound and the villain would always come in from stage left, the sinister side.

Alan pointed out that all this is a very 'British Institution' and suggested it would not be easy to explain it to a foreigner! The old type of panto disappeared in the 1870s, when the modern panto developed. Fly sheets promoting the productions were put out by the various theatres to be handed out to the public or stuck on walls, These are one of the few sources available to family historians. The Guildhall Library has a large collection, as has the British Library. First names were not usually given in cast lists.



Theatres had been built alongside public houses for music hall, such as at the famous Eagle pub in the East End. Performances would last for several hours, starting at around 6 o'clock and going on till about 11 o'clock. They included a drama, a farce, and a pantomime, the resident cast appearing in all the performances.

From 1843 came the Lord Chamberlain and censorship, and the British Library holds all the plays submitted to the Lord Chamberlain. Actors had a very low status - on a par with Ag Labs; the theatre was not respectable until actors like Henry IRVING, who began in pantomime, made it so. Alan has found that in an 1872 playscript the Dame had similar dialogue and jokes to today. So there has been continuity, with a mix of old and new - nowadays the villain might be dressed as a banker, there might be references to football etc., and TV celebrities frequently start. Some traditions remain: there is usually a "dark" scene, for instance in a forest. The extravagant dresses worn by the Dame and the Ugly Sisters came in in the 1920s. The British theatre exists on the panto: they usually fill the theatres and make a lot of money.

Another source of family history information is Max TYLER of the Music Hall Society, who has a lot of information and is very helpful. There is more information on the top stars, but not much on those lower down the bill, and for people working behind the scenes, virtually nothing. Local newspapers always reported on local theatre performances: these can be found online at British Newspapers Online: [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) available on subscription and free at some libraries. This archive includes the theatrical newspaper *The Era*, 1839-1939, a good source. The University of Bristol has done some work on the theatre in the 1820s, and the University of Sheffield has a fair-ground archive. Alan warned, however, that theatrical family history is very difficult. Theatre performers frequently changed their names and theatrical biographies are suspect. *Who's Who in the Theatre* is produced annually, with main theatrical figures listed with their successes. YM

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## WORLD WIDE WEB

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A selection of new databases that have come online.

- New additions to Ancestry include: Electoral Registers: 6.5m entries for Birmingham and North Warwickshire 1832-1955; London Registers 1832-1965; Dorset 1839-1922. They have updated their list of Masters and Mates Certificates for 1850-1927. Other records include Quarter Session records for Warwickshire 1662-1866; UK Prisoner of War Records for WWI and WWII; updates on the UK Navy Lists for 1888-1970 and Catholic baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials in Liverpool.  
*www.ancestryco.uk*
- Deceased Online have added Tonge Cemetery in Bolton to their database.  
*www.deceasedonline.co.uk*
- The Family History Partnership has recently relaunched its website. The first port of call for all your family history books, do visit:  
*www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com*
- Family Search is to offer a 'Family Tree' service, by which you can connect and collaborate with other researchers, agree or disagree with what they have posted and combine your researching. Test out this new opportunity by registering, free, on:  
*www.new.familysearch.org*
- New updates on Find My Past include 543,000 parish records for Doncaster; 20,000 new baptism records in the Dockland Ancestors collection and it is now possible to access the British Newspaper Archive on this site.  
*www.findmypast.co.uk*
- The Forces War Records website has launched an online digital library of books, newspapers and magazines, including regimental journals and Royal Naval College Lists.  
*www.forces-war-records.co.uk*
- The Genealogist has added further records to its collection of Death Transcripts and some Army and Navy Lists. Its Marriage Records have been increased with the addition of marriage records from Worcestershire.  
*www.thegenealogist.co.uk*



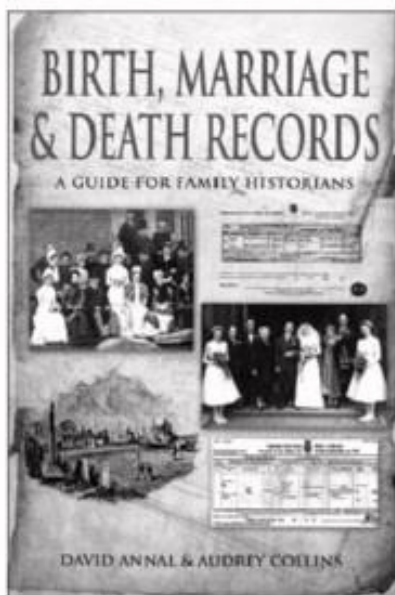
- New additions to the Genes Reunited website include Chelsea Pensioner records, 1760-1913; Prison Hulk Registers 1811-1843; Prisoner of War records 1914-1918 and 1939-1945.  
[www.genesreunited.co.uk](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk)
- Around 24,500 birth, marriage and death notices, taken from Scottish newspapers between 1849-1854, are being posted on the Happy Haggis website, apparently for a short period only but there is no cut-off date given on the website at the moment.  
[www.happyhaggis.co.uk/HHHhelp.htm](http://www.happyhaggis.co.uk/HHHhelp.htm)
- My Heritage has acquired its rival, Genicom. Those registered with My Heritage can link their data to those using the Genicom website, giving an overall database of 27m. trees.  
[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)
- Scotlands People has released details of Scottish Wills and testaments for the period 1902-1925.  
[www.scotlandspople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspople.gov.uk)
- Scotlands places has added the following to its database: Ordnance Survey name books for Caithness 1871-1873 and Renfrewshire 1856-1857, and landtax rolls 1645-1831.  
[www.scotlandspplaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspplaces.gov.uk)
- The National Archives is launching a series of commemorative activities to celebrate the centenary of WWI. The first, “My Tommy’s War” is a blog series following members of staff at TNA as they research their own ancestors.  
<http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/my-tommys-war-an-eastender-in-the-lancers/?dm>
- Snapshots of war memorials across the country and an opportunity for the public to upload images of war memorials has been brought about by War Memorials Online. It is appealing for everyone to get involved so that all memorials can be restored if necessary and records maintained for future generations.  
[www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk)
- The contents of Winchester Cathedral’s archives are going online. Visit the Website below, select Advanced search and put DC\* in the finding number field.  
[www3@hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog.htm](http://www3@hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog.htm)

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## BOOKSHELF

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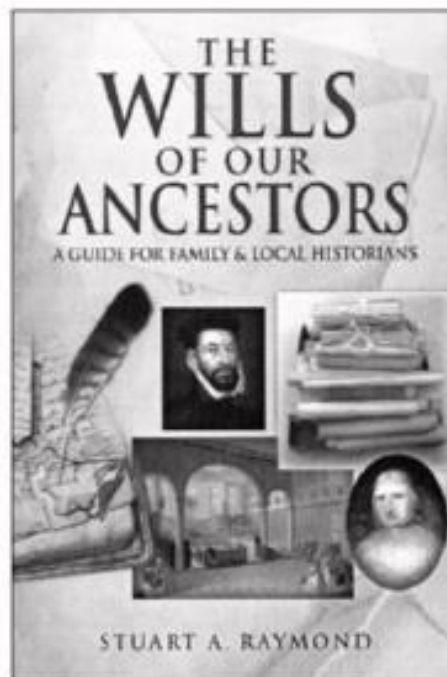
**Birth, Marriage & Death Records** by David Annal & Audrey Collins (*Pen & Sword Family History*, 2012) ISBN 9781 84884 572 5 £12.00



Births, marriages and death records are, of course, the ‘nuts and bolts’ of family history research. This book gives you the background to these official records, how and why they came into being and how they can be explored and interpreted. It covers parish registers, civil registration, non-conformist registers and overseas events. For anyone interested in history and of the records we use without thinking about their origins, this is a fascinating read. David Annal is a professional researcher and worked for ten years for TNA; Audrey Collins is the current family history specialist at TNA - what better authorities could there be to explore this basis of our family history stories.

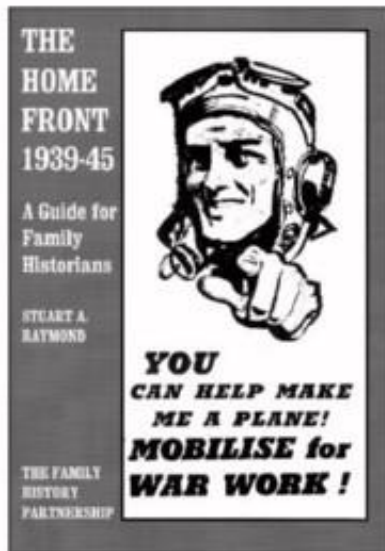
**The Wills of our Ancestors** by Stuart A. Raymond (*Pen & Sword Family History*, 2012) ISBN 978184884 785 9 £12.99

Another of the ‘nuts and bolts’ of our research, wills can give us so much more information than the date of death and how much the estate was worth. Stuart Raymond tells us who made wills and why and what can be found in them. He looks at probate inventories and other probate records and where they can be found. The Probate Act of 1857 created a national Court of Probate for England and Wales, and regional probate registries where wills of lower value were proved. The implications of this are discussed, with advice for online sources. There is a chapter on probate records for the rest of the United Kingdom and where other sources of probate information can be found. A scholarly discourse on an important subject.



These two books can be purchased from any High Street book shop.

**The Home Front 1939-45** by *Stuart A. Raymond* (*The Family History Partnership* 2012) ISBN 9781 906280 3 7 6 £5.95

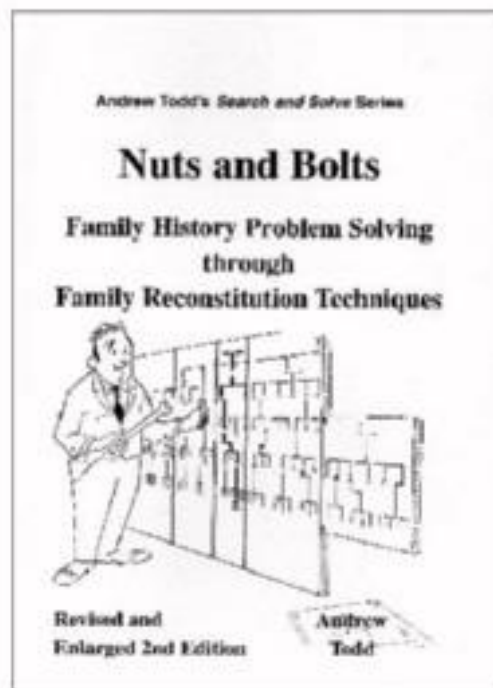


The history of the World Wars never ceases to fascinate and with so many of ourselves, or fathers or grandfathers having participated in these momentous events, it is history we can almost touch. Another of Stuart Raymond's *Guides*, a considerable amount of information is packed into a small space. As well as looking at the Home Guard, Civil Defence and the Royal Observer Corps; the civil registers and other death records, many other aspects of record keeping are examined. Internees and conscientious objectors are explained and advice given as to where their records can be found, He also has chapters on war damage, law and order, evacuation, and several more aspects of life during 1939-1945. A very

worthwhile book of background knowledge.

**Nuts and Bolts** by *Andrew Todd* (*Allen & Todd*, 2nd edition 2000) ISBN 0 948781157 £3.50

Subtitled "Family History Problem Solving through Family Reconstitution Techniques", this booklet is an exercise in lateral thinking. Do you have a proverbial brick wall? Here are some hints for breaking it down. This is just full of tips giving you different pathways for finding the information you are seeking. Experienced genealogist Andrew TODD suggests how to tease information out of parish and diocesan records, how to "disentangle multiple candidacy" and ends with a generous bibliography. For very little outlay, you can buy a book which will be worth its weight in gold.



These two books can be purchased from

The Family History Partnership  
57 Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, Bury, BL0 0BZ  
[www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com](http://www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com)

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## **FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS**

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### **Wakefield and West Riding Family History Fair**

Saturday, 23rd March, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, 154 Northgate, Wakefield, WF1 3QX. 10-4. Admission £2 (concession £1). There will be a series of free talks on local and family history throughout the day.

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

### **City of York and District Family History Society Fair**

Saturday, 13th April. Manor CE Academy, Millfield Lane, Nether Poppleton, YO26 6PA. 10-4. Admission £1, free parking.

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

### **Sheffield and District Family History Fair**

Saturday, 1st June, 1867 Lounge, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, Hillsborough, Sheffield. Admission £1.

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

### **Yorkshire Family History Fair**

Saturday, 29th June. 10-4. The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York. Admission £4.50

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

### **Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day**

Saturday, 27th July. 10-4. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP1 7NH. Free admission, free parking. (WMFHS will be attending.)

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

### **The National Family History Fair**

Saturday, 7th September. 10-4. Tyne Suite, Newcastle Central Premier Inn, Newbridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8BS. Admission £3.50.

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

### **Oxfordshire Family History Society Open Day**

Saturday, 5th October.

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

### **Suffolk Family History Society Fair**

Saturday, 19th October. Needham Market.

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

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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## NEW MEMBERS

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

H281 Mrs. M.A. HAWKINGS, 3 Hyman Close, Warmsworth,  
Doncaster, DN4 9PB                      mahawkings@onetel.com  
P160 Mr. A.R. PATERSON, 28 Rydens Way, Old Woking,  
Surrey, GU22 9DN                      apaterson@swtrains.co.uk

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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*The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed above. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. 'ANY' or 'ALL' indicates that 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
BAYS	19C	East London area	MDX	P160
BURNHAM	18-19C	Kensington area	MDX	P160
CRIPPS	19C	Acton	MDX	P160
GREEN	18-19C	Hammersmith	MDX	P160
KEENE	18-19C	Marylebone	MDX	P160
LINTON	18-19C	Ealing	MDX	P160
LUKER	18-19C	Hammersmith	MDX	P160
MAJOR	17-18C	any	MDX	H281
PAGE	1890-1904	Ealing	MDX	H281
PAYNE	19C	Chiswick	MDX	P160
ROWLATT	19-20C	East London area	MDX	P160
SCHEIDE	19-20C	East London area	MDX	P160
SCHEIDE	20C	Brentford	MDX	P160
WARRILLOW	19C	East London area	MDX	P160
WEXHAM	any	any	any	H281

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

7th January

7th May

7th July

7th October

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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 FHS INDEXES

*Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 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, 24 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, 25 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 wendymott@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.

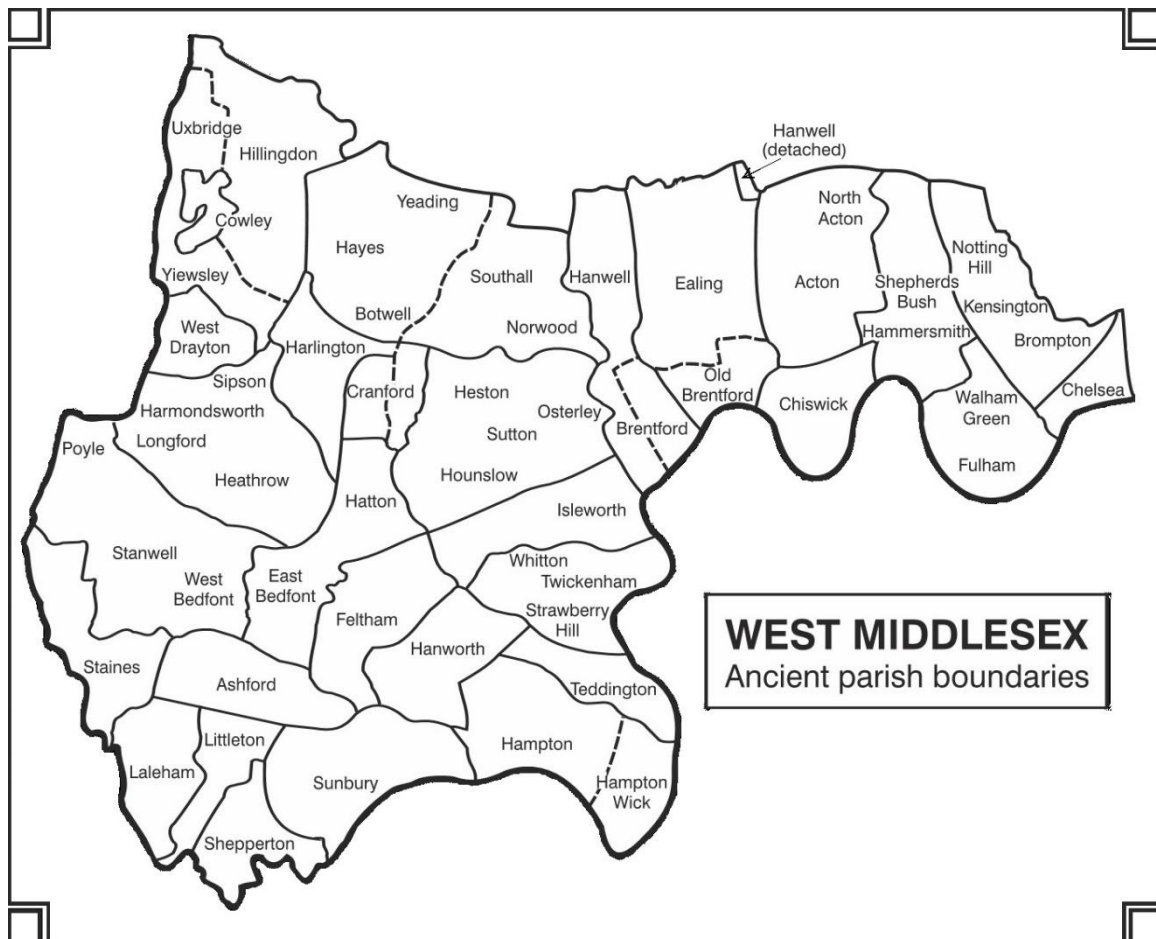
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## Front Cover

### D. Napier & Sons

David NAPIER came to Soho in 1808 and began to manufacture many innovative products. He moved to Lambeth in 1835 and in 1848 set up D. Napier & Sons. His grandson, M.S. NAPIER, took over in 1895 and began experimenting with internal combustion engines and motor carriages. Napier cars were very successful in various motor trials. Moving to Acton Vale in 1903, the company manufactured a range of engines and vehicles. By 1906 the factory employed 1,000 people, covered 6½ acres and produced 200 cars a year. In 1914 they reduced the production of cars and were manufacturing aircraft engines. The company was taken over by English Electric in 1942. *Image reproduced with permission of the Acton Local History Society.*

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**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