



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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The grave of Henry Pettitt in Brompton Cemetery



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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Executive Committee

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

Post Holders not on the Executive Committee

Editor	Mrs. Bridget Purr 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, Berks RG19 8XW <i>editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Projects Co-ordinator	Brian Page 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6BU
Society Archivist	Yvonne Masson
Examiner	Paul Kershaw
Society Web site	<i>www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:

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

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

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

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:
Mrs Betty Elliott
89 Constance Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 7HX

FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

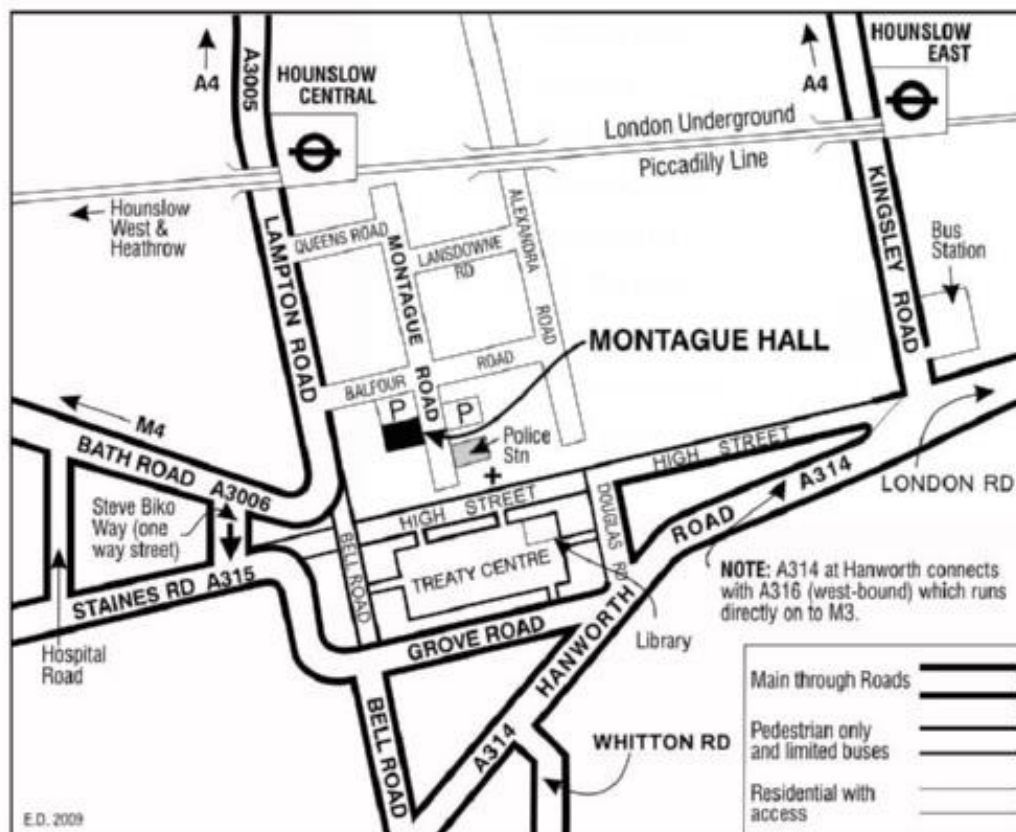
19 Sep And the Wheels Went Round - stories of cycling, home and away,
romance and races in 1930s & 1940s *The Reminiscence Roadshow*

17 Oct The London Labyrinth - libraries, archives and record offices
Kathy Chater

21 Nov Poverty and Madness - from Stepney to Colney Hatch
Louise Taylor

19 Dec Christmas Social and Researching Publican and Brewery Ancestors
Sylvia and Simon Fowler

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.



EDITORIAL



This quarter has been a busy and somewhat nail biting one. I thought that the September Journal was going to prove to be an all time low for the number of pages since I became Editor, but by twisting a few arms, calling in a few favours and generally pleading with contributors, we have an issue that I hope is full of variety and interest. But I have NOTHING for the next issue so now is the time to write that article that you have been thinking about for some time, or perhaps you have just made an exciting discovery you can share with us? I NEED your articles! Last date for submission for the December Journal is the 7th October. Articles can be long or short, a few lines or a few pages and can be sent in any format. So please think about this as the evenings grow longer and barbecues are a thing of the past.

I would like particularly to thank Mavis SIBLEY for her indexing of newspaper articles, the last of which appears in this edition. I have been including her lists in Journals for the past five years, initially it was notices and photographs of weddings, then it was more general notices, some of which also included photographs, and I know that many of you have been sent pieces relating to members of your family. So very many thanks, Mavis, for all the hard work you have put in for our members.

In June your Treasurer, Muriel SPOTT, and I attended the launch of the records from the Brompton Cemetery by Deceased Online. Nick BARRATT gave a short talk on the importance of the 'new cemeteries' which were developed in the middle of the 19C, due to the closure of church burial grounds in London, which were full. This was followed by a very interesting description by one of the official Guides of the Cemetery and mentioning some of the famous people buried there. After the formal part of the launch was over we were given the opportunity to use the database. Knowing that the youngest brother of my Gt. Grandfather was buried there, I looked for his grave and found that it also contained one of his daughters, but the first person to be buried there, 48 years before Gt. Gt. Uncle Charles Henry, was a lady who had a surname that certainly appeared in the family, but about whom I know nothing! So more work to be done and it just shows what new information these registers can throw up. See article on page 7.

Two more important pieces of information: have you booked your place for our one-day Conference on 28th September? It is a fascinating programme so come along and join us. Secondly, the dates for Who Do You Think You Are? Live at Olympia next year have been changed. Instead of running on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, it will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 20th to 22nd February, 2014. West Middlesex will be there so we look forward to seeing you.

A WEEKLY, WEEKLEY, WYKELEY, WYCLIFF CONNECTION

William Wild

Whilst there is a continuing rise in the use of the internet for family history research, there is still a place for Family History Societies. A year ago a John WEEKLEY contacted the editor of our Society's journal with the request that he wanted to trace the WEEKLY family that had lived in Harmondsworth, Middlesex, in the 18th and 19th century. By contacting her he had chosen the right person because she immediately was able to contact me. The WILDs and WEEKLYs had intermarried many times over the years and in many cases it was first cousins that were marrying.

I was expecting this request from John WEEKLEY to concern the WEEKLY family after it appeared to die out in Harmondsworth at the end of the 19th century, but I was wrong. He had traced his WEEKLEY tree back to 1490, to a Henry WYCLIEF, alt. WYKELEY, from the County of Yorkshire. He had struck gold! I too had a family tree obtained from the College of Heralds in London, which was headed by the same Henry. John and I were descended from two different sons of the above Henry. I was descended from the eldest, Barnaby, and he from a Giles. This made us 12th cousins! When we exchanged trees we could see we were from the same family as both pedigrees carried the same coat of arms.

The man that headed both our trees was Henry WYCLIEFE, or WYCKLEY, of County York, born about 1490 and dying about 1558.

My family tree had been researched 100 years ago by some of my grandfather's brothers and sisters and was really a copy of the one in the College of Heralds. I visited there some years ago and was therefore able to view the original, which had been compiled through Heralds Visitations in 1618 and 1681. While I knew nothing of John's tree he had, by visiting the Northamptonshire Record Office, managed to find out about the time when the WEEKLEYs were living in that county before they moved to London, where they were grocers in Westminster, and also to Harmondsworth. The first record of their being in Harmondsworth is when a Thomas WEEKLEY buried his wife, Ann, in Harmondsworth churchyard on the 9th October 1688. Only a few years earlier, in 1683, 1685 and 1687, Thomas and Ann had had their three children baptised in St. Margaret's, Westminster.

However, John had worked at researching his branch of the family over many years and in so doing produced an extensive tree down to the present day. While I had always known that the WEEKLYs were a moderately wealthy family with some standing in society, I was to learn from John that they had been Lords of the Manor of Little Addington, Northamptonshire. I had been

brought up knowing that the WILDs had only obtained their land in Hannondsworth by marrying female WEEKLYs in three successive generations!

Sixteen years ago I had been told by a local historian of the existence of a William WEEKLY, a bookseller in Ipswich, Suffolk, at the time of the English Civil War. I was unable to place any connection with my tree, but there he was on John's tree. I was now able to tell John that William had a wife, maiden name HERICK, whose father was a clergyman and that they had a son, also a bookseller, Who died in 1696.

What was intriguing in John's tree was that he had managed to find connections with notable people in English history. In 1670, Lucie WEEKLEY, a farmer's daughter of Waddenhoe, Northamptonshire, married Benjamin CLAYPOLE, a younger son of the MP for Northamptonshire. Benjamin's elder brother was John CLAYPOLE, Master of the Horse to Oliver CROMWELL, who had earlier married Elizabeth, the favourite daughter of the Lord Protector. Just before his own death, Oliver CROMWELL spent a month at the bedside of his dying daughter, Elizabeth. It is this vigil which is held by many to have hastened his own death.

The second connection is to William SHAKESPEARE, who in 1597 purchased a property in Ettington, Warwickshire, for £60 from William UNDERHILL. This William had seven sisters, the eldest of whom was Winifred, who married Barnaby WYKELEY of Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, an ancestor of mine, while another sister, Elizabeth, married Thomas TAWYER of Raunds, Northamptonshire. This Thomas TAWYER had a sister who married Giles WYKELEY of Little Addington, Northamptonshire, a younger brother of Barnaby.

For at least 300 years the WEEKLY family in Harmondsworth had contended that they were descended from the WYCLIFFE family that included John WYCLIFFE, the Reformer, who was the first to attempt to translate the Bible from the Vulgate Latin into English and also to oppose the Pope in Rome. Because of these actions he is commonly referred to as "The Morning Star of the Reformation". However the family connection has never been proved conclusively. Independently John had also thought of the same possibility, so we tried a further attempt in researching our ancestor.

I have in my possession a pedigree of the family of WYCLIFFE, living in the parish of Whycliffe in North Yorkshire, in the wapentake of Gilling near Richmond. On it there is a Henry de WYCLIFFE, a man-at-arms, fighting at the Battle of Agincourt, 1415. It shows he had descendants but does not name them. He is shown as the great nephew of John the Reformer. The dates make it a possibility that he could be the grandfather of the Henry, born about 1490. Recently a website has been created, medievalsoldier.org, which lists all the muster rolls of soldiers who fought in the Hundred Years War from 1369-1453,

which are housed in The National Archives. On it I found a Henry de WYCLIFEE at Agincourt. I therefore went to Kew and found the parchment bearing the names of those who fought under the banner of the Duke of CLARENCE, a younger brother of HENRY V and there was our Henry de WYKLIEFE. While we have still not established firm evidence of the connection between the two Henrys, at least we do know that the man who fought at Agincourt definitely existed.

Strangely, both lines of WEEKLEYs produced grocers who were in business in the City of London in the 17th and 18th century. Those on my line leased a property from the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey, which was in Tothill Street. I have seen the original lease books, which are kept in the Muniments Room of the Abbey. I have a letter in my possession which shows the WEEKLYs dealing in buying sugar from Antigua. At the same time, one of John's ancestors left their grocer's business in London and emigrated with his two sons to Charleston, South Carolina, where they became plantation owners employing slaves. John has been in contact with their descendants, still in the USA, but no longer in the sugar trade!

There are descendants of the Harmondsworth WEEKLYs also living in North America and Canada today, but it appears that their ancestors went there more out of necessity rather than choice. These ancestors were the children of a Richard WEEKLY, who died in 1883, aged only 35 years old, leaving a widow and four children all under the age of eight. The eldest went to Dr. Barnardo's Home in East London and the other three to Staines Workhouse, situated at Stanwell. Eventually, when they were old enough, the two boys emigrated to the USA, probably on an assisted passage.

How was it that members of a family that in the 19th century were of a wealthy upper middle class, land owning family, would within three generations be reduced to resorting to living in the workhouse, a place hated and feared by all Victorians? I am afraid it all stemmed from the decision of their great grandfather, Thomas (1789-1873), who in 1808 had married an illiterate ploughman's daughter. Though he was left money and some property in his father's will, as the eldest son, he descended to the ranks of an agricultural labourer. On all census returns and parish records he is so described but in his will he is called a yeoman! I doubt whether the young WEEKLYs as they sailed to their new home on the other side of the Atlantic, knew that they came from a family which were entitled to bear a coat of arms.



Weekley Coat of Arms

BROMPTON BURIAL RECORDS ON DECEASED ONLINE

Emma Jolly

In May 2013, more than 200,000 fully indexed records and scans of Brompton Cemetery's burial records became available on the website www.deceasedonline.com. Deceased Online is the first central database of statutory burial and cremation registers for the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Brompton Cemetery's records are one set among thousands that are now available to search online. While searches are free, credits are required to view the scanned burial entries.

The digitization of these records was made possible thanks to a collaboration with The National Archives, which holds the original registers. The aim of the website is to enable family historians, among others, to find their ancestors' burial places and to see scans of the original registers at the click of a mouse.

Finding the burial places of West Middlesex ancestors from the mid-nineteenth century can be more difficult than for previous decades. As the area, particularly the parishes close to Westminster, gained more inhabitants, there was a greater need for burial spaces beyond church graveyards. Urban Kensington and Chelsea had become home, in part, to overcrowded slums and squalid graveyards. Sanitation was poor and little helped by the increasing numbers of corpses needing to be buried.

After visiting Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, barrister and editor of *The Penny* magazine, George Frederick CARDEN (1798-1874), was inspired to create a similar burial ground in London. CARDEN petitioned Parliament in 1830, and soon afterwards, Parliament began to pass a number of bills that allowed for the creation of commercial cemeteries in the more rural suburbs of London. This included parishes in the West Middlesex area.

Over the next nine years, seven cemeteries were built on the outskirts of central London. These cemeteries are now popularly known as the 'Magnificent Seven'. All were private cemeteries, built by independent companies. Of these seven, two were built in West Middlesex. The first, Kensal Green Cemetery, was established on the Harrow Road in 1832, and eight years later, in 1840, the first burial took place in Brompton Cemetery.

The West of London (and Westminster) Cemetery, Brompton, as it was originally known, was designed by Benjamin BAUD as an open air cathedral. BAUD based the domed cemetery Chapel on St Peter's Basilica in Rome. The cemetery was laid out between 1839 and 1844 on land previously owned by Lord KENSINGTON off the Old Brompton Road. More land was added in

1844 after being bought from the Equitable Gas Company. This extended the plot to the Fulham Road. In 1850, the General Board of Health bought the cemetery, beginning a period of state ownership that continues today.

Hundreds of well-known people have been buried here since 1840, but the cemetery was open to all members of the public, including nonconformists (marked in the registers as 'Dissenter' as opposed to 'Church'). Since the launch of the collection online, several family historians have contacted Deceased Online to tell of the ancestors they have found in the database. Some of these findings were unexpected. Not all of those in the burial records of large cemeteries like this resided nearby. The records reveal that Brompton's inhabitants came from a variety of parishes, including St Luke's Chelsea, St Paul's Hammersmith, St John's Fulham and, of course, Kensington. There were also a large number from parishes in the current borough of Westminster.



The grave of Emily PANKHURST

Amongst the most notable graves are those of the suffragette Emmeline PANKHURST (1858- 1928), the cricketer John WISDEN (1826-1884) and medical pioneer John SNOW (1813-1858). The theatre is well represented with burials of dramatist Henry James BYRON (1835-1884), actor-manager Mary Anne KEELEY (1805-1899), actor Lilian Adelaide NEILSON (1848-1880), opera singer Blanche ROOSEVELT (1853-1898), actor and singer Frederic SULLIVAN (1837-1877), actor William TERRIES (1847- 1897), actor-manager Benjamin Nottingham WEBSTER (1797- 1882), actor Brian

CLOVER (1934-1997), actor-manager Squire BANCROFT (1841-1926), and opera singer Richard TAUBER (1891-1948).

One of the most remarkable tombs in the cemetery is that of actor and dramatist Henry Alfred PETTITT (1848-1893), resident of Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush, whose headstone bears his image on a marble plaque. This monument was Grade 11 listed by English Heritage in 2011. PETTITT was a

Register of Burials in the West of London 1881				Westminster Cemetery, East Gate, Old Brompton.			
PREPARED BY THE CITY OF LONDON.				BY CHARLES, Esq. D.D.			
NAME AND RESIDENCE	Place of Burial	Age	Sex	Place of Burial	Class	Grave	Remarks
Brody Charlotte, Westgate 181751	St. Pancras Road St. Pancras	25	Female	St. Pancras	St. Pancras	181751	181751
Mansfield Henrietta Henry 181752	St. Pancras Road St. Pancras	25	Female	St. Pancras	St. Pancras	181752	181752
Parsons Henry Thomas 181753	St. Pancras Road St. Pancras	25	Male	St. Pancras	St. Pancras	181753	181753
Price Henry 181754	St. Pancras Road St. Pancras	25	Male	St. Pancras	St. Pancras	181754	181754
Price Henrietta 181755	St. Pancras Road St. Pancras	25	Female	St. Pancras	St. Pancras	181755	181755

The Grave Register entry for Henry Alfred Pettitt

prolific playwright and produced popular burlesques and melodramas of the late Victorian era. His plays include *Burmah* (1896), *In The Ranks* (1883) and *The Harbour Lights* (1885). PETTITT died of typhoid fever on Christmas Eve 1893 and lies buried below a pink granite broken column. (See front cover and inside back cover of the Journal.)

Military graves are much in evidence, with twelve of Victoria Cross awardees. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains 289 First World War, and 79 Second World War graves here. Chelsea Football Club's Stamford Bridge stadium overlooks Brompton Cemetery and its supporters regularly walk through the grounds on match days. The club's founder, Henry 'Gus' MEARS (1873-1912), and a number of the club's first directors are buried here. Those interested in the history of Kensington should note the grave of Sir Henry COLE (1808-1882), the inventor and first director of the South Kensington Museum (now the Victoria & Albert Museum).

Family members of those buried and those interested in the cemetery's history are not alone in their visits. Brompton is used as a place to walk and rest by local residents. Visitors are attracted by the peace and natural wildlife, including birds, bees, butterflies, and flowers. Today's Brompton is a Grade I-listed garden cemetery.

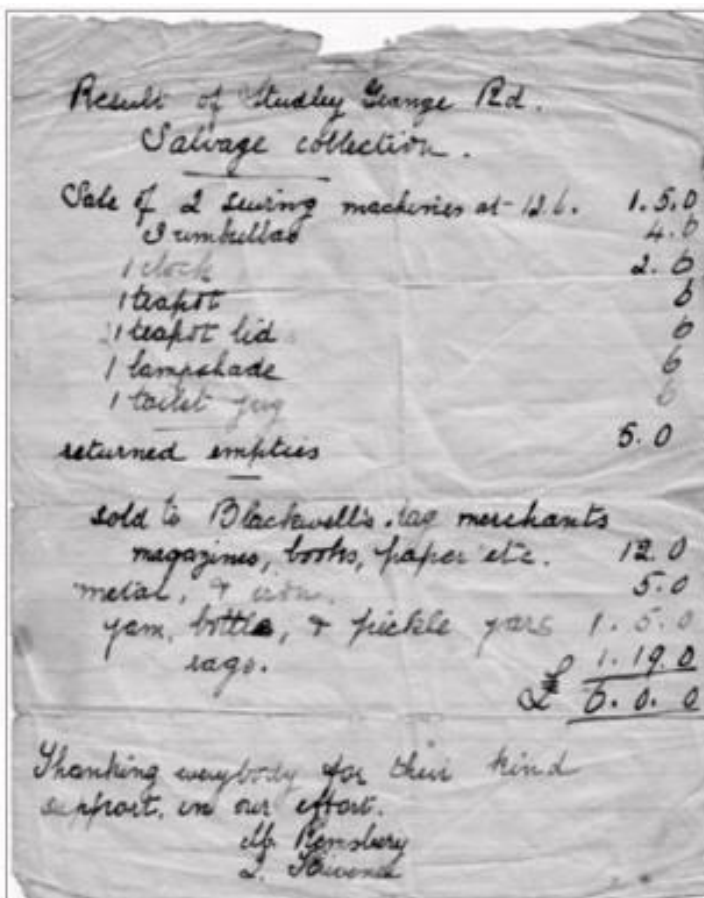
In 1996, after decades of closure, the cemetery re-opened for interments and the deposit of cremation remains. Although the site lies in the modern Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, it is managed by The Royal Parks. Further maintenance and restoration takes place thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Brompton Cemetery. As part of their work, the Friends offer regular guided tours of the thirty-nine acres, including the tree-lined Central Avenue, the Chapel, colonnades and the Brompton Road gate.

Recycling is nothing new, we did it during World War Two and before that.



It must have been about 1941 when there was a drive to "Buy a Spitfire" and towns and villages across the country mounted schemes to raise money to help the war effort and buy an aircraft. I remember my mother and grandmother collecting things (called salvage in those days) to help towards buying a Spitfire. They called at all the houses in Studley Grange Road, Hanwell

where Grandma lived, collecting anything that could be sold for cash. (Abit like Steptoe & Son I suppose). The note was found with my mother's things after she died and shows What was collected and how much money was raised.



The note that was posted up in the local corner shop showing the result of the Studley Grange Road, Hanwell, London W7 salvage collection. The collection was made only from the houses in that road.

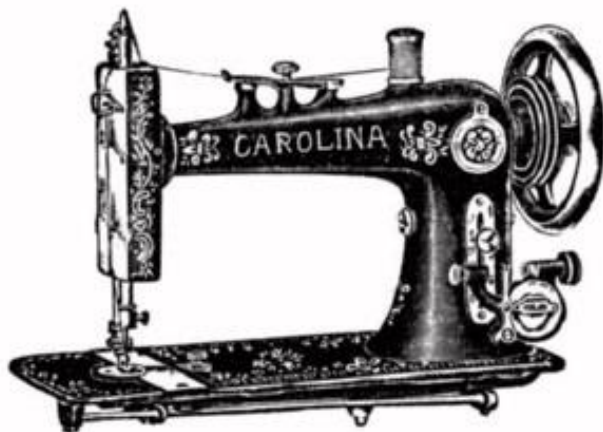
The note was written and signed by my grandmother, May REMSBERY, and signed by her on behalf of my mother, Kathleen (Queenie) SCRIVENER.

A word of explanation about some of the items:

Returned empties. These were beer bottles which when returned to an off-licence could be exchanged for one or two pennies, depending on the size. You could also get money from returned soft drink bottles. In those clays, as they were all made of glass, they could be sterilised and reused.



Jam jars, bottles and pickle jars, when taken to BLACKWELL's, the local scrap merchant, would fetch a farthing or a halfpenny each, according to capacity. Blackwell's also bought scrap metal, paper and rags. (I remember collecting bottles and jars from our house and grandma's to take to Blackwell's when I wanted to go to the pictures and had not got enough money).



I do not know where they sold the sewing machines. I do not think she would have sold them to Blackwell's. I remember my mother used to repair sewing machines for our neighbours, so perhaps she sold them as replacements for worn out machines. I know some of the machines she repaired were very old and of antiquated design.

It seems strange that a teapot lid alone should have raised 6d, the same as a teapot, lampshade or jug.



In those clays the £6 raised was quite a reasonable sum of money, much more than my mother, a widow, had to keep herself and three children for a week. I think she managed on half that. During the war, with all the rationing and shortages, there was not a lot you could spend your money on anyway.

My father's cousin, Audrey, used to say to him, "Jim, if I'd ever had a brother, I hope he would have been like you", a lovely sentiment shared by my father's doting daughters. As a small, but close family, we regularly met Audrey until her death in 1995.

Audrey's father, Walter Frank BRYANT, had what seemed to be an interesting military career. At the outbreak of World War I he was a sergeant in the Royal West Surrey Regiment but by the time he died, he was a Wing Commander in the RAF. As people who know me are aware, there are times when my brain works exceedingly slowly so it was not until late 2010 that it dawned on me that it might be interesting to enter his name into the Google search bar.

What appeared sent a shiver down my spine, and my finger to the 'off' key. I phoned my sister and asked her to repeat the experiment. She found the same results as I had done - two entries from the Ta'braXia Cemetery in Malta.¹ Eric John BRYANT, buried 25 May 1920, aged 10 weeks and Ronald Frank BRYANT, buried 1 March 1922, aged 14 days. Both were described as being the "son of Walter Frank and Ruth Ellen BRYANT".

I asked my father's two surviving, female cousins, whether they had ever heard their mother say anything about Aunt Ruth's little boys. They had heard nothing but repeated Audrey's comment that my father was like the brother that none of them had had.



Ta'braxia Cemetery, Malta

Visiting 'The Travel Show' at Earl's Court in February 2011, I enlisted the help of a lady on the 'Visit Malta' stand. She kindly sent me contact details for the Ta'braxia Cemetery, which is now maintained by the Maltese equivalent of the National Trust. On Wednesday mornings, volunteer 'friends' visit the Cemetery. It was one of these volunteers who had indexed the burials and posted the index on to the internet.²

As we usually go on holiday to escape from my birthday, the decision was made - that year the holiday would be in Malta. On the Wednesday of our holiday we visited the Cemetery and walked through the grounds. Ta'braxia Cemetery is the resting place of men, women and children of many nations. If you have 'lost' someone, especially if they were in, or were connected with the military or merchant navy, it may be worth looking at the index.

The volunteer 'friend' also told me where the Malta Registry Office is³, but did warn me that the staff are not very helpful. Off we went to order the death certificates and discovered for ourselves that what he said was very true. However, we were able to collect the certificates two days later on Friday. It was a surprise to learn that although each baby had been buried the day after death, the deaths had not been registered until a week or so after the burials had taken place.⁵

So - Google took me down a very unexpected and sad path of family history research, and an eventful holiday.

Where will Google take you?

Chronology

- 14 Nov 1885 Birth of Walter Frank BRYANT
- 10 Dec 1888 Birth of Ruth Ellen NEWMAN
- 27 Dec 1915 Marriage of Walter Frank BRYANT and Ruth Ellen NEWMAN
- 13 Apr 1918 Birth of Ruth Audrey BRYANT (known as Audrey)
- Apr 1918 Walter Frank BRYANT confirmed as Lieutenant in the RAF⁴
- Apr 1919 Walter Frank BRYANT promoted to Captain in the RAF⁴
- 1919-1922 Walter Frank BRYANT posted to Valetta, Malta⁴
- 16 Sep 1919 Passport issued to Ruth Ellen BRYANT for travel to Malta
Accompanied by daughter, Ruth A. BRYANT⁵
- 3 Oct 1919 Ruth Ellen & Ruth Audrey BRYANT arrive in Malta⁵
- 1922 By December, Walter Frank BRYANT described as Squadron Leader⁴
- 1923 Walter Frank BRYANT posted back to UK⁴
- 13 Jul 1954 Death of Wing Commander Walter Frank BRYANT
- 30 Jan 1973 Death of Ruth Ellen BRYANT
- 14 Jan 1995 Death of Ruth Audrey BRYANT

Sources

1. Ta'braxia Cemetery is under the care of dinlarthelwa.org
2. Ta'braxia burials index: lineone.net/~stephaniebidmead/tabraxia.htm
3. Malta Registry Office, The Evans Building, Merchants Street, Valetta
4. TNA - Air Force List
5. Documents held by the family

THE VILLAGE OF HARLINGTON AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

This article was written as a school exercise in December 1887 by Robert P. NEWMAN, age 10. I have reproduced it exactly as it was written, Philip Sherwood.

Harlington is a little village thirteen miles from London with a few farms, a few rich people and plenty of poor ones, it is a pretty place with plenty of public houses, one church and one chapel, a few shops, one station and some lanes, a Few schools, two ponds, plenty of trees, an avenue and corn fields.



The parish churchyard contains an old Yew tree more than 800 years old.

There is a road leading to Bath, one to London, one to Hayes, one to Staines and many others. Some fruit gardens, pasture land, orchards and fields of all sorts. There are four sweet shops, 8 clrapers, 3 grocers. The lanes are Brickfield,

Victoria, Cherry and Cranford, plenty of houses, villas, cottages and sheds.

The farmers are E. HUNT, R. NEWMAN, C.W. SHACKLE and S. and W. PHILP. The names of the two ponds Butts and Jessops. The wild flowers are primroses, daises, buttercups, dog roses, dandelions &c; the flowers grown in gardens are primulas, daises, crocus, tulips, ice plants, geraniums, snowdrops etc. there are evergreens, namely laurels, holly &c. You have to go more than a mile to the nearest station.

There are two butchers, MATTHEW and RATCLIFF, three schools, Miss HEWITT's, Miss STONE's and the National.¹

There are not many pea and bean fields about.

The nearest G.W. Railway Stations are Hayes and Harlington and West Drayton. The District Railway is at Hounslow. The places round Harlington are Hounslow, West Drayton, London, Ealing, Hanwell, Acton, Hayes, Colnbrook, Hillingdon and Felthami Harlington is noted for having two old Yew trees in the parish churchyard.

A cemetery of the chapel is up Victoria or White Hart Lane which leads to a field, the allotments, an orchard, four cottages and three market gardens. The

orchard up Victoria Lane belongs to R. NEWMAN, the market gardens to B.B, PHILP, Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. HEYWARD. The cottages belong to R, RATCLIFF and are let to poor people.

All the roads in Harlington are very good and nearly always nice and clean. There are no jewellers, chemists, dyers, millers, printers nor binders. Staines is not far away where King John signed the Magna Charta. Cranford, a little way from Harlington is where Berkeley House, one of Lord FITZ HARDING's residences is situated, J.D. ALCROFT, a former Member of Parliament lives at Harlington. Not far from Harlington is Windsor.

Harlington is very flat but high. It is very healthy and London people send down a lot of their children every summer.²

There are no board schools at Harlington and the nearest is more than two miles away There are a few concerts held in the National School and other places. An annual fair is held every year on Whit Tuesday which causes a lot of people to come from different places round about, There are more than 300 poor children go to the National School.

The Queen has been to Harlington once, The old Yew tree in the parish churchyard is named John SAXONY because in olden times it used to be kept cut out with a cock on the top, the cock was called John SAXONY and that is how it got its name, but it is too old to be kept cut out now.³

A place near Harlington called Bedfont has two little Yew trees which are kept out with "Good night 1880" at the bottom branch.⁴

At Harlington in Spring, Summer, and Autumn people can take nice walks and enjoy themselves very much. In the winter when it snows at Harlington Mr. R. NEWMAN, or the father of the boy who wrote this, sends out two woodenploughs, a big one for the road drawn by four horses, and a little one drawn by one horse, which plough the snow off the road and path and make it nice and clean for people to walk and ride along.



Harlington has an old meadow called the Moats; in olden times it was three or four meadows but now it is all one, it is situated in front of the Manor Farm⁵ which belongs to R. NEWMAN; he has two farms, one the Manor Farm situated at

Manor Farm, or Dawley Manor Farm, with Robert NEWMAN in later life standing in the doorway.

the north of Jessop's pond and Church Farm⁶; situated on the east of the Church, and on the south side of the farm is a great orchard which is called Cherry Orchard and behind is cherry garden. In the front of Cherry Orchard is Lansdowne House, the residence of R. NEWMAN, his wife and his five children, behind Lansdowne House is another orchard and he has nineteen or twenty fields including corn pasture and other fields.

Uxbridge in former years was a very celebrated place and Brentford, not far from Harlington, was in former years the capital of Middlesex but London is the capital of Middlesex now.

At Hounslow there are some powder mills and some at Hanworth too. V\hen they blow up it frightens the people at Harlington very much Near the powder mills at Hanworth are the old snuff mills which belong to the same people, CURTIS and HARVEY. One day some of the mills at Hanworth blew up, on that day a certain dog named Spot was shot which belonged to R. NEWMAN because he was half dead. There are some brasses in the parish church, very ancient, and the people are very proud of it.

The population is about 1,600.

R.P. NEWMAN

Finished 19/12/1887.

Notes

¹ Miss HEWITT's school was at Overburg House later re-named *The Lilacs*. This stood behind the pond and was demolished in 1967. Miss STONE's school stood next to Lansdowne House and was demolished in the 1930s; three detached houses now stand on its site. The National Schools were next to the site of the Harlington Locomotive Society. The schools were closed in 1939 but not demolished until 1962.

² Probably to work in the fields at harvest time.

³ He is probably confusing this with John SAXY who was responsible for cutting the Yew and who published the doggerel rhyme about it in 1729.

⁴ See front cover of the December 2012 Journal.

⁵ Dawley Manor Farm demolished by the construction of the M4 in 1963.

⁶ Demolished in 1969.

**Last date of submission
for articles for printing in the subsequent Journal:
7th January 7th April 7th July 7th October**

Mrs.M.Sibley has extracted these notices from local newspapers. If anyone is interested in receiving the newspaper cutting of any announcement in the list below, she will be pleased to forward same upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Please refer to her address at the back of the Journal.

1943

- Golden Weddings Mr & Mrs William BEAVIS, Southall
 Mr & Mrs W. R. BUCKLAND, Hanwell*
 Mr & Mrs Henry Thomas CHEASLEY, Hanwell*
 Mr & Mrs William CHEASLEY, West Ealing*
 Mr & Mrs G. W. ELDRED, Brentford*
 Mr & Mrs Walter Killingworth HEDGES, Greenford*
 Mr & Mrs Francis LLOYD, Southall }
 Mr & Mrs George H. LLOYD, Southall }**
 Mr & Mrs Charles Alfred MILLEST, Hanwell
 Mr & Mrs Samuel William OLIVER, Hanwell*
 Mr & Mrs Charles PREECE, West Ealing
- Diamond Weddings Mr & Mrs Walter CROWE, Acton Green*
 Mr & Mrs Isaac ROUSE, Southall*
 Mr & Mrs Arthur G. SCOTT, Southall
 Mr & Mrs Charles TREBY, Southall*
 Mr. & Mrs Joseph WINGROVE, Southall*

1944

- Silver Weddings Mr & Mrs Charles Rowland ARNOLD, Ealing*
 Mr & Mrs J. E. C. CARR, Southall*
 Mr & Mrs FIFE-SCHAW, Glasgow*
- Golden Weddings Mr & Mrs George James BARRETT, Ruislip*
 Mr & Mrs W. J. COUCH, Southall
 Mr & Mrs George DISMORE, West Ealing*
 Mr & Mrs J. H. HOLMES, Southall
 Mr & Mrs A. E. LAWES, Southfields, previously Southall*
 Mr & Mrs Samuel Thomas MARRISON, Northolt*
 Mr & Mrs W. F. MOUNT, Southall*
 Mr & Mrs Arthur John NEWMAN, Southall*
 Mr & Mrs George SALTER, Oxfordshire*
 Mr & Mrs E. F. SARGENT, Southall*
 Mr & Mrs Arthur Ernest SENHENN, Ealing*
 Mr & Mrs James S. TITMARSH, Toronto, Canada
 formerly of Southall*
- 66th Weddings Mr & Mrs Harry THORNE, Ealing*
 Mr & Mrs R. D. STRONG, Acton*
- 74th Wedding Mr & Mrs Alfred MING, West Ealing*

*No photo **One photo showing both couples



Although I have no ancestors in West Middlesex, I am truly a 'West Middlesex' girl! I spent my childhood in Eastcote and went to school in Acton, travelling on my own on the Underground from the age of 7½. After taking my 'O' levels my parents moved to Lincoln, but within two years I was back in London to study at a Secretarial College at Marble Arch, staying at a hostel in Bayswater, then moved to a flat with three other girls initially in Holland Park, then in

Shepherds Bush, working in the City of London and later in Piccadilly. Four 19 year old girls in a flat in London and surviving on secretaries' salaries - we learnt a lot about cooking on a very small budget. But it was all great fun. After our marriage, Rob and I moved to Twickenham and then on to Hampton, where we lived for 40 years before moving to Newbury.

When my third child started school I went back to work part time, but I eventually tired of secretarial work. Having no other qualifications I decided to take time out and obtained a place at Kingston Polytechnic (as it was then, now Kingston University) to take a B.A, in Applied Social Science, with the ambition of graduating before my 50th birthday - which I did.

I was fortunate to get a post at the West London Institute at St. Margaret's, (now part of Brunel University) as a research assistant in a combined project between the Nursing Department and the Education Department, looking at supervision in higher education in both professions. This led on to further research projects in the nursing and midwifery fields.

When we retired Rob and I both began doing family history in earnest, I had always been interested in the wider family, and as a very small child knew the names of my grandmother's nine siblings and my father's ten brothers and sisters. By now my mother had died but she had left two very important pieces of paper: one was a family tree of her father's family in mid-Suffolk, going back three generations, but unusually it was traced down the female lines. I wondered whether it had come from a family bible which was passed on to the eldest daughter of each generation? The other was from my maternal grandmother, who had listed the dates of birth of her parents and her siblings in a small village east of Marlborough, and also their dates of death, Fabulous information for a family historian.

By this time my father was blind, nor could he remember the maiden name of his mother, who had died when he was 21, so on the paternal line I was on my own and starting from scratch' I well remember a day at St. Catherine's House trying to find the marriages of his grandparents: I had the dates of birth of both his parents so started from that and worked back. By lunch time I had got nowhere so fortified by refreshments at "The Duke of Wellington" nearby, I started again. Eventually, after searching over 20 years of records, I found the entries and later discovered that both were the tenth child of their respective families. You can imagine how many of those heavy, quarterly volumes of marriages I hefted up and down!

It is the quirky aspects of family history that you remember. With my interest in names, I love the fact that my paternal 5xGt. Grandfather, Robert MOUNTNEY married Bethia LARGE and their first born son was baptized Large MOUNTNEY, with this name being repeated in the subsequent three generations' Similarly, on my maternal side, my 6xGt. Grandfather William CROSS married Ann PEARLE: their first born son was Pearle CROSS, and again the name was carried down the generations. My Suffolk 3xGt. Grandfather, Philip TURNER married Mary BOBY: they had 12 children, all of whom married and had families, and so Philip and Mary had 95 grandchildren, six of whom were called Philip, there were four Marys, four Marias, two Mary Anns, and numerous Williams and Roberts.

I very much enjoyed reading the School Logbook of the Wesleyan School, Newark, Nottinghamshire, where my father and his siblings were educated. On 14th September, 1909, the Head Mistress wrote to the Education Committee saying that our 3rd class infants is full, 61 on roll and only 13 desks and 52 chairs we have applied for 2 extra desks and 8 chairs but they have not been supplied, as it is several children have to be standing all the time. What would Michael GOVE say today?

So my Paternal ancestors were ag. labs. and miners in the East Midlands: Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, with my father being the first to seek his fortune in London (and became a lodger in the house of my mother's parents in Barnes). My Maternal ancestors were Suffolk yeoman farmers, but Gt. Grandfather, Robert STEGGALL married by licence at St. Marylebone church in London, Elizabeth WOOLFOOT, daughter of a Yorkshire carter, then took her back to Suffolk. How did they meet? The Wiltshire families were all very poor ag. labs. with Granny going to London to go into 'Service' from the age of 15 - however did she meet my Grandfather?

However all these connections were made, and even though in some families the line almost died out leaving only one surviving child, they did survive, and here I am today!



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

THE EVOLUTION OF TRANSPORT

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

Practical Jewish Genealogy: Gordon Barnet (March)

Gordon began his talk with the question, 'What is a Jew?' Not a nation; not a religion; not a race; they *are* a people. They are a blend of ethnicity and religion.

To study their genealogical history it is helpful to know something of the history of the Jews. They originated in the Middle East, in an area called Canaan. Later came the wanderings of Abraham and battles with different people. Eventually they settled there, into twelve tribes descended from the sons of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. The tribal names formed the Jewish names for hundreds of years. Outside of these were the LEVIs: a special group of elite priests, and the COHENS, who were also leaders.

The Hebrew language is not easy to learn: written backwards, without vowels. Jewish boys and girls start learning it at the age of 5; by their Bar Mitzvah boys are expected to know it. The Jewish Calendar, which started thousands of years before ours - births, marriages and deaths are still recorded in it - has 13 months in the year, which vary over leap years, and it goes in 19-year cycles; e.g. 18th April 2013 = 9th of Iyyar 5773. The Jewish day starts at sundown - the Sabbath is from sundown on Friday night.

Gradually the Jews began to move around the Roman Empire [the Diaspora] from about the year 70, to Egypt, Armenia, Gaul and Spain. The Romans found them useful and Jewish coins from around 50BC have been found in Britain. They spread to cover larger and larger areas: the British Isles, Russia, Persia, down to North Africa, the Yemen and Ethiopia, where there are still large populations of Jews.

From the Middle Ages onwards, Jews were distributed around the known world, but they were expelled from many countries. Various dates for expulsions include: Germany 1012, France 1182, England 1290 (out for 350 years), Portugal 1536 — they went to Spain and were thrown out of there. They settled in the Netherlands, from where they have never been expelled. Reasons for expulsions include: blame for the Crucifixion; their refusal to be controlled; they had strong religious customs and dietary practices. They were successful in business, especially finance, and they tended to take over the finances of countries where they lived, as they were the only people allowed to lend money, which put them in a special position. They actually loaned money for cathedrals and churches, and especially for the Crusades.

Marianos were forcibly baptised Jews, of which there were many in Europe and Britain. ELIZABETH I's physician, Rodrigues LOPEZ from Portugal, was

a Mariano — it was thought that he was the model for SHYLOCK in *The Merchant of Venice*. Few people at that time knew what Jews looked like as there had been none in the country for hundreds of years.

There are two groups with the Jewish religion which still exist. The Ashkenazim (Hebrew for 'German') settled in the Rhine Valley, then Poland and Russia. They talked Yiddish, a form of German. These tended to be craftsmen and worked with their hands' They were not wealthy but were strict in their religious observances, especially diet. The Sephardim (Hebrew for 'Spaniards') settled in Spain and Portugal; they spoke Portuguese, Spanish or Ladino, the Spanish language written in Hebrew characters. They had a good education and were more affluent. They were merchants, doctors and lawyers and some had coats of arms and many were of noble rank. They were more lax in their religious practices. There was some conflict between the two groups.

Oliver CROMWELL allowed Jews back into Britain from 1656, when the promise was made that they would not be expelled again - this still holds today. From Spain and Portugal they went to South America, Brazil and Argentina, then to the West Indies, where there are many black Jews. Some went to Central America, Mexico, USA and Canada and there are large populations in all these areas. Many were traders and it was they who brought in the spices and precious stones to Amsterdam, also the tulip bulbs which led to 'tulip mania' and were the foundation of the bulb industry in Holland, In Jewish genealogy you only have to go back very few generations before finding your ancestors came from abroad.



Interior of Bevis Marks Synagogue

They started to establish themselves in Britain after 1656, settling mainly in the ports including Dublin (one of the first), and Cork. Also Falmouth, Plymouth, Liverpool, Chatham, Bristol and Exeter. By the early 1800s they were also in Edinburgh and Glasgow Although some came here as Marianos, the Sephardim Jews were the first main group to settle in Britain and they established the Bevis Marks Synagogue in the City of London in 1657, The Ashkenazim founded the Great Synagogue in Dukes Place, also in the City, in 1690.

Gordon described some of the records which are available, and where. The first Jews who came to

Britain were uneducated and could not check the names being written down, so they were misheard and misspelt; also there have been some bad transcriptions over the years. There are also many variations on certain Jewish names. Many records have been recorded by the Mormons and many very detailed records can be found at the Society of Genealogists (SoG).

The Bevis Marks Synagogue was the first to begin records, with circumcisions back to 1679. There is a set of (bound) books from Bevis Marks available at the Guildhall Library and at other libraries; it is possible to look up names, e.g. marriages up to 1837, with an index, plus burial registers from 1767-1881. The Sephardim tended to tack on ancestors' names to birth records. Marriage records are very detailed, the witnesses usually being relatives so there is much information about the family. More information can be found on the Kolubah, the marriage contract. Burial records often give the cemetery, an address and a relative.

In proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913, which are available online there are many Jews in the lists, some of whom were transported. *A Dictionary of Biography of the Jews in Australia* contains records of convicts, 1788-1830. There is a Dutch book, available at SoG and other libraries, *Trouwen in Mokum*, 1598-1811, a record of all the Jewish marriages in Amsterdam during those years. It is cross-referenced, includes addresses and relations and is written in English and Dutch. Another book, *The Jewish Victorian*, 1871-1880, contains lists of people and their relatives. Another good source of information is the paper, *The Jewish Chronicle*, printed from the mid-1800s, reporting on Jews all over the country and around the world. They have a births, marriages and deaths section. A subscription enables access to these archives, which are fully searchable, covering about 180 years.

The British Jewish Genealogical Society has contacts all over the world and it produces newsletters, databases, etc. They have transcribed information from *The Jewish Chronicle*, and Marriage Authorisation Certificates from the United Synagogue. JewishGen is a website with all kinds of Jewish information. There are regional groups for those from particular origins, e.g. Lithuanian or Dutch. They have produced much useful information and also published books. Cyndi's List has a section on Jewish people; the SoG has a great deal of Jewish information and the London Metropolitan Archives is an excellent resource, particularly for London Jews.

There is helpful literature about Jewish names, particularly in a book at the SoG by Rabbi Shemel GOOR. Gordon described the origin of certain Jewish names and how they have changed. The Ashkenazim tend to have biblical names, e.g. Aaron; the Sephardim have names such as Da COSTA. Names ending in 'man' are often Jewish. Some well-known Jewish entertainers have

changed their names: e.g. Lionel BART was Lionel BEFLEITER; Harry HOUDINI was Erich WEISS; Cyd CHARISSE was Tula FINKLEA and Kirk DOUGLAS was born Issur DANIELOVITCH.

Is the Internet Killing the Chase? Jeanne Bunting (May)

Well-known family history expert Jeanne Bunting came to put the question: Is the internet killing the chase? She conceded that in some ways the internet has made things easier, but is the information accurate?

Jeanne gave an example of a piece of research she has conducted in both the old way of doing family history and on the internet. There had been rumours in her family of being related to the actress Joan SIMS - was she a distant cousin? There was a connection to her grandmother's mother and there were some names such as Pat and Lil. It took Jeanne two to three years by the old methods to prove whether it was true and it was a struggle; there were a lot of red herrings. Grandma's mother died when grandma was young but some information came from Jeanne's mother's aunt. Information supplied by Joan SIMS herself was that her grandmother's name was Pat. All this led eventually to the answer and it transpired that Joan SIMS was Jeanne's third cousin.

How easy was it on the internet? Jeanne typed "Joan Sims" into Google. Much of the information she needed was in the summary: Joan's full name of Irene Joan SIMS and her date of birth. In FindMyPast's birth records Jeanne found her straight away. Then to FreeBMD for her parents' marriage, SIMS/LADBROOK. Then to FreeBMD births for the LADBROOK children: there was Joan's mother Gladys. Then to the 1881 census in Ancestry: suspecting there might be a mis-transcription, Jeanne did not put in a surname, only the first name plus the information she already had - a good thing she did as the transcription was wrong but she found the family. Back to FreeBMD looking for Gladys' mother's family, the CORDERS. Now she found the connection with her grandmother's mother: ELDRED. Back to Ancestry for the 1861 census where ELDRED was transcribed wrongly - it was in as ELDRELL. This all took only ten minutes on the internet. And misleadingly, 'Pat' turned out to be a diminutive of 'Martha' and 'Lil' a diminutive of 'Eliza'.

How did we used to do it? We went to record offices, libraries, St. Catherine's House, etc. and while waiting for our documents we browsed, looked at other material, chatted to people. There was a joint excitement, the occasional whoop of joy when a discovery was made. Many finds are accidental. George LADBROOK was mentioned in a local paper. He was a Royal chauffeur whose duties included driving the Duke of WINDSOR, a result of this being that George's son was baptised at the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace, another entry on Jeanne's family tree.



St. Catherine's House

We also poked about in cemeteries where we chatted to local people and obtained more information. One lady's mother knew everybody locally and had a lot of information; Jeanne was sent lists containing ELDREDS. Jeanne also went to the Newspaper Library at Colindale. In the *North Devon Journal* she found some gems about her father's grandfather who had owned sailing ships. There was even a story about his dog and gave its name. By writing letters,

etc., she obtained much family information, none of which would have been on the internet.

Jeanne went on to talk about the errors which often occur in records on the internet, including errors in transcription, incomplete coverage, misleading information and 'rubbish' put on the internet by other people. Some information can be missing because of the use of a zero instead of the letter '0' in a name - this is bad programming. Jeanne cited some transcription 'horrors' she has come across in the census. One can do an advanced search, say on the 1911 census, such as only supplying the first three letters of a surname, or using asterisks to replace letters - this can get round a bad transcription. Where there is incomplete coverage of a census, it is possible to find out what piece numbers are missing: these are listed.

In the North of England from 1770-1812 there were the Dade Registers: a great deal of extra family information was given in these but this is not included in the entries on the internet. With non-conformist registers, e.g. those on RG4 and RG5 at TNA, these also are not completely transcribed: there are witnesses, occupations, etc. in the original records which are not included. So it is always advisable to look at the original records. An example of misleading information is one record in the LMA transcriptions on Ancestry purporting to be births and baptisms in London which was nothing of the kind, it was from a different kind of record altogether. Some of other people's rubbish occurs on Family Search, which is full of errors; for instance where a submitted family tree shows parents and children born very closely together, so this is clearly wrong.

Before the internet we looked at original records. Post internet, too many people rely on transcriptions. But it is not all doom and gloom. On the internet there is often more background information available, plus pictures, and

correspondence is far quicker. In fact Jeanne is hoping the internet will help her solve another family mystery.

Death Duty Registers: Dave Annal (June)

Dave first asked how many in the audience had used the Death Duty Registers: not many had. He said these records are a remarkable resource, perhaps family history's best-kept secret, in that they are not well known. This may be for any of the following reasons: there is only limited online access; it is necessary to get to The National Archives at Kew to use them; they are not easy to use ; they are difficult to interpret. He would try to explain how to use them and how they work. What are the records? How were they kept? Which survive? What period do they cover? Who is covered by them? What will the records tell you? How can you access them? In *Tracing Your Ancestors in The National Archives* by Amanda BEVIN, there is less than a page on Death Duty Records, and it contains some errors.

Death duties were a series of taxes relating to the estates of the deceased: i.e. Legacy Duty, Succession Duty and Estate Duty. The first death duty was introduced in 1780. At first it was a very basic system and the charge was just 2s.6d. On an Administration Bond of 1788 two impressed stamps at top left record the payment of the 2s.6d. death duty. These stamps appeared in wills, administration bonds, etc.

From 1796 a more complex system was introduced, so this is when it became necessary to keep registers. At first it only related to personal property, not real estate. From 1853 Succession Duty was added to the Legacy Duty Office's responsibilities - this included real estate - the Government had realised they were not getting tax on landed property. Succession Duty records will give such information as a spouse's death date and, if a spouse re-married, the new name.

The 1881 Customs and Inland Revenue Act put everything into one package. In 1894 Estate Duty was chargeable at death on all property regardless of relationships. In 1899 the Legacy and Succession Duty Office was renamed the Estate Duty Office. In 1949 Legacy and Succession Duty were repealed and the only death duty was Estate Duty. In 1975 Estate Duty was abolished and replaced by Capital Transfer Tax.

Records that survive include a series of registers plus indexes, correspondence and some case files. Up to 1857 wills were submitted to various courts - copies were to go to the Stamp Duty Office. The clerks in the Stamp Duty Office abstracted information from the will about legacies etc. and entered them into huge volumes. They needed to make sure who was benefiting and what and when they were liable to pay. They are very accurate records. Death duty

records are living documents as there was actually no limit on how long the records were to be kept. Some entries might still be annotated many years later, perhaps as much as 80 years after the original entry in the register.

Record series IR26 at TNA is a series of massive registers, 8,743 of them, plus indexes in IRZ7, 1796-1903. There is some correspondence in IR6 for 1812-36 - a record of all the correspondence in and out of the Stamp Duty Office. It is not indexed but it is worth having a look. However there is bad news about the Account files 1796-1903, for every entry in the register there was a corresponding file but in the 1960s Lord DENNING (then Master of the Rolls) decided they were of no interest and many were destroyed. A small sample, less than 1%, was kept. Although these are not indexed, your ancestor might just be there, so it is worth looking. Those in IRI9 relate to 'ordinary' people: those in IR 59 relate to the records of famous people, e.g. Charles DICKENS, Jane AUSTIN, GLADSTONE, Lewis CARROLL, etc.

If your ancestor left a will or Admon 1796-1903, there is likely to be an entry in the registers. By 1857 every estate worth over £20 should be covered. The clerks used many abbreviations - on the TNA website there is a guide to the abbreviations, under Research Guides, then under Death Duties.

In the registers there are headings at the top of columns, across two pages. Entries can include: the value of the estate; name, address and occupation of the deceased; the names of beneficiaries and their consanguinity (i.e. their relationship to the deceased), this latter was important as gradually over the years more and more of the testator's relations who were left legacies were to be taxed, originally certain relatives were exempt. The relationship might not have been specified in the will so this is useful. More entries state when the testator died (this is useful if before death certificates began in 1837); when the will was written; when and where it was proved (useful if before 1857 to know in which court a will was proved); the names, addresses and occupations of the Executors and if they moved it will give the new address; details of bequests and the beneficiaries; 'Sworn under' gives a rough value of the estate for tax purposes; details of Trusts, annuities; the amount of duty to be paid.

The registers are a mess, with additional entries written in any available space. Before 1857 they are on microfilm but after that it is the original documents. It is possible to obtain a photocopy of the microfilm entry. On the microfilm it shows the left hand page followed by the right hand page. Some of the records, covering 1796-1811, are online but Dave advised that these are not very interesting. FindMyPast have digitised the surviving calendars, 1796-1903. These will give the page on which there may be an entry and the register reference number.

WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE, Part II

Yvonne Masson

Here are two more talks given at the West London Local History Conference on 9th March 2013, with the theme Time Flaws On. Two other talks were reported in the June edition of the Journal.

Local History along the Longford River: Richard Flenley, the former Chairman of Land Use Consultants.



The Longford River in Bushy Park

The Longford River is about 25km long, coming from Longford Village at the north-west corner of Heathrow Airport. Later re-routed around the Airport, it runs under the railway at Feltham and into Hanworth Park, where it is culverted for about 600m, but this may be opened up again. It then flows on to Bushy Park and Hampton Court

Park and eventually into the Thames. In Bushy Park it feeds the newly-refurbished Water Gardens at Upper Lodge and the Diana Fountain; in Hampton Court Park it feeds the fountains laid out in 1638 and the Long Water.

It has a total fall of 8m and was constructed by Edward MANNING for £4,000, 370 years ago. Bushy Park was actually three Tudor parks merged together, including the village field of Hampton. The River doglegs in the Park: the engineers who built it were maintaining a head, perched on the field baulks of the medieval ridge and furrow; the River 'sits up' slightly above ground level. It is flat land, due to the deposition of alluvium from the Ice Age.

There was some research a few years ago to re-develop Upper Lodge, including the garden. The area of the Water Gardens has had a number of changes. They were created c1710 by the Duke of HALIFAX, who adapted the Longford River to supply the Gardens but they had become derelict (they were already degraded about 50-60 years after their construction). In the 1950s the Longford River was diverted around them and there was no public access.



The Water Gardens, Bushy Park

Richard was involved with their restoration, a project which began c2000. Part of the work involved an archaeological dig, which provided useful evidence and a couple of paintings showed views of Bushy Park, one including the brewhouse and dovecot and one (found by Sir Roy STRONG) of the Water Gardens. Etchings of Hampton Court and Bushy Park were found in The Hermitage in Russia and with all this evidence plans were developed for the reconstruction, which was completed in 2010.

Barbel, Baskets, Brewers and Boatmen work on the Thames: James Wisdom, Chairman, Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society.

The Thames is two rivers. Near the estuary it is salty (brackish); the rest is fresh water and the water coming downriver is warmer. Fish like the barbel like this type of water. In the Thames, besides barbel, people were catching gudgeon, dace, smelt, eel and lampreys, which spawn in fresh water and can be eaten on 'fish days'. Baskets (kiddels) were used to trap eels on a fish weir, which would go out into midstream. The Anglo-Saxon fish trap which emerges at low tides at Isleworth would have been catching fish on the incoming tide. It was a lucrative trade.

The right to fish was granted to the Priory of Merton in 1103. In the Magna Carta in 1215, King JOHN promised to remove kiddels from the Thames, as they obstructed barges but this was not carried out. So in 1330, Chiswick fishermen were petitioning against the Prior about his new fish weir at Strand on the Green. Tenants of nearby Sutton Court Manor already had a fish weir for barbel and lamprey. In 1411 Thomas HOLGILL was granted a fish weir



A fish weir

between the Strand and Oliver's Island, so heavy craft had to go round the other side of the Island: Kew fishermen petitioned against him.

Later float nets were being used: the fishermen were in a pair of boats with the net between, weighed down by weights made by brick makers. They had to be careful not to stray into another parish's area.

There was the problem of keeping the fish fresh. A 1661 valuation of Chiswick includes Corn Hithe (Corney Reach) and mentions Sir William RUSSELL's "Pond Yard", sometimes called Moorey Close. This was where the fishermen were keeping fish alive. Illustrations of craft called Peter boats show they contained a 'fish well' and an 1827 painting of Twickenham shows a floating 'fish safe'.

The 19th century leisure anglers, such as the Thames Angling Preservation Society, began to use the River but then came gasworks, dredging and new locks and the fishermen were forced off. Also there was an increase of sea fish being brought into the shops. The 19th century censuses show how families' livelihoods were changing.

Other industries connected with fishing were being affected, such as basket making: in 1851, 75 people in Brentford were making baskets and 21 people were making soft fruit punnets - they perhaps got their willows from Chiswick Eyot. After 1898 there was a draw dock at Chiswick where lighters tied up, there was employment in unloading the lighters and propelling them in the River with a long pole called a sweep. Working on the River was very hard work.

WORLD WIDE WEB

A selection of new online databases.

- Free access is now available to The Digital Public Library of America. It has content from America's libraries, archives and museums.
<http://dp.la>
- Ancestry have rescanned their historic directories with improved text recognition software, giving you a better chance of finding that particular person. They have added to their database some London Poor Law Removal and Settlement Records covering the Unions of Bethnal Green, Poplar, Shoreditch and Stepney.
www.ancestry.co.uk
- Deceased on Line have added burial records from Peterborough Cathedral, the Trafford Council in the south of Greater Manchester and Brompton Cemetery - see article on page 7.
www.deceasedonline.com
- The Families in British India Society has launched a new website featuring photographs and images.
www.gallery.fibis.org
- If you wish to build your family tree online, it is now possible to do this on the re-vamped Family Search website, You can also obtain free research assistance.
www.familysearch.org
- Find My Past has released a new tranche of parish records from Hertfordshire, Kent, Lincolnshire, Northumberland and Durham, Rydal, Sheffield, Suffolk, and Wiltshire. Hertfordshire records include the parishes previously in Hertfordshire that are now in the London Borough of Barnet: Chipping, East Barnet and Totteridge. They have also released the WWI Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve medal roll; 2.5m Irish Petty Session Records and more British Newspapers.
www.findmypast.co.uk
- The Library and Museum of Freemasonry has a new database which includes its huge collection of masonic periodicals from the 18-20C.
www.masonicperiodicals.org

- My Heritage has installed a ‘Record Detective’ on its website‘ This will find keywords in any text, and in related material. It will then list the results, saving you time searching all its enormous data archive.
www.myheritage.com
- The Society of Genealogists has launched a brand new website, offering a number of its collections to researchers for the first time.
www.sog.org.uk
- The genealogy section of the Archives of Sri Lanka has received material from the Kabristan Archives. Keep up to date on their records on:
www.genealogysrilanka.com
- The National Archives have digitised the records of claims for unpaid Royal Navy pensions, 1830-1860 by their next of kin; the digitisation of WWI unit diaries is now complete; more Home Guard records have been added and 17,000 people can be found in the 19C immigration naturalisation records, 1801-1871.
www.discoverynationalarchives.gov.uk
- Prior to their digitisation, the Western Front Association is offering look-ups in the 6.5m records of the Great War that it saved from destruction last year, although they may be subject to the 100 year rule. More information is on:
www.tinyurl.com/ctcrnir

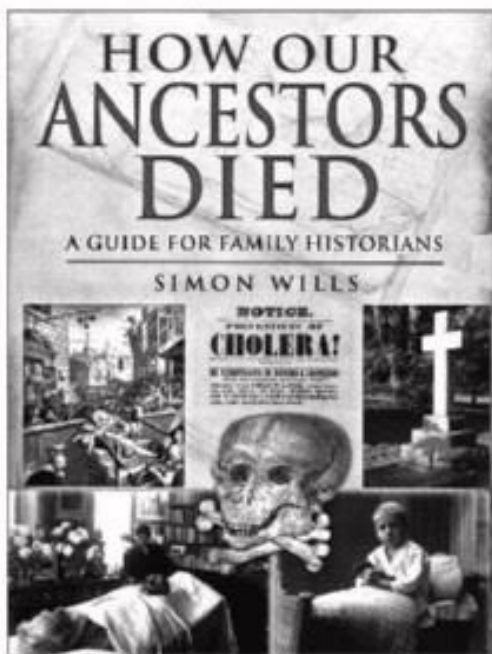
NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The search room of the East Sussex Record Office at The Maltings, Lewes, has closed. A new search room will open in The Keep at Moulsecoomb later in the year. Keep up to date on progress on:
www.eastsussex.gov.uk/useourarchives

The Imperial War Museum and Brightsolid (parent company of Find My Past among other genealogical sites) are combining to create a digital platform, “Lives of the First World War.” It will hold the stories of over 8m men and women who served in uniform and worked on the home front. It will bring together records from museums, libraries, archives and family collections across the globe. It will go live later this year but a short film can be viewed on:
www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org

BOOKSHELF

How Our Ancestors Died by Simon Wills (*Pen & Sword, 2013*) ISBN 978 1 781590386, £14.99

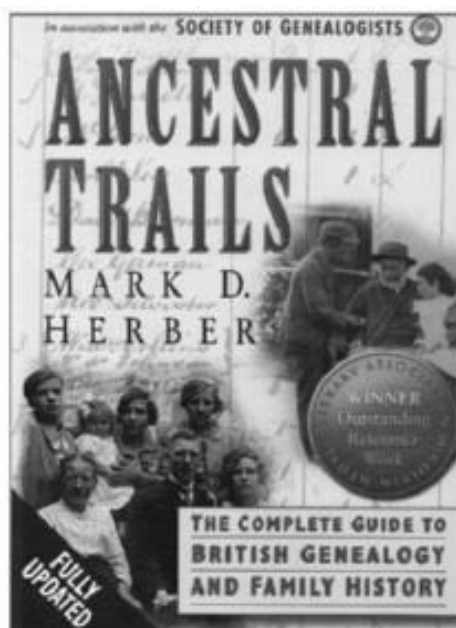


A fascinating read, a book to dip into rather than to read at a single sitting. The Preface begins, “An ancestor's death can often tell you something about their life, and may turn out to be one of the most thought-provoking things that you know about them.” This really sums up the ethos of the book. It begins by looking at the diagnosis and treatment of disease with an interesting history on the progress of medical knowledge. All the common causes of death have their own chapters. It gives guidance on how to interpret patient records, death certificates and other documents and where to find them. There are a few statistics and the

illustrations are well chosen. Rather than a morbid subject, if you are interested in social history, this really is a book for you.

Ancestral Trails by Mark D. Herber (*Sutton Publishing in association with the Society of Genealogists*) ISBN 0 75092484 5, £20

I thought that this time I would highlight this family history classic - if you can only afford one book on family history, this is the one you should have in your library. First published in 1997, it was updated in 2000 and has been reprinted several times. It is a book for the newcomer and for the experienced, If you have a problem, most likely you will find advice between its covers. All aspects of research are here, all kinds of records are described. If you can think of an area of Family history that you need to research you will find it here, together with many others that you have not thought about. A truly important reference book.



FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

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

Oxfordshire Family History Society Open Day

Saturday, 5th October. 10-4. The Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock, OX20 1LP. Free admission and parking.

www.ofhs.org.uk

Catholic Family History Society Conference

Saturday, 5th October. Salford Diocesan Archives, St. Augustines, Grovesnor Square, Manchester.

www.catholic-history.org.uk

Suffolk Family History Society Fair

Saturday, 19th October. Needham Market Community Centre, Needham Market, IP6 8BB

www.suffolkfhs.org.uk

West Surrey Family History Society Fair

Saturday, 26th October. 10-4. Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9BA. (WMFHS will attend)

www.wsfhs.org

Cambridgeshire Family History Society Open Day and Fair

Saturday, 26th October. 10-4. Girton Glebe Primary School, Girton, CB3 0PN. Free admission and parking.

www.cfhs.org.uk

Huddersfield & District Family History Society, Family and Local History Fair

Saturday, 9th November. 10-4. Batley Town Hall, Market Place, Batley, WF17 5DE.

www.hdfhs.org.uk

Who Do You Think You Are? Live

Thursday-Saturday, 20-22 February. NB. The dates have been altered to Thursday to Saturday instead of Friday to Sunday. (WMFHS will attend)

www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com

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

www.geneva.weald.org.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rod Berrieman, WMFHS member living in Hull, writes to say that Alan JOHNSON, former Home Secretary and MP for West Hull, has just published a book about his early life from 1950 to 1966. He was brought up in Southam Street, North Kensington until he was 13. He says that the reviews he has read suggest it is very evocative of the area, which he knew vaguely from visiting his grandfather there in the 1950s. It is called *This Boy*. As part of the local TV news in Hull, AJ took one of their newsreaders to the area. "Quite a shock to see Golborne Road on local TV in Yorkshire?" says Roy.

Graham Bird was the author of the article in the last Journal about the Hampton Emergency Teacher Training College. He has written to tell me that both ladies in the photograph taken on the Terrace at the House of Lords should have been identified. So I repeat the photo here, with the correction.



*Pamela DENNY on the left and
Mary WATKINS on the Terrace of
the House of Lords.*



The French Hospital, Rochester

The French Hospital has received initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Huguenot Heritage Centre in Rochester. The project aims to tell the story of the Huguenots, a group of some 100,000 French protestants who fled from religious persecution during the 16th and 17th centuries. The Centre will include resources for researching family history, as well as a programme of events and activities. For further information please visit the website:

www.frenchhospital.org.ok/huguenot-heritage-centre

INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

*Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, 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.

Front Cover

The Grave of Henry Alfred PETTITT in Brompton Cemetery

(see page 8)

The inscription reads as follows:

IN LOVING MEMQRY QF

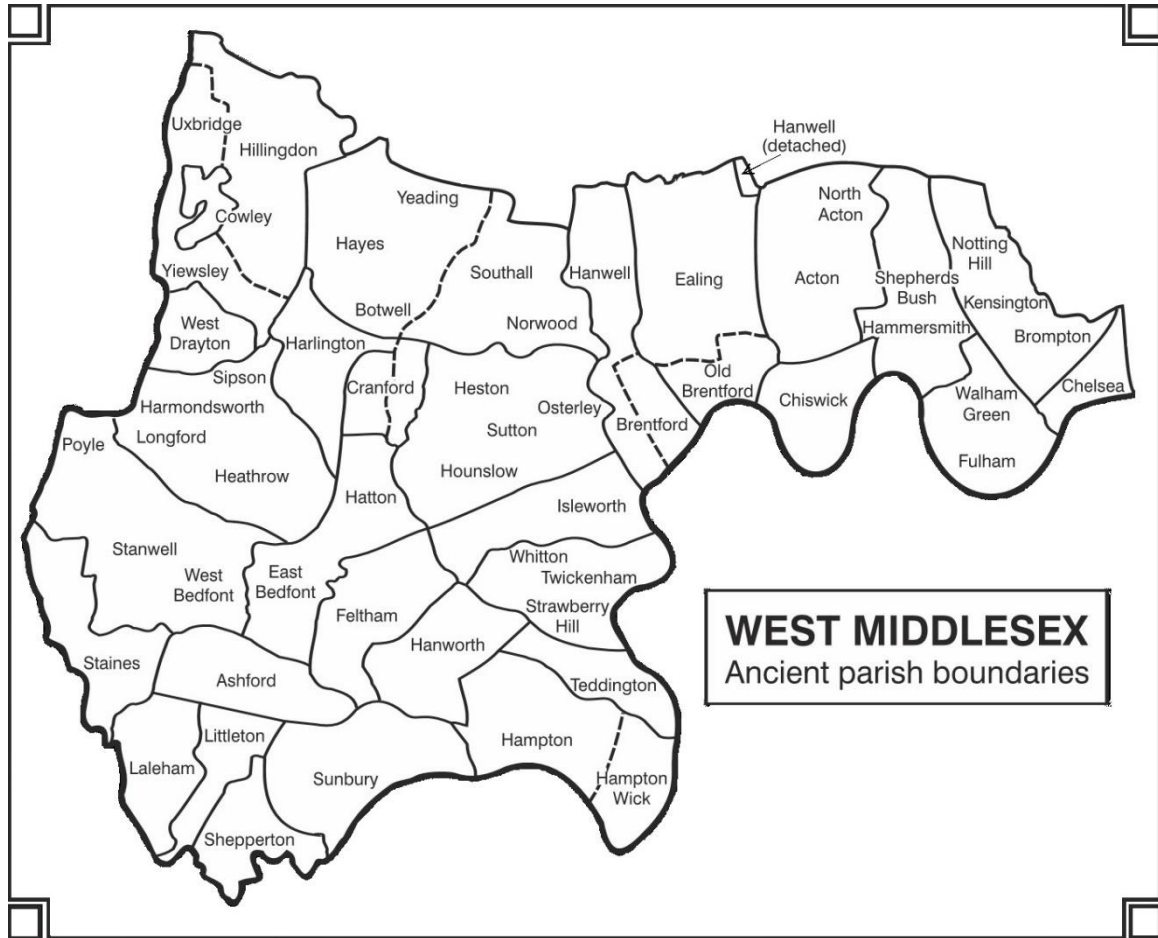
HENRY PETTITT

WHO DIED DECEMBER 24th 1893

GREATLY MISSED AND DEEPLY MOURNED

BY HIS WIDOW AND FAMILY

AGED 45 YEARS



**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