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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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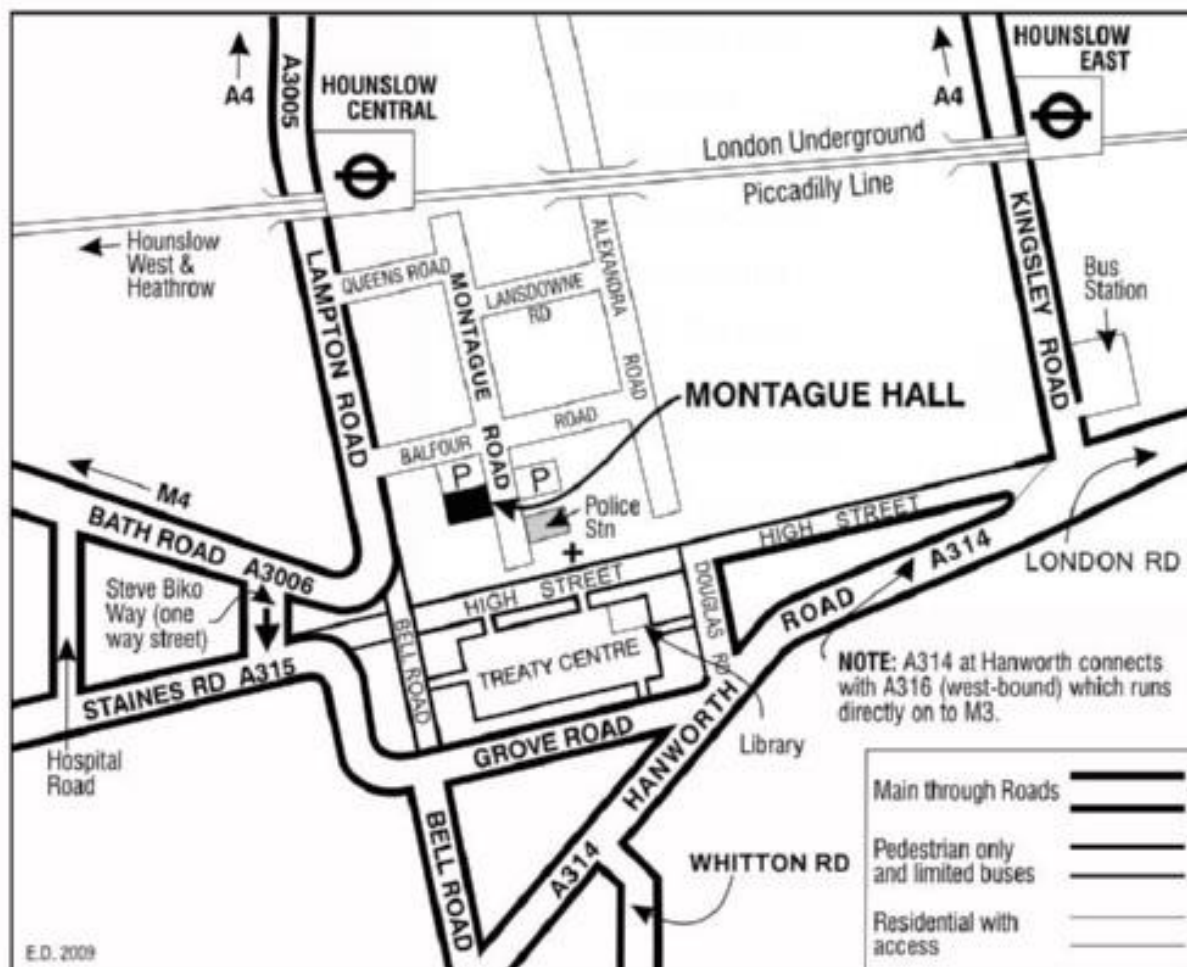
FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

- 17 Dec Christmas Social
- 21 Jan McDonald Gill - Maps, Memorials and Murals. *Caroline Walker*
- 18 Feb Mayhem on the Midland, an Accident,
a Suicide and a Murder *Chris and Judy Rouse*
- 17 Mar AGM, plus Osterley House and its Families *Andrea Cameron*

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.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



We have good news, so before you continue reading this letter, go to pp20 and 21 and read the results of the EGM. We are extremely grateful to all members who have volunteered to serve on the committee and to Roland Bostock, who will be our new Secretary in 2016. We must give special thanks to Kirsty Gray, who was the speaker to follow the EGM at the October meeting and who, on hearing our plight, immediately volunteered to take on the office of Chairman to guide us through this difficult period. So expect a revitalised Society, which I hope will have something for everyone - and if we are not doing something you would like us to, do let us know, all suggestions will be examined.

A special word of thanks must go to Margaret Cunnew, Claudette Durham, Betty Elliott and Muriel Sprott during this difficult period. They have sought answers to the problems facing us, have had guidance from the Federation of Family History Societies on winding up the Society and have spent an enormous amount of time trying to find ways and means of keeping us afloat, so we now owe an enormous debt to them for their hard work behind the scenes.

In our September Journal I asked you to make the December Journal a "bumper, bumper" edition and you responded to my demands. So much so, that as this will not be our final edition, I will carry over some articles to March. However, this does not mean you can rest on your laurels! Please keep the articles coming in, large or small, about your family history, local history or anything which you believe will interest your fellow members. Any length (if too long I can divide it between editions), large or small and in any format you wish. Even small 'snippets' of two or three lines are very useful, which I can put at the bottom of pages so that we do not have empty spaces. As you know, I do like images but please send them to me in jpeg format, even if you have also embedded them in your article. I look forward to receiving them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who sent emails or letters to say how much they appreciate the Journal and how much they would miss it if the Society had to close. I am very grateful to you all and hope that you will all find something of interest in each edition in the future.

The last dates of submission for articles for printing
in the subsequent Journal are:

7th January 7th April 7th July 7th October

ONLY CONNECT, OR, SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO SARAH ANN

Yvonne Masson

Sometimes in family history research we fail to make a connection that, in hindsight, was staring us in the face.

My paternal great grandfather, William DEARLOVE, was married three times. By his first wife, Sarah Ann FRAKE, née SEWELL, whom he married at St. Mary Lambeth in 1846, he had at least four children, two boys initially and then a girl, Sarah Ann, born at their home in Putney in 1850. Sarah Ann appeared with the family in the 1851 and 1861 censuses, she then disappeared from the records - no marriage, no death, not in later censuses. Had she gone abroad? Was she living with a married man whose name she had taken?

My Aunt Win, aged nearly 99, is the last surviving child of William's last surviving son (by his third marriage to Miriam HOMAN), Duncan Bennett DEARLOVE, my grandfather. We always wondered where the latter combination of names came from, amongst the more usual Henry, George, Thomas, etc. of his male siblings. More of that anon. When pressed about the family history (of which she actually knew little) Aunt Win more than once mentioned an "Auntie Gus WALLIS" who lived next door to the DEARLOVE family in Fulham but "was actually more of a cousin". The slightly odd thing about this cousin was that she had "dark flashing eyes, dark hair, in fact look slightly "coloured" (not very PC but she is in her nineties!). And there was some sort of Australian Connection. I often wondered about this "cousin/aunt" but as the family had lost touch with the WALLISs did not think I would be able to find out more.

I finally got round to looking at the Fulham electoral registers at the Hammersmith and Fulham Archives, including in my search Ismailia Road, Fulham, where the DEARLOVE family had lived just after World War One (the road no longer exists). I



*Melbourne at the end of the
19th Century*

found, living two doors away from the DEARLOVES a Henry William and Laura WALLIS. When I got home I looked at Free BMD online for their marriage. I found it in 1905 and Laura's maiden name (click on the right-hand reference number of the marriage entry) was - BENNETT. Interesting. The marriage certificate I later obtained said they were married on 6th August at St. Dionis Church, Parsons Green, Fulham. Her father was Duncan BENNETT (deceased), a stevedore (a dockworker). I then looked up the 1901 and 1911 censuses. In 1911 Henry and Laura were a married couple living in Fulham, and Laura was born around 1885/6 in Melbourne, Australia. Even more interesting.

In the 1901 census Laura BENNETT, aged 15 was living in Dymock Street, very near Ismailia Road, with her mother, Sarah Ann BENNETT, aged in her 40s. And Sarah Ann had been born in Putney, Surrey. So at long last this was the missing Sarah Ann and I could not have found her before these particular censuses became available. Sarah Ann BENNETT died on 15th May 1905, at 18 Ismailia Road, Fulham, age 54.

I then tried the Australian passenger lists, also newly available online from the Victoria Record Office. I found Sarah Ann BENNETT and Laura BENNETT, aged 7, travelling back from Melbourne to Southampton on the Hohenstaufen in June 1893. The ship was nearing the end of its life - a German mail boat (steam) plying between Germany and Australia, but obviously also stopping at Southampton. I then tried the Victoria registration indexes online, but could not find any BENNETTs. A lady I had been exchanging emails with in Australia about another branch of the family kindly found for me two references - the birth of Laura (named Laurel in the record) and the death of "Duncan BENNETT". I was able to order the certificates online and download them into my computer (they accept payment in sterling).

Laurel Christina Augusta BENNETT was born on 30th January 1886, at Melbourne, the daughter of Duncan BENNETT, labourer, 35, born in the West Indies, and Sarah Ann, formerly DEARLOVE, 34, born in Putney, England, Australian birth certificates are much more comprehensive than ours and the birth certificate states they were married in Port Adelaide, South Australia, on 15th October 1876. Duncan BENNETT's death registration, besides giving his address, says he died on 4th July 1894, aged 44, a labourer, of heart failure, son of William BENNETT, solicitor, and Rachel, formerly SMITH. Was this a mixed marriage? Duncan had been born on St. Vincent in the Grenadines, West Indies, The families in Australia and England must have kept in touch or why would my grandfather, born 1877 [a year after Sarah Ann, his much older sister, married Duncan BENNETT in Australia), be named after his sister's husband? Or did the DEARLOVES know the BENNETTS in England? And another mystery - mother and daughter had travelled back to England a year before Duncan BENNETT died. And a Duncan BENNETT married, in Melbourne in 1893, an Emma BEECH. If this is the same Duncan BENNETT, then this was a bigamous marriage. Henry William WALLIS died in 1943 and 'Laura C.A. WALLIS' in 1953.

So 'Auntie Gus' (Laurel Christina Augusta - no wonder I could not find her) was indeed, through all that international complication, Aunt Win's cousin - 31 years older, so more like an aunt. Perhaps one day I will clear up some more of this fascinating story.

Sources: [www_archives.sa.gov.au/familyhistory/records/html](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/familyhistory/records/html)
<http://online.justice.vic.gov.au>

My Gt. Grandfather, Frederick MOFFATT, was a Waterman & Lighternan, and it was through researching his apprenticeship that I came across my first connection to the West Middlesex area and particularly the River Thames parishes between Hammersmith and Twickenham.

Frederick was born in 1858 at Hammersmith, but not baptised until 1863 at St. George's Chapel, Brentford, his mother being given as Annie MOFFATT, formerly RUSSELL, and his father Frederick, a mariner. Try as I might, over many years I have not been able to find a marriage for this couple, nor a Frederick MOFFATT in any relevant marine records that are available. This same lady baptised another child, Walter George, in 1850 at Battersea, this time giving her name as Harriett Ann MOFFATT, formerly RUSSELL, her husband this time being an Edward MOFFAT¹, officer in the Navy! Again, I have never been able to find this marriage, nor any mention of an Edward MOFFAT in the same records, and as his son, Walter George MOFFAT gave on his marriage certificate that his father was a solicitor, nothing in their records either!



Strand on the Green, Chiswick, c.1870

Frederick and a son Isaac, a Waterman, Isaac apprenticed Walter to the River and it was this Walter that apprenticed Frederick MOFFATT, my Gt. Grandfather, to the River in 1873 at Strand on the Green.

This set me off looking to see where the family had come from and it led me back to another Isaac MOFFAT, baptising three of his children at the Ebenezer Chapel in Hammersmith between 1787 and 1800, he being by trade a tailor. He then moved to Chiswick around 1800, as his brother John, also a tailor, was

As both marriages covered the Census periods then available, I tried putting the mother's name into a search engine and she came up on the 1861 census, living at Strand on the Green, Chiswick. The head of the household was a Charlotte MOFFAT née RUSSELL: there were grandsons Walter and

¹ The different spellings of the surname MOFFATT/ MOFAT are as they appeared in the various documents

already living there at Burlington Lanes John had married a Sarah HUIPS in 1781, at St. Martin in the Fields and her father was James HUIPS, a brewer at Chiswick Brewery. Isaac lived in Lambs Yard and was sometimes paid by the Vestry of St. Nicholas' Church to make the clothes for the beadle and after he died, his wife Margaret was then paid to make the beadles' hats!

Isaac and Margaret had ten children, four of them being baptised at St. Nicholas church. His second son, James Jabeth MOFFAT, husband of the above Charlotte, had nine

children, four of them becoming Watermen & Lightermen, and they lived in the Elizabethan Cottages at Strand on the Green, next to the City Barge pub: all these buildings were badly damaged during World War Two and the cottages lost for ever. Of



Strand on the Green, Chiswick, c.1939

James Jabeth's children one, James Matthew MOFFAT also a Lighterman, married and moved to Twickenham and lived at Bell Lane, His wife, Jane COXEN came from a local fishing family which, it is said, had in their background a Lord Mayor of London. James Matthew had three sons and three daughters and one of his sons, James Richard MOFFAT became a Waterman & Lighterman, whilst another, Henry George MOFFAT, became a Thames River Policeman, which must have been a bit awkward for the uncles and cousins he had on the River Thames, as there was not much love lost between them and the River Police! Henry later became a lock keeper at Teddington, after which he moved out of county to Benson in Berkshire (now in Oxfordshire).

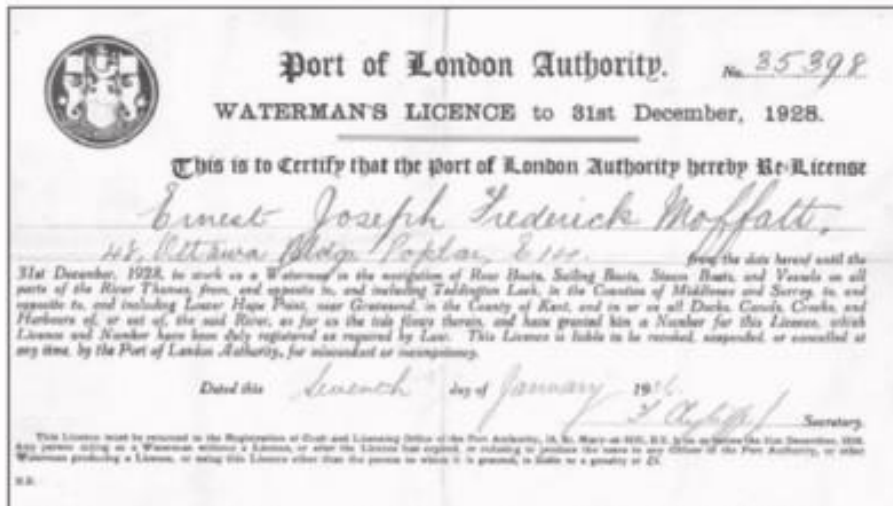
From April 1906 to December 1909, James Richard MOFFAT was licenced to use a skiff for carrying eight people "above Chelsea Bridge" only. After 1880 Walter George MOFFATT had licences for a steam tug and two barges to operate on the River and my Gt, Grandfather, Frederick MOFFATT was joint Master of the steam ship Hilda which could carry 66 passengers, but not beyond Foulness Point. The licence stated that for every 6ft of passenger accommodation covered by cattle, cargo or luggage, one passenger had to be removed. Abraham MOFFAT, son of James Richard, worked at one time on the Twickenham Ferry and my aunt, Elsie MOFFATT went there during her holidays between the wars to help out.

For Harriett Annie MOFFATT, nee RUSSELL, I never did find a marriage

certificate, although when she worked at Montgomery Timber Merchants in Brentford she classed herself as a widow in the 1881 census. Of her two sons, Walter George, as well as working the River, was also a publican in many pubs from Uxbridge to Romford, Essex. Frederick MOFFATT in later years ran a newsagents in Poplar High Street and it was there that Harriett Anne 'MOFFATT' died in 1900.

Later in the 19th century the 'river' MOFFATTs moved east to the London docks, Following the work, and that was where I was born, at Blackwall.

Frederick MOFFATT moved back to Brentford around 1906/7 and lived at the



Waterman's Licence for Ernest Joseph Frederick Moffatt

Butts, then in 1930 moved into the Alms Houses of the Watermen & Lightermen at Penge in Kent, where he died in 1934. Frederick MOFFATT had two sons who both became Watermen &

Lightermen: Ernest Joseph Frederick born in 1881, my Grandfather, and Walter William, born in 1883. My father, Walter Ernest MOFFATT, the eldest son of Ernest Joseph Frederick, did not follow his father's trade but spent over 20 years in the Merchant Navy, sailing out of the London Docks.

On my mother's side of the family, the TAYLORs, they too had connections with some of the same parishes, but mostly with Isleworth. The first I came across was through the same Watermen & Lightermen records at the Guildhall Library, that being the apprenticeship for Charles TAYLOR born in 1829, my Gt. Grandfather. His Master was a William TIMMS of Isleworth, the apprenticeship running from 1847 to 1855. Charles' father was James William TAYLOR, born in 1803 in Isleworth, a carpenter, who married Sarah SCOTT at Hanwell in 1823, Charles had an elder brother, William TAYLOR, who followed his father into the carpentry trade and stayed in and around Isleworth all his life, as did his sons. James William TAYLOR's father was William Collins TAYLOR, born in 1781 in Isleworth, also a carpenter, He had married Sarah PAINE in 1799, also at Hanwell. The father of William Collins TAYLOR was Thomas TAYLOR, born around 1755 but no record found as yet.

Thomas TAYLOR married Anna FARNELL in Wimbledon on the 8th June 1780, he was also a carpenter, having been apprenticed to John FARNELL in 1770. The FARNELL family had strong connections to the Isleworth Brewery and later wills seem to make a connection to the TAYLOR family, but I have never been able to find a baptism for the Anna FARNELL who married Thomas, so can never be sure.

The same with the PAINE side of things, they were well represented in Richmond, Surrey, being butchers and bakers (no candlestick makers though!). One, Thomas PAINE came over to Isleworth some time after 1773 as he married Elizabeth STILTON at Richmond parish church. All of his children that I have found seem to have been baptised at All Saints' Isleworth, from 1774 onwards, including a Sarah baptised in 1778, who I think is the Sarah PAINE that William Collins TAYLOR married; the reason being that William and Sarah, as well as having a daughter Sarah Elizabeth Ann TAYLOR, baptised in 1803, had another son whom they named Edward Stilton James TAYLOR, baptised in 1811 but born in 1805, the brother to James William TAYLOR, but as yet again, I can find no proof. Edward Stilton James died young in 1824, so there were no wills that mentioned him. The other children were mentioned in their mother Sarah's will, dated 1828, their father William having left everything in his will to Sarah when he died in 1809, including an expected inheritance from one, James EVERETT of Isleworth, a builder by trade, who is mentioned in earlier FARNELL wills.

Charles TAYLOR, born in 1829, married Mary Ann WEBB at St. Giles Church, Cripplegate, in 1853, but then moved further east to work in the London Docks. They had six children, four girls and two boys, the eldest was Charles my grandfather, who was apprenticed by his father to the River in 1873 and was made Freeman of the Company of Watermen & Lightermen in 1879 (even today, anybody working the River on the pleasure boats, has to be a freeman of the Company). He married Sarah HOLLAND at St. Leonard's, Bromley, in 1881. They also had six children, but neither of the two sons followed their father on to the River, although the eldest, Charles William, served in the Royal Navy during WWI.

That seemed to be the end of the family connection to the River. Later generations did still work in the docks but always on shore and they moved further downstream following the work as the London Docks closed.

In all this hunting I have been greatly helped by the good people of the WMFHS, who have done much work on indexing the parish records of the churches with which my families have had connections and they have always been ready to help when I have contacted any of them. I have been lucky in being able to get to a few of their meetings, always helpful and very enjoyable. Thank you one and all.



St. Leonard's, Heston, is reputed to have the largest churchyard in the country, and so it is not surprising that previous attempts to record each and every gravestone inscription was never quite finished.

I am a family history enthusiast and have been researching my own family name for very many years and so I am well aware of the value of what may be

inscribed on a gravestone, especially the older ones, when you may well get birth dates and death dates for all sorts of related people. I soon learned that the best source providing gravestone inscriptions were pocket-sized booklets titled *The Monumental Inscriptions of ...* and published by one of the many Family History Societies.

Hence it was, when I retired from work in 2012, I immediately joined the West Middlesex Family History Society and was soon volunteering to go out and record the monumental inscriptions of any churches in our half of the county that had not already been done. And that is what brought me to St. Leonard's in Heston in April 2014. I had been given a few hundred inscriptions by WMFHS which needed to be 'finished off'.

Of course, as soon as I saw the enormous churchyard at St. Leonard's I knew that I had been given the merest taster for the main event. Once I reported back on the number of graves to be recorded, attics were searched and the inscriptions for about 3,000 graves were indeed found. The Society had started recording St' Leonard's graves in 1981, but the work was not completed. Then another team took up the recording in 1992, and obviously had access to the earlier work, because the old type-written pages have many additions and corrections hand-written on them, but again the work was not completed.

I was hardly going to let us fail to complete the task three times, so it was never really in doubt that this time the work would be completed. Sue HOAD, the Parish Secretary, was always encouraging and she gave me a copy of the layout for the churchyard that she keeps in the Parish Office. Sue also encouraged me to get in touch with local historian, Lynda HARDY, who has written at least five booklets telling the stories behind many of the older gravestones and especially of the many soldiers buried at St. Leonard's.

Then came the main task, to identify the graves which had already been recorded and to get down to the serious business of reading as much as possible from all the remainder. The earlier work was certainly very helpful in the case of eroded gravestones, as one had the benefit of a reading made 33 years earlier. But inscriptions are not fixed forever and there were plenty of graves where further burials had occurred since 1992, and the inscriptions had been added to, so all stones had to be checked.

Naturally I expected to account for all the recordings made in 1981 and 1992 but there was one inscription which I could not locate. It was described as a "flat stone", so it was unlikely to have moved anywhere. It had in fact become covered with a few inches of turf and had to be found by prodding with a fork. So I did have my own little 'discovery'. Then there were a few headstones which had fallen the wrong way up. We had ways to read those too. It required a car jack and some wood to protect the stone and a torch to illuminate the inscription - and best to have someone like Lynda around to make sure all is 'done proper'.

It is also surprising how some headstones seem to sink into the ground. You read so far and know there is still a line or two further down. One such grave is an old one near the church, and what can be seen above ground is, "Here lyeth the body / of DORITHY NICKOLS / she departed this life / the 21st of March 1719 in ye". With Lynda HARDY on hand, to make sure no gravestone was harmed in the process, I started digging to reveal what came next. It was not just one line as expected but in the end the following three lines could be seen "27th year of her age / Here also lyeth her two sisters / ELIZABETH and JANE." Lynda, ever the archivist, duly captured the event on camera, With the earth replaced it was like we had never been there.



*Roland with Dorothy
NICKOLS*

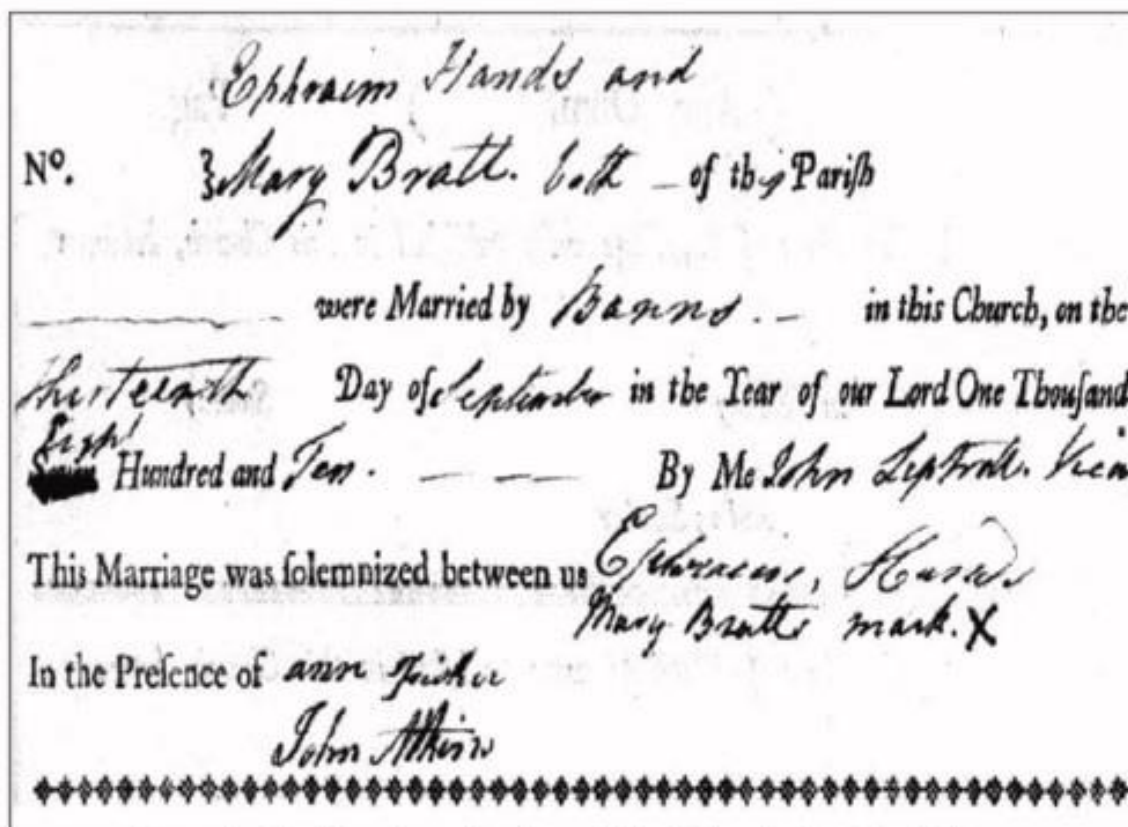
It took many afternoons spent in the churchyard in the summer of 2014 to get to read all of the stones but by Christmas Day all the outside work was done and it was just a matter of collating and indexing the collection of inscriptions into a document to hand over to the church. It was of course a large document, two volumes including 891 pages, which I was finally able to hand over to Sue HOAD, Lynda HARDY and archivist Lawson COCKROFT on 5th June this year. The index refers to over 3,000 distinct surnames and should enable the Parish Office to more easily respond to queries from family historians such as myself who come looking.

A version of this article has appeared in New Connections, the parish magazine of St. Leonard's.

Image of St. Leonards: © Richard Chapman

Grandmother Ellen WHEATLEY, nee HAND, lived many happy years in Bedfont with her married daughters close by, hut she was not a Bedfont girl, she was horn in West Ham, Her father had moved there to work in the huge Stratford Railway Works as a coach painter.

Father Henry was born in Windsor, as was his father Henry, and records show that his father, Ephraim HAND, lived and traded in Windsor but where Ephraim was horn remains a mystery The parish record for St. John the Baptist, Egham, dated 18th September 1810, shows his marriage to Mary BRATT. Interestingly, although Mary made her mark, Ephraim signed his name.



Entry in the Marriage Register of St. John the Baptist, Egham for Ephraim HANDS and Mary BRATT

A book entitled *Windsor & Eton: Centuries of Change* by Sheila ROONEY, shows that Windsor was a special town due to its royal connection, going back to William I. Although royals made little use of the castle for many years, it came back into royal use with George III, who liked the country air. It was refurbished extensively by George IV, was also lived in by William IV and Queen Victoria made it her principal royal residence, All these monarchs were buried there.

Because of the royal connection Windsor, called New Windsor, was created a borough giving it special privileges mainly to do with trading. A lucky benefit for the poorer people was the rush to set up charity schools. By 1700 charity schools were so numerous that an Inspector of Charity Schools was appointed. Quoting from the above mentioned book, "basic numeracy and literacy were clearly needed if one was to become a freeman, a trader and eventually a member of the fraternity". Ephraim in his capacity as a shop keeper would also have had a knowledge of money, weights and measures.

From 1683, to the late 18th century, only 'freemen' could carry out retail trade within the borough, that is those having served an apprenticeship or having been born there, called 'Freedom of the Borough'.

Ephraim was born in 1772 and died in 1841, so he lived during the reigns of four monarchs. Records show that he was a gardener and also a greengrocer and fruiterer. While he started out in Sheet Street, where he may have had a market garden he traded in Queen Street, which is now called Market Street and is still there, right by the gate of the castle. It is even possible that his shop is still here, next door to the Carpenter's Arms. To the right, and still attached to this pub, is a three storey red brick house of Georgian appearance, roof within the parapet and many paned windows. There would have been ample room for Ephraim, his wife and ten remaining children, three having died in infancy.

Did his cabbages go to the royal kitchens and nourish the royal families and did his fruit grace the dinner table of his or her Royal Highnesses, in elegant silver or gold bowls? Due to the location of his shop he must have had many customers from the castle. A picture in the Windsor Guildhall entitled *A View of Windsor High Street and Market* by William WESTALL c.1830 shows traders selling from baskets in front of the church, no doubt a source of irritation to a genuine, above board shopkeeper.

He appeared twice in the *Windsor and Eton Express*, firstly having two fowl stolen and secondly having apples taken from his garden.

Ephraim died in 1841 aged 69 from 'decay', His widow Mary carried on the business and is listed on the 1841 census as a market gardener. She died in 1849, also aged 69. Both would have been buried in Bachelor's Acre, opened as an overflow to the parish church graveyard in 1811 and used until 1850.

Found by Wendy Mott in *Environs of London*, Lysons, 1796

On Hounslow Heath between Whitton and Hounslow, in the parish of Isleworth, is a post commonly known by the name of the Bloody Post. It is thus inscribed on each of the four sides: "Buried here, with a stake drove through his body, the wicked murderer John Pretor, who cut the throats of his wife and child, and poisoned himself July 6th 1765." Underneath is a bloody hand grasping a knife.

Associated with Sunbury - Remembered at Teddington

Three men who were members of Sunbury Methodist Church and who died during the First World War are remembered by the war memorial inside Teddington Methodist Church. They are F. MASKELL, A. PARRATT and W.T. RANDALL. (Sunbury Methodist Church was, and is, part of the Teddington Methodist Circuit).

Fred MASKELL was born in Manchester on 22nd December 1893. After serving with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve he enlisted in the Royal Navy on the 20th October 1915.¹ The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) records that Stoker 2nd Class MASKELL died on the 1st March 1917, when serving on *HMS Pheasant*. He was the son of Alfred Henry and Alice Mary MASKELL, who lived at Dundee Cottage, Napier Road, Ashford Common. He was then 24 years old. He is also remembered by the Plymouth Naval Memorial and the civic war memorial at Ashford.

An Admiralty inquiry concluded that HMS Pheasant sank about one mile west of the Old Man of Hoy, after hitting a floating mine.² There were no survivors.

The 1911 census records that Fred, who was employed as a gardener, was living at Napier Road with his parents, two brothers and two sisters.

Alfred PARRATT was employed as a stoker when he enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment on the 3rd September 1914, A medal index card records that he was first on active service in France on the 1st September 1915.³ He was reported missing on the 28th September 1915, while serving with the 13th Battalion and he was later presumed to have died that day. He is remembered by name on the war memorial at Loose in France and on the civic war memorial in Green Street, Sunbury, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he was the son of Edwin PARRATT.

The 1901 census records Alfred living with his father Edwin, his mother Emma, five brothers and two sisters at Z Holly Cottages, Park Road, Sunbury. In the 1911 census he is still living at Holly Cottages with his father and two sisters. He was then employed as an engine cleaner by the Metropolitan Water board.

Some information about his family was added to his army service record during February 1920. His father was living in Wandsworth, his brother William in Kingston and his brother Harry in French Street, Sunbury. His married sisters were Caroline NEWMAN, living in Sunmead Road, Sunbury, Emma FEASEY in Park Road, Sunbury and Elsie HYDE in Hamilton, Ontario. This service record can be downloaded from the *Ancestry* website.

W. T. RANDALL is remembered by name on the civic war memorial in Green Street, Sunbury and on the war memorial in St Mary's Church, which records that he served with the Border Regiment. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that Private William Thomas RANDALL served with the 11th Battalion, the Border Regiment, that he died on the 1st April 1917, when he was 36 years old and that he was buried in the Savy British Cemetery in France. He was the husband of S.E. RANDALL, who lived at 73 French Street in Sunbury. A medal index card⁴ records that he served with the Middlesex and the Border Regiments.

The 1911 census records that William, who was a domestic gardener, his wife Elizabeth, their son William and their daughters Ethel and Edith, were living at 3 Amesbury Terrace in Green Street, Sunbury.

References

1. TNAADM 188/941/37261.
2. TNAADM 137/3716
3. TNAWO 372/15/128182
4. TNAWO 372/16/46587

Henry Percy Richmond ANSON

Henry Percy Richmond ANSON was born at Christchurch, New Zealand, on the 20th October 1877. He was commissioned (from the Militia) Second Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment on the 21st April 1900, promoted Lieutenant on the 20th August 1905 to 19th August 1908, and Adjutant Territorial Force from the 2nd January 1912.

His marriage to Lilian Mary DAW (after banns read at St. John the Baptist Church, Blackheath) was registered in the Lewisham Registration District during the third quarter of 1909. In the 1911 census he was recorded living as Head of the Household, with his wife, at Cleveland, High Road, Mill Hill. Lilian had been born in Buttevant, County Cork, Ireland. (The 1st Battalion the Middlesex Regiment was then in the Dianpool Cantonment, India and the Army also included him in the 1911 census, although it recorded that he was "Absent in England" The birth of their son, Patrick A.R. ANSON, was registered in the Staines Registration District during the first quarter of March 1914. The 1915 Electoral Register records Henry Percy Richmond ANSON at Southey Cottage, Staines Road, Sunbury.

During the First World War, Captain Henry Percy Richmond ANSON was first on active service on the 8th March 1915, and he was killed in action on the 25th May 1915. The CWGC records that he is commemorated at the Potijze Chateau Lawn Cemetery at Ieper, (Ypres) Belgium, where he is believed to have been buried. He is also remembered on the civic war memorial in Green Street, Sunbury. His widow applied for his Victory Medal, British War Medal and the

15 Star when she was at Little Felcourt, East Grinstead, Sussex.

The CWGC also records that Major Patrick Anchitel ANSON served with the Middlesex Regiment and that he was attached to the 10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment. He was killed in action on the 29th September 1944 and he was buried at the Becklingen War Cemetery in Germany. The Commission also records that his mother was living in Alderney.

Sources:

The Army List for July 1914, p.693.

Information from the banns register, marriage index, the census, electoral register and medal index cards from *Ancestry* and *findmypast* websites.

Ernest and Harold FROST of Sunbury

E.T. and H.E. FROST are remembered in Sunbury by the Civic War Memorial in Green Street and the War Memorial in St. Mary's Church. Ernest Thomas William and Harold Edgar FROST were the sons of Edward and Ada FROST, brothers to Ada and Mary and cousins of Annie J. FERRIS. The 1911 census recorded the family living at Pretoria, Staines Road, Sunbury Common. Edward was a provision merchant, Ernest an assistant provision merchant and Harold a motor cycle maker. The 1901 census recorded the family living at Markets Hall, Staines Road, Sunbury and then Edward was a grocer, shopkeeper.

During the First World War Ernest served as a Marconi Radio Operator. The CWGC records that he died on the 3rd March 1917, when he was serving on *SS Sagamore*. The ship, which had sailed from Boston on the 21st February 1917, was torpedoed by a submarine and sank 150 miles west of the Fastnet. 52 men were lost and there were seven survivors.¹ Ernest is remembered by the Tower Hill War Memorial in London. He was awarded the Mercantile Marine Medal and the British War Medal.²

A medal index card records that Harold Edgar FROST was first on active service in France on the 4th September 1915, and that he was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal and the 1915 Star.³ The CWGC records that Corporal Harold Edgar FROST died on the 13th September 1916, when he was serving with 99 Field Company Royal Engineers, and that he is remembered in the Jerusalem War Cemetery. This memorial is to men who died in Palestine and Egypt and who have no known grave. *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War* records that he died in Egypt.

References:

1. TNA ADM 137/2960)
 2. TNA BT351/1/48175
 3. TNA WO 372/7/168380
- Ancestry website.*

Marjorie CROYSDALE, QAIMNS

This is the inscription On a memorial on the north wall of St. Mary's Church in Sunbury.

To the glory of God
and in memory of
Marjorie Croysdale
youngest daughter of Thomas and Beatrice Croysdale
of Hawke House in this parish
After nursing for four years she died
at Le Touquet on March 2nd 1919 aged Z6
Her body lies in the British Military Cemetery
Etaples, France
"Though she be dead, let me know she lives
and feed my heart, that died for want of her" *Marlow*

Marjorie is also remembered by name on the civic war memorial in Green Street, Sunbury and on the war memorial in St. Mary's Church.

Her death was announced in The Timex on 7 March 1919 "CROYSDALE, - On the 2nd March, on active service, at Villa Tino, of pneumonia following influenza. MARJORIE CROYSDALE Special Military Nursing Probationer, attached 24 General Hospital, France, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Croysdale of Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames."

Her medal index card (TNA WO37Z/Z3/9644) records that she was first in France on 10th October 1916, and that she was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On 12th July 1922, Queen Alexandra attended the dedication at Millbank Military Hospital of a memorial to members of the Imperial Military Nursing Service who died during the war. The names of those being remembered were read out during the ceremony. (British Journal of Nursing, 22 July 1922 p.52).

De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919 records that Marjorie was born at Sunbury-on-Thames on 16th January 1893. She was baptised at St. Mary's Church, Sunbury, on 25th February 1893. (Ancestry web site). De Ruvigny also records that Marjorie served at 20 and 21 General Hospitals. Although her family were recorded in the 1901 census living at Hawke House, Marjorie has only been located in the 1911 census, when she was a pupil at Wycombe Abbey School in Buckinghamshire. Her birth at Sunbury-on-Thames was also recorded in this census.

FAMILY HISTORY A-Z

X here represents cross roads. Until 1961 suicide was a criminal offence in England and Wales. Gallows were erected at cross-roads, Tyburn being an example, and executed criminals and those who had taken their own lives were often buried at the cross-roads. Various reasons have been put forward for this practice, which dates back to at least Anglo-Saxon times. One theory is that the ghosts of those buried would become confused by the four roads and be unable to return to haunt their homes and families, Another theory suggests that burying the offender at a point where different parishes meet emphasises that person as an outcast from society. Folk lore suggested that burying a suicide with a stake through the heart would be another way to prevent the ghost of the dead reappearing.

Y-DNA is becoming more and more important in family history. The Y chromosome is passed through the male line and thus DNA testing can confirm a line of ancestry. Many family historians, when meeting the notorious brick wall in their researches, wish to establish whether one candidate rather than another is more likely to be the correct one for their family line; or when there are two distinct Family lines whether they may or may not be related The DNA testing of descendants from both lines can establish whether there is any relationship between them. Some group testing of families has thrown up surprising anomalies - after all they say you know who your mother is but... There are several companies which provide this service and they can be found on the web.

Zulu War. After the success of the federation of Canada in 1867, it was thought that a similar plan could succeed in South Africa to establish South Africa as a colony of Britain. This could also provide a source of cheap labour, particularly for the sugar plantations in the West Indies. There was some reluctance by the Government for a military campaign in Africa but in 1878, a border dispute between the Boers in the Transvaal and the Zulu leader, CETSHWAYO, was the pretext for the invasion of Zululand in January 1879 by General Frederick THESIGER, although it was perpetrated without the authorization of the British Government. Records relating to this episode can be found at TNA in classes: WO Z5/3474 and T 1/13066.

I hope you have enjoyed this romp through the alphabet. In my searches for information, among other sources, I have made use of The Family Historian's Enquire Within, the Sixth Edition by Janet FEW, Ancestral Trails by Mark D, HERBER and, of course, Wikipedia. I have tried to cover some of the more obscure aspects of family history research. Ed.

HELP

Willie PERKINS

Peter Phillips has in his possession a book, *The Young Rajah*, It was presented to a Willie PERKINS for regular attendance, by the Ebenezer Sunday School of North End Road, West Kensington, for the year 1913. It is signed by James JOHNSON, Superintendent and Alfred G. SPOONER, Hon. Secretary.

Is there a member who would like to have this book? If so, please contact Peter at: peter.j.phillips@btinternet.com

STEWARD

Mr. J. Steward, whose member's interests are shown on page 38, is seeking the following information about his family name:

- There are two names on the World War One memorial at Watney's Brewery in Mortlake - do you have any information about W. STEWARD, and J. STEWARD: both men were killed in action?
- Sir William STEWARD was the Member of Parliament for Woolwich between 1950-1959. He was married to singer Greta GAYEA She died in Hertfordshire. Has anyone any earlier information about her?
- Does anyone have any information about any STEWARD boys who attended Queen's College School, Taunton?

Votes for Women

Jane ROBINSON has been commissioned to write a book: *Hearts and Minds*, to commemorate the centenary in 2018 of Votes for Women, It will be based on first-hand accounts of those involved and she would like to hear the stories of both suffragettes and suffragists. If you have any in your family please contact her on jane@jane-robinson.com or c/o David Higham Associates, 7th Floor, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1F 8GC

Battle of the Somme



The Imperial War Museum is hoping to tell the life story of every soldier who served in the Battle of the Somme for its permanent digital memorial *Lives of the First World War*. If you had a relative who served in this battle, can you upload photos and add stories to this archive? www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING



The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held at Montague Hall, Hounslow, on the 15th October, 2015.

Chairman: Robin Purr

As there were more than 20 members present, the meeting was quorate.

Apologies for absence: James Young.

Robin Purr began by explaining that he felt that the proposal to close the Society was sad, upsetting for our members and not necessary. We have received letters of support from members who appreciate our award-winning journal and the talks we present.

However, it has been noted that for several years we have not had a full committee. At the AGM in 2015 it was again pointed out that we need committee members in order to fulfil our obligations under Charity Commission requirements to have a Chairman, a Secretary and Treasurer.

Since March 2015, our committee meetings have technically been invalid as our constitution requires a quorum of six, and with only four committee members we clearly cannot achieve this. Despite this, it is only in the last month or two that we have had anyone coming forward to volunteer for the committee.

We had decided to limp on until the scheduled AGM in March 2016. At that AGM, Brian Page would have agreed to accept the role of Chairman and Roland Bostock, the role of Secretary. We are immensely grateful for these offers. Pat Candler has agreed to take on the role of membership secretary but is unable to join the committee. Tonight, Kirsty Gray has offered to become our Chairman and Brian has happily agreed to take on the role of Vice-chairman.

However, in order to really ensure continuity, we need six people willing to join the committee, so that we have a solid core of support to see us through the next six years. One of those volunteers should be looking to take over the Treasurer's role in two years' time. Kay Dudman and Joan Scrivener have kindly offered to join the committee. Ann Greene, who currently works for Hounslow Library service and therefore brings a wealth of useful information with her, has also expressed a willingness to join the committee. That means that we are now looking for three other volunteers to make up a full committee.

We have recently had a first, constructive discussion with representatives of Hillingdon Family History Society. There would, of course, be challenges to face and issues to resolve if the societies were to merge. Because of this latest

development Robin suggested that we leave two committee places available for Hillingdon and therefore we only need one more volunteer. Yvonne Masson kindly stepped forward and her offer was received with grateful thanks.

There were several questions from the floor:

Q What would be the benefits of merging with Hillingdon FHS?

A Economies of scale - only one journal, one committee, one need for volunteers to attend open days, etc.

Hillingdon FHS has a President who could doubtless be persuaded to adopt the same post in a larger, merged Society.

Exchange of information and ideas.

Q Why retain charity status?

A Why not? It is not onerous to fulfil charity requirements and it allows us to reclaim Gift Aid.

Q How much Gift Aid do we reclaim?

A The Treasurer was unable to give an answer, but post meeting can confirm that in 2014 we received £551.82, and in 2015 £716.36.

Q Can we manage without the Gift Aid income?

A The absence of Gift Aid would leave a large hole in our income which would be difficult to fill from other sources.

Q What does our constitution say about committee size?

A For committee meetings to be valid, we need a quorum of 6, and our constitution allows for up to 12 committee members.

Q If we merged with Hillingdon FHS, where would meetings be held? Montague Hall is very convenient for public transport?

A Meetings would continue to be held at both Hillingdon and Hounslow, thus offering members a choice of talks. Hillingdon holds its meetings at the Baptist Church, which is only a short walk from Hillingdon Station.

Q Why do we need so many committee members when the requirement by the Charity Commissioners is only for three?

A Because three people could not manage a society of this size.

Robin then put Agenda Item 1, that:

West Middlesex Family History Society be wound up with effect from 31st December 2015. No-one voted in favour of the motion, the members present voted unanimously against the motion, which was therefore not carried. Thus the Society will continue into the foreseeable future.

The Extraordinary General Meeting was then concluded.

During this conference, held on the 28th March, there were two talks which have reference for our area.

In Plain Sight: discovering the women of the Gunnersbury Estate: James Wisdom, Chairman of the Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum.

The name Gunyllda, a Norman lady traditionally associated with Gunnersbury, may actually have had no connection with it - there are no records of Gunnersbury until the 14th century, when it was being sold off as a sub-manor of Fulham. This was to John of Cappeham, who was involved in land transactions with the Archbishop of Canterbury. We do not know where the manor house was. Then into the picture came Alice PERRERS, a 15 year old daughter of a thatcher and mistress of Edward III.

She had a 'shameless' reputation, was litigious, became the richest woman in England and died in 1400. The manor was surveyed in 1378 and sold to William de Windsor around 1380. Through the medieval period the manors of Gunnersbury and Palinswick were joined together. By 1558 it was owned by the MAYNARD family, the manor now had a house whose position is known as there are plans showing formal gardens: it would have had a huge view of West London. Sir John MAYNARD, born in 1604, was married three times to widows, each of whom made him richer, In 1658 he started building



Alice Perrers

Gunnersbury House. After he died his last wife, Mary, married Henry HOWARD, the 5th Earl of Suffolk, who died in 1718 - she died in 1721. The property passed initially to the HOBART family, then back to MAYNARD's son Joseph whose daughter Elizabeth had married Sir Henry HOBART of Blickling, Norfolk. Work was done on the garden by Henry FURNESE (he was a friend of Princess Amelia, second daughter of George II) who converted a canal at Gunnersbury into the horseshoe pond. The gardener, William KENT, was also involved.

After Henry's death, Princess Amelia bought the park and modernised its design, perhaps influenced by William CHAMBERS, who was also working on Kew.

The round pond and temple, built for her, had a view across to the Kew Pagoda‘
The estate was then split and Gunnersbury was bought by Alexander
COPLAND, a London builder who specialised in military buildings He lived
there with his wife and daughter Lucy, who lived there until she died. This
family built the Italian gardens.

It was then owned by the ROTHSCHILD family for 90 years; they were from
Frankfurt and owned a merchant bank in the City of London and other cities
across Europe. By 1835 Nathan ROTHSCHILD and his wife Hannah had had
seven children and were looking for a country estate. They also wished to
become part of the ‘Establishment’ and Gunnersbury was suitable for
entertaining important clients. Sidney SMIRKE was hired to renovate it but
Nathan died in 1836 so never lived there. Hannah became the head of the Family
and her sons ran the bank. Nathan had told his sons to heed their mother's advice
with regard to transactions - which they did. Hannah promoted Jewish rights and
encouraged her son Lionel to become an MP. She influenced the great and good,
entertaining lavishly at Gunnersbury: in 1837 she gave a banquet and ball for
500 guests at a cost of £2,000. The guests included most of the nobility of the
land and thus it was Hannah who put Gunnersbury on the map.

Lionel's wife Charlotte, born in 1819, was also a niece of Hannah and after the
latter's death Gunnersbury became Lionel and Charlotte's favourite home. Men
admired Charlotte's intellect and DISRAELI and GLADSTONE
were amongst her friends. Lionel struggled for 11 years to get into
Parliament, while Charlotte gave dinners for the elite, including
both the aristocracy and Members of Parliament. They added more
land to the estate and enhanced the gardens - Lionel bought
exotic plants and Charlotte grew orchids. Her charity work
included endowing schools and alms-houses, and taking an
interest in horticultural societies who were encouraging the poor
to grow their own food. She left thousands of pounds to charities.
Some 2,000 people gathered at the gates of Gunnersbury for her
funeral procession.



Charlotte Rothschild

Images: Alice Perrers, www.pixgood.com Charlotte Rothschild, www.bbc.co.uk

Hounslow's Home Front: Women's Roles in World War I: Ann Greene:
Senior Library Assistant, Hounslow Local Studies Library.

Before WWI most women married and had children either for social or financial reasons. Careers open to women were few and far between, although some had to take paid work. In the 1911 census, women's jobs tended to be nurses, shop assistants and helping in the family business - and not for the same pay as men. In the run up to 1914 these things were being challenged. By 1908 a cell of suffragettes in the Chiswick area was protesting about paying tax without representation. In the same year BADEN POWELL started the Boy Scouts, but



Distributing a white feather

so many girls applied he also formed the Girl Guides. In 1914 it was expected that men would go to war and women would stay at home - but things turned out differently.

At first women were only used for propaganda. They were targeted: were their men-folk in uniform and if not, why not? Baroness ORCZY encouraged women not to be seen in public with a man not in uniform. Women also distributed white feathers. Music Hall artistes sang recruiting songs, while children went through the audience handing out white feathers to men.

As the war got more serious, keeping up morale became more and more important. Women organised dances, etc, for morale - and fund- raising. Many women volunteered

to nurse but were told to go home. The VAD already existed from the Boer War, was well organised and increasingly needed. For those who could not offer enough hours, there were other options. All the things being knitted were controlled by the Red Cross but some of the garments were not appreciated, like the heel-less socks.

Women started doing men's jobs, such as in munitions. Before the war, factory work was not considered suitable for middle class girls but by 1915 LLOYD GEORGE realised they needed women and enlisted Emily PANKHURST to organise it, A salary



Women munition workers

was paid during training and work was guaranteed‘ However munitions work was dangerous: there were explosions and the toxicity caused illness: a lot of the workers turned yellow and were called ‘Canaries’. On the plus side it was well paid. By 1917 there were three-quarters of a million women munitions workers, but there are almost no memorials to those who died. Others worked on public transport, such as ticket collectors on the underground and tram conductresses. All these jobs were better paid than being ‘in service’ but women still received lower wages than men. The Women's Legion also organised women's jobs and there was the Women's Volunteer Reserve.

Food shortages led to long queues but importing food meant fewer ships for fighting, so people had to save food — also there were bad harvests in North



Propaganda poster

America. By 1917 it had reached crisis point: at one point the country had only three weeks of food left. Families promised to use less Food and voluntary rationing was tried but by the end of 1917 it was official. The country needed to produce more food, so the Women's Land Army was formed to huge opposition: women had to wear trousers - scandalous.

Women applied to the Admiralty and the Army to serve but were turned down. Women's services such as the WAAF and the WRNS were eventually created but the jobs allowed were limited and not permanent. One of their responsibilities was to drive trucks and other vehicles. All women's services were eventually disbanded, although the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps lasted longer. At home there was worry about women's behaviour without their

men around, so the Women's Police Service was formed.

After the war, the situation was mixed for women: there was no intention to let them carry on with their wartime occupations and they were discharged from their jobs. One exception was in the Public Libraries, where ladies could become librarians In fact women were still needed as so many men had been killed; bereaved and single women had to go to work. Of course women eventually got the vote and they came into their own again in WWII.

Images: White feather, www.ukmamsoba.org Munitions workers, www.dailymail.co.uk Less bread: www.matthewj.ed.glogster.com

Members' Evening: April

Several members had responded to requests for short talks based on postcards or photos in their possession. Based on very little information contained on the postcards, or about the photographs, they had done some very interesting research.

Jill WILLIAMS treated us to another entertaining instalment about her ancestors in Ireland. She knew her great aunt Bridget had been nursed when she was dying by her daughter Helen. Bridget's family lived in Brosner, East Kerry, in a very rural and poor part of Ireland, a village with only one main street, a Catholic church, a school and a few shops and pubs. In 1916 Bridget had married Paddy DOWNEY, a butcher, and they had nine children, all born in Brosner, the third of whom was Helen, born in 1920. As there were few local jobs, many of the children came to England to work, but returned after they retired.

Jill had done the family tree but had not met Bridget's children: they were of a different generation. Helen had married Eddie MALONEY, had four children, all born in Brosner, and she had died in Brosner in 1988, so despite not having met her Jill thought she knew all about Helen. She became friendly with some of Helen's children and started visiting them. Before one visit she asked if it would be possible to look at some of the family photos. She knew it was all right to ask questions - after all, she was the eejit who did the family history, an outsider — it was all right to tell her things which perhaps normally the family would not talk about.

On this particular visit she stayed with Helen's daughter Margaret, and on the first night out came some photographs, including one of Helen taken in the 1930s. Now Jill knew that Brosner was not a centre of the fashion world, especially for nine poor children - after all their father's butcher's shop operated from the front room of the family home - yet in the photograph Helen was looking extremely stylish. When Jill commented on this, Margaret told her that that was when her mother was in Philadelphia. "Philadelphia, USA?" "Yes, in the convent." That was all Margaret knew, all her mother had told her and the same went for her siblings. When Jill pressed her for more information, Margaret said, "Leave it with me."

So the following day saw Jill having lunch with Helen's sister. Over dessert more information was revealed. It transpired that in 1930s Ireland, nuns would come over from America to rural areas to find bright girls that they could put

through secondary school (something poor children normally did not aspire to) and train as nuns, They visited Helen's school and saw that she was bright and well behaved. They would like to take her back to America and she could make up her mind later about becoming a nun, Helen went. Later she started having reservations and expressed her doubts to the Mother Superior, who was sympathetic and suggested she go back home for a holiday to think it over. If she had become a nun, the rules were that she would no longer be allowed to spend a single night at home.

So Helen returned to Brosner for a month. The family noticed how stylish she had become. At the end of the holiday she still had doubts and queuing with her family for the boat back to America, she fainted, twice, Her father said, "That's it," and they all went home. And that is probably why it was never spoken about - there would be a certain amount of shame in a rural area about a girl who had left the convent.

So Jill's advice was: never think that just because you have covered 'hatch, match and despatch' you know it all! Keep asking questions.

Pam BUTLER told us of some research based on a brief message on the back of a postcard which she had acquired at a postcard fair. She admitted to being 'nosy' about people and read out some intriguing short messages on some of the postcards in her possession. Some talked of events due to happen the next day - postcards arrived quickly in those days. One message was from "Monty", who was writing from the trenches of World War One to his brother's daughter Nancy. Pam found out that he was Montague BURR, 1875-1916. He was the son of a stockbroker and the family had five servants and lived in Marylebone, London. Checking the online passenger lists, Pam found him sailing from Liverpool to New York in 1895, and from Philadelphia to Liverpool in 1898. In 1907, now aged 31, he travelled first class to Quebec. In Canada he met and married in 1911, Thomasina Kennedy WHITE. Later he came back to England and joined the Army, first as a Lieutenant, then as a Major in the Third Hussars; subsequently he was with the Northumberland Fusiliers.

The probate records stated he was of Victoria, British Columbia, and that he had been killed on 1st July 1916, on active service. He left his wife over £5,000, Pam later found Thomasina travelling to Alaska and also to Honolulu and in 1920 she remarried and emigrated to the USA, where her husband became the proprietor of an academy. So from a brief message on a postcard, Pam had been able to construct a family history with many, very interesting, details.

Valerie WALKER owns a number of postcards received in the early 1900s by

her grandparents. Her great grandmother had come to London with her parents and two brothers, one of whom later went to Malta, where he stayed for 57 years, becoming a dentist there and making "a lot of money". He was the one sending the postcards. Valerie's grandmother received some sent to her in Jersey. Valerie visited Jersey and met some of her grandmother's family, taking the postcards with her. One was doubtful about any relationship, but then recognised the writing on the postcards. As they comprise a virtual scenic tour of Malta, Valerie also took us on a tour of the island, showing 'before' scenes from the postcards and 'after' scenes taken on her own visits there. One intriguing postcard is of a windmill, which is not named. During her visits Valerie has looked for the windmill but is still not sure she has found it. However, she does have a lace collar owned by her grandmother and she has a postcard depicting the Maltese lace-maker who made it.

Eileen SMALL told us of her MEADOWS ancestors, several of whom had been marine artists and actors. Her great great grandfather was James MEADOWS, who was a well-known artist and exhibited at the Royal Academy; there are a number of his paintings there and at the National Maritime Museum. The family had come from Ireland to Essex where they lived at Mount Nessing, later moving to the East End: Stepney, Clerkenwell and Spitalfields. Her great grandfather, Alfred John, born c1833 in Essex, is recorded in the 1851 census, living in Lambeth aged 18, and already calling himself an artist - he may have been working as a scene painter at the Surrey Theatre. James was also a famous actor and worked at several theatres including Drury Lane and Richmond.

When in 1854 Alfred married Ellen LEONARD, a chorus girl from the Lyceum in London they had already had some children. They moved to Birmingham and Liverpool but by 1859 they were back in the East End where they moved frequently. They had nine children and between 1860 and 1871 Alfred's occupation is often given as "house painter", but on the birth certificate of his sixth child he is an "actor". Eileen thinks that when he occasionally called himself a "paper hanger" this was referring to being an assistant to a scenic artist in a theatre. In the 1871 census he is, "house painter, actor and artist".

Alfred and Ellen both died within months of each other in 1894 in Mile End. On his death certificate Alfred is a "scenic artist". Alfred's work is hard to find but Eileen has come across three of his paintings: an 1862 landscape and two rural scenes in Kent.

Bridget PURR was the final speaker and showed a photograph of her great grandmother. An article based on this photo will appear next year in the March Journal.

Streets of Inspiration - Holborn, Hampstead and St. Pancras in the Life and Works of Charles Dickens: Tudor Allen. September

Tudor Allen is a librarian at Holborn Library, where an exhibition was held about Charles DICKENS and his connections with that part of London. They produced a map showing the places connected with him and places which inspired his writing.



Charles Dickens

It is just over 200 years since his birth on 7th February 1812, in Portsmouth. In 1815, when he was three years old, the family came to London to Norfolk Street [now Cleveland Street) in the Fitzrovia area, which is near Regents Park; the house is still there and bears a plaque. DICKENS lived there again for a while in 1829. Nearby was a workhouse, later used for a time as the Outpatients Department of the Middlesex Hospital. Charles DICKENS would have known it and possibly it was the model for the workhouse in *Oliver Twist*.

The family moved again, to Rochester, then to Chatham in Kent. DICKENS was taken to London to see a pantomime starring GRIMALDI, who is regarded as the father of clowning. When GRIMALDI died in 1837, DICKENS edited his memoirs.

The DICKENS family came back to London and in 1822-23 lived in Bayham Street, Camden Town, parallel to Camden High Street. The building was demolished in 1910 but one of the windows is in the Charles Dickens Museum in Doughty Street. Bob Cratchet in *A Christmas Carol* lived in Camden Town, as did Traddles in *David Copperfield*. The DICKENS family next lived at 4 Gower Street North, near the present Euston Square tube station. DICKENS soon started the hated work at the blacking factory, walking down Tottenham Court Road to Charing Cross but he could not resist the stale pastries which were put at confectioners' doors. The Family moved, once again, to a new location in Camden Town.

While DICKENS' father was in the Marshalsea Prison for debt, DICKENS was put into the care of a family friend in Little College Street, near the Royal Veterinary College. In 1824-27 the family were together again in Johnson Street - demolished in the 1930s - in the Somers Town area, to the north of Kings Cross, but they were evicted for the non-payment of the rates; there is a

plaque on the site⁴ DICKENS went to school nearby, the Wellington House Academy, where he was remembered by his school friends as something of a prankster, DICKENS was not happy there and later based David Copperfield's school on it.

The family moved again to 70 The Polygon, 30-odd houses built in the 1790s; Mary SHELLEY, wife of the poet and herself an author, was born in one of them in 1797. DICKENS refers to it in *Our Mutual Friend*. In the late 1820s DICKENS went to work as a junior clerk at Ellis and Blackmore, 1 South Square, Grays Inn, (Holborn Square in DICKENS' day), again using this building, which survives, and other buildings in the area in his books. DICKENS would throw cherry stones from the window at passers-by. The Charles Dickens Museum has the desk he used there.

When he was 18, DICKENS joined the British Library as a reader in the Reading Room, a predecessor of the Round Reading Room at the British Museum. He was now writing *Sketches by Boz* (published originally in separate parts, then together in 1836), many of which concern the kind of shabby, genteel people who lived in Camden at that time. He also wrote about the St. Giles Rookery near St. Giles in the Fields Church and about Dury Lane and Seven Dials. He told his biographer John FORSTER that he loved the neighbourhood.

DICKENS rented rooms at Furnival's Inn and while living there married Catherine HOGARTH. He began producing *The Pickwick Papers* (1836-37) in



Charles Dickens Museum

monthly episodes, which were a big success and he became famous. He moved to a house in the Hampstead area, in the north of Camden, where scenes from *The Pickwick Papers* were set in Spaniards Inn, a 16th century pub. He was also fond of Jack Straw's Castle, now rebuilt.

After several years they moved to 48 Doughty Street, a desirable residence, which it still is today and is now the Charles Dickens Museum. While there he wrote *Oliver Twist*, begun in 1837 and *Nicholas Nickleby*, 1838. Much of *Oliver Twist* is set in the area. At Barnet, Oliver meets the Artful Dodger and is led to Exmouth Market, down Saffron Hill to Field Lane, the location of Fagin's Den

and a place with a reputation for pickpockets. Later Oliver is taken to Hatton Garden Police Court, where the magistrate, Mr. Lang, is based on a real person. Bill Sykes goes on the run through Camden. DICKENS stayed for a couple of

weeks at a farm at Hampstead after his beloved sister-in-law Mary was taken ill and died, leaving DICKENS much shaken.

He left Doughty Street in 1839 and moved to Devonshire Terrace, Marylebone, but continued to use Camden in books such as *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1840-41) and *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843-44), where Mrs. Gamp lived in Kingsgate Street, High Holborn and drank at the Black Bull, pulled down in 1904. *Barnaby Rudge* (1841) was about the Gordon Riots - the rioters' headquarters were at The Boot in Grays Inn Road. *Dombey and Son* (1844-46) featured the coming of the railways through Camden Town, with houses being knocked down, buildings shaking and piles of earth.

In 1843 came *A Christmas Carol* and in 1844 *The Chimes*. DICKENS visited his friend, and later biographer, JOHN FORSTER in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where he read *The Chimes* to a group of friends. DICKENS did not like lawyers. *Bleak House* (1853) about the never-ending court case of Jarndice versus Jarndice, was set around the Lincoln's Inn Fields area and includes a famous description of the Court of Chancery, set in the Old Hall there. *Little Dorrit* (1857) mentions Bleeding Heart Yard, which still exists today.

DICKENS rented a pew in the Chapel of the Foundling Hospital (demolished in 1926) from which Tatty Coram in *Little Dorrit* was adopted. He helped to raise funds for the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, founded in the early 1850s. Mr. Micawber in *David Copperfield* (1849-50) is based on DICKENS' father, John DICKENS, who died just after the book was written. He is buried in Highgate Cemetery, together with other members of DICKENS' family.

Through the 1850s, DICKENS lived at Tavistock House, on the east side of Tavistock Square, where he wrote *Bleak House* and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859, with scenes set in St. Pancras Old Church) and during which time he became separated from his wife Catherine. He turned one of the rooms into a small theatre and one of its playbills is in the Holborn Library Collection. The novelist, Wilkie COLLINS, collaborated with DICKENS in writing some of the scenes acted there.

In the 1860s DICKENS moved to Gad's Hill Place in Kent but he was still writing about Holborn. In *Great Expectations* (1860-61) Pip comes to stay with Herbert Pocket at Barnards Inn. One of his last books, *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) features the dust heaps in Somers Town. His last book *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, is partly set in Staple Inn, built in Tudor times and still surviving. DICKENS died in June 1870 while still working on the book. He is buried in Poets Corner, Westminster Abbey.



Images: Charles Dickens Museum, [en.wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org) Tombstone, www.pixshark.com

My Ancestor was a Hat Maker: Ian Waller. August

The well-known family historian, Ian Waller, began with a brief history of the industry, which may have been introduced by Mary Queen of Scots in the 1500s.



A ladies' straw hat

Largely centred on Luton and Stockport, it was certainly in Luton by the 1600s. At that time straw hat making was very common, and during the 1700s fine straw hats became fashionable but cheaper hats with finer straw were being imported. This led to strikes against the importation of hats and straw from Europe and in 1719, a petition to protect the trade went to Parliament on behalf of the poor hat makers in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

High duties were imposed on imported goods so that the local economy could survive. During the Napoleonic Wars imports stopped and this helped boost the industry.

In 1820-40 Luton began to take the lead and hat makers from all over the UK came to Luton to buy Luton straw to make hats elsewhere. Most manufactories were situated behind houses and the work was largely done by hand.

Originally straw was split by hand and the plaiting of split straw was a cottage industry. Girls would go to a 'plait school' where they received an education,



Plait School

perhaps in the morning, and made plaits in the afternoon. There were various styles of plaits and each plait school made a different type. Subsequently the plaits were bought by merchants in a 'plait hall'. The plait schools declined around the 1870s and 1880s after the introduction of compulsory education. The workhouses started bonnet sewing as an occupation for women inmates.

Gradually the straw hat industry was mechanised, e.g. with the straw splitting machine, and Singer introduced a sewing machine from America. There was mass migration of women and girls to work in large hat factories, especially in Luton, which was made easier by the coming of the railways but mechanisation led to over-production and there were too many hats on the market. Hat making was still very labour-intensive, most factories employing 100-150 people, making some 300 hats a day.

In Luton fairly high wages were paid, and the factories were able to pay higher wages than small firms. It was piece work and the employees worked hours that suited them and they were paid according to how many hats they made. There were wage differentials between the sexes, which was a bone of contention. There were 'out-workers', with materials for the hats being delivered by barrow and people set up co-operatives with a group of friends to make hats at home.

There were five different processes to making a hat, blocking, 'velouring', bumping, cropping and trimming.

- Blocking was moulding the shape of the hat and originally was done by hand but later done by a hydraulic machine. Felt hats also involved blocking.
- The process of 'velouring' waterproofed a felt hat, as did bumping and cropping. All these processes were done by men.
- The final stage, trimming, was done with braid and ribbons and was carried out by the women.

Even today in the most up-to-date factories the majority of hats are predominantly made by hand. There is a 'Luton Hat Trail' which leads you round where the factories and the outworkers were and a surviving factory building in Luton is now a centre with a café and shop, etc. Ian remembers the stiffened, black straw helmets worn by the Luton Police in the 1950s and 1960s.

The felt hat industry goes back to seventeenth century France and was introduced into England after the Napoleonic Wars. The biggest factory, now a museum, was in Southport.

High quality felt hats were made of beaver fur with pelts imported from Russia and Scandinavia via Liverpool docks. Thousands of pelts went into beaver hats -

in 1700, 69,500 beaver hats were exported from England. Beaver was also used for military hats, e.g. tricorn hats and the original Guards' busbies, and also for top hats.

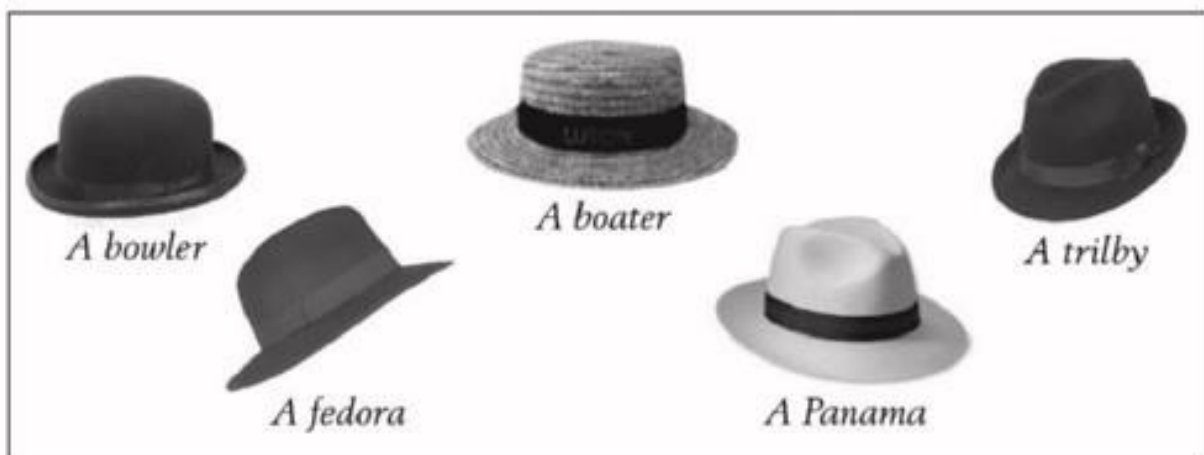
The term "mad as a hatter" has to do with the felting process, which involved the use of mercury nitrate and 'mad hatter's disease' affected the central nervous system, leading eventually to mental derangement. The Southport burial registers show that a huge number of people died from it and people who contracted the disease did not tend to live past the age of 30.

Hat production was a staple of the British economy: the exporting of hats was worth several hundred thousands of pounds a year. Nowadays hats have gone out of fashion - people no longer wear them to church, or to work. A hat used to define your job: peaked caps, fishermen's caps, ag. labs wore a 'billy cock', the taller the hat, the longer your service.

They could also show status - did you wear a cloth cap or a top hat? Hats were a symbol of authority and all officials would wear hats. Children and ladies wore different hats for different occasions and schoolboys wore caps with braid and badges well into the 1960s.

Ian listed some well known types of hat:

- The 'coke' hat: a domed hat, it became known as a 'bowler' after Thomas BOWLER, who lived and worked in Southwark.
- Boater: originally for sailors. It was adopted as a school hat, particularly by public schools.
- Trilby: named after a female heroine called Trilby O'FERRALL and was associated with 'spivs' in the Second World War.
- Fedora: much the same as a trilby but with a wider brim. It originated in Central America.
- Panama: a hand-made hat from Ecuador. It is associated with cricket and tennis, etc. and is still worn by umpires of these sports.



Research records:

- In census records, rather than hat maker they might term themselves as a blocker, a bonnet sewer, a trimmer or a velour finisher. (A milliner was not a hat maker.) These were all skilled processes. You will probably also find straw plaiters.
- Look in wills, directories and newspapers. Milliners will be in trade journals and trade directories. The Bishopgate Institute holds a very complete collection of trade directories.
- Policies in fire insurance records are useful. Factories needed fire insurance because of the mercury nitrate.
- Look in trade union and trade association records, membership records and branch records, newspaper reports of meetings etc. Many were locally based, e.g. the Straw Hat Makers of Luton. Some more unions were: the Amalgamated Society of Journeyman Felt Hatters, the Hatters and Trimmers Union of Great Britain 1890-1910, the Journeymen Hatters Union. The London Metropolitan University holds the Trade Union congress archive.
- Trade guild records of towns and cities Merchant guilds: the hat industry belonged to them. There is not a lot about apprenticeships but there are company business records which may have been deposited in the local records office.
- The Worshipful Company of Felt Makers was the licensed company for hatters, its charter was granted in 1604 and it is number 63 in order of preference (out of 107) of the Livery Companies. Members today are known for making ceremonial hats such as tricorn hats and hats for Lord Mayors. The Guildhall Library holds a lot of archive material 1667- 2005.
- Photographs and artefacts in museums.
- There were three hat box companies in Luton making boxes for shops such as Harrods.

Images

Ladies' straw hat: www.hollistonereporter.com

Plait school: www.lutonculture.com

Bowler: www.beyondretro.com

Top hat: www.commonswikipedia.com

Busby: www.cyc-techwriters.com

Fedora: www.riverisland.com



A top Hat

Trilby: www.ebay.co.uk

Panama: www.olrvis.co.uk

Boater: www.sewalot.com



A Busby

WORLD WIDE WEB

A selection of new databases that have come online:

- Ancestry has digitised documents from the Liverpool Record Office of crew lists giving details of men who worked on board vessels registered to the Port of Liverpool, 1861-1919. Records of the London Poor Law and Board of Guardians collection for institutions in Central and West London can now be searched.

www.ancestry.co.uk

- New records on Deceased Online include the Camberwell Old and the Camberwell New cemeteries, which also includes the records from Honor Oak Crematorium.

www.deceasedonline.com

- The Essex Record Office has digitised 22,500 wills which can now be accessed through their 'Essex Ancestors' genealogy site. Dating from 1400, the index to the collection is free to search although a subscription is needed to look at the image.

www.seax.essexcc.gov/EssexAncestors.aspx

- New parish records from Find My Past include those from the counties of Northumberland and Durham, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, the records of the Canterbury Archdeaconry, and the Church of Ireland. New military records include the 12,000 soldiers who died, deserted or were imprisoned during the Anglo American War of 1812 and are listed in the British Army Casualty Index; records of almost 450,000 men of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force dating from 1912 and the formation of the RFC up to 1939; 1 million records of World War Two prisoners of war. Miscellaneous records include 19th century Australian convict records; the Probate Calendars 1858-1959, baptisms, marriages and burials for New York; an update to the National School Registers collection and 27,000 military school records of both students and staff at the Royal Military Asylum in Chelsea and the Royal Hibernian Military School in Dublin, 1803-1932; electoral records for Manchester 1832-1900. Electoral Roll for England and UK, 1835-1935.

www.findmypast.co.uk

- In the event of an invasion in the 1940s the Germans produced a hit-list of British residents who were to be captured. This 'Black Book' was discovered in 1945 by the Allies and it has now been transcribed and placed online by Forces War Records. Also the war medal rolls of the Territorial Force

Nursing Service for World War One. This digitisation shows more details of the nurses than those lists available on other websites.
www.forces-war-records.co.uk

- Do you have Jewish ancestors? The records of 18 synagogues across London, 1920-1939 can be found on the Genealogist website.
www.thegenealogist.co.uk
- We all know that the boundaries in and around London were subject to many changes. It is now possible to view online the precise locations of counties, civil registration districts, hundreds and Poor Law Unions in 1851. You can also see where the boundaries would appear today on this free website.
www.londonfamilyhistory.org/jurisdiction-maps
- The National Archives (TNA) has released two newly-digitised sets of naval service records specific to Ratings who enlisted before 1923 and served after 1924, (ADM 362) which have been added to those already available before 1923 (ADM 188 AND 139):
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- The British Red Cross have started to upload scans and transcriptions of over 200,000 index cards of those in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (known as VADs) in the First World War. Starting with surnames beginning A and B, the whole exercise is hoped to be completed within 12 months. A free website.
www.redcross.org.uk/ww1
- The records of 14,000 Scottish seafarers who died between 1897-1974 can now be found on Scotlands People.
www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk
- More Scottish records are the Scottish Paternity Indexes, which contain details of paternity cases that were heard at the Sheriff Courts in Hamilton (1845-1915) and Paisley (1830-1833).
www.scottishindexes.com
- Trench maps from 1915-1918 and Scottish Rolls of Honour from World War One can be searched on the National Library of Scotland website.
www.nls.uk
- At the beginning of the First World War the only military charity working on the Home Front was S SAFA [then the Soldiers and Sailors Families Association). It has made its 1914 records of more than 50,000 volunteers across the UK available in a free, searchable database.
www.ssafa.org.uk/ww1



NEW MEMBERS

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

S289 Mr. J.D. Steward, 77 Cypress Avenue, Twickenham,
Middlesex, TWZ 7JY

SURNAME INTERESTS

The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed above. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. 'ANY' or 'ALL' indicates that any date or any place is of interest. When writing, rather than emailing 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
STEWARD	1914-1918	Mortlake	LND	S289
STEWARD	1901-1987	Woolwich	LND	S289
STEWARD	2012	Hertford	HRT	S289
STEWARD	2010	Taunton	SOM	S289



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the
Annual General Meeting
of the West Middlesex Family History Society
will be held at 8.00 pm on Thursday, 17th March, 2016
at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow



Reports will be presented by the Chairman and Treasurer and members will be asked to accept the accounts for the year 2015 and elect accounts examiners for the coming year.

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

Members who wish to bring forward any matters at the AGM, are asked to write to the Secretary at the address below by 3rd January, 2016.

The agenda for the AGM will be included in the next issue of the Journal, to be published and distributed at the beginning of March 2016.

Muriel Sprott

1 Camellia Place, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 7HZ

Jonathan Cates is the Collections Knowledge Manager (Finding Archives) in the Archives Sector Development of the National Archives (TNA) and he has posted the following information via the FFHS (Federation of Family History Societies).

“We would like to update you on the Manorial Documents Register (MDR) search within Discovery (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>), which we launched earlier this summer. The MDR search replaces the nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr platform, which has been retired.

“The MDR identifies the nature and location of memorial records. A standard Discovery search will show general information about manorial records held at The National Archives and elsewhere; the powerful new manor search tool provides information about manorial records as defined by the Manorial Document Rules.

“More and more researchers from across the UK and beyond are using Discovery to find information about records held by other archives. We hope that integrating the MDR into Discovery will increase its visibility and make the service more accessible to all users whether they are familiar with using the MDR or not.

“Originally a paper-based register, the MDR is gradually being updated and made available Online. You can find up to date information about this work on our project page (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/manorial-documents-register.htm>).

“The landing page for the manor search retains the title of “Manorial Documents Register”. This is an acknowledgement of the legal status of the MDR but also demonstrates our commitment to its delivery and presentation as a defined entity in Discovery.

“We have sought extensive user feedback throughout the development process and we have already implemented a number of enhancements to ensure that this resource offers the same high level of service as its predecessor. We continue to welcome feedback on the development of Discovery, which helps inform our on-going programme of documenting, prioritising and developing enhancements. Please *email* discovery@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk <<mailto:discovery@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk>> or use the feedback form within Discovery.

“For more information searching the Register using Discovery visit: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/help/accessing-records-of-mdr.htm> or read our blog: <http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/discovering-manorial-documents-register/>.”

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

Roland Bostock bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

West Middlesex War Memorials. Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

PARISH RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*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.

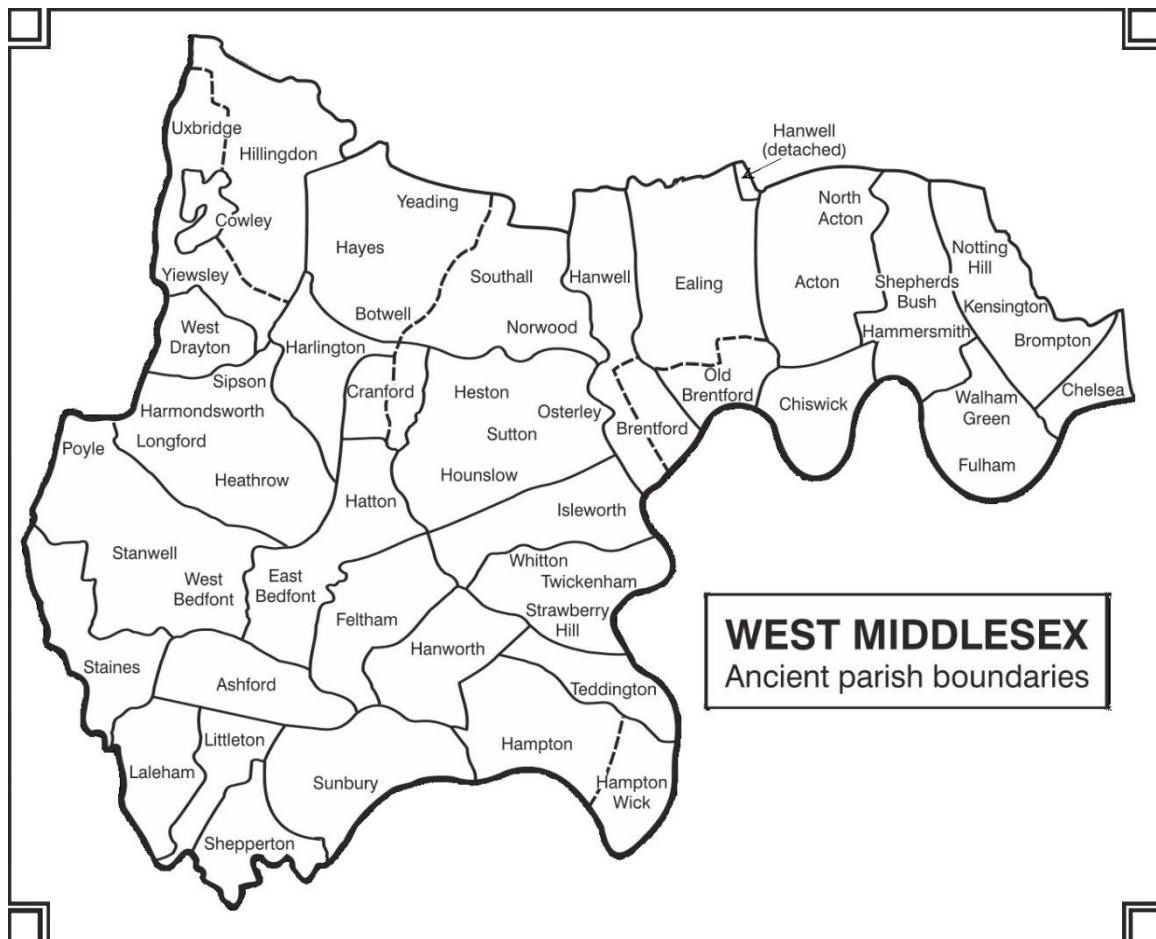
The Old Village School, Norwood Green

Originally known as "The Biscoe School"

This image is an original water colour painting by member Joan STORKEY.

In 1767 Elisha BISCOE, lawyer and Justice of the Peace for Middlesex, instructed that a school house should be erected at Norwood for the instruction of 34 boys and six girls of poor parents residing or born within the parishes of Heston and Haese (Hayes) and Chapelry of Norwood. The boys were to be taught reading, writing and accounts and, more especially, the principles of the Christian religion. The girls were to be taught reading, writing and plain work, knitting and house business in order to make them good servants.

The school operated until 1950 and it is now a private house,



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 Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ